



UWC SUMMIT

EVENT PROGRAM

WHEN

12.01.23

WHERE

JAVITS CENTER

445 11TH AVE, NEW YORK, NY 10001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW	03
About the United Justice Coalition (UJC)	04
UJC Advisors	04
UJC Summit	07
PROGRAM	08
Schedule	08
Program Topics	10
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS	12
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS	62
FEATURES	80
Art Gallery	80
Live Podcast Recording	84
THANK YOU	86
UJC Summit Student State Ambassadors	88

ABOUT THE UNITED JUSTICE COALITION

The United Justice Coalition (UJC) is a charitable organization that works across disciplines to raise awareness around key social justice issues and the need for criminal justice reform.

The group is made up of an esteemed array of expert advisors that come together to strategically share resources, information, and ideas to address systemic injustice across America and unify communities.

The UJC is committed to amplifying critical issues, leveraging support for on-the-ground advocacy and social justice organizations and advancing justice through programs and events.

UJC ADVISORS

JONATHAN S. ABADY

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Innocence Project

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*Sister of Terence Crutcher,
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Sisters of the Movement

ANGELLA HENRY

*Mother of Danroy 'DJ' Henry,
DJ Dream Fund*

DANROY HENRY SR.

*Father of Danroy 'DJ' Henry,
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MYSONNE LINEN

Activist, Hip-Hop Artist

TAMIKA MALLORY

Until Freedom

S. LEE MERRITT

Attorney & Activist

CARMEN PEREZ

The Gathering for Justice

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DAN SLEPIAN

*NBC News Award
Winning Journalist*

DASHA SMITH

National Football League

ROBERT F. SMITH

Vista Equity Partners

ALEX SPIRO

*Quinn Emanuel Urquhart
& Sullivan, LLP*

SHELLEY STEWART

McKinsey & Company

WHITNEY TYMAS

Attorney

LISA WAYNE

*National Association of
Criminal Defense Lawyers*

EBONI K. WILLIAMS

Attorney, TV Personality



The second annual United Justice Coalition (UJC) Summit convenes leaders, experts, advocates, and individuals across various fields who are committed to advancing justice. Through inspiring and solutions-focused conversations, as well as numerous opportunities to learn and to take action, the UJC Summit creates a community of those who are activating for change.

SCHEDULE

11:00 AM	_____	Welcome by Dr. Michael Eric Dyson
11:10 AM	_____	Family Matters
12:15 PM	_____	Mental Health and Criminal Justice
1:00 PM	_____	Sentencing Alternatives
1:45 PM	_____	Exposing Parchman Screening
2:15 PM	_____	Anti-Recidivism
3:00 PM	_____	Hate Crimes
3:30 PM	_____	Exposing Parchman Screening Lava for Good's Wrongful Conviction Podcast (Podcast Theater)
4:30 PM	_____	Probation and Parole
5:15 PM	_____	Civic Engagement
6:15 PM	_____	Closing Remarks by Angela Rye

PROGRAM TOPICS

WELCOME

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson

FAMILY MATTERS

When a person is incarcerated, killed by gun and state sanctioned violence, or victim to police and prosecutorial misconduct, the whole community suffers. Directly impacted people describe those behind bars, survivors of harm, and the children, mothers, sisters, fathers, and brothers who suffer the many effects of the carceral state. Many of us sit at the intersection of these identities. We will also explore what it means to change narrative infrastructure that centers the values of truth telling, power sharing, and human dignity that prioritizes healing and restoration rather than punishment. This session will discuss the collective power of all of our lived experiences and how we can use it to achieve liberation.

Participants: Fat Joe (Panel Introduction), Amna Nawaz (Moderator), Dr. Patrice Collins (Panelist), Victor Dempsey (Panelist), Josh Dubin (Panelist), Danroy "Dan" Henry Sr. (Panelist), Violet Martin (Panelist), Nicole Paultre-Bell (Panelist)

MENTAL HEALTH & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Delving into topics such as the criminalization of mental illness, the role of diversion programs, the adequacy of mental health treatment in prisons, and the impact of stigma on both individuals and the system, this discussion aims to shed light on the urgent need for reform. We will examine innovative strategies, share personal experiences, and chart a path towards a more compassionate and effective approach to addressing mental health within the criminal justice system. The goal is to provide better outcomes for individuals, families, and communities alike.

Participants: Dr. Tiffany Crutcher (Panel Introduction), Charlamagne Tha God (Moderator), Dr. Jay Barnett (Panelist), Elliott Connie (Panelist), Laura Evans (Panelist), Derek Hamilton (Panelist)

SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES

A conviction does not always lead to incarceration. Sentencing alternatives have been implemented in many states to provide rehabilitation opportunities for defendants. Alternatives like community service, probation, or rehabilitation, are viable options that keep non-violent offenders out of prison and help them become productive community members. Judges can sentence individuals to probation, treatment court, community service, or other alternatives. Some believe a more holistic approach to criminal justice can be achieved by diverting offenders from prison to community-based programs. The goal is reducing recidivism. We will examine what works and what should be considered more widely. Are there national guidelines that should be put into place? How do victims view these standards? How can we ensure that youth are not getting sentences that will harm them once they become adults?

