

BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE

**Redemption, Reintegration, and Restoration:
A Role for People of Faith in the Movement to Restore
Voting Rights
October 23, 2008**

10:00 – 10:15—Welcome & Introductions

10:15 – 11:00—Restoring the Right to Vote: The National Landscape

The Brennan Center will present an overview of the legal landscape of felony disenfranchisement laws in the United States and the trend toward reform over the last several years. This session will convey the range of policies currently in effect and illustrate the national momentum for reform.

11:00-11:15--Break

11:15 – 12:15—Policy Discussion: Why Post-Incarceration Restoration is Consistent with Restorative Justice

Participants will discuss two Brennan Center publications which lay out the case for post-incarceration restoration of voting rights. In addition to explaining the key policy arguments in favor of post-incarceration restoration, this session will invite substantive, critical discussion of the publications.

12:15 – 1:30 - Lunch

1:30-2:30— Advocating for Reform: Influencing Opinion Leaders and the Public

Participants will discuss the role of faith leaders in advocating for policy change. The conversation will center on how faith leaders decide to engage questions of public policy, and how to effectively influence the media and congregations.

2:30 – 3:30—National Leadership From Faith Communities

Using the campaign behind the successful passage of the Second Chance Act as a case study, this session will explore the diverse ways of being a leader for progressive policy change on a national level.

3:30-3:45 - Break

3:45 – 4:45— Promoting Progress in the States

Participants will explore how faith organizations can successfully generate support for progressive reform. The lessons learned from the Evangelical Lutheran Church’s successful efforts to end the death penalty in New Jersey will serve as a case study.

4:45 – 5:30—Next Steps

Participants will plan ways to work together to further the cause of voting rights restoration.