



Compassionate Jurisprudence

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Disclaimer

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OJJDP

Georgia



Can there be
justice without
compassion?







That's me in the middle.



FAST
FORWARD







Lady Justice



Supreme Court Justice Brennan

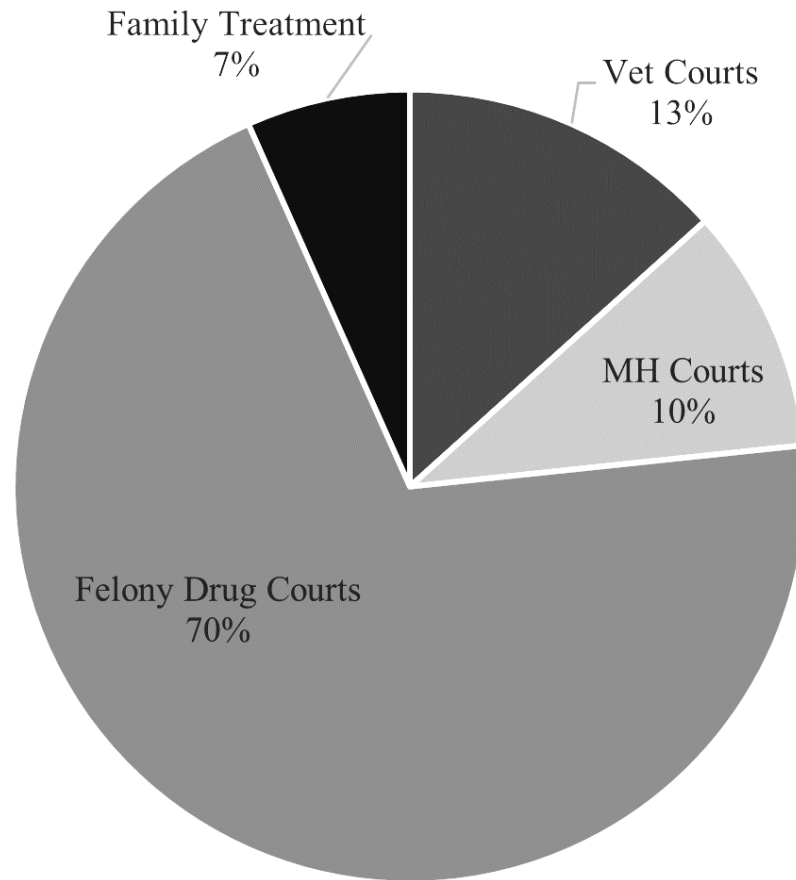
“Judging, properly understood, involves the interaction of reason and passion, of logic and experience, and a dialogue between the head and the hear” (Brennan, 1988).

Research Sample

28 treatment court judges – Observed

- 1+ year of experience on the bench in a treatment court
- State of Georgia - urban, rural, Appalachian & coastal regions
- Felony drug courts, vet courts, family treatment courts and mental health courts

22 drug court judges – Recruited for Dialogue



Compassionate Jurisprudence

- ▣ Sanctions
- ▣ The Rule of Law
- ▣ Reason
- ▣ Case oriented
- ▣ Ego
- ▣ Reaction
- ▣ Degree of Dispassion