Participants: Lisa Wayne (Panel Introduction), Laura Coates (Moderator), DA Satana Deberry (Panelist), Judge Karen Friedman (Panelist), Xavier McElrath-Bey (Panelist), Nicole D. Porter (Panelist), Jason Pye (Panelist)

ANTI-RECIDIVISM

We will explore innovative strategies and holistic approaches aimed at breaking the cycle of criminal re-offending. Our panelists will explore the critical issues surrounding rehabilitation, reintegration, and support systems for individuals with criminal histories, shedding light on the pivotal role of education, employment, mental health, and community involvement in reducing recidivism rates. We hope to provide valuable insights, share perspectives, and contribute to the dialogue on fostering a more just and compassionate society through effective anti-recidivism initiatives.

Participants: Jay Jordan (Panel Introduction), Soledad O'Brien (Moderator), Scott Budnick (Panelist), Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II (Panelist), Desmond Meade (Panelist), Jarad Nava (Panelist), Dr. Topeka K. Sam (Panelist)

HATE CRIMES

Hate crimes refer to criminal acts committed against individuals or property, primarily driven by the offender's prejudice against a person's race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity. The precise legal definition of a hate crime varies across jurisdictions, with federal and state laws often differing in their criteria and elements. At the federal level, hate crimes falling within the purview of federally protected activities, such as voting or attending public schools, can be investigated, and prosecuted by the federal government. Meanwhile, at the state level, each state has its own set of laws pertaining to hate crimes. Some states have established specific hate crime statutes, while others choose to increase penalties for offenses committed with a bias motive. It is essential to recognize that hate crimes can exert a substantial impact on communities and influence perceptions of law enforcement.

Participants: Rashad Robinson (Panel Introduction), Michelle Miller (Moderator), US AAG Kristen Clarke (Panelist), NY AG Letitia James (Panelist)

PROBATION & PAROLE

At the end of 2021, some 3.74 million people were under court supervision on probation or parole. More people are in the pre-and post-prison processes here than in any other industrialized nation. The purpose of this panel is to examine probation and parole & examine life without the possibility of parole and the differences from state to state.

Participants: Carmen Perez-Jordan (Panel Introduction), Dan Slepian (Moderator), Veronica Cunningham (Panelist), Jessica Jackson (Panelist), Mysonne Linen (Panelist), Vincent Schiraldi (Panelist), Don Scott (Panelist)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Healthy civic engagement is required for the success of the overall polity. This panel shares how all can become champions of civic involvement. How does voting, serving on juries, and participating in school board, city council, or local neighborhood meetings have a lasting effect? Despite clear threats to voting: registration challenges, reduction in early voting sites, elimination of, and the requirement of identification previously not needed, this panel will share concrete ideas on how to proceed and organize.

However, it is also important to acknowledge threats to voting. Registration challenges, reduction in early voting sites, and the previously unnecessary identification requirement can hinder people's ability to exercise their right to vote. These issues disproportionately affect poor communities of color and can undermine the democratic process.

Nevertheless, this panel aims to share concrete ideas on how to engage civically despite these challenges. They may discuss strategies such as voter education and outreach programs, advocating for voting rights legislation, and promoting community engagement to overcome obstacles and ensure everyone's voice is heard in the political process.

Participants: Zander Moricz (Panel Introduction), Angela Rye (Moderator), Alexis Anderson-Reed (Panelist), Dr. Tiffany Crutcher (Panelist), Brooke Foyles (Panelist), Deon Jones (Panelist), Aidan Kohn-Murphy (Panelist), Tamika Mallory (Panelist), Crystal Mason (Panelist)

PROGRAM **Participants**

ALEXIS ANDERSON-REED



@aandersonreed
@state_voices



@statevoices

Alexis Anderson-Reed is the Chief Executive Officer of State Voices. Alexis has been an activist since she was a college student. Driven by the disparities in educational opportunity she encountered growing up in Wisconsin, she co-founded Youth Reclaiming Our Communities (Youth ROC), mobilizing students across the state to press for education finance reform. Since then, she hasn't stopped working toward a vision of a more inclusive and more equitable society. She has dedicated her career to community organizing, coalition building, public policy, and strategic planning, exemplified by her work on issues of racial and gender equity and the politics of power and privilege.

Prior to her tenure as State Voices' Chief Executive Officer, Alexis served as the deputy director of the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation, a philanthropic affinity group dedicated to enhancing democratic participation in all aspects of civic life. Before joining FCCP in 2016, Alexis served as the senior director of programs for State Voices, leading efforts to support and expand the work of our national network of state tables in promoting civic engagement, civic access, and civic representation. She came to the national office of State Voices after serving for three and a half years as executive director of Wisconsin Voices, where she worked to expand and defend voting rights in the state.

Alexis graduated with honors from Alverno College with a degree in History and Political Science, and completed coursework for a Master of Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Alexis serves on the boards of the Alliance for Youth Organizing, State Innovation Exchange, and the Analyst Institute. When not at work, she can be found trying out new recipes for family and friends and traveling with her husband, Derek.

