

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Safe & Just
Michigan

Michigan Prosecutors Join Panel Talk on Racial Bias and Misdemeanors

Ingham, Washtenaw prosecutors join panel talk after documentary viewing

LANSING — On **Monday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m.**, please join Safe & Just Michigan and a panel of experts on our criminal legal system for an **online screening** of [Brave New Films](#) short documentary, *Racially Charged: America's Misdemeanor Problem*. The discussion following the event will feature **Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon** and **Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit**.

Narrated by Oscar-winning actor **Mahershala Ali**, *Racially Charged* illustrates how the U.S. misdemeanor system — today, as in the post-Civil War era — disparately impacts marginalized communities. The film features powerful testimony from people today who have paid enormous prices for minor infractions, presented in stark parallel with accounts of formerly enslaved people targeted by the Black Codes 150 years ago. Watch the [trailer](#) now.

Inspired by Harvard Law professor **Alexandra Natapoff's** book, *Punishment Without Crime*, the film offers urgent insights, compelling testimony, and critical historical context to the issues animating today's Black Lives Matter and criminal justice movements.

Register [HERE](#) for the link to join the event.

Following the film, we'll engage in discussion urging a rethinking of our misdemeanor system with the President of Brave New Films, **Robert Greenwald** Founder and Executive Director Fair and Just Prosecution **Miriam Krinsky**; Chittenden County Attorney **Sarah George**, Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney **Carol Siemon**; Prosecuting Attorney for Washtenaw County **Eli Savit**, District Attorney for Georgia's Western Judicial Circuit **Deborah Gonzalez** and two justice impacted people whose stories are told in the film.

This event is cosponsored by Safe & just Michigan; One Love Global; Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation – Metro Lansing; Fair and Just Prosecution; NorthWest Initiative A.R.R.O (Advocacy, Re-Entry, Resource, Outreach); Next Generation Justice; and Campaign To End Qualified Immunity.

Hope you'll join us and be part of the conversation! Register here [today](#).

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Safe & Just Michigan (www.safeandjustmi.org) works to advance policies that end Michigan's over-use of incarceration and promote community safety and healing. We partner with Michigan organizations and leaders from across the political spectrum, including business and community leaders, faith communities, crime survivor organizations, formerly incarcerated individuals, prisoners and their families, as well as Michigan taxpayers statewide.