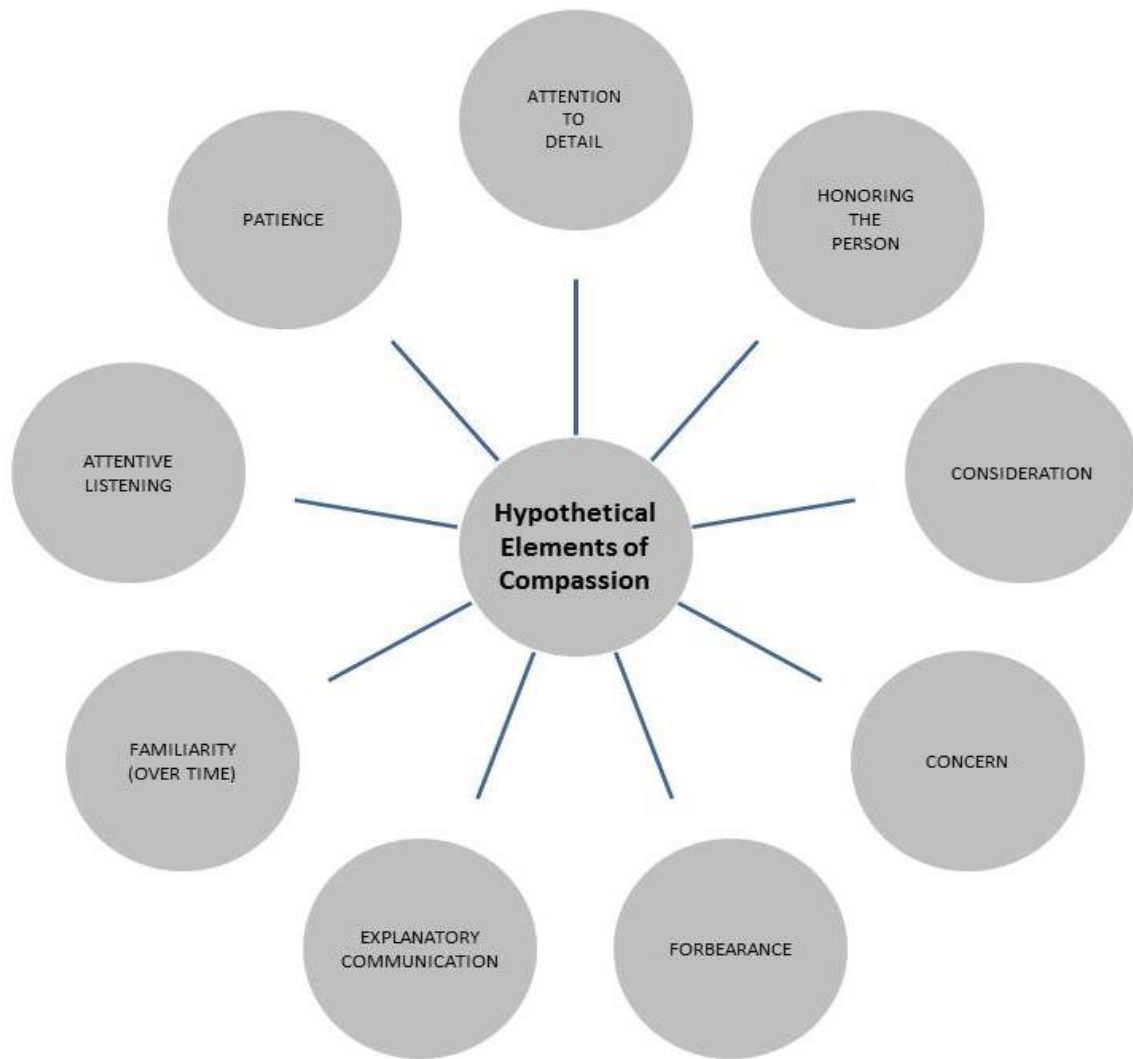


- ▣ Rewards
- ▣ Restorative Justice
- ▣ Intuition and Experience
- ▣ People oriented
- ▣ Empathy
- ▣ Reflection
- ▣ Compassion

Compassionate Jurisprudence

A set of practices and behaviors that judges, court officers, justice professionals and their community partners engage in that allows them to understand the feelings and perspectives of court involved people and themselves, and to use that understanding to guide their actions and decision-making for the betterment of everyone involved.





ATTENTIVE LISTENING





CONCERN



FORBEARANCE



Photo by [Duane Mendes](#) on [Unsplash](#)

PATIENCE



**ATTENTION
TO DETAIL**



CONSIDERATION



EXPLANATORY COMMUNICATION





FAMILIARITY
OVER TIME

A close-up photograph of two hands shaking. The hand on the left is lighter-skinned, and the hand on the right is darker-skinned. The hands are clasped together in a firm grip, with fingers interlaced. The background is dark and out of focus.

HONORING THE PERSON

Compassionate Jurisprudence looks like...



22 judges recruited

- Judges assigned to a cohort
- Judges assigned a pseudonym
- TWEN confidential online platform
- 5 days a week for 4 weeks
- Asynchronous

Highlights of the Dialogue



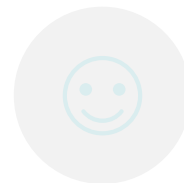
ATTENTIVE AND
CAREFUL LISTENING
= RESPECT FOR THE
PERSON AND THEIR
POINT OF VIEW



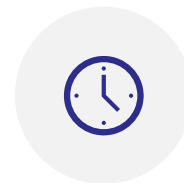
COMPASSIONATE
LANGUAGE IS
RESPECTFUL, NON-
THREATENING AND
CLEAR



PRAISE AND
ENCOURAGEMENT IS
COMPASSIONATE



SMILING AND EYE
CONTACT IS
COMPASSIONATE



TIME SPENT LETS
PEOPLE KNOW YOU
CARE

More Highlights

SET TIME NOT
IMPORTANT, IT IS
WHAT THE PERSON
NEEDS

ANGER NOT HELPFUL

“IMPORTANT NOT TO
LET DISAPPOINTMENT
DRIVE THE MOMENT,
USE IT TO TEACH.”

