

# Confronting Racial Injustice



**MAY 19, 2021 6 to 7 PM**

## The War on Drugs in Massachusetts: The Racial Impact of the School Zone Law and Other Mandatory Minimum Sentences

In the 1980s, Massachusetts embraced the War on Drugs, enacting harsh mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenses. It took decades to confront the reality that, in addition to being ineffective and costly, mandatory minimums resulted in the pervasive and disproportionate incarceration of Black and Brown people. Panelists will discuss this troubling history, recent reforms, and the prospects for implementing drug policies that are effective, fair, and just.



### SPEAKERS

**SENATOR WILLIAM N. BROWNSBERGER**,  
Massachusetts Second Suffolk and Middlesex District

**ABRIGAL FORRESTER**, Executive Director,  
Center for Teen Empowerment

**RAHSAAN D. HALL**, Director, Racial Justice Program,  
American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts

**DEBORAH A. RAMIREZ**, Professor of Law,  
Northeastern University School of Law

### MODERATOR

**HON. SYDNEY HANLON**, Massachusetts Appeals Court

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Developed by the Northeastern University School of Law Criminal Justice Task Force, Confronting Racial Injustice is a free, five-part series hosted by the Massachusetts Historical Society and sponsored by a number of Boston-area organizations.

**FOR THE FULL LIST OF PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND SPONSORS OR TO REGISTER, VISIT [masshist.org/confronting-racial-injustice](https://masshist.org/confronting-racial-injustice).**