



2020 Capacity Building Training Presenter Bios

Release Your Resilient Spirit: Resilience Building During COVID-19

Presented by Eva Velasquez

Tuesday, September 15th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Sexual abuse survivor turned advocate Eva Velasquez understands trauma and complex emotions that survivors of sexual abuse experience as they attempt to navigate the world after abuse. By sharing her story, from childhood sexual abuse victim to pregnant high school drop out to CEO of a national victim services organization, Eva wants other survivors to realize they do not have to define themselves only by their abuse. With the support of her husband and three adult children, she continues to share her message of hope, inspiration and resilience.

Post-Conviction Claims of Innocence and Exonerations

Presented by Jennifer Thompson, Crime Survivor; Andrea Harrison, Victim Family Member; & Katie Monroe, Executive Director, Healing Justice

Thursday, September 17th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jennifer Thompson, Crime Survivor

Ms. Thomson is a crime survivor from North Carolina, whose case resulted in a DNA-based exoneration and prisoner release 11 years after the original crime and conviction. Ms. Thompson is also the Founder of Healing Justice and co-author of *Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption*.

Andrea Harrison, Victim Family Member

Ms. Harrison is the surviving family member of a murder victim from New Jersey, Jacqueline Harrison. The person convicted of killing Jacqueline was released 18 years later based on DNA evidence.

Katie Monroe, Executive Director, Healing Justice

Ms. Monroe is an attorney and an expert in cases involving post-conviction claims of innocence and exonerations. She led the OVC-funded project and creation of new resources.

Criminal Justice Reform & Just Mercy

Presented by Alison Mollman, Equal Justice Initiative

Thursday, September 24th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Alison Mollman, EJI Staff Attorney, graduated in 2012 from University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, where she participated in the death penalty clinic and juvenile hall outreach. She interned for the California Habeas Project and represented clients as a certified law student at the East Bay Community Law Center. Prior to law school, she developed a support group for mothers incarcerated at the Iowa Correctional Institute for Women. She has a B.A. in Women's Studies from the University of Iowa.