



Shailly Agnihotri
New York City & Louisiana

Advocate for Restorative Justice and founder of The Restorative Center

“ Shailly spent more than 20 years as an attorney, and has developed an expertise in criminal justice through working as a prosecutor (Orleans Parish), teaching (Georgetown Law School) and as a public defender (New York City). She had the privilege of studying (as a Prettyman Fellow) with Professor William Greenhalgh, whose love for the Constitution and the rights it affords the accused, inspired her legal career. She has come to understand the power for individuals and communities to come to a deeper emergent wisdom of justice through facilitated circles. She is a trained facilitator in Restorative Practices and a Certified Mediator, has a J.D. (cum laude) from Tulane Law School and a LL.M. (Prettyman Fellowship) from Georgetown Law.

Shailly has presented at conferences around the world on The Restorative Center's vision for an independent, free-standing model for Restorative Justice which is codified as the Newburgh Model. She has led trainings in TRC's distinct model of RJ for community members, teens, social workers and attorneys. She has facilitated RJ circles in schools, community centers and the workplace.

Shailly also completed advanced training in yoga and meditation teaching (500 RTA), and studied techniques of breath work, restorative yoga, yoga nidra, yin yoga and meditation. Shailly is grateful for the privilege of studying with Alan Finger, a Tantric mystic and the founder of ISHTA Yoga, whose teaching - of the necessity of the discipline of surrender that meditation brings to our life - inspires her deeply.

As an artist, Shailly has directed a documentary (Three Soldiers), published stories and has a play in development (Cosmic Dancer). She is grateful to be mentored by Bernard Kop - a generous genius of British theatre. Shailly is also completing a memoir about her journey through the criminal justice system of the United States as a prosecutor, public defender and professor. The book, entitled FireKeeper, the Unclaimed Heart of Justice, chronicles the lessons and events that lead her to champion Restorative Justice.

therestorativecenter.org

Andrawi • Ari • Yanil • Brian
Bronx, New York **Bronx, New York** **Bronx, New York** **Bronx, New York**

“ These High-school students are part of a corp of Teen Restorative Justice leaders for TRC. They have taken a leading role in training their peers and professionals in social work, education, the court systems, and more.

therestorativecenter.org/teens



Deleso Alford
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

SULC Law professor and scholar who has published extensively on the unique and particularized lived experiences of black women

“ Professor Alford is a Shreveport, Louisiana native doing ground-breaking work bridging legal and medical education by telling stories what she refers to as ‘HERstories’, the unique and particularized lived experiences of black women intersecting with health care and research. She has moved her scholarship into classrooms, benefiting both law and medical students with her racially inflected lessons. Her forthcoming book, *Tuskegee's Forgotten Women: The Untold Side of the U.S. Public Health Services Syphilis Study*, sheds light on how women were directly involved in and/or impacted by the U.S. Public Health Services Syphilis Study. This book offers an acknowledgment of the importance of women's voices, and especially black women's voices in history.

Professor Deleso Alford earned a B.S., magna cum laude at Southern University A&M College, a J.D. at Southern University Law Center, and an LL.M. at Georgetown University Law Center. She has a Certification in Clinical Bioethics from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Professor Alford accepted a Visiting Professorship at Southern University Law Center Fall 2018 / Spring 2019. During Summer 2019, she taught Torts for the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) INC. hosted by Southern University Law Center. She was approved by the SULC Board as full time Professor of Law beginning Fall 2019. She has taught the following courses: Basic Civil Procedure, Federal Jurisdiction, Law and Racism and Torts II. Prior to SULC, Professor Alford taught full-time at Barry University School of Law (2006-2008), Florida A&M University College of Law, (2008-2018). At FAMU COL Professor Alford taught Bioethics and the Law, Torts I and II, Race and the Law, Critical Race Theory and a course entitled, The Cuban Legal System and Society with a Spring Break in Cuba study abroad travel component.

