POLICE, PRISONS, AND LEGAL POWER:
Reforming our U.S. System of Justice

Friday, November 18, 2016
1:30 – 3 p.m.
Givens Conference Room (120 Elmer Andersen Library)
West Bank campus

Free and open to the public
Live streaming available via our website
For additional resources on this topic, provided by the University Libraries:
z.umn.edu/criticalconversations

According to The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, “nationally, 1.4 million Black men have lost the right to vote” due to felony conviction laws in various states, and today, “current housing for approximately 2 million Americans—two thirds of them African American or Hispanic—is a prison or jail cell.” Does the United States have two justice systems – one for people who are white and have resources – and one for people of color and the poor? Equal justice before the law, enshrined in the US Constitution, has been a pillar of our democratic system, but recent events and actions threaten to make this a mockery, mere printed words, rather than an equitable and well-functioning process. From charges of profiling and unfair treatment by police, to racially-influenced decisions by prosecutors and the courts, to the construction of a prison system that is increasingly privatized and profit-based, critics describe a justice system that itself should be ‘held in contempt’ and is in need of major reforms. Gain insights from a discussion with panelists from higher education, law enforcement, community engagement, and the legal system, that may lead to useful changes in our justice system.

Panelists: Keith Mayes, University of Minnesota Associate Professor, African American and African Studies; Mary Moriarty, Chief Public Defender, Hennepin County; Paul P. Schnell, Chief of Police, City of Maplewood, Minnesota; Justin Terrell, Program Manager, Justice 4 All, Take Action Minnesota.

Moderator: Kimberly Hewitt, Director, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, Office for Equity & Diversity.

Learn more at diversity.umn.edu/criticalconversations, or contact Wendy Weimerskirch Plager at OEDed@umn.edu or 612-626-5462.

To request disability accommodations for this event, or to obtain this material in an alternate format, contact Ralph Blanco at rblanco@umn.edu or 612-625-8680.