

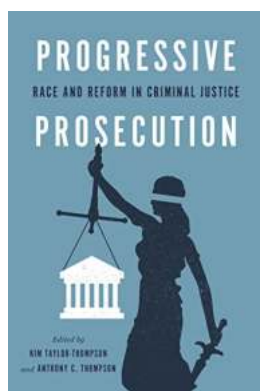
# Why Progressive Prosecution is Key to Race and Reform in the Criminal Justice System



The criminal justice system in the United States has long faced scrutiny for its disproportionate impact on minority communities. African Americans and Latinos are more likely to be arrested, charged, and sentenced compared to their white counterparts. This inequality has prompted calls for reform to address disparities and achieve a more equitable system.

## The Role of Prosecution

Prosecutors play a critical role in the criminal justice system. They hold significant power in deciding who to charge, what charges to bring, and what plea bargains to offer. In recent years, a movement known as progressive prosecution has emerged as a promising approach to tackling racial disparities and systemic biases within the legal system.



## Progressive Prosecution: Race and Reform in Criminal Justice by Anthony C. Thompson (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1519 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 311 pages





## **Understanding Progressive Prosecution**

Progressive prosecution represents a shift from the traditional "tough on crime" mindset to a more holistic and community-centered approach. Instead of prioritizing maximum sentences and punitive actions, progressive prosecutors seek to address the root causes of crime and promote restorative justice.

Unlike conventional prosecutors who mainly focus on convictions, progressive prosecutors apply a broader lens to justice. They consider alternatives to incarceration, such as diversion programs for non-violent offenders, drug treatment programs, or community-oriented solutions. Their goal is to break the cycle of crime by addressing social inequalities and offering rehabilitation opportunities.


## **Race and Reform**

Racial disparities are deeply ingrained within the criminal justice system. Studies have consistently shown that people of color are more likely to be arrested, charged, and convicted compared to white individuals. Progressive prosecution aims to address these disparities head-on by actively working to eliminate bias and ensure equal treatment for all.

One of the ways progressive prosecutors address racial disparities is by implementing implicit bias training for their staff. By raising awareness of unconscious prejudices that may affect decision-making, prosecutors can make more informed and fair choices throughout the criminal justice process. This training helps to counteract stereotypes and assumptions that contribute to racial injustices.


## **Effects on Communities**

Progressive prosecution has the potential to transform communities. By investing in alternatives to incarceration, resources can be redirected towards addressing underlying issues such as poverty, mental health, and substance abuse. Programs focused on rehabilitation and reintegration can help break the cycle of crime and create safer, more cohesive neighborhoods.



## The Role of Therapeutic Recreation in Community Reintegration for Residents of a Long Term Care Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program

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### What is Acquired Brain Injury?

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is an injury that occurs after birth. This can be a result of stroke or oxygen deprivation to the brain (anoxia), but can also occur as a result of external forces such as falls, motor vehicle accidents, gunshot wounds, or blows to the head.

### How does TR assist with Community Reintegration?

- Access to community leisure opportunities.
- Leisure skills: retaining how to perform activities.
- Education about transportation, free and discounted activities.
- Identification of recreation techniques and coping skills.
- Activities require skills used in every day life: problem-solving, attention, motor planning.
- Education on adapted leisure opportunities.
- Specialty outings to practice skills learned in-house, immersive leisure education.

### Why Do We Do RT

- We are working to achieve change in some of the most difficult patients.
- People with MI that also experience ABI have less chance of positive community and psychosocial outcomes due to behavioral inconsistencies.
- People with both MI and ABI have higher tendencies to struggle with motivation due to insight with deficits compounded by mood symptoms. Participation can be very inconsistent.
- Take a holistic approach to treating the Residents by addressing not only physical and physiological needs but also emotional and social.

### About the ABI Program

- Housed within Eastern State Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky.
- Unique program in the country: community discharge focus unlike other neurobehavioral programs.
- Licensed as a Long Term Care facility in order to provide more skilled nursing and therapy services and to allow for longer lengths of stay (average 5.8 months).
- Rehabilitation program for adults with a dual diagnosis of ABI and Mental Illness.
- Small program: max capacity is 17, current capacity is 8.
- General goals include improvements in Safety, Cognition, Physical Functioning, and Community Functioning.

### Outcome Data

**Beck Depression Inventory- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (BDI-2)**

• 7 residents have completed pre and post measures, with an average of 19 points (Beckham, 2006).

• This is significant symptom improvement, and moves everyone to the mild or non-range of depression at DC.

• Depression is a significant barrier to community engagement and healthy involvement in leisure and social roles, so this change has a large impact on functioning.

**Mayo-Portland Adaptability Inventory 4th Edition (MPI-4)**

• 8 residents completed a pre and post MPI-4. The total score reflects total disability and decreasing scores reflect fewer problems in those areas, which are desirable over the course of rehabilitation.

• On the Total score, the 8 residents have shown an **AVERAGE 11.1 POINTS** (2008) improvement, reflecting progress towards increased engagement in the community.

• Participation Index: Specifically reflective of engagement with community roles and resources.

• 8 residents showed an improvement of 2.37 score points during the course of rehabilitation.

**Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWL)**

• Lower scores reflect less life satisfaction, and thus higher scores are desired as a rehabilitation outcome.

• 8 residents completed pre and post measures of satisfaction with life, with an average increase of 3.5 out of 5 on the measure.

• This measure is difficult as an outcome, because as might increase over the course of rehabilitation, satisfaction with life typically decreases. Thus, the savings tend to show little change.

\*All data here include any therapy sessions in recreation, but additional data points are necessary to determine additional significance. Data collection is ongoing in order to gather enough data.

