

The (Unfinished) Legacy of the Women's Suffrage Movement: Criminal Justice Reform

Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00pm

Presented by: [Lippitt House Museum](#) & [Providence League of Women Voters](#)

One of the issues suffragists in the 19th century campaigned for, including Rhode Island's Elizabeth Buffum Chace, was prison reform. What is being done to address the reliance of community safety policies on policing and prisons, overcome biases in the criminal justice system, promote the exercise of justice with equity, and not unjustly burden communities of color?



Speakers:

[Judge Judith C. Savage](#) – Former RI Superior Court Judge

Judge Judith Savage served as a trial judge on the R.I. Superior Court for over two decades where she presided over criminal and civil jury trials. After her retirement from the bench seven years ago, she became an adjunct law professor at Roger Williams University School of Law where she taught advanced criminal procedure and a racial justice seminar based on Michelle Alexander's book "The New Jim Crow." In 2015, she helped the law students organize a groundbreaking statewide symposium on mass incarceration that took a hard look at the racial inequities and injustices in probation and incarceration in Rhode Island and the nation. As a keynote speaker at the Governor's Rhode Island Mental Health Summit in 2015, she spoke about the need for reform at the intersection of criminal justice and mental and behavioral health. As Co-Chairperson of the Governor's Justice Reinvestment Working Group from 2015-17, she helped the State enact legislative and judicial probation and criminal justice reform.

Judge Savage has been actively involved in educating students and members of the community about issues of criminal justice and restorative justice. As Co-Chairperson of Reading Across Rhode Island for the R.I. Center for the book in 2017, she took Bryan Stevenson's book "Just Mercy" into schools and the community to talk about injustice in justice. She has trained in restorative practices that are designed to end the school-to-prison pipeline and lessen punitive discipline in schools and served as a keynote speaker in 2017 for the Restorative Justice Symposium sponsored by the Youth Restoration Project. She has worked with justice-involved individuals behind the walls and in the community to help them further their college education and change communities. She is an active Board member of College

Unbound – an innovative student-driven degree-granting college for adults in Rhode Island who faced barriers to completing their bachelor’s degrees.

[James Monteiro](#) – Director, Reentry Campus Program

James Monteiro works both within and outside the Adult Correction Institution of Rhode Island to ensure that adults in transition homes have a college degree pathway that is integrated into the support systems needed upon release. James dropped out of school in the eighth grade and spent most of his adult life in and out of the penal system. The last time James was incarcerated he was doing a ten-year sentence in one of the country’s most violent prison systems, Baltimore Maryland’s Penitentiary. It was there that James first went back to school earning an Associate’s degree in Psychology with Honors and, and upon release, earned a bachelor’s degree in Community Development at Roger Williams University’s College Unbound program. James won the Rhode Island NAACP Joseph Lecount Award for his work founding the Billy Taylor House; a program that provides workforce development and enrichment opportunities to youth ages fifteen to twenty-one in James’ childhood neighborhood, the Mount Hope community of Providence. He was named one of Rhode Island’s “15 to Watch” for his work in youth programs that address violence in the city and prepare the next generation of Providence leaders.

[Jill Harrison](#) – Professor of Justice Studies, Rhode Island College

Dr. Jill Hume Harrison is a Professor of Sociology at Rhode Island College. She holds a B.A. from Wells College, an M.A. from George Mason University, and a Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire. Her research focuses on the intersection between mental health and crime. Her work has been published in several journals, including *Women in Criminal Justice*, *International Review of Modern Sociology*, *Corrections Compendium*, *Contemporary Issues of Criminology in the Social Sciences*, *International Journal of Crime, Criminal Justice and the Law*, and *Sage Research Methods*. In her most recent work, she interviewed high risk inmates to examine the relationship between trauma and recidivism. For over 7 years, she led a meditation program for inmates at the ACI and continues to offer on-site programming and classes to inmates and correctional staff. She also served on the drug prevention coalition in Jamestown, RI and currently serves on the town’s juvenile hearing board. She is also a court appointed special advocate for children under state care. In her book, *Writing for the Criminal Justice System* (Springer 2017), the focus is on formal writing skills and cultural competency across many platforms within the criminal justice spectrum, from law enforcement incident reports to grant writing. Her most recent book, *Critical Thinking: Developing the Intellectual Tools for Social Justice* (Routledge 2020) engages critical thinking techniques as tools for social and economic justice. She peer reviews journal articles for the *Community Mental Health Journal* and the *Journal for Offender Rehabilitation*.

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The Fight for a Liveable Wage on Sep 30, 2020

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