“Causes and Cures of Racial Disparities in Sentencing and Imprisonment”

public lecture by Michael Tonry

McKnight Presidential Professor in Criminal Law and Policy, University of Minnesota

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Moot Court Room, Maurer School of Law

Abstract: Black offenders are sentenced somewhat more harshly than whites and punished much more severely. These patterns are deeply unjust for the people they directly affect and pose a major obstacle to realization of the national goals of social, political, and economic equality. Solutions are easy to formulate, explain, and justify but have seldom been adopted or enacted. Policy makers so far have done no more than nibble at the edges of mass imprisonment. That's more than has so far proven politically possible in relation to racial injustice in the criminal justice system.

Sponsors: Department of Criminal Justice, Skip Elliott Youth Fund, Center for Research on Race & Ethnicity in Society, IU Maurer School of Law

Professor Tonry is author or editor of a number of books including Malign Neglect, Sentencing Matters, Thinking About Crime, and Punishing Race. He also founded and edits Crime and Justice - A Review of Research.