### The Role of Therapeutic Recreation

- Therapeutic Recreation uses recreation and leisure activities to address physical and cognitive deficits as well as improve social skills.
- Each Resident is assessed upon admission to determine need for individual TR treatment as opposed to only attending TR groups for an hour.
- 3 Assessments used: Leisure Interest Measure, Leisure Satisfaction Measure, Leisure Motivation Scale, Leisure Attitude Measure, Staff Affect Activity Assessment.
- Educate about new potential leisure interests, community leisure resources, adaptations for equipment.
- Examples:
  - Cognitive Skills: Simon Says (that also) working memory sequencing, Imitation, tolerance, attention, cognitive endurance.
  - Physical Skills: Bowling, motor planning, motor initiation, task sequencing, environmental awareness, physical endurance.
  - Social Skills: naturally occurring situations within groups such as patience for taking turns, emotional regulation when disagreeing with others, attention to the task and conversation, decision-making during activities, appropriate communication.

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## Challenges and Criticisms

Although the concept of progressive prosecution holds promise, it is not without its challenges and critics. Some argue that diverting resources from traditional law enforcement and prosecutions compromises public safety. They fear that reducing sentences and offering alternatives may fail to deter potential criminals.

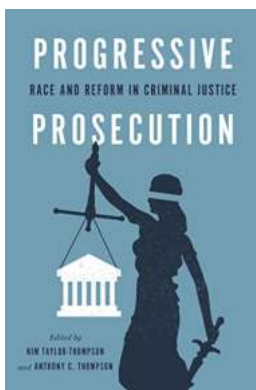
Furthermore, some critics contend that progressive prosecution can be subjective and arbitrary. They worry that this approach shifts too much power to individual prosecutors, allowing personal biases to influence decision-making, which may inadvertently perpetuate biases and inequalities.

## The Future of Progressive Prosecution

Despite the challenges, progressive prosecution continues to gain traction across the country. Several major cities have elected progressive prosecutors who have implemented innovative policies with positive results. These successes inspire hope for a more just and equitable criminal justice system.

Progressive prosecution is a vital component of race and reform in criminal justice. By addressing systemic biases, implementing restorative justice practices, and promoting community-based solutions, this approach aims to create lasting change in the lives of individuals affected by the criminal justice system.

The quest for racial equity and reform in the criminal justice system requires multifaceted approaches. Progressive prosecution represents a powerful tool in challenging and dismantling the structural inequalities that have plagued the system for far too long. By pursuing alternatives to incarceration and prioritizing rehabilitation, progressive prosecutors work towards a fairer, more inclusive justice system for all.



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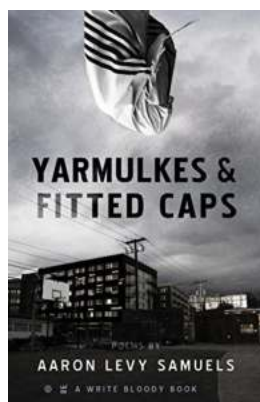
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Provides compelling and manageable solutions for how to reform the criminal justice system from the inside out

A racial reckoning in the US criminal justice system was long overdue well before the highly publicized murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others in 2020. Progressive Prosecution argues that prosecutors, having helped build our failed system of mass incarceration, must now lead the charge to dismantle it.

With contributions from practicing district attorneys as well as leading scholars in the fields of law and criminal justice, Taylor-Thompson and Thompson's volume offers an unapologetically ambitious vision for reform. The contributors draw from empirical evidence and years of combined research experience to argue that change must happen at the local level, with prosecutors choosing to adopt race-conscious approaches. These prosecutors must do the hard work themselves, actively focusing on the ways that race misshapes perceptions of criminality, influences discretionary calls, affects how we select juries, and induces a reliance on punitive responses. Progressive Prosecution acts as both a call to action and a practical guide, instructing prosecutors on what they need to do to bring about lasting and meaningful change. Progressive Prosecution is an urgent work of scholarship, a must-read for anyone committed to racial equity and meaningful criminal justice reform.



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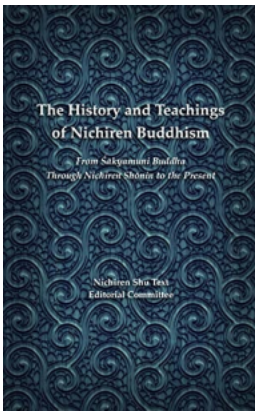
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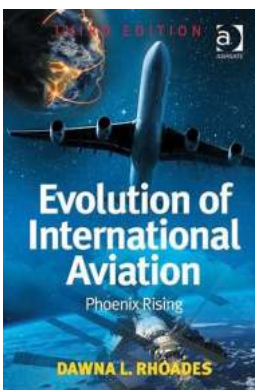
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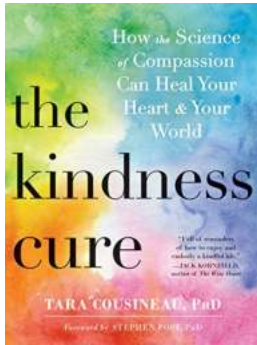
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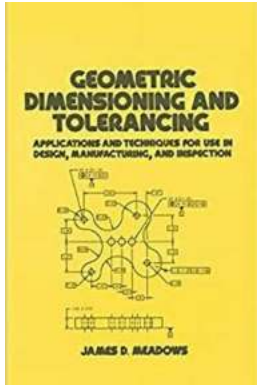
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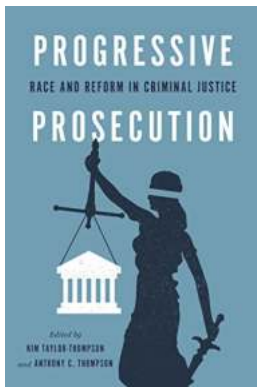
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