DR. JAY BARNETT



@kingjaybarnett



@kingjaybarnett

Dr. Jay Barnett is an esteemed author, dynamic speaker, and widely acknowledged expert in mental health therapist. Now, more than ever, he's making an incredible mark in his field with his impactful storytelling, innovative strategies, and insightful lessons.

PROGRAM Participants

SCOTT BUDNICK



Scott Budnick is an American film producer, Founder of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), and is currently CEO of One Community, LLC – a film, television, and new media co-financing company that uses the power of storytelling to encourage and inspire positive global change. Recently, Budnick returned to the film business as executive producer of One Community's first film, *Just Mercy*, released in theaters on January 10, 2020.

As the former Executive Vice President of Todd Phillips' Green Hat Films, Budnick produced *Old School*, *Due Date*, and the highest-grossing R-rated comedy trilogy in film history, *The Hangover*, which grossed over \$1.4 billion. Since 2004, Budnick has been a fierce advocate for social justice and a fairer judicial system. In 2003, he began volunteering with InsideOUT Writers (IOW), a program that brings creative writing into juvenile halls. In 2014, Budnick founded ARC, whose mission is to reduce incarceration, improve the outcomes of formerly incarcerated individuals, and build healthier communities. ARC provides formerly incarcerated men and women with direct services such as housing, counseling, job training and opportunities, mentoring, and education. The organization also empowers and mobilizes its members to play a role in justice reform efforts through direct policy advocacy.

For his work with youth in the criminal justice system, Governor Jerry Brown named Scott the 2012 California Governor's Volunteer of the Year. He sits on the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) and was selected to serve as a Board Member for President Barack Obama's foundation, the My Brother's Keeper Alliance.

CHARLAMAGNE THA GOD



 @cthagod

 @cthagod

Lenard “Charlamagne Tha God” McKelvey is an entertainment mogul who has earned a reputation as one of the most authentic voices in media over the last two decades. As a Radio Hall of Fame inductee, best-selling author, in-demand TV personality, and producer, he is a singular shaper of culture.

An innovator and industry leader in audio, he is the co-host of iHeartMedia’s The Breakfast Club morning show, which drives millions of listeners daily and also airs on BET. Charlamagne expanded his collaboration with iHeart to create The Black Effect Podcast Network, home to multiple chart-topping podcasts. Additionally, through his partnership with Audible and Kevin Hart, Charlamagne’s scripted podcasts have won an Audie, Webby, and the prestigious duPont award. He is also the co-creator and host of the popular podcast The Brilliant Idiots.

Charlamagne is the author of The New York Times Best Seller *Black Privilege: Opportunity Comes to Those Who Create It* and the best-selling *Shook One: Anxiety Playing Tricks on Me*. His tremendous success as an author led to a partnership with Simon & Schuster Publishing, now home to his imprint Black Privilege Publishing.

Charlamagne is an Emmy-winning producer through his production company CThaGod World. He has hosted several network TV programs, including the Stephen Colbert executive-produced *Hell of a Week*. Acting on his passion for mental health awareness, Charlamagne founded the Mental Wealth Alliance. The Foundation works to destigmatize mental health in the Black community by expanding the pool of professionals in the health and wellness space.

PROGRAM **Participants**

US AAG KRISTEN CLARKE



@CivilRights

Kristen Clarke is the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice. In this role, she leads the Justice Department's broad federal civil rights enforcement efforts and works to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all who live in America. Assistant Attorney General Clarke is a lifelong civil rights lawyer who has spent her entire career in public service.

Assistant Attorney General Clarke began her career as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division through the Department of Justice's Honors Program. In 2006, she joined the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, where she helped lead the organization's work in the areas of voting rights and election law across the country. Ms. Clarke worked on cases defending the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act, presented oral argument to the D.C. District Court in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, and has provided testimony on federal and state voting rights legislation. In 2011, she was named the head of the Civil Rights Bureau for the New York State Attorney General's Office, where she led broad civil rights enforcement actions. Under her leadership, the Bureau secured landmark agreements with banks to address unlawful redlining, employers to address barriers to reentry for people with criminal backgrounds, police departments on reforms to policies and practices, major retailers on racial profiling of consumers, landlords on discriminatory housing policies, school districts concerning issues relating to the school-to-prison pipeline and more. In 2015, Ms. Clarke was named the president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, one of the nation's leading civil rights organizations founded at the request of John F. Kennedy. There, she led the organization's legal work in courts across the country addressing some of the nation's most complex racial justice and civil rights challenges.

Assistant Attorney General Clarke was born in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating from Choate Rosemary Hall, she received her A.B. from Harvard University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School.

LAURA COATES



 @thelauracoates
 @thelauracoates
 @thelauracoates

Laura Coates is CNN's chief legal analyst and anchor. She plays a central role in the network's extensive legal programming and fills in as an anchor across CNN programming including hosting primetime programs, impactful specials, and a CNN Town Hall.

Coates is a well-respected constitutional expert, attorney, commentator, author, and former adjunct professor at the George Washington University School of Law. Her depth of experience and broad expertise has earned her acclaim across all media platforms for her objective, nonpartisan legal analysis.

