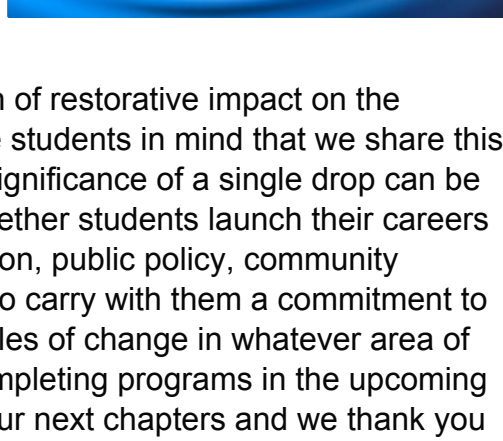


RESTORATIVE JUSTICE NEWSLETTER



Introduction Note Creating Ripples of Change

As we approach the final weeks of the spring semester and gear up for May Commencement to honor another year of graduates, we could not be more proud of the MARJ and Professional Certificate students who continue to enrich this program and expand the depth of restorative impact on the communities around them. It is with these students in mind that we share this image of ripples in the water; where the significance of a single drop can be amplified in immeasurable directions. Whether students launch their careers within the criminal justice system, education, public policy, community organizing, research, etc., they continue to carry with them a commitment to restorative values and creating those ripples of change in whatever area of practice they go. To all those who are completing programs in the upcoming weeks: we wish you the best of luck in your next chapters and we thank you for being a part of the VLS/RJ community. And know that whatever next steps may lead, you will always have a space in the circle with us.



With gratitude,

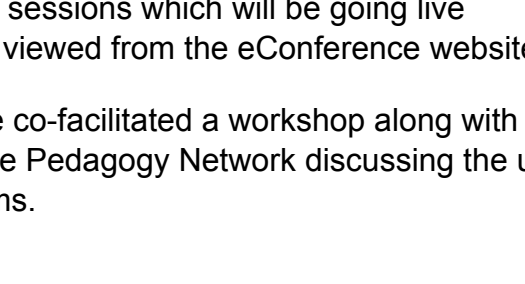
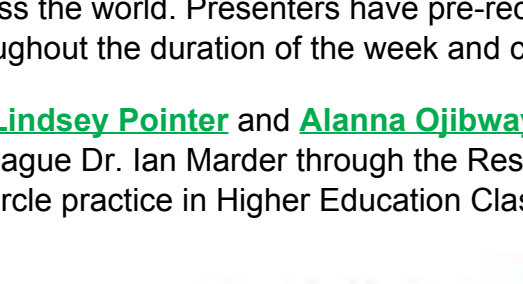
Alanna Ojibway, Program Manager
Center for Justice Reform, which is also home to the
National Center on Restorative Justice

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS: A STORY OF HARM, HEALING, AND RELATIONSHIP (a CJR Live Event)

This event featured a live discussion with special guests Tom Morgan, Jason Samuel, Christy Morgan, and Martina Lutz Schneider who were all previously featured in Van Jones/CNN's Redemption Project film series in 2017 through their involvement with a Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD) process. At the time of this film, Jason Samuel was still serving his remaining two years at San Quentin State Prison in California for the shooting of Officer Tom Morgan in 1997. The Victim-Offender Dialogue process that occurred came as a request from Tom Morgan, and required years of preparation for both Tom and his wife Christy. This process was facilitated by Martina Lutz Schneider, who worked with all parties individually before supporting the process coming together that is captured in the film.