SELF-DISCLOSURE
IS A WAY TO SHOW
YOU TOO ARE
HUMAN

EMPATHY



Photo by

**DON'T
GIVE UP**

**YOU ARE
NOT ALONE**

**YOU
MATTER**

EMPATHY



And even more highlights



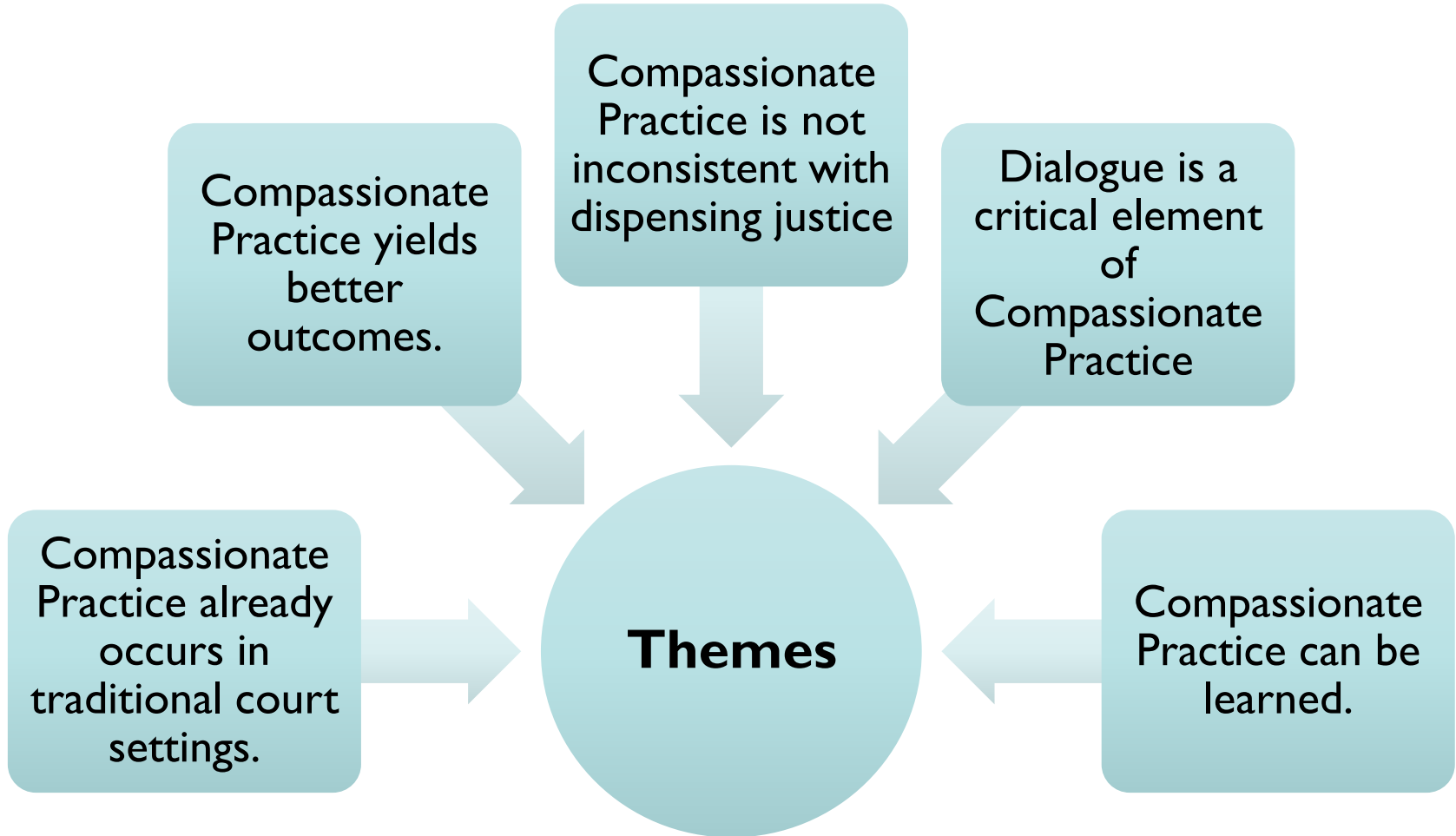
BODY LANGUAGE, TONE,
HUMOR, AND PRESENCE
HELPS TO CONNECT



ENDING STRONG AND
POSITIVE WITH AN
INDIVIDUAL IS
IMPORTANT

WHERE DIALOGUE INFLUENCED THOUGHT

- Transfer of compassionate behaviors from drug courts to traditional court
- Fee discussion
- New ideas
- Legacy



IMPLICATIONS OF STUDY RESULTS

- The Power of Dialogue
- Compassionate Demeanor Humanizes
- Time is Important – Slow Down
- Dialogue Makes a Difference
- Transferability of Behaviors to Traditional Court
- Transferability to other Disciplines in Criminal Justice
- REFLECTION IS IMPORTANT.







THANK YOU FOR LISTENING AND
FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.

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