Coates played a prominent role in major news moments, including CNN's coverage of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the January 6th hearings and the two impeachment hearings of President Donald Trump, hosting a special entitled *White House in Crisis: The Impeachment Inquiry*. She routinely covers high-profile criminal prosecutions, including the trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin, providing minute-by-minute analysis and reporting on the ground amid protests. She hosted a primetime special featuring some

of the nation's top lawyers on the criminal trial of Alex Murdaugh, moderated *Mayors Who Matter: A CNN Town Hall on Race and Covid-19*, as well as a primetime special with law enforcement experts analyzing the police response to the mass shooting at Uvalde Elementary School.

Coates is also the host of the award-winning daily *The Laura Coates Show* on SiriusXM's bipartisan P.O.T.U.S. channel where she interviews world leaders and politicians from both sides of the aisle and engages the audience with a lively discussion on the intersection of politics and the law.

She is the New York Times bestselling author of *Just Pursuit: A Black Prosecutor's Fight For Fairness*. In 2016, recognizing the dire need for increased police accountability and improved police-community relations, Coates wrote the bestselling book *You Have the Right: A Constitutional Guide to Policing the Police*. In the book, she removes the legalese to help ordinary citizens know and understand their Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights.

A native of Saint Paul, Minnesota, Coates graduated from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs and the University of Minnesota Law School, where she serves on the Board of Advisors, before beginning her legal career in private practice. She practiced law in Minnesota and New York handling cases ranging from intellectual property litigation and First Amendment issues to defamation and media law. Called to public service, she transitioned from private practice to the United States Department of Justice, thriving as a federal prosecutor. She served as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice during the Bush and Obama administrations, specializing in the enforcement of voting rights throughout the country. She also served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, prosecuting a myriad of violent felony offenses including drug trafficking, armed offenses, domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault.

PROGRAM **Participants**

DR. PATRICE COLLINS



Dr. Patrice Collins is an Assistant Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Department of Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies in Africana Studies at Northeastern University. Dr. Collins teaches courses on Race, Crime, and Justice, Consequences of Incarceration, and Black Families and Incarceration. Her research primarily focuses on children with incarcerated family members. More broadly, her scholarly agenda is situated at the intersection of urban studies, race and ethnicity, social justice, parental incarceration, and child well-being. Dr. Collins is currently developing a book manuscript that focuses on the lived experiences of Black families with generations of incarcerated loved ones. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from Yale University and holds a B.A. in Child Development, as well as an M.A. in Early Childhood Education, Sociology, and Philosophy.

ELLIOTT CONNIE



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Meet Elliott Connie, MA, LPC - psychotherapist, author, podcaster, and founder of the world's largest SFBT training organization for mental health professionals. But that's not all - he's a purpose-driven hope dealer with a mission to end the stigma surrounding mental health care. With his superpower of asking the right questions, Elliott has helped thousands of individuals, couples, and families move towards their desired futures. He has traveled across the globe delivering keynote speeches at therapy conferences, spreading the word about inclusivity and diversity in the mental health field. He is the creator of *Aha! Moments*, a daily podcast to help listeners reflect on the way they view mental health in their daily lives. He has authored or co-authored five books, including *The Art of Solution Focused Therapy*, *Solution Building in Couples Therapy*, *Solution-Focused Brief Therapy with Clients Managing Trauma*, *The Solution Focused Marriage*, and most recently, *The Solution Focused Brief Therapy Diamond*.

PROGRAM **Participants**

DR. TIFFANY CRUTCHER



Dr. Tiffany T. Crutcher is a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma who was thrust into the international spotlight following the death of her twin brother, Terence Crutcher, who was shot by a police officer in Tulsa, Oklahoma, while holding his hands in the air. The murder of her brother compelled Tiffany to speak out against police brutality, particularly the killing of unarmed black men. She has chosen to turn her personal tragedy into an opportunity to bridge fear, mistrust, and help transform a justice system that has long perpetuated injustice dating back to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre where mobs of white rioters burned down her great grandmother's prosperous community known as Black Wall Street. Dr. Crutcher has remained committed to organizing coalitions throughout the country that promote the interests of minority communities. Crutcher is the Founder and Executive Director of the Terence Crutcher Foundation and the Demanding A Just Tulsa Coalition. The foundation's primary focus is criminal justice and policing reform, honoring the legacy of our ancestors, strengthening communities, and policy advocacy.

Crutcher is a proud HBCU Graduate and a graduate of the James W. Wright Leadership Development Institute in Montgomery, AL. Dr. Crutcher currently serves on the Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform, Historic Greenwood Mainstreet, Justice for Greenwood Foundation, Thunder Fellows, Black Tech Street, Boards of Directors and is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Crutcher is also a member of the United Justice Coalition, the NFL Racial Equity & Social Justice Council, Groundwork Project, and a founding member of Sisters of the Movement, all National organizations. In October of 2020, Crutcher was awarded with a grant from The Black Voices for Black Justice Fund co-chaired by Actress & Activist, Kerry Washington, Wes Moore, Jean Desravines, and Kristen Clarke because of her grassroots work and commitment to social justice in Tulsa, Oklahoma and around the world. Dr. Crutcher was recently named to the Root 100 list of the most influential African Americans for 2021 and The Black Wall Street Times' Person of the year for 2021. In 2022, Crutcher was selected as the 2022 Woman of the Year of the Women of Color Expo Tulsa.

