



**For Release:** Friday, October 14, 2022

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## **Innovative town hall format has Hennepin County Attorney candidates discuss the “Future of Prosecution” with an audience of crime victims and formerly incarcerated people**

*MNJRC brings representatives from survivors of sexual assault support and reentry support organizations together with the two remaining candidates for Hennepin County Attorney to discuss how to build safe communities for everyone*

[Minneapolis, MN]. The Hennepin County Attorney plays a key role in deciding if our communities experience justice or punishment. Yet, most candidate forums for any election are traditionally simply political events between two battling candidates. As a result, forums for county attorneys frequently incentivize these attorneys to speak like politicians, jousting broad platitudes to the general public for votes instead of officers of the court thoughtfully discussing tough issues with those who are most impacted by their work.

The Minnesota Justice Research Center’s “The Future of Prosecution: A Hennepin County Town Hall” webinar aims to change this dynamic.

**WHAT:** The Future of Prosecution: A Hennepin County Attorney Town Hall  
**WHEN:** Friday, October 14, 2022  
11 AM - 1 PM  
**WHERE:** Virtually, on Zoom [\(here\)](#)

The first part of the town hall will ground the discussion with a presentation by St Thomas Law Professor Rachel Moran, who will provide evidence-based context about the evolving role of the office of County Attorney in the rapidly evolving fields of public safety and criminal law reform. Next, Artika Roller from the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA), an organization that advocates on behalf of survivors of sexual assault, and Zeke Caligiuri, MNJRC’s Re-Entry Education Coordinator and formerly incarcerated, will speak to their respective communities’ perspective on ways county attorneys’ past practices have failed to advance the interest of justice and how they can improve their work.

The second half of the town hall will be separate discussions with each of the two candidates for Hennepin County Attorney – Mary Moriarty and Martha Holton Dimick – with representatives on

both sides of the criminal legal system: survivors and victims of crime, alongside formerly incarcerated people. This conversation will be facilitated by Chair of the MNJRC's Board, Andrew Martens.

Through this town hall forum, MNJRC hopes to show how bridges can be built towards a criminal legal system that moves beyond punishment towards a justice system that is fair, equitable, holds people accountable and produces restorative outcomes for those who have been harmed and those who have caused harm.

The public is invited to attend the town hall as part of the virtual audience or can view the event after it is edited and posted on MNJRC's YouTube page. [Join live on zoom here.](#)

***About the Minnesota Justice Research Center:***

*The Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) is 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. <https://www.mnjrc.org/>*