



For Release: Wednesday, November 11, 2020

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**Minnesota Justice Research Center's 2020 Re-Imagining Justice Conference
Creates Space for Community to Discuss Ways
to Transform Minnesota's Criminal Justice System**

Governor Tim Walz and Professor John A. Powell to keynote conference, which will also honor MNJRC founder and former Hennepin County Attorney Tom Johnson

Roseville, Minnesota: The Minnesota Justice Research Center will hold its annual Re-Imagining Justice Conference Wednesday, November 18 – Thursday, November 19, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm each day. The conference brings together criminal justice practitioners, legal experts, scholars, law enforcement and advocates to re-imagine a justice system that functions more effectively, humanely, and with the public's trust. This year's conference will be held virtually, and center powerful conversations and panel discussions analyzing the recent events of the killing of George Floyd, the uprising that followed, and the path forward to re-imagine Minnesota's justice system.

Keynote speakers include Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and John A. Powell, the Director of the Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, with performances by Musical Artist Lewiee Blaze. Sessions include Re-Imagining Bail Reform, Re-Imagining Juvenile Justice, Re-Imagining Re-entry Housing, Re-Imagining Services in Prison, Re-Imagining Policing, Re-Imagining the Role of Prosecution, and the Politics of Reform.

This year's Re-Imagining Justice Conference will include a tribute to Tom Johnson, former Hennepin County Attorney and MNJRC founder, to include comments from U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. Tom passed away in June 2020 after a six-year battle with cancer. Tom dedicated his

life to addressing racial disparities in the criminal justice system. "MNJRC is just one of many legacies that Tom left behind," said Mark Haase, MNJRC Board Member. "We are grateful for his commitment to this work and will continue to carry it on as we keep working to transform our justice system."

"Recent events in our state -- indeed, the nation as a whole -- lay bare the racial disparities in our society. There is an urgent need to wrestle with the reality we're facing, put a human face on the data, and design reforms with impacted communities at the center," said Justin Terrell, MNJRC's Executive Director.

Sharon Sayles Belton, Vice President of Government Affairs and Community Relations for Thomson Reuters, former mayor of Minneapolis, and MNJRC Board Member explained, "the killing of George Floyd has sparked outrage and movements for justice around the world. It's time now for Minnesota to move from being a spark for outrage to becoming an example for meaningful transformation of our justice system to become one that is more humane and holds the trust of the community."

"This year's Re-Imagining Justice Conference will be a place where people with different perspectives will come together to expand the ideas of what is possible," Tom Heffelfinger, former U.S. Attorney and MNJRC Board Member.

The Re-Imagining Justice Conference will be held virtually on Wednesday, November 18 and Thursday, November 19 from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$50 for General Admission, \$125 for CLE tickets, and \$60 for POST Board Continuing Education credits. Limited scholarships and discounted rates for public agency lawyers are also available by emailing MNJRC at info@mnjrc.org. Registration is available on eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/re-imagining-justice-conference-2020-tickets-123947176341>

For further information, please email info@mnjrc.org.

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More on the Minnesota Justice Research Center:

The Minnesota Justice Research Center is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization established in 2017 to improve the justice system through high quality research, policy development, and education. Its overarching goal is to facilitate the transformation of the justice system in Minnesota so that it is effective, humane, and operates with a high level of public trust.

MNJRC's 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.

MNJRC's Statement of Values: We are nonpartisan and seek to be broadly inclusive in our definition of community. We strive for honesty and transparency when it comes to the values and goals guiding our work, and never compromise our research for any predetermined agenda.