Behind the Yellow Tape: The Impact of Crime and Punishment on Victims, Offenders, Families and Neighborhoods

Wednesday, May 18th 5-7:00pm  Cronkite Building Room 128

Most crimes involve at least one victim and one perpetrator. But behind this familiar pairing are thousands more Arizonans who suffer in the shadows as families and friends of both victims and offenders – notably including children growing up with at best a part-time mother or father.

A high percentage of these “collateral victims” live in low-income neighborhoods repeatedly battered by crime and by the destructive “churn” of residents cycling in and out of jail and prison. More than 1,500 inmates are being released from Arizona’s prisons each month; most return to the same neighborhoods they left.

Must this destructive cycle continue?

- How does crime affect people and neighborhoods beyond the immediate individuals involved?
- How much are we really doing to help victims, their families and neighborhoods?
- What about helping offenders and their families?
- Are overly harsh legal penalties making matters worse by creating “victims of punishment?”
- Are there promising programs to aid “collateral victims” that Arizona could consider?

These and related questions will be addressed by a panel that will include cofounder and president of AZ Common Ground Frantz Beasley, Phoenix Police Commander Sean Connolly, from Family Resource and Emergency Services department of Chicanos Por La Causa Lydia Guzman, and Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery. Remarks will also be delivered by ASU Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Danielle Wallace.

Please RSVP for this FREE event, as seating is limited. Visit: morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/news/behind-yellow-tape
**Opening Statement Presented By**

**Danielle Wallace**

Associate professor of criminology and criminal justice at Arizona State University. Prof. Wallace researches neighborhoods and crime, health, and organizational capacity. Her work has been published in leading criminology journals like the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, as well as in health journals like Social Science and Medicine. Currently, she is working on evaluating the impact of health on recidivism among serious offenders.

**Panelist**

**Frantz Beasley**

Co-founder and president of AZ Common Ground, a Phoenix nonprofit that works to enhance prisoner re-entry strategies, decrease recidivism, create economic opportunities in impoverished communities, and advocate for the rights of crime victims. Mr. Beasley also serves as vice president of Beat Street AZ, which focuses on crime and gang prevention, and as interim Executive Director for Construction Career Training Program-Arizona. He also conducts regular workshops for at-risk youth in middle and high schools.

**Panelist**

**Sean Connolly**

Born and raised in Arizona, he has served 24 years with the Phoenix Police Department. He is currently the Commander of the Maryvale Estrella Mountain Precinct. Commander Connolly earned his undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Arizona and his graduate degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. He is a Fellow of Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy and holds a School-Justice Partnership Certificate from that university’s Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

**Panelist**

**Lydia Guzman**

Ms. Guzman runs the Family Resource and Emergency Services department of Chicanos Por La Causa, where she serves under-privileged and low-income families in need and in crisis situations. She was also a national immigration chairperson for LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens), a founding officer with the Somos America Coalition, and Director of Voter Outreach for the Arizona Secretary of State's Office and Arizona Attorney General's Office. She has been recognized with several awards for her service to the community.

**Panelist**

**Bill Montgomery**

The West Point Graduate and decorated Gulf War Veteran had earned his J.D. from ASU’s College of Law, graduating Magna Cum Laude and receiving the Order of the Coif. As county attorney, Mr. Montgomery believes in the responsible application of Arizona’s tough sentencing laws to ensure violent and repeat criminals are kept away from our fellow citizens. He is committed to partnering with law enforcement, along with business and civic leaders to protect and strengthen communities, and is a passionate advocate for victim rights.