Dr. Crutcher has been a mentor to many. Empowering men, women, and children to live out their true purpose through personal growth and development. She is truly an agent of change because of her authentic ability to inspire the masses into action. Dr. Tiffany Crutcher is now known as "America's Sister" and lives by the scripture, Galatians 6:9; Lets us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

VERONICA CUNNINGHAM



 @appa_network
 American Probation
and Parole Association
 American Probation
and Parole Association

Veronica Ballard Cunningham is the Executive Director of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) – the leading international professional membership organization for community corrections (probation and parole) practitioners. APPA's members assist formerly incarcerated individuals as they transition from jails and prisons back into the community. They work to increase their chances for successful reentry as well as to enhance public safety.

As CEO, Ms. Cunningham has responsibility for ensuring the association operates according to its mission, vision, and Constitution/Bylaws. She oversees administrative matters, programs, finances, projects, and strategic operations. She puts her meeting planner hat on to plan and executive large training institutes on field-related topics.

Prior to joining APPA, she held the top leadership positions in two of the largest community corrections agencies in America – the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Parole Division and the Cook County Probation Department – Chicago and surrounding areas. She has a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in public administration from Louisiana State University. She is a member of several professional organizations and serves on national think tanks, task forces, and boards including the FBI's Criminal Justice Information System Advisory Policy Board. She is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions; speaker and trainer on topics such as leadership, ethics, and women in the criminal legal system; and published author in justice industry journals.

PROGRAM **Participants**

DA SATANA DEBERRY



 @durhamncda
 @durhamda
 **Durham County District
Attorney's Office**

Satana Deberry serves as the elected District Attorney for Durham County. As District Attorney, she has prioritized the prosecution of serious offenses, implemented policies to reduce unnecessary pretrial incarceration and court involvement, and worked to improve trust and equity in the courts.

Throughout her career, Deberry has worked to dismantle systems that restrict the lives of poor people, families, communities of color, and other marginalized and underrepresented groups. She brings to the office of District Attorney extensive experience, having served as a criminal defense attorney in her hometown of Hamlet, North Carolina, General Counsel for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and executive director of the nonprofit North Carolina Housing Coalition.

Deberry is a recipient of the North Carolina Justice Center's 2020 Defender of Justice Award for Litigation, the Duke Law Alumni Association's 2020 Charles S. Murphy Award for Civic Service, and Attorney General Josh Stein's Dogwood Award. She received her AB in Sociology from Princeton University, her Juris Doctor from Duke University School of Law and her master's in Business Administration from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. She is a mother who enjoys spending time with her active teenage daughters.

VICTOR DEMPSEY



 @lamdelrawnsml
 Victor Dempsey

Victor Dempsey serves as a Community Organizer at the LDF. Prior to joining LDF, Mr. Dempsey was a Community Organizer for the Legal Aid Society's Community Justice Unit. Victor who is Formerly incarcerated and gang involved has been a voice within the community and neighborhoods over policed. At the heart of Mr. Dempsey's advocacy and activism is the tragic loss of his brother, Delrawn Small, who was killed at the hands of an off-duty police officer in Brooklyn, New York on July 4, 2016. As victims of police brutality, Mr. Dempsey and his family found themselves in a fearless pursuit of justice. They began working with organizations devoted to ending police violence, speaking out at public events and demonstrations to help raise awareness to Delrawn's case while also shining a light on the underlying social injustices plaguing this country. Mr. Dempsey and his family are still fighting for justice in Delrawn's case but believes that "standing in solidarity with other families who had suffered police brutality helps strengthen their collective call for justice."

Mr. Dempsey's advocacy has a national scope as he continues to assist and support other families and their communities impacted by police violence. To this end, he co-founded Families Are The Frontlines, a support and advocacy group composed of families impacted by police brutality. He is devoted to telling his life story to inspire positive structural change for all people. Mr. Dempsey's activism extends beyond police brutality and includes building and/or supporting numerous coalition such as the dismantling of the NYPD gang database, Automatic Expungement (Clean Slate New York), and the Safer New York Act.

PROGRAM Participants

JOSH DUBIN



 @dubin.josh

A nationally renowned civil rights lawyer, Josh Dubin is the Executive Director of the Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice at Cardozo Law (PCLJ). The PCLJ works to free the wrongfully incarcerated, and individuals serving unjust sentences. The Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice builds on the decades-long success of Cardozo's Forensic Science College. Four of the PCLJ's clients were released from a combined 125 years of wrongful incarceration last year.

Josh Dubin also the president of Dubin Research and Consulting, Inc. (DRC), a Manhattan-based consulting firm that specializes in jury selection, persuasive visual aids, and trial strategy for complex civil and criminal matters. Josh is regarded as perhaps the most preeminent trial strategy and jury consultant in the nation, having earned high praise from some of the most accomplished members of both the civil and criminal bars. An attorney and member of the Florida Bar, Josh regularly works with some of the most successful attorneys and law firms in the country.

Over the past 25 years, Josh has assisted with jury selection, witness preparation, and trial strategy on a wide range of high-profile criminal and civil cases across the country.

