



Nebraska Summit On
JUSTICE & DISPARITIES

FRI 8.9.24 8-4:30 PM | REGISTER NOW | NEBRASKAJUSTICESUMMIT.ORG



KEYNOTE DR. YUSEF SALAAM
PRISON REFORM ACTIVIST
JUSTICE CHAMPION
New York City Councilman
Member of the Exonerated (Central Park) Five

PRESENTING SPONSORS:
LINCOLN BRANCH & OMAHA BRANCH

NAACP

NEBRASKA'S GROUNDBREAKING JUSTICE REFORM CONFERENCE



MORNING SESSIONS

SCHEDULE / APP

BREAKFAST & SUMMIT OPENING PLENARY 8:15 AM – 9:10 AM

Master of Ceremonies: Davon Taylor, Reporter, KETV 7

Invocation

Summit Welcome & Keynote Introduction: Betty C. Andrews, President of Iowa-Nebraska NAACP, Founder of Iowa Summit on Justice & Disparities

Keynote: Building Trust Through Transparency: Mitigating Racial Disparities, and Fostering Community Collaboration,
Todd Schmaderer, Chief, Omaha Police Department

Presenting Sponsor Remarks & Keynote Introduction: Dr. Dewayne Mays, President, Lincoln NAACP

Keynote: A look at Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, *Rob Jeffreys, Director, NDCS*

PLENARY POWER PANEL 9:15 – 10:10 AM

2024 State of Justice in Nebraska Panel: Where Are We Now? Knowledge is power, and on this panel, various state justice related officials and advocates highlight their work, take stock of the disparities within the Criminal Justice System, and share how they are working to change them.

Moderator: Yohance Christie, Lincoln Nebraska City Attorney Panelists: Rob Jeffreys, Director, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services; Tom Riley, Public Defender, Douglas County; Shakur Abdullah, Senior Restorative Justice Facilitator, Community Justice Center & Juvenile Justice Legal Clinic at Creighton University; Jason Witmer, Policy Fellow, ACLU of Nebraska

WORKSHOP SESSION 1, 10:20 AM – 11:10 AM

- A. **Ferguson Uprising 10 Years Later: Exploring the multifaceted contributors to the Ferguson uprising and the journey toward healing and progress over the past decade.** - *Veta Jeffery, President of Jeffery Consultants*
- B. **City of Omaha Restorative Justice Diversion Program: An overview of Omaha Restorative Justice Diversion Program and the why behind it, including data regarding the program's impacts.** - *Deputy Chief Steve Cerveny, Assistant City Prosecutor Lindsey Bitzes, Director of Human Rights & Relations Department Cailin Dejillas, Assistant Director of Human Rights & Relations Department Christian Espinosa Torres*
- C. **Justice Collaborations: Does Your County Need a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council?** - *Jerry Evans, Coordinator of the Polk County Iowa CJCC / Lifting Justice: How the Nebraska Bar Association Champions Justice through Community Collaboration and Programing Elizabeth Neely, Executive Director, Nebraska Bar Association*
- D. **Justice for All: Hot Topics in the ACLU of Nebraska's Fight for Civil Liberties. 1) An introduction to the ACLU of Nebraska 2) The growing risks of criminalization of pregnancy loss 3) Immigrants' rights in Omaha Immigration Court and 4) LB 20 and voting restoration.** – *Joy Kathurima, Legal and Policy Counsel; Jason Witmer, Policy Fellow; Dylan Severino, Immigration Legal Fellow; Scout Richters, Policy Director, ACLU of Nebraska*
- E. **Diverse Juries Matter: The Campaign to Achieve Juries in Nebraska that Are Truly Representative of The Communities They Serve** - *Russell Lovell, Drake Law Professor Emeritus & Co-Chair, Iowa-Nebraska NAACP Legal Redress Committee & Tom Riley, Douglas County Public Defender*

WORKSHOP SESSION 2, 11:15 AM – 12:05 PM

- A. **Ferguson Uprising 10 Years Later** - *Veta Jeffery, President of Jeffery Consultants*
- B. **Advancing Wellbeing in Correctional Settings** - *Rob Jeffreys, Director & Dawn-Renee Smith Assistant Director, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services*
- C. **Justice Collaborations: Does Your County Need a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council?** - *Jerry Evans, Coordinator of the Polk County Iowa CJCC / Lifting Justice: How the Nebraska Bar Association Champions Justice through Community Collaboration and Programing Elizabeth Neely, Executive Director, Nebraska Bar Association*
- D. **Going Beyond the Status Quo: An overview of the Juvenile court system with suggestions for improving system practices, accessing community-based resources without court involvement, and demanding Due Process rights for children.** *Joy Suder JD, Director Creighton University juvenile Justice Legal Clinic*
- E. **Diverse Juries Matter: The Campaign to Achieve Juries in Nebraska that Are Truly Representative of The Communities They Serve** - *Russell Lovell, Drake Law Professor Emeritus & Co-Chair, Iowa-Nebraska NAACP Legal Redress Committee & Tom Riley, Douglas County Public Defender*



