LAW’S MIDDLE WAY: MINDFULNESS AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Sujatha Baliga, Esq.
Director, Restorative Justice Project
National Council on Crime and Delinquency

In this talk, Sujatha Baliga will address the value of mindfulness practice in both her prior work as a criminal defense lawyer and in her current role as the Director of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency’s Restorative Justice Project. She will discuss the parallel paradigm shifts invited by the practices of mindfulness and restorative justice, as well as the place of forgiveness in restorative processes.

Sujatha Baliga’s legal career is characterized by an equal dedication to victims and persons accused of crime. Sujatha has worked with survivors of domestic violence and child sexual abuse as an advocate and board member for rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters. The convergence of Sujatha’s interest in Tibetan ideals of justice and her work with women accused of killing their abusers drew her to criminal defense and capital appellate representation. She has taught restorative justice at both the college and law school levels, offers lectures and trainings in a number of restorative practices, and has served as a consultant to the Stanford Criminal Justice Center. She is regularly invited to address groups of prisoners and others about her personal experiences as a survivor of child sexual abuse and her path to forgiveness, and has been a guest on NPR’s Talk of the Nation. In 2008, Sujatha was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship, which she used to implement a restorative justice diversion program in which young people accused of crime, their families, victims, and communities collectively resolve conflicts and root out the causes of youthful offending. Today, she helps several jurisdictions replicate this program in her role as the Director of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency’s Restorative Justice Project.

Sujatha earned her A.B. from Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges, her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, has held two federal clerkships, and served as Northeastern University Law School’s Daynard Visiting Public Interest Fellow. Her personal and research interests include victims’ voices in restorative processes, the forgiveness of seemingly unforgivable acts, restorative justice’s potential impact on disproportionate minority contact, and Tibetan notions of justice.

Oct. 22, 2012
100-Boalt Hall
12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

To reserve a lunch, please e-mail Ariana Ceja at: aceja@law.berkeley.edu.