Additionally, she served as an Adjunct Faculty, Associate Professor of Medicine (Medical Education) at University of Central Florida (UCF) College of Medicine (2014-2019) and has served as the Co-Director of Director of the Longitudinal Curricular Themes (LCT) in Culture, Health, and Society (2014-2018)



Angelle Bradford
New Orleans, Louisiana

Activist and organiser in Louisiana

“ Angelle began her organizing tenure working on campaigns from 2012 through 2019 for progressive and democratic candidates during local, state, and federal election cycles.

But after 2016, while an adjunct at Southern University, Angelle decided to shift from a place that felt transactional to one of greater intent, cultivating meaningful relationships with communities across Louisiana.

Recently, her greater intentionality with Louisiana has resulted in a deep commitment to gun violence prevention and a just transition in the face of pressing climate changes. She has lead the Louisiana Chapter of Moms Demand Action, organized HBCUs, and strategized policy agendas and implementation with the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club and their statewide partners.

Fully immersed in a cardiovascular physiology doctoral program, Angelle has focuses her energy on living a more balanced, intentional life this 2020. Occasionally, during election seasons, Angelle indulges herself by shifting back into organizer mode, helping to add capacity, mobilize, and connect Lousianans to the power of their vote.

momsdemandaction.org



Charles Joseph Barjon II
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Artist and activist advancing Restorative Justice programming for the undergraduate community

“ Charles Joseph Barjon II is a young activist and artist from Southern California. He channels his extreme passion for justice and peace into many different works – from leading organizations like the Southern University 771 Alliance to hosting podcasts with the purpose of giving a voice to his peers. A life long activist, he got his start in Boy Scouts as a child in the second grade, gradually progressing all the way to the highest rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 72 of Cerritos, CA (12 years of dedication). Charles finds that justice work is not limited only to organizations and meetings. He also writes poetry and publishes his works on his website Charlesbarjon.com. Alongside this, he also produces music. An avid reader, Charles has a keen interested in African History. He aspires to eradicate injustice wherever it may be found. Although a heavy task, he believes through faith, courage and, a just cause anything is possible.

charlesbarjon.com



Miraya Burka
New York City, New York

Drama & Dramatic Writing student at NYU/Tisch who is working for a more diverse and inclusive film industry

“ Miraya Burka is a dramatic writing and drama double major at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. Miraya hopes her art can help facilitate needed change surrounding diversity and representation within the entertainment industry. She currently works at Katch Media, a consumer-facing data analytics Company, helping with the internal and external diversity-related goals of the company. Miraya created the Katch Genome Sensitivity Council, a group of interns going through the work Katch does to make sure it is as inclusive as possible. She also heads the Diversity and Representation discussion group for the interns, a place to analyze current events in Hollywood while promoting collaboration with fellow artists.



LaToya Jones Burrell
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Author and educator envisioning a path forward towards racial reconciliation

“ Jones Burrell, JD, MBA serves as Dean of Graduate Education and Accreditation at North Central University. Her career has included practicing law and teaching and leading in higher education. She is licensed to practice law in Louisiana and Minnesota and her practice areas have focused on bankruptcy, mass torts, complex litigation and business consulting.

At North Central University she has taught several courses including business law, Christian leadership & ethics, and international business. She also teaches oral advocacy and serves as the coach for the American Mock Trial Association’s (AMTA) NCU Mock Trial Team. She has a passion for teaching, leading, mentoring, and coaching others and sincerely believes that leadership and success start with truly understanding who we are and who we belong to. She also serves as a Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Peer Reviewer, the NCU’s Higher Learning Commission Academic Liaison Officer (ALO), and has served as a Title IX adjudicator.

She has a passion for social justice and her research and writing interests have included Americans with disability law, leadership, ethics, and higher ed law. She recently wrote a book on racial reconciliation, *Be Bold: How to Prepare Your Heart and Mind for Racial Reconciliation*, scheduled to be released on November 1, 2020 (available for presale). She also launched a series of videos on her YouTube channel called the Listen & Learn series. Both her book and the Listen & Learn series were inspired after the tragic death of George Floyd. She believes that when true exploration of self and healing begin, we can all boldly walk into our purposes.

