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## **NACOLE AND SEATTLE UNIVERSITY CO-SPONSOR POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY SYMPOSIUM**

**January 6, 2015**—In response to growing interest around the nation in police accountability, as well as the need for more evidence-based research about independent oversight of the police, the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) is partnering with the Seattle University (SU) School of Law and Criminal Justice Department to host its inaugural academic conference. The symposium, entitled, “Moving Beyond Discipline: The Role of Civilians in Police Accountability,” will be held at the SU School of Law on February 6, 2015. Criminal justice scholars, policing professionals, community stakeholders, and oversight practitioners will meet to discuss what works and what doesn’t when it comes to civilian oversight and the evolving role of civilians in police accountability mechanisms outside the disciplinary system.

“It’s an honor to host this critically important and timely symposium at Seattle University School of Law and to partner with NACOLE and the Criminal Justice Department,” says School of Law Dean Annette E. Clark. “The issues under examination have broad societal and legal ramifications and we look forward to productive and informative conversations.” According to Sam Walker, police accountability expert and author of multiple books on the subject, “There is a critical need for more research on police accountability procedures, and the NACOLE-sponsored conference is an important step forward in filling that need.”

“The speakers at this event are exceptional,” says Kathryn Olson, co-director of the symposium and a past president of NACOLE. “Participants will hear from some of the most important scholars in policing and police accountability, such as Sam Walker and Roger Goldman, along with influential practitioners, such as U.S. Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division Vanita Gupta and Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission head Sue Rahr. This is an opportunity to bring stakeholders together to work collaboratively on answers to current problems,” says Olson.

NACOLE President Brian Buchner notes that, “Civilian oversight has evolved into something far broader than the review of disciplinary decisions or individual investigations of police misconduct. Given the national attention on policing and the strained or broken relationships between police and communities, this is the perfect time to be asking important questions about existing police accountability structures and considering research on effective solutions.”

Topics to be explored include: studying the impact of critical incidents from Rodney King to Ferguson, attaining the right balance between national policing standards and local values, incorporating community input into the police reform process, using benchmarks to promote constitutional policing, and developing standards for the use of body cameras in policing. Papers presented at the February 6 symposium will appear, later in the year, in the *Criminal Justice Policy Review* and the *Seattle Journal of Social Justice*.

“This is a don’t miss for anyone who cares about criminal justice reform,” says Jacqueline Helfgott, Chair of Seattle University’s Criminal Justice Department.

A full agenda and registration information are available at [www.nacole.org](http://www.nacole.org).

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