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AFTERNOON SESSIONS

SUMMIT LUNCHEON, 12:10 – 1:25 A

Master of Ceremonies: Davon Taylor, KETV

Invocation

Interview with a Legislator: Senator Terell McKinny

Sponsor Acknowledgments: Linda Kuku, UNL NAACP Chapter President

Presenting Sponsor Remarks & Keynote Introduction: Rev. T. Michael Williams, President, Omaha Branch NAACP

Luncheon Keynote: Dr. Yusef Salaam, Prison Reform Activist & Member of Exonerated Five

SPECIAL PLENARY POWER PANEL, 1:30 PM – 2:25 PM

Power Panel: Juvenile Justice in Nebraska: Disrupting the Pipeline

This panel will examine the concept of the juvenile -to-prison pipeline and ensure fair treatment for all youth. Panelists will examine the juvenile justice systems' disproportionate impact on minority communities, and the need for equitable interventions. Through diverse perspectives from the judiciary, legal practice, and community advocacy, the panel will discuss successful practices and policies as well as barriers that arise when trying to address these disparities. *Moderator: Denis Lemus, Staff Attorney, Juvenile Justice Legal Clinic Creighton University School of Law. Panelists: Honorable Elizabeth Crnkovich, Judge (Ret) Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County; Chris Rodgers, County Commissioner; Joy Suder Assistant Professor and Director, Juvenile Justice Legal Clinic Creighton University School of Law; & Erin Wasserburger, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice*

WORKSHOP SESSION 3, 2:30 PM – 3:15 PM

- A. **Justice for All: Hot Topics in the ACLU of Nebraska's Fight for Civil Liberties.** 1) An introduction to the ACLU of Nebraska 2) The growing risks of criminalization of pregnancy loss 3) Immigrants' rights in Omaha Immigration Court and 4) LB 20 and voting restoration. – *Joy Kathurima, Legal and Policy Counsel; Jason Witmer, Policy Fellow; Dylan Severino, Immigration Legal Fellow; Scout Richters, Policy Director, ACLU of Nebraska*
- B. **Improving Equity: A Dialogue on Arrest and Traffic Stop Disparities in Omaha** - *Todd Schmaderer, Chief, Sherie Thomas, Deputy Chief, Steve Cerveney, Deputy Chief, Omaha Police Department*
- C. **Restorative Justice Rising: Successful Restorative Justice Practices Using Intervention Programs, Restorative Circles, Reentry Supports, Community Supports, Victim/Survivor Supports** – *Shakur Abdullah, Senior RJI Facilitator, Community Justice Center & Juvenile Justice Legal Clinic at Creighton University*
- D. **Going Beyond the Status Quo: An overview of the Juvenile court system with suggestions for improving system practices, accessing community-based resources without court involvement, and demanding Due Process rights for children.** *Joy Suder JD, Director Creighton University juvenile Justice Legal Clinic*
- E. **End The Ban! How Advocates Are Working to Improve Food Access for Formerly Incarcerated Nebraskans** - *Eric Savaiano, Economic Justice Program Manager, Nebraska Appleseed*

CLOSING PLENARY POWER PANEL, 3:20 PM – 4:15 PM

Power Panel: Striving for Equitable Law Enforcement

Panelists discuss strategies for achieving equitable law enforcement. Topics include the implementation of implicit bias training, the use of data to monitor and address racial disparities, the role of body cameras and transparency, and effective community engagement practices. Panelists will share their insights on fostering trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, highlighting successful initiatives and exploring areas for further improvement. *Moderator: Davon Taylor, Reporter, KETV 7*

Panelists: Todd Schmaderer, Chief of Police, Omaha; Michon Morrow, Chief of Police, Lincoln; Aaron Hanson, Douglas County Sheriff; Jeremy Rone, Officer, Omaha Police Department; Rose Godinez, Legal Director ACLU of Nebraska

FINAL STRATEGY TAKE AWAYS & SUMMIT CONCLUSION , 4:15 PM – 4:30 PM

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

SCHEDULE / APP

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