LaToya is married and has two sons. She lives in Minneapolis, MN and loves spending time with her family and volunteering her time.

theboldlatoyaburrell.com



Cori Bush
St. Louis, Missouri

Activist, Organizer, MO-1 Congressional Candidate

“ Cori Bush of St. Louis, MO is an activist, organizer and leader in the racial justice movement. She worked as a medic on the streets in Ferguson and is currently running for U.S. Congress after winning an upset in the Democratic primary for her district. She is a registered nurse and pastor and has worked in the fields of childcare, mental health and sexual assault awareness. Bush is a St. Louis native and attended Harris Stowe State University, and Lutheran School of Nursing.



Malaika Cambridge
Lenapehoking Lands

“ A Mother, dance artist/activist, intuitive healer, and teacher of movement and Pilates, Malaika works and lives in Lenapehoking -also known as New York. She is interested in the healing powers of movement and embodiment as restorative justice praxis. In addition to creating her own dance works, she is currently working with Jill Sigman/ Thinkdance as a collaborator.

Malaika is honored to hold space for the transformative work of The Restorative Center.



Jennifer Cameron
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Developing Clemency & Parole programming and legislative initiatives in Louisiana

“ Jennifer is the wife of a wrongly convicted man who has served over 18 years at Louisiana State Penitentiary. She has known this man since kindergarten and reconnected with him a little over five years ago. She is assisting him with his post-conviction claims and advocating for his release from his Life without Parole sentence.

Jennifer is a law student at Southern University Law Center, who already holds a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Louisiana State University. She is a Juris Doctorate Candidate in May 2021 and hopes to use her experience in post-conviction work and knowledge of the prison system in Louisiana to help those her husband leaves behind when he is released.

Jennifer has been actively working in Criminal Justice Reform since reconnecting with her husband. She has had a part in lobbying the Louisiana Legislature to allow parole eligibility for those serving life sentences in Louisiana. Currently, Louisiana is the only state in the nation that has automatic life sentences, with no judge’s discretion for mitigating circumstances, for multiple crimes.

Jennifer holds three blackbelts in Shotokan, Taekwondo, and Tang Soo Do. The last of which she is most proud of as she earned it after having her two children. She loves to judge karate tournaments when she has the time. Jennifer is the mother of two boys who are her greatest achievements and her biggest supporters in her endeavors at school as well as for social justice and criminal reform.



Erica Davis
Brooklyn, New York

Educator and administrator in New York City Public Schools

“ Erica has worn many hats. She has worked in schools across both Brooklyn and Manhattan, teaching a range of both lower and upper grades, supporting teachers as an instructional coach, and serving as a school building leader. Her studies at Washington University and Brooklyn College laid the groundwork for her teaching, particularly in math, social studies and social-emotional learning. After graduating from the Principals Institute at Bank Street College she put her leadership in action as an Assistant Principal and as a centrally-based administrator at the Brooklyn North Field Support Center, supporting the instructional needs of diverse schools across New York City. She is currently the Interim

Acting Principal of PS 261 in Boerum Hill, Brooklyn. An important part of her work has always been deepening the social-emotional learning of children. she strives to ensure that all children feel seen by their teachers, their community, and are included in their curriculum. Her desire to deepen the restorative practices in schools brought her to working with TRC.



