

★ *Restorative Justice* ★
2025 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

“Teaming up to Break the School to Prison Pipeline”

**JULY
29**
8:15AM - 12PM

**JULY
30**
1PM - 4:30PM

2025

**LIVE ON
ZOOM**

**FREE
EVENT**



**JOHN
O'LEARY**

Trauma Survivor,
Motivational Speaker
& #1 National
Bestselling Author



**KRISTIN
HENNING**

Director of the Juvenile
Justice Clinic and Initiative
at Georgetown Law



**DAVID
WHELAN**

Founder of Disability
Awareness Training (DAT)



**JESSICA
OPPENHEIM, ESQ.**

Consultant w/The Arc of the
US National Center on
Criminal Justice & Disability



**LEIGH ANNE
MCKINGSLEY**

Senior Director of
Disability & Justice
Initiatives for The Arc

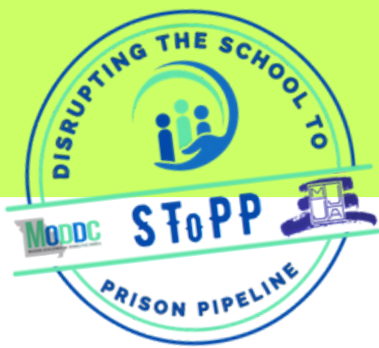
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REGISTER NOW:

Visit the link or scan the QR Code

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/cgFi2CcIQWKD5K3YOC3Mmw>





AGENDA

Day 1 - July 29, 2025

8:15AM - 8:30AM

Opening Remarks

8:30AM - 10:00AM

Decriminalizing Disabilities: Helping All Kids Thrive
Kristin Henning

10:00AM - 10:15AM

Break

10:15AM - 11:45AM

Disability Awareness Training
David Whelan

11:45AM - 12:00PM

Closing Remarks

Day 2 - July 30, 2025

1:00PM - 1:15PM

Opening Remarks

1:15PM - 2:45PM

Supporting Justice-Involved Youth with Disabilities:
A Trauma-Informed Approach with The Arc

2:45PM - 3:00PM

Break

3:00PM - 4:30PM

THE POWER OF ONE: How One Attitude, One Action, And One
Person Can Change the World by John O'Leary

DAY 1

KRISTIN HENNING

Kristin Henning is the Director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic and Initiative at Georgetown Law. Professor Henning has been representing children accused of crime for more than 26 years and was the Lead Attorney for the Juvenile Unit of the D.C. Public Defender Service.

Professor Henning serves on the Board of Directors for the Public Welfare Foundation and is the Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Gault Center. She previously served on the Board of Directors for the Center for Children's Law and Policy and was an Advisor to ALI's Restatement on Children and the Law. She has received many awards including a 2023 Embracing the Legacy Award from the RFK Community Alliance, a 2022 Women of Distinction Award from the American Association of University Women, and the 2021 Leadership Prize from the Juvenile Law Center.



Presentation Title:

Decriminalizing Disabilities: Helping All Kids Thrive

Weaving together powerful narratives and persuasive data, Professor Henning demonstrates how youth with disabilities and trauma histories are more likely to be arrested, prosecuted, and detained than their non-disabled peers. Once in the system, youth with disabilities rarely have the accommodations they need to achieve healthy cognitive, emotional, and social development, and youth experiencing trauma rarely have the services they need to address their fear, anxiety, and depression.

Compounding the problem, disabled youth and those who have experienced trauma are often sent to youth detention, residential treatment centers, and group homes where they are punished—and even re-arrested—for “acting out” or “failing to comply” with the rules of the facility. The records created from this criminalization of disability and trauma cause a myriad of harms to almost every domain of a child's life. To protect the futures of all youth, we must decriminalize disabilities and trauma and provide all youth with the resources and supports they need to thrive. Professor Henning will offer practical insights for reducing unnecessary referrals of youth to the juvenile legal systems and serving neurodivergent youth at all stages of the system.

DAY 1

DAVID WHALEN

David Whalen founded Disability Awareness Training (DAT) in September 2004. He specializes in training first responders and emergency managers. He has presented to over 700 audiences across the United States, 350 related to first/emergency response.

In 2010, **Niagara University** received a five-year grant from the NYS DDPC to develop **First Responder Disability Awareness Training**. **Arkansas** (2014), **Missouri** (July 2016-June 2023) and **South Dakota** (May 2019-March 2023) followed. In June 2017 **Virginia** DCJS awarded a bid that included stand-alone curriculum on developmental disabilities, dementia, and acquired/traumatic brain injury. In **July 2017 FDNY** contracted to receive disability awareness training for its entire fire department.