ABC's 20/20 regarded Josh as the "leading jury and legal consultant on major criminal and civil cases. He has written thousands of voir dire questions, watched hundreds of jury members file into courtrooms around the country, and is often sought by top-tier defense attorneys and plaintiffs' attorneys for his advice on jury selection, trial strategy and presenting the facts."

He co-authored a book entitled *The Law of Juries for Thomson Reuters*, who referred to him as a "master strategist" and "secret weapon." His co-author, former United States Federal Judge Nancy Gertner, praised him by saying "he completely masters the details of the case, and brings to bear not only legal analysis, but also the teachings of social psychology, his multiple areas of expertise."

DR. MICHAEL ERIC DYSON



✕ @michaeledyson
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f @michaelericdyson

Michael Eric Dyson is one of the nation's most renowned professors, gifted writers, inspiring preachers, knowledgeable lecturers and prominent media personalities. As a teacher who earned a Ph. D. in Religion from Princeton University, Dyson has taught at some of the nation's most distinguished universities, including Brown, UNC Chapel Hill, Columbia, DePaul, the University of Pennsylvania, and Georgetown University. He is presently Distinguished University Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies, College of Arts & Science, and Distinguished University Professor of Ethics and Society, The Divinity School, and Centennial Professor at Vanderbilt University. Dyson is one of America's premier public intellectuals and author of over 20 books, including seven New York Times bestsellers, and is a political analyst for MSNBC. He has won two NAACP Image Awards and an American Book Award, and last year was awarded the Langston Hughes Medal.

As a preacher and sometime pastor for more than 40 years, Dyson has mounted many of the nation's most noted pulpits to deliver sermons, including, most recently, the Washington National Cathedral where Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his last Sunday sermon. Dyson has lectured across the country, and around the world, in many of the best colleges and universities, and in public theaters and auditoriums, and for many corporations and unions. He has also served for the last 30 years as a media commentator – and occasionally host – on every major radio and television show. While feminist author Naomi Wolf calls Dyson “the ideal public intellectual of our times,” writer Nathan McCall captures it best when he says that Dyson “is a street fighter in suit and tie.”

PROGRAM **Participants**

LAURA EVANS



 @LevansTweets
 @LEVANSGrams
 lauraaevansgov

Laura Evans leads Public Policy & Government Affairs for Vibrant Emotional Health, a nationally recognized mental health organization that provides innovative community based programming and serves as the administrator of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. In this role, Laura oversees a policy portfolio that includes federal and state appropriations, telecommunications, healthcare financing, health equity, mental health, and suicide prevention. As the inaugural leader of Vibrant's Public Policy & Government Affairs Department, the organization's footprint has expanded into and across states, territories, and federal policy arenas. Laura has served on a number of committees, task forces, and boards, including the Women in Government Relations State Relations Task Force and the Mental Health America's Regional Policy Council. Her voice and work have been featured in the media including The New York Times, *Tradeoffs* podcast, and as a regular host for the "988 Crisis Jam." Laura is proud to have begun her career in the Ohio Legislature.

FAT JOE



✕ @fatjoe
📷 @fatjoe
f Fat Joe
📺 FatJoeVEVO

Fat Joe is a Grammy-nominated recording artist, author, actor, entrepreneur, philanthropist and media personality that hails from the Bronx, New York. With an acclaimed career that has spanned three different decades, Joe has cemented his legacy as a hip-hop heavyweight, having amassed several multiplatinum and gold studio albums, mixtapes, singles and collaborations, including “Lean Back,” “What’s Luv,” “Make It Rain,” and “All The Way Up,” among countless others.

Beyond his unprecedented longevity, Joe – who is of Puerto Rican and Cuban descent – helped play an integral role in bridging the intersection of hip-hop and Latin music, collaborating with Gloria Estefan, Thalía, Ricky Martin, etc. Joe has also displayed an eye for discovering and developing new talent, having signed the likes of DJ Khaled, Big Pun, Remy Ma and more to his Terror Squad label imprint.

Most recently, Joe reinvented himself into a media personality, having hosted the 2022 BET Hip-Hop Awards as well as episodes of *The Drew Barrymore Show* and *The Wendy Williams Show*. His pivot into media began in 2020, when he launched “The Fat Joe Show,” an Instagram Live talk-show where he interviewed a wide array of guests such as Dr. Anthony Fauci, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Floyd Mayweather, Jamie Foxx, etc. Those experiences ultimately paved the way for Joe to get his own show on STARZ that will launch in 2023 and be executive produced by Sean “Diddy” Combs and LeBron James.

The Bronx native recently expanded his résumé and became an author in November 2022, releasing his memoir, *The Book of Jose*, which pulled back the curtains on the trials, tribulations and triumphs throughout his personal life and professional career. Joe’s acclaimed memoir is in the process of being converted into a television series on Showtime that will be executive produced by Kenya Barris.

He has shined in acting roles, most notably starring alongside Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish in *Night School* as well as in Spike Lee’s *She’s Gotta Have It* Netflix series. He is also slated to star alongside Susan Sarandon in an animated comedy series called *The Movers* that is currently in development at FOX.

