



NYU

Marron Institute
of Urban Management

Remembering the Life and Work of Mark Kleiman

Location

NYU Kimmel Center

*60 Washington Square South, Room 802
New York, NY*

Date & Time

**Wednesday,
November 20, 2019**

Program: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Lunch will be served

BY INVITATION ONLY

MARK KLEIMAN and the MARRON INSTITUTE

The Marron Institute conducts innovative applied research, working with agencies at all levels to take on the critical challenges of government. Started with a generous gift from Donald B. Marron, the Institute operates on a model of academic venture capital, by which faculty use seed funding to establish research programs, hire staff, and build portfolios of externally funded projects, all with the goal of making those programs self-sustaining. Currently, the Marron Institute has five major research programs, which focus on urban planning, environmental health, criminal justice, and public sector performance and innovation.

Until his death in July, **Mark Kleiman** led Marron's Crime & Justice Program. His mandate was to determine how the criminal justice system would work in a perfect city. As he so often did, Mark went well beyond this broad mission. Recent externally-funded projects have included the redesign and evaluation of a unique-in-the-nation diversion program for young adults with violent criminal histories in Brooklyn; a State Department-sponsored review of drug prevention curriculum for the Colombian National Police; and the expansion of a sanctions program meant to reduce the use of solitary confinement in Pennsylvania prisons. Mark also wrote, along with colleagues, much of the policy included in the recent legislation to legalize adult-use cannabis in New York State. His areas of practice reflected the diversity of his intellectual interests.

Program

Mark touched many lives throughout his long and distinguished career. New York City, and particularly NYU, was Mark's final home, but no one institution can lay claim to such a man. Since his death in July, people from around the world, many of whom had never met Mark, have offered tributes to his life. Mark's interests were diverse, and this is reflected by the diversity of his friends, both personal and professional. In honoring him with a symposium, NYU hopes to bring together Mark's closest friends, colleagues, and collaborators for an afternoon of celebration and remembrance.

The program will be structured around three major themes, each central to Mark's lasting legacy: Turning Ideas into Policy; Challenging the Narrative; and the Value of Mentorship.

Agenda

Lunch and Welcoming Remarks: 12:00 – 1:00pm

Clayton Gillette; Director, NYU Marron Institute of Urban Management and Max E. Greenberg Professor of Contract Law, NYU School of Law

Angela Hawken; Program Director, NYU Marron Institute of Urban Management and Professor of Public Policy

David Kennedy; Co-Founder and Executive Director, National Network for Safe Communities

Panel I: 1:00 – 1:40pm

Turning Ideas into Policy

Mark spent the last three decades of his life in academia, but before his time at Harvard, UCLA, and eventually NYU, he was a practitioner. He worked in the private sector - for Polaroid - and in the public, first as a Congressional aide, then as an analyst for the City of Boston, and finally as head of management and policy analysis for the Criminal Division of

the U.S. Department of Justice. Mark was an “ideas man” in almost all of these roles, but he never lost perspective on how his ideas could be used to shape policy. His relationship with practitioners was symbiotic: they provided the raw knowledge that inspired him, and they oversaw the sandboxes where that inspiration met reality. For this panel we have invited several practitioners who used Mark’s ideas to guide their agencies.

Introduction: Jeremy Travis, Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures

Moderator: Susan Herman, Director, Office of ThriveNYC

Bret Bucklen, Director of Research, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections

Chauncey Parker, Executive Assistant District Attorney, District Attorney of New York

Lenny Ward, Former Director of Parole & Community Programs, New Jersey State Parole

Break: 1:40 – 1:50pm

Panel II: 1:50 – 2:30pm

Challenging the Narrative

The search for objective truth was central to Mark’s professional life. The very name of his blog, the Reality-Based Community, was a reaction to what he perceived to be intellectual torpor among the policy community. Often this intellectual rigor caused him to be labeled a contrarian or iconoclast. Students in his politics classes might agree. But he never made a point or took a position without firm conviction. His desire in life was that, whatever our opinions or interpretations, we should all be able to recognize facts. For this panel, we welcome scholars who take unpopular positions - often at great professional risk - because they share Mark’s commitment to objective analysis.

Introduction: Vikrant Reddy, Senior Research Fellow, Charles Koch Institute

Moderator: German Lopez, Senior Correspondent, Vox

Glenn Loury, Merton P. Stoltz Professor of the Social Sciences, Brown University

David Kennedy, Co-Founder & Executive Director, National Network for Safe Communities

Jen Doleac, Associate Professor of Economics, Texas A&M University

Panel III: 2:30 – 3:10pm

The Value of Mentorship

Mark’s eminence as a scholar was overshadowed only by his eminence as a teacher. Alumni of Mark’s classes are influential in a variety of fields. They remember him as a demanding yet genial presence in the classroom, an instructor who assigned voluminous reading lists but always made the process of learning personal. Some of those students were fortunate

enough to have Mark as a mentor - the role he truly relished and in which he excelled. Mark's mentorship was steeped in his own reverence for the people he called "my teachers." But like those great scholars, Mark didn't simply teach facts or methods; he shaped ways of approaching life and comprehending it. Perhaps this is the way Mark will live on most visibly: as an inextricable part of the patterns of thinking experienced by those he taught.

Introduction: Beau Kilmer, Director, RAND Drug Policy Research Center

Moderator: Richard Hahn, Executive Director, NYU Marron Crime & Justice Program

Jon Caulkins, H. Guyford Stever University Professor, Carnegie Mellon University

Rosanna Smart, Economist, RAND Corporation

Steve Davenport, Founder, Aperture Research

Open Speakers: 3:10 – 3:45pm

Closing Remarks: 3:45 – 3:55pm
