

Jon Kade



DEVELOPING NEW WAYS TO ADDRESS HARM AND CONFLICT

The Center for Justice Reform at Vermont Law School addresses deficiencies in the criminal justice system and other responses to harm, conflict, and crime. The center offers degree and training programs for law and master's students as well as criminal justice professionals, educators, and other community members who seek to develop alternative, less punitive, responses to harm. Academic offerings include a Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ) degree, a joint JD/MARJ degree program, and a Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice.





OUR MISSION

The Center for Justice Reform at Vermont Law School is a statewide, regional, national, and international educational and training location for justice reform efforts including restorative justice. The center trains law and graduate students, community members, criminal justice professionals, educators, social service providers, and policy makers in the value of restorative and innovative criminal justice programs.

The current criminal justice system is financially and ethically untenable. Plagued by the unsustainable cost of incarceration, high recidivism rates, the devastating impact on children of incarcerating parents, the burden and collateral consequences of a criminal conviction, a “school to prison” pipeline borne out of excessively harsh academic disciplinary measures, and racial, economic, and geographic inequalities, our communities need alternatives to the predominant, punitive responses to harm.

The Center for Justice Reform is uniquely positioned to address shortcomings in our justice systems and to train the next generation of justice leaders. With residential and online educational programs including a Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ), joint JD/Master of Arts in Restorative Justice, Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice, and experiential learning opportunities, students gain the skills to become agents for change within the justice system.

WHY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Because justice requires a new way to think about and respond to harm, conflict, and crime. Wrongdoings are not just transgressions against government or institutions; harm involves a breaching of relationships. Responding to harm requires more than punishment—more than retribution—the response requires an opportunity for acceptance of responsibility, amends to the aggrieved parties, and the creation of an environment that promotes healing.

HOW?

By bringing together students committed to developing new ways of thinking about harm with national and international restorative justice leaders, Vermont Law School will educate the next generation of justice reformers; leaders who understand the workings of the existing legal system but who are also educated and equipped to infuse systems and communities with principles of inclusion, tolerance, equity, compassion, and positive change.

WHAT?

Through a 30-credit Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ) degree or a 9-credit Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice. Both the MARJ degree and Professional Certificate may be completed online, on campus, or a hybrid of both. The MARJ and Professional Certificate can also be combined with the JD for a joint degree. Vermont Law School offers an array of courses, conferences, and presentations that will change how you think about harm and social inequality and how you lead your organizations, community, state, and country to a more just place.

OUR TEAM



ROBERT SAND
DIRECTOR

Professor Sand joined the faculty at Vermont Law School on a full-time basis in 2016, having served as the Vermont Governor's Liaison to Criminal Justice Programs, the former elected State's Attorney for Windsor County, Vt., a position he held for 15 years, and a visiting professor of criminal law at VLS. Sand has worked with other criminal justice professionals to develop innovative practices in Vt. with a special emphasis on the creation of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Treatment Courts. At Vermont Law School, he co-founded the school's criminal law clinic and hosts an annual conference on innovative criminal justice programs. He founded The Center for Justice Reform at VLS, where he serves as the Director.



STEPHANIE CLARK
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Professor Clark formerly served as a general division magistrate in Ohio for the Court of Common Pleas and later helped launch and coordinate Vermont's first and only DUI treatment court, the Windsor County DUI Treatment Docket. Clark joined VLS in 2017 as the lead organizer for the International Restorative Justice Conference: Global Healing and Unity. As Assistant Director of the Center for Justice Reform, Clark now brings experiential opportunities to students through training and participation at Expungement Clinics, and training for students and the community to help offenders reintegrate into their community after a period of incarceration with a local Circle of Support and Accountability (COSA). Clark is a board member of the NEADCP (New England Association of Drug Court Professionals) and the Pearl Dimick Fund Grants Committee.



GALE BURFORD
DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLAR

Professor Burford is Emeritus Professor at the University of Vermont (2014). He is a recent Distinguished Visitor at the Centre for International Governance and Justice (CIGJ), School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet), at ANU College of Asia & the Pacific. Until his retirement from University of Vermont in 2014, he was Director of the University-State Child Welfare Training Partnership and Principal Investigator for the Vermont Community Justice Consortium. He has experience in public service as a foster and group home parent, case-worker and social work practitioner, trainer, and supervisor, manager and senior administrator in services for children, young people and their families.