Joe is also the owner and founder of three UP NYC stores in New York City, which sells exclusive sneakers from brands such as Jordan and Nike as well as sports apparel, caps, etc.

In 2022, he also teamed up with the New York City Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City to create the Bronx Relief Fund and raise over \$1 million for families impacted by the tragic Bronx apartment fire at Twin Parks North-West.

PROGRAM **Participants**

BROOKE FOYLES



Brooke Foyles is a senior nursing major who currently attends Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. At her university, Brooke serves in many roles, namely the Student Government Association President. She is also the Vice President of the Always Divine Alpha Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated at Morgan State.

Brooke has been committed to making change and uplifting her community. Since the age of 14, she has been working to fight for equity in different sectors of education and the safety of students. As she elevated throughout high school and college she was able to connect with numerous organizations to make an impact on her community.

Brooke's community involvement includes an NAACP member, a free scholarship advisor, an elder under The Council of Elders of Howard County, the former Young Adults Director for the NAACP Maryland State Conference, and an Alumni committee chairperson for the Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel.

While immersed in community evolution Brooke has still kept her eyes set on the prize, her nursing profession. She hopes to graduate from Morgan State and become a labor and delivery nurse with a focus on black maternal health and the injustices that occur. She also wishes to champion awareness and rights for sickle cell patients.

Brooke Foyles is an activist, leader, and servant to her community who is committed to ensuring that the future looks brighter.

JUDGE KAREN FRIEDMAN



Karen Friedman joins the Bureau of Justice Assistance as a Presidential appointee to the newly created position of Director of Criminal Justice Innovation, Development, and Engagement.

Karen comes to us after serving over 20 years as a member of the Maryland Judiciary sitting in Baltimore. In that capacity she served on every level of trial court and completed her service on the Baltimore City Circuit Court, the highest trial court in the state. She headed Baltimore's drug treatment court and sat on the judiciary's Equal Justice Commission's sentencing subcommittee.

Karen is known in Baltimore for her expertise on the intersection of criminal justice with behavioral health as well as for her innovative approach to sentencing and probation. She is looking forward to using the wealth of knowledge gained on the bench in Baltimore to help improve the lives of those affected by the criminal justice system.

PROGRAM **Participants**

LT. GOV. GARLIN GILCHRIST II



 @LtGovGilchrist

 @ltgovgilchrist

Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist has dedicated his career to solving problems. An engineer by training, he uses thoughtful and fact-based practices to solve real problems and make government work better for Michigan families.

As part of the Whitmer Administration, Lt. Governor Gilchrist has focused on helping Michiganders in communities across our state realize their full economic and political potential. From co-chairing the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration, to helping the Michigan COVID-19 Task Force on Racial Disparities, to leading efforts to connect over 23,000 unserved locations in Michigan to affordable high-speed internet, Lt. Governor Gilchrist is committed to building a more just, equitable, prosperous, and connected Michigan where everyone can thrive.

Lt. Governor Gilchrist and his wife, Ellen, reside in Detroit where they are raising their twins, Emily and Garlin III, and daughter, Ruby.

DERRICK HAMILTON



For more than 20 years, Derrick Hamilton struggled to survive in prison, bouncing from one correctional facility to another and enduring lengthy stays in solitary confinement.

As a man who claimed innocence despite his conviction, Hamilton was also forced to navigate the complicated waters of the legal system, one tortuous appeal at a time. He resorted to the only person who could effectively and tirelessly champion his cause in the courts: himself.

"The law saved my life," Hamilton explained in a profile piece in the New Yorker. "That was the one thing I could become fixated upon every day when I woke up and when I went to sleep."

After earning his high-school equivalency diploma and taking a class on legal research during his time at the Elmira Correctional Facility, Hamilton began studying in the prison's law library, eventually teaching himself enough criminal law to become "one of the most skilled jailhouse lawyers in the country." When he wasn't embedded in the details of his own case, however, Hamilton would also lend help to his fellow inmates, guiding them to passages in legal texts that were relevant to their own cases.

Hamilton was eventually paroled and his case has since been vacated and dismissed after the Brooklyn District Attorney's Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) concluded that he was innocent of all charges. Today, he teaches Cardozo law students in the Perlmutter Freedom Clinic how to work to the highest standards in defending clients who have been wrongfully convicted or are seeking clemency for unfairly long prison sentences.

PROGRAM **Participants**

DANROY "DAN" HENRY SR.



Danroy Henry Sr "Dan" is a seasoned senior executive, values leader and public speaker. He has chaired multiple boards including his current role as Chair of the DJ Henry Dream Fund. His thoughtful leadership has been shared in speeches throughout the USA and Europe. Dan is an artist, poet, designer and businessman.

JESSICA JACKSON



 @jessicajackson

 @jessicajackson

Jessica Jackson's quest for justice began in a Georgia courtroom. The high-school dropout held her two-month-old daughter and watched helplessly as her husband was sentenced to six years in prison. At that moment, she decided to turn her shock into a crusade to change the justice system. As a single mother, she graduated from college and law school. Today she is leading the bipartisan movement to end excessive incarceration.

