



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY
BERKELEY LAW

CSLS SPEAKER SERIES

Cosponsored with the
Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice
Monday, March 9, 2020

KARIN MARTIN

Assistant Professor, University of Washington

“On Place, Policy, and Pain: An Analysis of Monetary Sanction Punishment Regimes in the U.S.”

How do the statutory and institutional structures governing the use of monetary sanctions (MS) influence an individual’s exposure to the criminal justice system? To address this question, this paper identifies key dimensions of the MS punishment regime across eight states and describes the variation therein. We find that the scope and severity of MS, the extent of discretion in the court system, and measures of a state’s penal burden effectively characterize MS policy and practice. The paper draws primarily on reviews of relevant statutes and interview data with debtors (n=510) and court professionals (n=435) across the eight states. Supplemental data comes from sources such as the National Center for State Courts (e.g. court funding, caseloads, etc.). By providing the first systematic assessment of MS use across multiple states, this paper illuminates a previously unexplored nexus of statute and practice pertaining to the country’s most ubiquitous criminal sanction.

PLACE Selznick Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont Avenue
TIME 12:45 – 2pm. Coffee and water provided. Bag lunches welcome.
INFO <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/CSLS>
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