



## **Confronting Injustice: Envisioning a New Way Forward**

### **Educational Objectives**

By the end of this presentation attendees will be able to:

- Identify and define social justice and injustice
- Recognize how injustice in America can impact psychiatric healthcare delivery, incarceration of the mentally ill, and the disparities in the legal system
- Identify the importance of teaching about social injustice in psychiatric residency training programs
- Utilized the lessons learned to educate trainees about social injustice in medicine.

### **Practice Gap**

To date, widespread education in psychiatry residency training programs has rarely included education on the important topic of the impact of racial and social injustice on access to care, incarceration, and healthcare outcomes. The murder of George Floyd and the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare for all to see the longstanding inequities and injustices in our healthcare and carceral systems. The majority of people with mental illnesses are treated in incarcerated settings, and yet, we do not educate psychiatry trainees about the inequities that cause these issues serving only to further perpetuate the crisis. In order to educate our trainees, we must first educate those responsible for their training. In this ADDPRT plenary we will name the issues of poverty, wrongful/inequitable incarceration and mental illness and its impact on the patients treated by psychiatrists. We will acknowledge the impact that we can have as educators on this very important topic.

### **Abstract**

Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

Mr. Stevenson has argued and won multiple cases at the United States Supreme Court, including a 2019 ruling protecting condemned prisoners who suffer from dementia and a landmark 2012 ruling that banned mandatory life-imprisonment-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger. Mr. Stevenson and his staff have won reversals, relief, or release from prison for over 135 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row



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and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced. EJI is also working to reduce poverty and assist some of the most vulnerable people by creating new services and support around hunger, unjust fees and fines, and health care. The knowledge that Mr. Stevenson will bring to the AADPRT conference will be in a plenary format and will be from the perspective of someone who has fought injustice throughout his entire career. Through this education, we hope to open a new portal for understanding the importance of these issues in psychiatric residency training.

### Scientific Citations

Equal Justice Initiative Annual report, 2018  
[https://eji.org/files/Annual\\_Report\\_2018.pdf](https://eji.org/files/Annual_Report_2018.pdf)  
Date accessed: December 3, 2022

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Criminal Justice Reform <https://eji.org/anti-poverty/> Equal Justice Initiative  
Date accessed: December 3, 2022  
Date published: September 20, 2022

Health Care <https://eji.org/projects/health-care/> Equal Justice Initiative  
Date accessed: December 3, 2022  
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LeMasters, K. et al. (2022) "Carceral epidemiology: Mass incarceration and structural racism during the COVID-19 pandemic," *The Lancet Public Health*, 7(3). Available at: [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2468-2667\(22\)00005-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2468-2667(22)00005-6).

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