

## **Conflict in Our Own Backyard: Prospects for Racial Reconciliation**

In the context of global conflict, Americans frequently play a role as moderators and global policemen, but we rarely stop to think of conflict at home. Racial conflict is an active part of life only a few blocks from the US Capitol Building and a pressing issue throughout the US. How does this violence fit into conflict worldwide? How does it affect us? And what can we do about it? In an ever expanding global environment, where do we begin with the endemic racial conflict in our own backyard?

---

### **MODERATOR**

#### **MARVIN JOHNSON - Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution**

Marvin Johnson is a nationally recognized mediator, arbitrator and trainer with over 27 years of dispute resolution experience. He received the ACCTM 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award and is the Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution. Marvin Johnson previously was Associate Professor at Bowie State University. Dr. Johnson received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Catholic University. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Kent State University and a Master of Science degree in Industrial Relations from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Johnson has worked for the Department of Labor, the Federal Relations Authority, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the National Treasury Employees Union, the National Football League Player's Association, and the National Academy of Conciliators. As a consultant, Dr. Johnson serves as a mediator, an arbitrator, a fact finder, and a facilitator in hundreds of public and private disputes. He provides dispute resolution training and lectures extensively on the subject of conflict management.

### **SPEAKERS**

#### **ROB CORCORAN --National Director, Initiatives of Change**

Rob Corcoran has facilitated dialogue, reconciliation and partnerships among diverse and polarized racial, ethnic, and religious groups in an array of locales in Europe, South Africa, India, Australia, and the United States. He is the national director of Initiatives of Change and founder of its flagship program Hope in the Cities, which models honest conversation and sustained partnerships across traditional boundaries. Since 1990 Corcoran and his colleagues have led a sustained public effort for racial healing in Richmond, Virginia. This city, once a major slave market, capital of the Confederacy, and promoter of Massic Resistance, has become a seedbed for a reconciliation process which has been adopted in communities across the U.S. and internationally. Corcoran's work in Virginia has been described by Governor Tim Kaine as "providing a map for the future." It is the subject of his new book: "Trustbuilding: An Honest Conversation on Race, Reconciliation, and Responsibility."

#### **JANA CARTER-- Search USA Project Director for the One America Project**

Jana Carter is the Project Director for The One America Project, Search for Common Ground's program which seeks to transform conflict here at home by generating racial healing and reconciliation in the USA. Jana is a mediator and former civil rights attorney. Before joining Search For Common Ground,

Jana practiced employment, education, and civil rights law in Oakland, CA. She was also a Sloan Fellow with the Center for Understanding in Conflict and the Center for Mediation in Law. Jana received her B.A. from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a degree in Politics and her J.D. from the University of California Berkeley's School of Law (Boalt Hall).

#### **DAVID CAMPT-- Independent Consultant on Race**

For more than 15 years, Dr. David Campt has provided consultation about race relations, diversity, stakeholder engagement issues for a variety of clients, including U.S. congressional representatives, the foundation community, and national community organizations. Currently, David serves as a consultant on Strategic Initiatives and Innovation for the Western Justice Center in Pasadena, CA. David is the co-author of the *The Little Book of Dialogue for Difficult Subjects*. Campt worked as a senior policy associate with President Clinton's Initiative on Race at the White House from September 1997 until the end of 1998. In this position, he designed and facilitated nationally televised meetings and multi-state dialogue campaigns, helped create a national racial dialogue guide, and used his background in program evaluation to best practice guide for groups fostering racial equity. He has brought his skills in convening difficult conversations to bear for Congressional representatives, as well, organizing candid talks across the political aisle. One of his specialties is designing and convening very large scale meetings where technology is used to allow each participant to have his or her voice heard and for the entire group to come to clear conclusions. He has played a leading role in designing and/or facilitating meetings for a variety of topics and numbers of participants, such as small town disaster recovery (500 people), youth obesity (1,000 people), priorities for rebuilding New Orleans (2,700 people). and turning a large union into a 21<sup>st</sup> century organization (4,000 people). Campt has a doctorate in City Planning from UC Berkeley, and an undergraduate degree from Princeton University.

---

### **ABOUT THIS FORUM**

Since 1999, the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Forum (CPRF) has provided a monthly platform in Washington for highlighting innovative and constructive methods of conflict resolution. CPRF's goals are to (1) provide information from a wide variety of perspectives; (2) explore possible solutions to complex conflicts; and (3) provide a secure venue for stakeholders from various disciplines to engage in cross-sector and multi-track problem-solving. The CPRF is co-sponsored by a consortium of organizations that specialize in conflict resolution and/or public policy formulation.

---

### **FORUM SPONSORS**

#### **3D SECURITY INITIATIVE**

– *LISA SCHIRCH* –

\*

#### **ALLIANCE FOR PEACEBUILDING**

– *CHARLES F. DAMBACH* –

\*

#### **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR GLOBAL PEACE**

– *JOSEPH MONTVILLE* –

\*

#### **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR WORLD RELIGIONS,**

#### **DIPLOMACY, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

– *JOSEPH MONTVILLE*

\*

#### **JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

– *TERRENCE HOPMANN* –

\*

#### **PARTNERS FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE**

– *RAYMOND SHONHOLTZ* –

\*

#### **SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND**

– JOHN MARKS –

\*

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

– PAMELA AALL –

\*

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL  
CENTER FOR SCHOLARS,  
PROJECT ON LEADERSHIP  
AND BUILDING STATE CAPACITY  
– STEVE McDONALD –



## Conflict Prevention & Resolution Forum