Elyse Frenchman
Queens, New York

Artist and advocate producing documentaries such as Emmy Award winning Just Mercy

“Elyse Frenchman is a documentary filmmaker based in Brooklyn, New York. She’s currently a co-producer with Kunhardt Films, where she worked on *True Justice: Bryan Stevenson’s Fight for Equality* (HBO, 2019), *King in the Wilderness* (HBO, 2018), which chronicles the last three years of MLK Jr.’s life, and a soon to be announced documentary focused on history and politics, premiering October 2020 on HBO. Additionally, she produced and edited *John Lewis: His Last March*—a tribute to Congressman Lewis, showing his final march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in March 2020. Prior to joining Kunhardt Films, Elyse created long and short form news specials at MSNBC. Her passion for documentary filmmaking began as a 20-year-old as she documented rapid urbanization across China, where she spent significant time living as a child. She strives to create films that generate positive social change by uplifting voices and shedding light on the untold stories that mold our world. In addition to filmmaking, Elyse is an advocate for criminal justice reform. As a volunteer with the Parole Preparation Project, she works with incarcerated people in prisons across New York State to prepare them for their upcoming parole hearings. She’s also taught re-entry classes in New York City jails. Elyse is thrilled and honored to be a part of the Restorative Justice Conference.



Matthew Henderson
Brooklyn, New York

Seasoned film artist documenting key intersections of past and present, and the stories that influence America’s future, including Emmy Award winning Just Mercy

“Matthew Henderson has over ten years of experience in the world of Film & Television. This industry has allowed him to visualize stories that engage the heart, mind, and soul in six of the world’s seven continents. He’s worked on a wide range of projects like *True Justice*, to *Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat*, a multi-part documentary series that examines the intersection of food and culture, as well as *From The Ashes*, a film about the Coal Industry in America. For the past two years, Matthew has worked full time with Kunhardt Films

telling stories of struggle, redemption, and hope, under the banner of moral leadership. Few people have the opportunity to work in a career that they're sincerely passionate about –Matthew counts himself as a part of those privileged few.



Gabrielle Burton-Hill
Newburgh, New York

Community member & Circle Keeper

“A proud Newburgh native, Gabrielle Burton-Hill dedicates her days as a community activist, leader and servant. In 2015, Gabrielle won The McDonald’s Crew Person of the Year for her distinguished service in hospitality. Later that year the late Mayor Judy Kennedy and Newburgh City Council bestowed upon her the first Citizen Recognition Certificate at City Hall. After attending a Community Building Circle held by The Restorative Center, Gabrielle heard the call to get actively involved. In the Spring of 2016, The Restorative Center offered volunteers free training in the Newburgh Model of Restorative Justice and Gabrielle embraced the opportunity. Since then, Ms. Hill has taken a leadership role as the Program Director for TRC in Newburgh. Passionate about promoting healthy community relationships, she and other team members create and hold space for community circles. In these circles, topics such as gentrification, race relations, water pollution, and youth and crime in venues throughout the city including parks, barbershops, and art galleries are addressed. Gabrielle believes that intergenerational conversations are an important part of the community and family dynamics. In this space there is the possibility of collective wisdom of elders and youth to intertwine in an organic way. This opens the door to endless possibilities to having a more connected experience for all. She looks forward to expanding the reach of the RJ process in arenas such as schools, prison, politics and the workplace.



Kire' Jackson
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Activist writing about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa and its viability for application in the United States

“A Louisiana born and Dallas, Texas raised individual, Kire' is a rising 2L at Southern University Law Center. Kire' obtained a Bachelors of Science in Business Management with a minor in political science from Louisiana State University in 2019. With a consistent involvement in LSU student government, Kire' eventually served as the chief of staff her senior year at LSU. As chief of staff Kire' led over 100 student leaders within the organization with a common mission of advocating for all 30,000 + students enrolled at

LSU. Kire's involvement at LSU sparked her interest in law school and her passion for advocating and being a voice for those in need, specifically people of color.

While at Southern University Law Center, Kire' has participated in Women and Law as a general member and presently as the Projects Director. In addition, Kire' has served as a legal intern for Plain & Associates LLC, where she drafted cash sales, witnessed closings, researched case law, and assisted personal injury clients. Furthermore, Kire' has accepted a position as a law intern/clerk with Levelset.

