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**Contact:**

- **Justin Terrell**, MNJRC Executive Director: [justin@mnjrc.org](mailto:justin@mnjrc.org); 612-361-7925
- [info@mnjrc.org](mailto:info@mnjrc.org)

## **Legislative leaders observe MLK Day by previewing the 2023 public safety agenda**

*MN Attorney General Ellison will open  
MLK Day Criminal Justice Reform Legislative Preview*

The Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) and partners are marking the 2023 Martin Luther King holiday with an event on public safety topics that will be discussed at the Capitol this year.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison will open with remarks followed by a panel discussion with Rep. Kelly Moller, DFL Chair of the House Public Safety Committee; Rep. Paul Novotny, Republican Lead House Public Safety Committee; Sen. Clare Oumou Verbeten, DFL Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee; and MN Department of Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell. Justin Terrell, MNJRC's Executive Director, will be moderating the panel.

**Details:**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday, January 16, 2023</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Sabathani Community Center Auditorium 310 East 38th St, Room 120 Minneapolis, MN 55409</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>FREE, with a \$20 suggested donation</b>
<b>Registration:</b>	<b><a href="https://www.mnjrc.org/events">https://www.mnjrc.org/events</a></b>

Panelists from both sides of the aisle will discuss the House and Senate priorities on criminal justice reform, and what might be expected from the legislative session, and how community members can engage and support transformative changes to the criminal legal system.

Alongside MNJRC, this event is co-hosted by the MN Association of Black Lawyers, the African American Leadership Forum, MN and MPLS NAACP, Twin Cities Urban League, the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage, and Sabathani Community Center.

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lived a life dedicated to fighting injustice, and there are still a lot of injustices in the criminal legal system,” Justin Terrell, MNJRC Executive Director says. “With this event, we hope to honor his legacy by creating a space for state legislators to not only reflect on the problems and progress of the past, but to commit to take action in the future to transform the criminal legal system in the present.”

"We are excited to honor the legacy of MLK by elevating his vision of the beloved community and doing so by advocating for public safety," says Linda Sloan, Executive Director of the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (CMAH).

MNJRC and their partners invite any and all community members to attend and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by answering his call to join the work to eliminate injustice.

For further information, please email [info@mnjrc.org](mailto:info@mnjrc.org).

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***More on 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.

The MNJRC centers our work around exploring values - like humane and fair treatment for all, safety, wellbeing, and trust - and provides our community and policy-makers with information and tools needed to create a criminal legal system that truly delivers justice.

For more information about the MNJRC, go to [mnjrc.org](http://mnjrc.org)