Since 2016, NYS DCJS has funded the Law Enforcement Train the Trainer and in-service programs. That same year it was added to the Basic Course for Police Officers, making NYS the only state in the nation with comprehensive disability awareness training for recruits.



Presentation:

Disability Awareness Training



The disability spectrum is expansive and consistently misunderstood, leading to inappropriate interaction and response.

This program will define disabilities, introduce the Recognize-Identify-Approach-Interaction-Response (RIAIR) Model, understanding communication barriers and how to overcome them, understanding bullying/abuse/victimization specific to students with disabilities, and supports and resources.

DAY 2

JESSICA & LEIGH ANNE W/THE ARC

Jessica Oppenheim

Jessica Oppenheim, Esq. has been a consultant with The Arc of the United States National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability since retiring as the Director of the Criminal Justice Advocacy Program of The Arc of NJ, in June 2021, a NJ statewide program providing advocacy for people with IDD involved in the criminal justice system. Prior to joining The Arc of NJ in 2010, she was an Assistant Prosecutor in the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and a Deputy Attorney General in the NJ Division of Criminal Justice from 1985 – 2010. She is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Individual Rights Section and the State Bar Foundation Diversity, Equity and Belonging committee.



Leigh Anne McKingsley



Leigh Anne McKingsley, MSSW, MPA is the Senior Director of Disability and Justice Initiatives for The Arc of the United States where she founded and directs The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability (NCCJD), a clearinghouse for research, information, evaluation, training and technical assistance for criminal justice and disability professionals focused on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). During her 28 years at The Arc, she oversaw the creation of the Center's signature training program "Pathways to Justice," authored scholarly articles, curricula, and other publications, presented nationally and internationally, and regularly speaks to policymakers and national media outlets.

Presentation:

Supporting Justice-Involved Youth with Disabilities: A Trauma-Informed and Intersectional Approach

This session provides an overview of challenges facing youth with disabilities (specifically youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities) and important considerations that impact these students. Speakers will discuss the importance of having a trauma-informed lens when working with this population.

DAY 2

JOHN O'LEARY

John O'Leary was a curious nine-year-old boy in 1987. Playing with fire and gasoline, O'leary created a massive explosion in his home and was burned on 100% of his body. He was given less than 1% chance to live.

This epic story of survival was first showcased in his parent's book, "Overwhelming Odds," in 2006. It was this book that first invited O'Leary to embrace his miraculous recovery and share it with the world.

Today, O'Leary inspires tens of thousands of people at more than 100 live and virtual events each year. He partners with companies and organizations across industries, such as: sales, healthcare, safety, marketing, finance, faith, education and insurance.

Consistently described as "the best speaker we've ever had," O'Leary's tireless schedule is a testament to the power of his message. His emotional storytelling, unexpected humor and authenticity makes each presentation unforgettable.

O'Leary is a two-time #1 National Bestselling author. His first book "ON FIRE: The 7 Choices to Ignite a Radically Inspired Life" has sold 250,000+ copies and has been translated in 12 languages. "IN AWE: Rediscover Your Childlike Wonder to Unleash Inspiration, Meaning and Joy" was published in May 2020 and was a crucial message during an unprecedented time.

O'Leary's award-winning Live Inspired Podcast has more than 5 million downloads and enjoys world-class guests like Brene Brown, Mitch Albom, Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Shawn Achor.

Regardless of the professional accomplishments, O'Leary considers his greatest success to be his marriage to his wife Beth and their four children.



THE POWER OF ONE: How One Attitude, One Action, and One Person Can Change the World

Presented by John O'Leary

Summary:

Expected to die, John O'Leary now teaches others how to truly live. John was a curious nine-year-old boy. Playing with fire and gasoline, he created a massive explosion in his garage and was burned on 100% of his body. Given less than 1% chance of survival, John is proof of the power of the human spirit.

His unlikely recovery meant a journey of pain and loss that could have easily been insurmountable. However, far from being an example of someone who simply endured tragedy, John is a luminous example of thriving through adversity.

Surprisingly, this “survivor” story isn't focused on John – rather, it is a celebration of heroes who intimately served him and his family. From a dedicated Hall of Fame sports announcer to a visionary burn nurse (and countless others), every individual involved in this 1987 fire teaches us this truth: one person can make a profound difference in the lives of others.

With emotional storytelling and unexpected humor, John reminds audiences of the significance of daily attitudes, the power of gratitude, and the impact of serving others with courage. He reawakens audiences to realize the gift of today and the possibility of tomorrow.

Thank You

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