Kire' plans to utilize her educational training and experience to work in corporate law and advocate for marginalized groups of people pro bono.



Maria Jain
Brooklyn, New York

Advancing Restorative Justice

“Born in Finland and currently living in Brooklyn, Maria is an international civil servant with over ten years of experience in partnerships, fundraising, and programs in organizations dedicated to human rights, development cooperation, and humanitarian response. Along the way, Maria has also had a home in Delhi, Mumbai, and Monrovia.

Maria found her way to TRC through her calling to be engaged in work on social justice, and practices for individual and collective transformation. As a TRC volunteer, Maria contributes as a Community Anchor in developing a Restorative Justice program for clemency and parole.

Maria holds a Master's Degree in Social Sciences from the University of Helsinki. She is committed to contribute to creating spaces where we can see and be seen as fuller versions of ourselves and one another; spaces where we can explore and begin to articulate new narratives individually and collectively, so that we are not held hostage by the past.



Gilbert King
Brooklyn, New York

Pulitzer prize winning author of Devil in the Grove

“Gilbert King is the author of three books, most recently, *Beneath a Ruthless Sun*. His previous book, *Devil in the Grove*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction in 2013. A New York Times bestseller, the book was also named runner-up for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for nonfiction, and was a finalist for both the Chautauqua Prize and the Edgar Award. King has written about race, civil rights, and the death penalty for the

New York Times, the Washington Post, and The Atlantic, and he is a contributor to The Marshall Project, a nonprofit news organization covering the U.S. criminal justice system. King's earlier book, *The Execution of Willie Francis*, was published in 2008.



Alisha Kohn
Newburgh, New York

*Formerly incarcerated transgender activist
working towards prison abolition in Hudson Valley*

“Alisha Kohn is a transgendered womxn, formerly incarcerated resident living, working, playing, loving, and fighting for change in the city of Newburgh NY. After spending ten years behind bars, she knows first hand the cycles of trauma that are perpetuated through being incarcerated. She uses her trauma and her passion as a transformative practice to move forward an abolitionist movement in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

While currently a student at SUNY Orange earning an associate's degree in Human Services, Alisha is leading advocacy, research, and civic engagement work in the role of Director for the Queers Justice committee with the Newburgh LGBTQ+ Center.

In her work to further strategy to divest from prisons, Alisha has taken a role with Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) as Vice President. AVP brings conflict resolution workshops to prisons and in the community, drawing from the interpersonal transforming power each individual has within themselves. When Alisha is not destroying the prison system she loves to cook, play video games, binge-watches tv shows, and spends time strengthening her relationships with her loved ones.



Jonnae Miller
St. Louis, Missouri

*Student activist researching Michael Brown's death, the Ferguson Report,
and police response in St. Louis*

“Jonnae, a St. Louis native, is a rising 3L at Southern University Law Center. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts (summa cum laude) in Sociology from Fisk University in 2018. As a student ambassador and captain of a collegiate cheerleading team, Miller played an active role on campus and in the Nashville community. Additionally, she founded an organization geared toward enhancing community relationships. Miller has received

public speaking training and conducted and presented her own sociological research at Emory University. In addition to her criminal justice exposure incorporated in the sociology curriculum, she gained exposure to the legal field through interning with juvenile court public defenders, private criminal defense attorneys, and Judge Lynda Jones. In preparation for law school, she received training at Florida State Law School's Summer for Undergraduates Program, where she first developed an appellate brief and performed appellate arguments.

While at Southern, Miller has participated in Mediation Clinic and a plethora of community service events in the Baton Rouge area, including serving as a volunteer judge for home-schooled youth moot court arguments, hosting community block parties, and volunteering for Child Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in the Baton Rouge and St. Louis area. She served as a research assistant for the Pro Bono Project, student chair of the Foreign Study Committee, and received a CALI Award in Legal Writing. Furthermore, she has law clerked for Brady Skinner LLC Attorney and Advocate, where she received impeccable training and mentorship for the legal field, particularly focusing on criminal law matters, as well as the MS Center for Re-entry and Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the arts. Currently, Miller serves as the president of Christians at Law and is a member of the Pro Bono Project, Black Law Student Law Association, and Sports and Entertainment Law Association. With a strong dedication and passion for making a difference in the legal field, Miller aspires to not only become a juvenile court judge, but also an advocate for social justice and human rights in countries around the world.