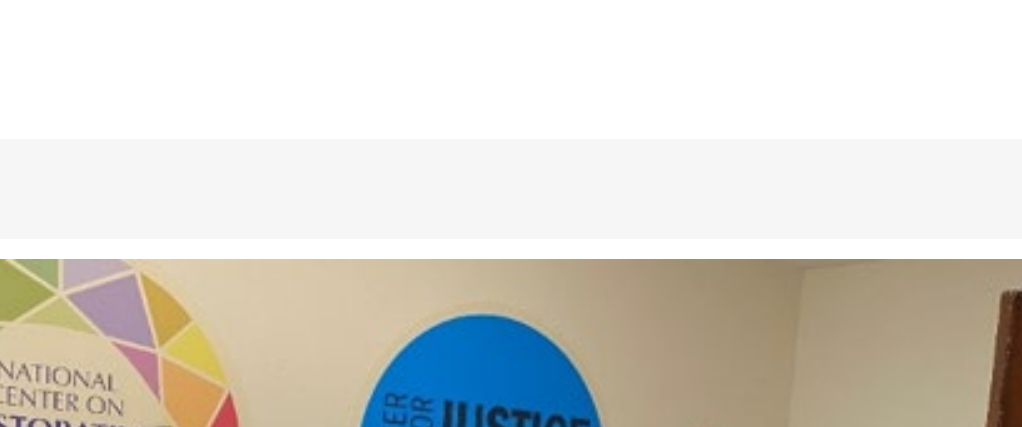
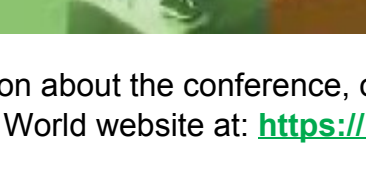
The significance of this story is difficult to capture in a brief summary, but the impact is profound. Jason was released on parole in 2019, and since then has continued to stay in close relationship with both Tom and Christy. The three of them have done several events together since the time the Redemption Project film was released, but the story of how their relationship has continued to deepen and grow these last several years has still largely been untold. The three of them hope that this event has the opportunity to reach a wider audience, so that the story of their relationship can serve as an example to the power of forgiveness and healing.

RJ WORLD CONFERENCE 2022: LIVE THIS WEEK!

