DREXEL UNIVERSITY - CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

2023 Applied Policy Research Lecture Series

Robert J. Kane, PhD

Professor and Department Head, Department of Criminology and Justice Studies

Drexel University

The Unwieldy Nature of Stop-and-Frisk: From “One-Off” Tactic to a Crime Control Strategy

When the Supreme Court decided the case, *Terry v. Ohio* in 1968, then-Chief Justice Earl Warren took pains in his majority opinion to emphasize that although brief investigatory stops and frisks for weapons advanced the government's interest to prevent crime, such stops, while allowable, were also highly intrusive, potentially degrading, and absolutely considered a "search" under the Fourth Amendment. Since *Terry*, the Court has decided additional cases that have made it easier for police departments to move stop-and-frisk from a "one-off" tactic to full-blown crime control strategy. Despite lawsuits and public criticisms that stop-and-frisk frequently targets people and communities of color, stop-and-frisk remains an important crime control strategy in many U.S. police departments. This presentation examines the history and current applications of stop-and-frisk, demonstrating the difficulty of practicing stop-and-frisk in a Constitutional way. It also examines the crime-reduction potential of the strategy and concludes with a discussion of stop-and-frisk as a missed opportunity to accomplish something bigger than just crime control in urban communities.

Tuesday, April 25, 2023
3:30-4:50 PM EST
3401 Market Street, Suite 110
Reception to follow

RSVP

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