ERIN WEBSTER-CHAMBERS
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Erin Webster-Chambers is the Program Coordinator for the Center for Justice Reform at Vermont Law School. She has been with Vermont Law School since 2016, working in various departments. She has helped Professor Sand develop the Restorative Justice program into the program it is today. She currently advises all of the restorative justice students for the Masters and Professional Certificate programs.

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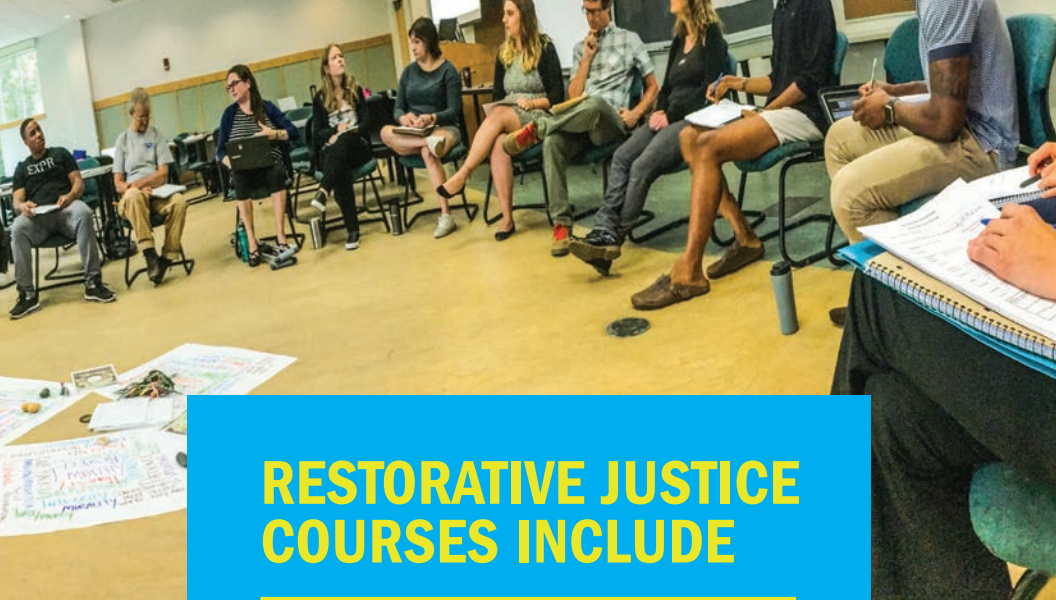


AGENTS OF CHANGE

At Vermont Law School, students who are committed to developing new ways of thinking about crime and justice are brought together with national and international restorative justice leaders, to become the next generation of justice reformers.

Students wishing to specialize in restorative justice will combine traditional law courses with restorative justice courses, simulations, and experiential learning opportunities. Graduates are prepared to become forceful and articulate agents for change in law and restorative justice.





RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COURSES INCLUDE

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE THEORY AND PRACTICE

ORIGINS, EVOLUTION, AND CRITICAL ISSUES
IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

ADVERSITY, TRAUMA, AND VICTIMIZATION

CRIMINAL LAW

NEW APPROACHES TO DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

ADVANCED VICTIM RIGHTS SEMINAR

IMPROV FOR ADVOCATES

ETHICS AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

ADVANCED CRIMINAL LAW SEMINAR:
ALTERNATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPROACHES

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY, AND LEADERSHIP

CLEMENCY, PARDON, AND EXPUNGEMENT

GLOBAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

JUVENILE JUSTICE

PRINCIPLES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

ADVANCED RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

NARRATIVE WRITING SEMINAR

OUR FACULTY



DONNA COKER
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW

Professor Coker is a leading researcher in the use of restorative responses for intimate partner violence (IPV) and campus sexual assault. Her empirical study of IPV cases in Navajo Peace-making Courts has had international influence. She is a member of Campus PRISM, a group supporting restorative approaches to campus sexual misconduct, and is an advisory board member for a national survey of IPV RJ programs.



CARA COOKSON

Professor Cookson is the former Policy Director of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services. She regularly testifies before the Vermont General Assembly on criminal and social justice issues impacting the rights and needs of individuals harmed by crime. She also provides technical assistance and training to victim advocates, prosecutors, and civil attorneys on procedural rights and protections and trauma-informed services. Trained in collaborative law and mediation, Cookson earned her juris doctor summa cum laude from Vermont Law School in 2010.



N. BRUCE DUTHU
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Professor Duthu is the Samson Occom Professor (and former Chair) of Native American Studies at Dartmouth College. He is an internationally recognized scholar of Native American law and policy. He earned his BA degree in religion and Native American studies from Dartmouth College and his JD degree from Loyola University School of Law. Prior to joining the Dartmouth faculty in 2008, Duthu was Professor of Law at VLS where he also served as the law school's Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and as inaugural director of the VLS-Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou, China) Partnership in Environmental Law.



