

Advancing Real Change, Inc.
Baltimore Mitigation Training
Dismantling Dehumanization
June 2 - 4, 2022
Agenda

Thursday, June 2

8:30am – 9:30am

Registration / Breakfast (Upper / Lower Lobby)

9:30am – 9:45am

Welcome / Training Overview (Moot Courtroom) - University of Baltimore Staff / Mary Roberts

9:45am – 10:45am

Keynote Address (Moot Courtroom)- Craig Haney, Ph.D.

Dr. Haney will discuss how dehumanization is built into many aspects of the legal system and empathy as a mechanism to challenge it.

10:50am – 12:15pm

Dismantling Dehumanization (Moot Courtroom) - Moderator Craig Haney, Ph.D; Panelists Wayne Brewton and Katie Smith

As the theme of this training series, we will explore with panelists what it means to dismantle dehumanization, why it's important both within and beyond mitigation work, and how we can increase intentionality around how to dismantle systemic practices and policies that currently uphold dehumanization within the legal system. Panelists include a local activist with experience in conflict resolution and a relative of a victim.

12:15pm - 1:15pm

Lunch On Your Own

1:15pm - 2:45pm

Breakout Session (Today's sessions repeated so attendees can experience more than one offering.)

At its core, mitigation is a methodology for understanding the individual experience in relation to the community and its structures. Mitigation has been a tool in criminal defense, but how do other institutions and even individuals see dehumanizing practices? What can we learn about the ways in which processes are structured to perpetuate marginalization and harm to communities? Knowing this information and forming relationships across disciplines and communities will inform client advocacy and make it possible to progress toward comprehensive solutions for common goals.

Breakout A: Immigration (Moot Courtroom) - Maureen Sweeny and Rebecca Bowman Rivas

Clients who are immigrants experience a unique set of obstacles when involved or potentially involved with the U.S. legal system. Who is allowed to enter the U.S.? What impacts do immigration practices have on individuals without U.S. citizenship? These practices will be the focus of this session, as well as how defenders address decision-makers to provide a higher standard of advocacy for their clients.

Breakout B: Education (Room 021) - Dr. Jen Newton

Much of a client's early life is shaped by their experiences within the Education system. How does this system, its policies, and the individuals involved perpetuate harmful practices? This session will identify how general and special education work together, how students fall through the cracks, and the effect that may have on an individual's life.

**Breakout C: Survivors and Victims: Navigating the Legal System (Room 018)- LaVarr McBride
Katie Smith**

It can be difficult for families and communities to navigate the legal system in the aftermath of a violent act. Hear the personal experiences of a family member of a victim and defense victim outreach specialist who worked together. This session will focus on the ways in which survivors and victims' family members can interact with the legal system, the impact of educating survivors about clients, and what it looks like to work with survivors and families of victims in ways that are empowering for them.

2:45pm - 3:00pm

Break

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Breakout Session (Today's sessions repeated so attendees can experience more than one offering.)

See Breakout Sessions A and B above

4:30pm - 4:40pm

Break

4:40pm - 4:50pm

Wrap-up (Moot Courtroom)

Until 5:30pm

Networking

Friday, June 3

8:30am – 9:10am

Registration / Breakfast (Upper / Lower Lobby)

9:10am – 9:20am

Opening Remarks (Moot Courtroom)

9:20am – 10:20am

Language Matters (Moot Courtroom) - Dr. Robin Riner

A client's humanity can be conveyed or denied through language - in documentation, trials, interviews, and other instances. This presentation will cover linguistic and racialized bias and how they work to

dehumanize the accused.

10:30am - 12:00pm

Breakout Sessions

Breakout A: Solo Mitigation (Moot Courtroom)- Lela Hubbard

What do you need to do to make sure you are ready to work in private practice? This session will discuss how to avoid common pitfalls and which resources and tools to acquire, particularly as a private practitioner.

Breakout B: Defender Offices: Managing Caseloads Effectively (Room 802) - Kristina Leslie

Defenders throughout the country are often overwhelmed by the sheer number of cases for which they are responsible each year. While fundamental change is ultimately what is needed, this workshop will explore resources to help alleviate the burden that often comes with handling a high volume of cases.

12:00pm - 1:15pm

Lunch On Your Own

1:20pm - 2:20pm

Mental Health Effects of Oppression, Violence, Racism, and Discrimination (Moot Courtroom) - Dr. Alisha Ali

Systemic factors determine so much of how an individual experiences the world around them and undoubtedly impacts one's mental well-being. This session will explore how various forms of oppression intersect and how they may impact a person's story.

2:35pm - 3:45pm

How Diagnoses and Misdiagnoses Shape the Legal System (Moot Courtroom) - Dr. Sarah Vinson

From initial observations to treatment, how an individual receives and understands a diagnosis can deeply impact an individual. This discussion will take a look at who receives diagnoses and how the process of diagnosing can unfold throughout the course of one's life.

3:45pm - 4:00pm

Break

4:00pm - 5:00pm

Interdisciplinary Records Practice – Creativity and Collaboration (Moot Courtroom) -

Moderator Thea Posel, Panelists Katherine Atkins and Judith Mazdra

We know that interdisciplinary teams are crucial to high quality defense work and improving client outcomes, but effectively implementing this approach requires far more than Guidelines-compliant team composition. Diversity of experience within our teams and meaningful collaboration on fundamental casework leads to innovative strategies and outcome-changing results. Panelists will provide examples of learning and growth moments and records-based breakthroughs from individual cases, and offer an opportunity to share and learn from panelists and audience members alike.

5:10pm - 5:25pm

Wrap up (Moot Courtroom)

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Networking

Saturday, June 4

9:00am – 9:30am

Registration / Breakfast (Upper and Lower Lobby)

9:30am – 11:00am

Mitigation: Past, Present, Future (Moot Courtroom) - Moderator Elizabeth Vartkessian, panelists Thea Posel, Lela Hubbard, and Anthony Ginez

This panel includes a discussion about the ways COVID impacts our work and the communities in which we work. Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, we will take a look at what has changed since last year and what those changes mean for mitigation work overall. The discussion also includes building a more diverse field and one of which could be expanding mitigation outside of capital work. Panelists include mitigation specialists, each approaching the work from a unique vantage point.

11:00am - 11:10am

Break

11:10am - 12:40pm

The Dehumanizing Effects of Detainment and Incarceration (Moot Courtroom) - Moderator Tanya Greene, panelists Nadir Abdullah, Christian Gettis, Monique Coleman, and Felicia Jones

This panel, comprised of people who have served time as well as those whose loved ones have been imprisoned, will discuss ways in which incarceration impacts individuals, families, and communities as a critical component to understanding, developing, and presenting mitigation evidence.

12:40pm - 1:40pm

Working Lunch (lunch will be provided)

1:45pm - 2:45pm

Putting it All Together and Presenting a Whole Person - (Moot Courtroom) Anthony Ginez

This final session will discuss how different mitigating factors, narratives, and social systems, including topics discussed during this training series, all coalesce around the outcomes of our clients at the center. The presentation aims to provide a framework to the broad themes of mitigation while centering the humanity that connects us all.

2:45- 3:00pm

Closing Remarks (Moot Courtroom)