In addition to criminal justice reform, Miller's other interests include film and documentary production, the arts and fashion, and photography."



[Nirmala Nataraj](#)
Upstate New York

Writer. Editor, Personal Myth-maker

“Nirmala Nataraj is a New York-based writer, editor, book midwife, theater artist, and myth-maker. Her work lives at the crossroads of creativity, mythology, storytelling, and collective liberation. As a multi-genre collaborator and creative facilitator, she believes in generative solutions in the midst of chaos, the coexistence of messiness and magic, and breathtaking beauty as a natural consequence of this wild ride. She is trained in a variety of methods of narrative-based collective healing, including Family Constellations, Psychodrama, Playback Theatre, and Theatre of the Oppressed.

nirmalanataraj.com.



Chancellor John Pierre
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Chancellor of Southern University Law Center

“ John K. Pierre has devoted his career to molding lawyer leaders and being a champion of innovation. Since 1990, Pierre has served as a faculty member at the Southern University Law Center, where he taught courses, such as tax law, security devices, local government law and more. In 2006, he became the vice chancellor of institutional accountability and the evening division. Currently, he has been serving as the Law Center's chancellor since 2016.

Pierre has previous teaching experience as a visiting and adjunct professor at California State University, Southern Methodist University School of Law, Loyola University Law School, Southern University College of Business, Saint Leo's College, Webster University, Louisiana State University, and Baton Rouge Community College.

Pierre has published numerous articles on tax law, sales and contracts, real estate and commercial law, ranging from magazine features to legal journal and law review articles. He is a member of numerous state and national organizations, including the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Texas Bar Association.

He received the bachelor's degree in accounting from Southern University in 1980, a master's degree in tax accounting from Texas Tech University in 1982, and a juris doctor degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1985.

<https://www.sulc.edu>



Anthony Posada
New York City, New York

*Attorney and son of a recently deported father,
Anthony's activism on immigration rights in America is personal*

“ Anthony Posada is a Supervising Attorney for the Community Justice Unit of the Legal Aid Society. Anthony graduated from CUNY School of Law at Queens College where he received his JD in 2012 with a specialization in Community Economic Development, Immigration and Deportation Defense. Anthony is also the son of a Colombian immigrant father, recently deported, who spend more than two decades incarcerated in the US prison system. Growing up fully aware of the disproportionate targeting of poor people and people of color by the US criminal justice system, Anthony early on turned his attention to seeking justice for those people systematically targeted and cast aside in the very country where they hoped to prosper.

Through his work in the Legal Aid Community Justice Unit, Anthony has provided legal services to members of “Cure Violence” Programs. Cure Violence focuses on gun violence as a national health issue. It works with likely victims to change social norms that have perpetuated the deaths of both individuals and communities. Anthony’s work does not stop with his job. As always he has been deeply engaged with struggling communities and has given his own time and talent to many efforts to seek social justice. In 2010 he started Project Attica: Community Through the Arts, a collective of lawyers, activists, community members, and artists dedicated to spreading the message of using art to empower underserved youth and communities. He currently serves on its board as Art Programs Director, and when he isn’t busy helping young people get their activist messages onto T-shirts, he is posting calls to action on Twitter and occasionally adding his own drawings.