GREG JOHNSON

Professor Johnson is an expert in legal writing, sexual orientation and the law, appellate advocacy, and constitutional law, and has specialized in Native Alaskan law with the firm of Middleton & Timme in Anchorage. He served as special counsel to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau from 1997 to 2007. He has spoken nationally on LGBT civil rights issues. He testified before both houses of the Vermont Legislature when it considered the civil union bill in 2000 and the landmark marriage equality bill in 2009.



MARILYN ARMOUR
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN

Marilyn Armour, Ph.D. LICSW, is an Associate Professor at The University of Texas at Austin, University Distinguished Teaching Professor, and the Director of The Institute for Restorative Justice and Restorative Dialogue. As clinician, teacher and researcher, Dr. Armour is the author of numerous journal articles, book chapters and three books: *At Personal Risk: Boundary Violations in Professional-Client Relationships*, *Educating for Cultural Competence*, and, most recently, *Restorative Justice Dialogue* (with Mark Umbreit) which is considered “the equivalent of a state-of-the-union address for the restorative justice movement.”



EMILY GOULD

Professor Gould is a former criminal prosecutor and general counsel to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. She has a private practice in both conflict resolution and leadership development. She serves as a law reform consultant to the Supreme Court of Rwanda in both civil and criminal procedure and is a co-founder of African Peace Partners, a U.S. non-profit that supports community mediation in Rwanda. She is also a lecturer in Lawyer Leadership at Columbia Law School.



LEIGH GOODMARK
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,
CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Professor Goodmark directs the Gender Violence Clinic, providing direct representation to clients who've experienced intimate partner abuse, sexual assault, and trafficking cases. Author of *Decriminalizing Domestic Violence: A Balanced Approach to Intimate Partner Violence* and *A Troubled Marriage: Domestic Violence and the Legal System*, and co-editor of *Comparative Perspectives on Gender Violence: Lessons from Efforts Worldwide*. Professor Goodmark is a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Law School.



KATHLEEN FALK

Professor Falk is the former Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Special Advisor and human services' government-wide lead for the Flint Water Crisis. Professor Falk managed the complicated set of politics across many levels of government and implemented new health policies and programs created for Flint area residents. She also served for 14 years as the chief elected official in Dane County, Wisc. She brought conflicting urban and rural stakeholders together to protect land and water and created cutting-edge energy and rural economic development.

OUR FACULTY

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JOHN MILLER

Professor Miller has experience with diversion programs, mediation, circle practice, and offender reentry. He began his undergraduate studies at Hudson Valley Community College where he received his Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice. Miller then went on to receive his bachelor's degree in Law and Society from The Sage Colleges. During this time he interned for Albany County Drug Treatment Court and completed the New York State Mediation Training. He received his juris doctor from Vermont Law School in 2009.



KATHARINE BLAKE MCGOWAN

Professor McGowan has taught writing at San Quentin Prison, worked as counsel for the Children's Defense Fund and as an organizer for President Obama's first campaign in 2008. She has a JD from Stanford Law School and a B.A. in Literature from Smith College. Her first book about heartbreak and the legal system is forthcoming from Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 2020.



JON KIDDE

Professor Kidde has been exploring the concepts of restorative justice (RJ) for 20 years and has played a critical role in the conceptualization, application, and enhancement of restorative justice within different contexts—education, justice, and organizations in several states. Kidde is an independent consultant living in Vermont focused on restorative justice, school discipline and juvenile justice reform. He has a B.A. from the Colorado College and an M.S.W. from the University of California, Berkeley.



ERIKA SASSON

Professor Sasson is the director of restorative practices at the Center for Court Innovation, overseeing the Center's restorative practice initiatives across a broad range of demonstration projects. She is currently directing a multi-year randomized controlled trial of restorative practices in five high schools in Brooklyn with high suspension rates. She directs the Center's interventions in juvenile justice and gender-based violence as part of a USAID-funded project in Guatemala. Sasson previously oversaw the planning and implementation of the Red Hook peacemaking program, which was awarded the 2015 Innovations in Criminal Justice Award by the Association for Prosecuting Attorneys. She holds an LLM in Criminal Justice from the NYU School of Law.



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WITH SUPPORT FROM
The Pennywise Foundation
The Johnson Family Foundation
Vermont Bar Foundation