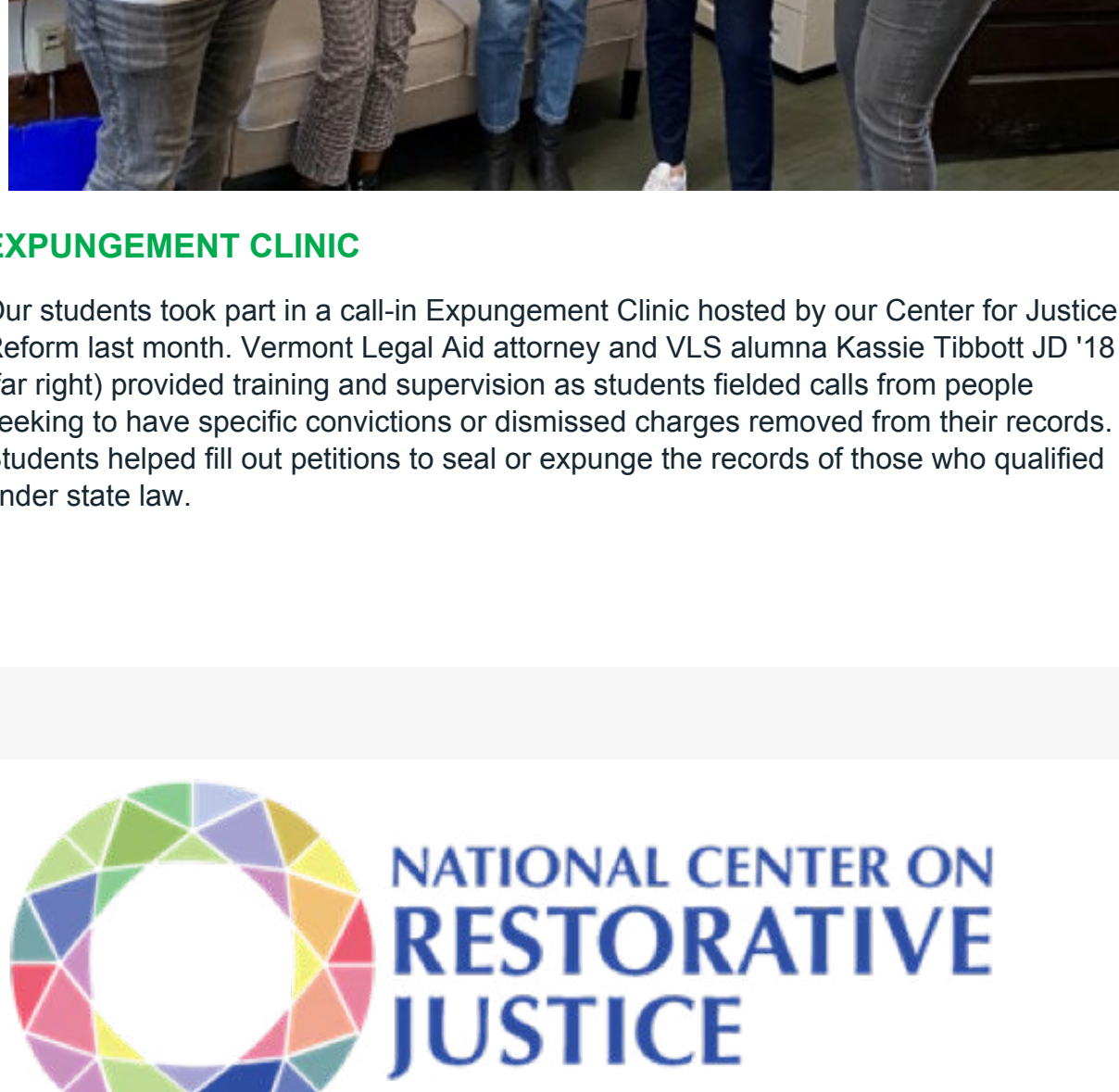


The RJ World 2022 Conference will be running from April 23-30, 2022, and bringing together restorative justice practitioners and scholars from over 40 different countries across the world. Presenters have pre-recorded sessions which will be going live throughout the duration of the week and can be viewed from the eConference website.

Dr. Lindsey Pointer and **Alanna Ojibway** have co-facilitated a workshop along with colleague Dr. Ian Marder through the Restorative Pedagogy Network discussing the use of Circle practice in Higher Education Classrooms.



For more information about the conference, or to watch some of these presentations please visit the RJ World website at: <https://rjworld.org>



EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC

Our students took part in a call-in Expungement Clinic hosted by our Center for Justice Reform last month. Vermont Legal Aid attorney and VLS alumna Kassie Tibbott JD '18 (far right) to have specific convictions and supervision as students fielded calls from people seeking to have specific convictions or dismissed charges removed from their records. Students helped fill out petitions to seal or expunge the records of those who qualified under state law.



NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN VERMONT LAW SCHOOL AND VERMONT DCF TO INFUSE STATE WORK WITH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRINCIPLES

Professionals from Vermont's Department for Children and Families-Family Services Division (DCF-FSD) will learn how to further incorporate the principles of restorative justice in their work under a new partnership with Vermont Law School's (VLS) Center for Justice Reform (CJR).

The collaboration with VLS and DCF-FSD allows for up to eight DCF-FSD staff and Balanced and Restorative Justice providers to enroll in the school's three-course, nine-credit Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice. Collectively, the courses explore how rule-based responses often deny the parties most affected by a harmful event or relationship a meaningful voice in shaping a response, and deny the party who caused the harm the opportunity to properly make amends. By incorporating restorative dialogue into their work, DCF-FSD professionals can also help teach families how better to interact and engage with each other and their community, important tools for family stability.

For VLS, the partnership provides the opportunity to make an impact close to home, while also serving as a model for how its educational programs can help inform and enhance the work of government entities, both in Vermont and beyond its borders.



TEACHING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN PRACTICE

At the beginning of this month, students from Professor Lindsey Pointer's Teaching Restorative Justice class presented a workshop on Structural Harms, Inequities, and Restorative Justice for the Burlington Community Justice Center. Over the course of the semester, students have also delivered a circle training for members of the VLS Diversity Committee and a workshop with Chittenden County Community Justice Center as well as developing and delivering training sessions on a range of topics with each other as a learning community.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS: ANIMALS AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM 7/29E

The Animals and Restorative Justice Symposium will be hosted virtually on July 29, 2022, as a collaborative effort between Vermont Law School's Center for Justice Reform and Animal Law and Policy Institute, and University of San Francisco School of Law's Justice for Animals Program.

The goal of this event is to bring together practitioners, academics, service providers, researchers, and others who are considering the relationship between animal law and restorative justice. In recent years, animal law scholars and activists have critiqued punitive and retributive approaches to crimes against animals as unjust and ineffective. This symposium will explore methods of recognizing the harms inflicted on animal victims, rehabilitating offenders, and addressing deeper, structural causes of animal abuse.

For those involved in work dedicated to animal law/animal rights, there has been growing interest in learning more about the ways that restorative responses could be used as a way to address harm in a different, non-carceral approach. In addition, for those involved in work surrounding restorative justice and restorative practices, there has been a gap in attention given to the ways that harms involving animals are relevant and critically important to the field of restorative justice as a whole. The symposium will also explore the restorative capacities of the human-animal bond and whether animals should play a role in restorative justice beyond crimes against animals.

Please use [this Google Document](#) for more information on the symposium event and details to submit a proposal.