

Occasional Series on Reentry Research
Sponsored by the Prisoner Reentry Institute
at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Do Reentry Courts Reduce Recidivism? Results from the Harlem Parole Reentry Court

Panelist Biographies
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Zachary Hamilton is currently an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Washington State University. He previously served as a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Court Innovation and at the National Development and Research Institutes. His current work focuses on identifying target populations for treatment matching purposes. His research interests include offender reentry and rehabilitation, substance abuse treatment for offender populations, and evaluation of correctional programming.

Dr. Hamilton's recent publications have appeared in the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, and *Deviant Behavior*. Dr Hamilton completed a Bachelor of Arts, Sociology & Psychology from the University of Iowa, and a Master's and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University.

Braulio Rodriguez is a local construction business owner who successfully completed a Reentry Court program run by the Harlem Community Justice Center. Mr. Rodriguez spent nearly three years incarcerated from January 2006 to November 2008. After witnessing the damaging effects his incarceration had on his family members and loved ones, Mr. Rodriguez decided to change the course of his life. He began by studying to obtain his GED; and though at one point math was his weakest area, when he achieved his GED, it had become his strongest. Mr. Rodriguez also completed a course through Cornell College and learned carpentry skills such as floor covering, to one-day help meet his family's home improvement needs.

After returning home in 2008, Mr. Rodriguez struggled to find a job and instead enrolled in a green construction vocational program where he would earn certifications and improve his resume. Today Mr. Rodriguez owns two small businesses and installs solar panels and completes floor covering - just the beginning of his career as an entrepreneur.

The Honorable Leo T. Sorokin was appointed Magistrate Judge of the United States District Court in April 2005. Prior to his appointment, he served as a law clerk to Rya W. Zobel, a Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, an associate at Mintz Levin in Boston, an Assistant Attorney General at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and an Assistant Federal Defender in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Massachusetts.

Magistrate Judge Sorokin organized and presides over the District of Massachusetts's Court Assisted Recovery Effort which helps individuals convicted of felons attain employment and live sober and law abiding lives under the supervision of the Courty. The District of Massachusetts was one of the first federal courts to create such a program and it has been a model for other districts. He has served as a faculty member to numerous education programs sponsored by the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, the Federal Judicial Center, the Federal Bar Association and the Boston Bar Association. In 2009 the Boston Bar Association awarded Magistrate Judge Sorokin its Citation of Judicial Excellence. He is a graduate of Yale College and Columbia Law School.