Dean Barry Price
Bronx, New York

Educator with NYC Public Schools

“I have worked in NYC Public Schools since 2003. I was voted the best male math teacher in NYC in 2010 based on city data for improving students' aptitude in math. I have taught in Mott Hall V since 2011. I was an algebra and geometry teacher and for the last six years I've been in a Dean/Restorative Justice position. I have helped dramatically reduce suspension in our school and bring a more restorative approach. We have changed our mindset to adopt a Ross Green approach: that kids do well if they can. If they are not meeting an expectation, we teach them the lagging skills. This restorative movement is critical to teaching and helping our most needy students.



Timothy Rountree
New York City, New York

Attorney and parent raising two young Black adults with hope and anguish

“Since 2005, Timothy Rountree has been the Attorney-in-Charge of the Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Practice in Queens County New York. Tim’s office – one of five Legal Aid trial offices in New York City - provides legal and managerial leadership for a 170 plus person team comprised of staff attorneys, supervising attorneys, and support staff, including investigators, social workers, and paralegals. He is responsible for office operations, staff hiring and development, including office-wide decision making and representing the Legal Aid Society and Criminal Defense Practice

client interests in Criminal Court and wider community. The Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Practice is the largest and oldest public defender organization in the country, as well as the primary provider of indigent criminal defense services in New York City.

Before being appointed to his current position, Tim was the Deputy Attorney-in-Charge of the Capital Division of the Legal Aid Society. Before that he was a Staff Attorney in the Capital Division. The Capital Division represented individuals charged with first degree murder and facing the death penalty. The death penalty law was re-enacted in New York State in 1995. The law has since been found unconstitutional. In 1998 Tim was part of a team of attorneys who defended Darryl Harris at trial in the case of People of the State of New York v. Darryl Harris, the first death penalty trial in New York State once the death penalty was re-enacted. Tim began his legal career at the Legal Aid Society as a staff attorney in 1987. He Became a Supervising Attorney in 2004. He was also the Supervising Attorney in the Criminal Justice Clinic at Hofstra University School of Law. He was an adjunct faculty member in New York Law School's Criminal Law Clinic and an adjunct instructor at Baruch College and Monroe College. Tim is an adjunct faculty member at St. John's University and is an active team member in new attorney training for Legal Aid's Criminal Defense Practice.

Tim is a recipient of the New York State Bar Association, Denison Ray Criminal Defender Staff Award for Indigent Representation. He is an inductee into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni at his high school alma mater, New Brunswick High School in New Brunswick, New Jersey and a St. John's University, Legal Studies Leadership Award winner. He received a BA in English with honors from Howard University and a JD from American University, Washington College of Law. Tim will take leadership in nurturing and growing TRC's NextGen CircleKeepers programs



Elizabeth Toksu
New York City, New York

Activist working at weaving good storytelling into restorative justice.

“I am an advocate for patients in NYC acute care hospitals. I began my work during the AIDS epidemic and am currently in cancer care. My life unfolded parallel to listening to staff and patient perspectives, in an effort to enhance care and understanding. I understood, after tragedy struck my life in the most profound way, the importance of having the opportunity to connect with others by being the teller of my own stories (and not only the listener). This was possible thanks to an excellent therapist, who was an expert in the humanities, and then in my coursework at Columbia University's Narrative Medicine program. It was an irreplaceable opportunity to both write and speak my stories, first with an assigned storytelling partner and then in a performance. The initial one-on-one therapeutic support empowered me to follow my interests by pursuing a graduate degree in Narrative Medicine, a relatively new interdisciplinary field which places patients/families and their life stories back where they belong: at the center of their care.

It was a chance reunion with Shailly. We were walking along 68th Street in opposite directions, both in the middle of cell phone calls. She was on the phone with her son, celebrating his birthday and I was on the phone with my mother-in-law, consoling her about the loss of her same age grandson. Out of a chance encounter was born this storytelling collaboration on behalf of a shared vision for restorative justice. Two teachers, Dr. Murray

Nossel and Dr. Paul Browde, who are both mental health and theatre professionals taught me their “What Happened” method.

