



MINNESOTA JUSTICE
RESEARCH CENTER

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With each year, the MNJRC learns more about how to effectively live into our work of doing research with and for the community, creating tools for engagement and education, and developing policy that can transform the criminal legal system towards true justice. We spent 2022 listening to community voices around the economic impact of bail, what should be included in a consent decree, how to hold police accountable to the communities they serve, the role of county attorneys, and how to build bridges between seemingly opposing corners to find real sustainable solutions.

We want to thank everyone who has engaged in this work with us, and invite all to be a partner with us in our work. You can find the most updated information on our website at www.mnjrc.org, and by signing up for our email newsletter there.

In Solidarity,
Andrew Martens, Board Chair
and Justin Terrell, Executive Director



TOM JOHNSON (deceased), MNJRC's founder

Tom Johnson served as Hennepin County Attorney for 12 years, served as President of the Council on Crime and Justice for ten years, and practiced law with the Gray Plant Mooty law firm.

Through all his work, Tom dedicated his life to addressing the unacceptable racial disparities in the criminal justice system, and the costs that those disparities have on our society. It was that life's work that led Tom to establish the MNJRC in 2017. It is our honor to be able to continue his work.

THE MNJRC MISSION

Through research, education, and policy development, we give our community the information and tools needed to create a criminal justice system that aligns with our commonly-held values.

TRANSFORMING OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Minnesota Justice Research Center reimagines a criminal legal system that is fair, equitable, accountable, and restorative in delivering justice.

WHO WE ARE

An independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to driving meaningful change to Minnesota's criminal legal system through rigorous and community-centered research, education, and policy development.

HOW WE WORK



RESEARCH

- + Connect with those closest to the problem to truly understand how the current system operates
- + Put data behind creative ideas or solutions



EDUCATION

- + Engage in deeper thinking with the community about what justice means and looks like



POLICY

- + Monitor developments in the legal system policy arena and recommend changes based on our research

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH CONVENINGS

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND CLE/CEU PROGRAMMING

The MNJRC organizes regular “[Continuing the Conversation](#)” and other community education events that bring together scholars, legislators, and advocates with people impacted by the legal system. Topics have included a Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Day Legislative Preview, Restorative Justice, Voting Rights, and Community Supervision. You can view these conversations on our youtube page [youtube.com/@mnjrc](https://www.youtube.com/@mnjrc).

Many of these sessions are offered as CLE/CEU programming.



ANNUAL RE-IMAGINING JUSTICE CONFERENCE

MNJRC's annual [Re-Imagining Justice Conference](#) is another opportunity to share perspectives. In November, Minnesotans from diverse backgrounds (legal professionals, formerly incarcerated people, survivors of crime, academics, policymakers, and community members) gather to reimagine justice and build pathways towards transformative change.

Police Accountability

OUR REPORTS

- [Trust in Policing: The Role of White Supremacy](#)
- [Accountability in Policing: The Unexplored Power of the POST Board](#)

OUR WORK

- We examined the role of values in policing, addressing accountability and trust, following George Floyd's murder.

OUR OUTCOMES

- Helped shift political conversations that led to concrete policy changes in Minnesota
- Created educational tools to make our findings accessible and provided community tools to advocate for change
- Influenced policy changes:
 - Reports informed rule changes at the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board
 - Created a new way for community members to hold officers accountable through licensure, including a ban on membership in a hate group

Efforts to Stop Racial Profiling in Minneapolis

OUR REPORTS

[Community Engagement: Shaping a Consent Decree in Minneapolis](#)

OUR WORK

- Partnered with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) to ensure community perspectives were included in their negotiations with the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Police Department to develop a consent decree on racial profiling
- Conducted 15 facilitated engagement sessions with community groups, prioritizing outreach to Black and Indigenous residents

OUR OUTCOMES

We gave a voice to Minneapolis residents that helped shape the final consent decree to end the Minneapolis Police Department's practice of race-based policing.

Re-imagining Pretrial Justice in Minnesota

OUR REPORTS

[The Wide-Reaching Consequences of the Pretrial System in Hennepin County: "I'm Suffering Along With Her"](#)

OUR WORK

- Examined the impact of cash bail as a widespread practice that often necessitates the participation of a defendant's larger community
- Collected perspectives from community members directly affected by bail (especially those who pay bail for others) to show impact more broadly across Hennepin County

OUR OUTCOMES

- Data informed an education/policy campaign to promote community-driven pretrial justice
- Received state funding to expand research analyzing best practices and innovations across country related to pretrial justice

Transforming Research into Policy

- Restored voting rights to Minnesotans on felony probation
- Eliminated driver license suspensions due to failure to pay fines and fees related to traffic violations

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Global Head of Product & Editorial for Thomson Reuters Legal (Retired)



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Assistant Minneapolis City Attorney in the Criminal Division



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Vice President of Community Relations and Government Affairs for Thomson Reuters; former mayor of Minneapolis



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Board Member
Legislative Affairs at MN Adult and Teen Challenge; formerly incarcerated



Nick Sayner
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Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer Justice Point

MAJOR FUNDERS



Minnesota
Humanities
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PROJECT PARTNERS



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
HUMPHREY SCHOOL
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2022 MNJRC STAFF

Justin Terrell, Executive Director

Cara Letofsky, Associate Director

Dr. Katie Remington Cunningham, Research Director

Zeke Caligiuri, Community Engagement Manager

Will Cooley, Re-Imagining Community Supervision Project Lead

Jamael Lundy, Policy and Outreach Consultant

Korie Manley, MNJRC Intern (Spring 2022)

2022 RESEARCH STAFF

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Caity Curry, Research Assistant / Re-Imagining Community Supervision

Dr. Ryan Larson, Research Consultant / Fines and Fees

Kalice Allen, Research Assistant / Reimagining Bail Project

Kayla Richards, Oglala Lakota, Research Manager / MDHR Community Engagement

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Sharin Park, Research Manager / Survivors of Sexual Violence Engagement Project

Tsiyhon Kika, Research Assistant / From the Block to the Ballot

Victoria Piehowski, Research Manager / Re-Imagining Bail Project

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Christopher Robertson, Research Assistant / Community Safety Specialist Evaluation

Coy Carter, Jr, Research Assistant / Community Safety Specialist Evaluation

Amy Dorman, Research Manager / Returning Home St. Paul Evaluation

THANKS TO ALL OUR FUNDERS, PARTNERS, AND STAFF!



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We want to thank everyone who has engaged in this work with us, and invite all to be a partner with us in the future.

www.mnjrc.org

