

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **The Collateral Consequences of Arrests and Convictions: Policy & Law in Georgia**

*A town hall meeting hosted by United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, Tuesday, December 15*

**WHAT:** **Should it be this hard to get a second chance in Georgia?** Georgia law and policy pose some of the toughest barriers in the nation to people trying to get their lives back on track after they have satisfied criminal charges or convictions.

With limited access to housing, employment, public assistance and civic participation, the odds of recidivism, poverty and homelessness are high. Oftentimes taxpayers are left footing the bill for these avoidable social and economic strains.

These are among the findings of a new Mercer Law School publication, *Collateral Consequences of Arrests and Convictions: Policy and Law in Georgia*. The publication is made possible by a grant from the Georgia Bar Association and the gift of time and talent by the authors.

We will learn more and explore potential strategies Georgia lawmakers could pursue to break down these barriers.

**Panelists:**

- **H. Lane Dennard, Jr.**, co-author and retired litigation partner at King & Spalding
- **Patrick C. DiCarlo**, co-author and partner at Alston & Bird
- **Douglas Ammar**, executive director Of the Georgia Justice Project
- **Marissa McCall Dodson**, staff attorney and principal of the Georgia Justice Project's Coming Home program

**Moderator:**

- **Milton J. Little, Jr.**, president, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta

**WHEN:** Tuesday, December 15, 2009  
4 – 6 p.m.  
*Reception immediately following*

**WHERE:** Loudermilk Conference Center  
40 Courtland Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303

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United Way of  
Metropolitan Atlanta

**WHO:** **The event is free of charge** and open to lawmakers, state, federal and local government officials, judges, attorneys, employers, low income housing providers, clergy, people working with ex-offenders, the homeless or vulnerable families and others who care.

RSVP to [publicpolicy@unitedwayatlanta.org](mailto:publicpolicy@unitedwayatlanta.org)

*Copies of the book will be available upon donation to benefit the Georgia Justice Project. For more information on the book, [click here](#).*

### **About United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta**

For more than a century, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta has continued to mobilize people in our community to help tackle the issues that are too big for anyone to solve alone. What makes United Way unique is how it helps our community work together to make lasting impact on tough community problems that take all of us to solve. United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta invests in the areas of education, income, health and ending chronic homelessness. To find or give help, dial 2-1-1 or visit us online at [unitedwayatlanta.org](http://unitedwayatlanta.org).