



**For Release:** Thursday, November 10, 2022

**Contact:**

- **Justin Terrell**, MNJRC Executive Director: [justin@mnjrc.org](mailto:justin@mnjrc.org); 612-432-2141
- **Andrew Martens**, MNJRC Board Chair  
[andrew.martens@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:andrew.martens@thomsonreuters.com); 651-271-6985

**Minnesota Justice Research Center's 2022 Re-Imagining Justice Conference focuses on *Building Bridges and Seeking Solutions***

*Keynotes by Florida Voting Rights Activist Desmond Meade and Cynthia W. Roseberry of the ACLU's Justice Division anchor this year's hybrid in-person/virtual conference*

*Roseville, Minnesota:* This year's MNJRC [Re-Imagining Justice Conference](#) is focused on **building bridges and seeking solutions**. The conference will open on the evening of Wednesday, November 16th with an in-person reception and opening keynote by formerly incarcerated civil rights activist and 2021 MacArthur "Genius" Fellow [Desmond Meade](#) at the Riverview Theater in Minneapolis. This will be the first time since 2019 that the conference will kick off in person to talk about how to transform the criminal legal system.

Day Two of the conference, Thursday, November 17th, will convene virtually, starting with an opening keynote from ACLU Justice Division leader [Cynthia W. Roseberry](#). Roseberry will be followed by a set of inspirational plenaries and breakout sessions, including a plenary discussion with MDHR Commissioner Rebecca Lucero on the consent decree in Minneapolis. You can find more information on the conference [HERE](#), and the conference agenda [HERE](#).

*Details:*

**Re-Imagining Justice Conference**

- Wednesday, November 16th, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm in person at the Riverview Theater in South Minneapolis

- Thursday, November 17th, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm Online

In addition to the national keynotes, two plenary sessions on Thursday will focus on re-imagining justice in Minnesota. The lunch plenary will include MN Department of Human Rights Commissioner Rebecca Lucero and others to discuss the work to create a consent decree between the State of Minnesota and the City of Minneapolis and its police department. The closing plenary will have Minnesota legislators from both sides of the aisle discuss proposals to improve the public safety system that can break through political partisanship.

Reflecting the theme of “Building Bridges – Seeking Solutions”, the MNJRC conference will offer three sets of breakout sessions, with three options each on topics ranging from the City of Saint Paul’s approach to community safety, New York’s “Less Is More” campaign to reform technical violations in the community supervision system, Re-imagining Pretrial Justice in Minnesota, Minnesota’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s (MMIW) Task Force’s early lessons, and more.

“This conference is important because there is a pathway forward to justice in our society,” Opening Keynote speaker Desmond Meade says. “And this conference helps to expand the conversation on what justice means and build bridges for people to work together to get there.”

“Our keynotes will frame the other parts of the conference,” says Justin Terrell, MNJRC Executive Director. “The rest of the programming will take their messages and apply them to what is happening in Minnesota. This year’s plenary sessions cover the most timely topics facing local justice-seeking stakeholders – the consent decree being negotiated between the State and the City of Minneapolis, and the public safety agenda at the upcoming legislative session.”

Tickets for this year’s conference are \$50 for General Admission, \$200 for CLE tickets, and \$60 for MN Social Work Continuing Education credits. Student tickets, discounted rates for public interest lawyers, and limited scholarships are also available. Registration can be found at: [https://whova.com/portal/registration/reima\\_202211/](https://whova.com/portal/registration/reima_202211/)

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

-30-

***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)

***More on Desmond Meade:***

Desmond Meade is the President of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC), a MacArthur Genius Fellow, and was named one of the 2019 100 Most Influential People in the World by Time Magazine. Desmond is formerly incarcerated and has overcome addiction and homelessness to earn his JD and leads efforts to empower and civically re-engage local communities across the state and to reshape local, state, and national criminal justice policies. Learn more about Desmond [here](#).

***More on Cynthia W. Roseberry:***

At the national ACLU, Ms. Roseberry works to reform the criminal justice system. Focusing on issues like policing, bail reform, clemency, the death penalty, and other criminal justice related matters her work supports ACLU affiliates across the nation. During the Obama administration, she served as project manager of the historic Clemency Project 2014. Often referred to as the nation's largest law firm of nearly 4,000 lawyers, it provided pro bono support to more than 36,000 applicants for presidential clemency. Learn more about Cynthia [here](#).