Their method involves stating only the facts of a story, leaving out description of the emotions experienced. The idea is to trust that the listener will more fully experience and understand the teller’s feelings through the story’s rich description than by the teller saying “and that made me feel really bad.” These teachers also convinced me that it is the listening that shapes the telling. As a mid-life recipient of support, I am equipped and inspired to provide support for others as we all make our way in the world. We need to give second, third, and fourth chances to one another, something that functional and humane societies know to be key to the ultimate success of its members.

My educational background is in History and Fine Arts. My current interests include everything under (and over) the sun and moon, especially storytelling, museum education, collaging, and therapeutic poetry writing. Everyday life, nature, people, and the mysteries of life inspire me to continue seeking and striving to do and be my best, for myself, and for others.



Bryan Stevenson
Montgomery, Alabama

Author of best selling "Just Mercy", executive director of Equal Justice Initiative, and focus of tonight's "True Justice" screening

“Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

Mr. Stevenson has argued and won multiple cases at the United States Supreme Court, including a 2019 ruling protecting condemned prisoners who suffer from dementia and a landmark 2012 ruling that banned mandatory life-imprisonment-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger. Mr. Stevenson and his staff have won reversals, relief, or release from prison for over 135 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced.

Mr. Stevenson has initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge inequality in America. He led the creation of two highly acclaimed cultural sites which opened in 2018: the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. These new national landmark institutions chronicle the legacy of slavery, lynching, and racial segregation, and the connection to mass incarceration and contemporary issues of racial bias. Mr. Stevenson is Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law.

<https://eji.org>



Tamara Veal
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Advancing Restorative Justice in the Baton Rouge & SULC community

“ Tamara Veal started her legal career at a young age, as a Criminology student at Florida State University. She then became Vice President of a pre-law organization geared towards equipping minorities interested in law with the skills and tools needed to be successful in law school. Right before departing from Tallahassee, she interned at the Leon County Public Defenders office, serving as an intake specialist. This inspired her to understand the process an individual goes through in the justice system. She is now continuing her law degree at Southern University Law Center and plans to pursue a career in criminal prosecution upon her graduation in May 2022. In her free time, she used to build houses with the St. Bernard Project through AmeriCorps and enjoys watching documentaries. Her goal and mission is to become a federal prosecutor.

She is very excited to be a part of The Restorative Center. During her internship she plans to develop a Restorative Justice program to implement in the Baton Rouge area.



Deirdre Williams
Brooklyn, New York

Doctorate of Social Welfare & Restorative Justice educator

“ Deirdre Williams, LCSW, SIFI, DSW holds a Doctor of Social Welfare with a concentration in Social Work from New York University. She is a skilled clinical and forensic social worker with a specialty in working with court-involved individuals. As an adjunct professor and SIFI instructor, she demonstrates experience in the higher education industry. She taught a remote class at Fordham University (Advanced Integrative Practice with Organizations and Communities) and in person class at New York University (MSW level Policy I). She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and charter member of the Sigma Beta Chapter of the illustrious Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

In all her work, she employs a level of mindfulness, commitment, and respect to the treatment process to create settings that respect all identities. She utilizes a hands-on approach to her work that creates space for understanding, validating, and being curious of the narratives and lived truths of others. This approach builds accountability and addresses patterns of internal and trans-generational discord often left out of the equation. In her work with The Restorative Center, Deirdre is dedicated to building good foundations and addressing gaps in various systems, while working to supporting the individual and/or unit to remain vulnerable and authentic.



Loretta Williams
Coushatta land, Louisiana

Indigenous American in the cause for Restorative Justice

“A member of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and the Beaver Clan, Loretta has been working for the Coushatta Tribe for over 30 years. She was elected Tribal Council in June of 2017 and is currently serving as the Secretary/Treasurer. She is also the tax commissioner of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana. She serves on several Tribal committees which are: Powwow Committee, Princess Committee, and Language Committee.

Loretta speaks her native language and sews Coushatta Tribe's traditional Native American basketry. She has been married for 33 years and has four children and five grandchildren.

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