Jessica's specialty is bringing political rivals together to pass bills considered "impossible." As the bill's main advocate, she led the drive to pass 2018's "First Step Act." The New York Times called the law "the most substantial justice reform in a generation;" it has already helped free more than 7,000 people.

While leading her national initiative, #cut50, Jessica helped ban the shackling of jailed pregnant women in 14 states. Her "Dignity for Incarcerated Women" campaign enlisted formerly incarcerated women and dozens of celebrities to deepen the focus on women's issues.

At the helm of #cut50, Jessica built the biggest national grassroots network for bipartisan reform, #cut50's Empathy Network. She also produced the first-ever Bipartisan Criminal Justice Summit, attracting leaders as diverse as Newt Gingrich and the then-Attorney General Eric Holder.

Jessica has not only led on the national level but was also elected the youngest-ever Mayor of Mill Valley, California. Today, she helps lead the REFORM Alliance, an organization where she is continuing her work to end mass incarceration and mass supervision.

Jessica turned her hopelessness into hope for millions.

PROGRAM **Participants**

NY AG LETITIA JAMES



@newyorkstateag

Letitia “Tish” James is the 67th Attorney General for the State of New York. With decades of experience and a long record of achievements, she is a powerful, effective attorney and lifelong public servant. When she was elected in 2018, she became the first woman of color to hold statewide office in New York and the first woman to be elected Attorney General.

In her first term, Attorney General James focused on protecting vulnerable New York residents and ensuring that individuals or companies that broke state laws were held accountable. She secured more than \$7.5 billion for New York from those who broke state laws and took advantage of New Yorkers, including more than \$2.5 billion from opioid manufacturers and distributors for their roles in the opioid epidemic. Under her leadership, the Office of the Attorney General helped remove more than 4,000 guns from New York communities, took down dozens of dangerous drug and gun trafficking rings throughout the state, and took legal action to stop the proliferation of ghost guns.

Attorney General James took on predatory landlords who harassed tenants and endangered children by violating New York’s lead paint laws. She protected New Yorkers’ health and the state’s natural resources by going after polluters and companies that flouted environmental protection laws. Attorney General James stood up for vulnerable populations by going all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to stop a question about citizenship from being added to the census and successfully protecting DACA.

She has been a national leader in the fight to defend access to reproductive health care, leading dozens of legal actions across the country to protect and expand access to this lifesaving care. Attorney General James also stood up against corruption and took strong action against officials who broke New York laws or workplace protection measure, regardless of their status or political affiliation.

Before serving as Attorney General, Letitia James was the Public Advocate for the City of New York. When she was elected in 2013, she became the first woman of color to hold citywide office. As Public Advocate, her office passed more legislation than all previous Public Advocates combined, including a groundbreaking law that banned questions about salary history from the employment process to address the pervasive gender wage gap. Prior to serving as Public Advocate, Letitia James represented the 35th Council District in Brooklyn in the New York City Council for ten years. As a Council Member, she passed the Safe Housing Act, legislation that forced landlords to improve living conditions for tenants in New York City’s worst buildings. Before her election to the City Council, Letitia James was head of the Brooklyn Regional Office of the New York State Attorney General’s Office.

Letitia James began her career as a public defender at the Legal Aid Society. A proud Brooklynite, she is a graduate of Lehman College and Howard University School of Law.

DEON JONES



 @deontjones

 @deontjones

Deon Jones is a performance artist with one of the most important voices of his generation. In 2020, Deon created his first major recording project —a powerful rendition of U2's "Sunday Bloody Sunday" in collaboration with Academy Award and GRAMMY Awards winning composer Jon Batiste after being shot by police in the face with a rubber bullet during the 2020 summer protests. And, earlier this year, Deon made history and set a nationwide precedent when he became the first person to win in federal court against the LAPD in relation to excessive force during the protests in *Jones v. City of Los Angeles*.

Off the heels of the release of his single, "Revival," Deon is currently developing a one man show for the theater exploring the space in between self discovery and personal liberation that is at war with dominant society. Selling out concert halls at major museums such as the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) and captivating audiences at the AT&T Center in San Antonio, PACE Gallery, Frieze Art Fair & Art Basel, Deon has been hailed by Rolling Stone Magazine as "transformative" and by The Boston Globe as "a performer with clarifying power." Named one of the most influential Black Americans in the country by EBONY Magazine as part of their annual POWER 100 list, Deon's blend of soul and rock fosters a creative verve that raises you to your feet and extends them way above the ground.

PROGRAM **Participants**

JAY JORDAN



 @misterjayjordan
 @misterjayjordan
 Jay Jordan

Jay Jordan, a distinguished public policy expert and social good strategist, has profoundly influenced public safety reform, contributing to over 50 legislative and budgetary victories that have impacted 12 million people and reallocated more than \$1 billion from jails and prisons to community programs.

His journey in advocacy, shaped by personal challenges with employment and housing due to his past, led him to the Alliance for Safety and Justice, where he co-founded TimeDone marking its launch with an iconic concert headlined by Nipsey Hussle and Mysonne, a move that perfectly married advocacy with cultural influence. Under his leadership, TimeDone grew to 200,000 members, symbolizing a significant shift in public engagement and policy reform. In a landmark achievement, Jay and his fellow co-founders overhauled California's expungement laws – the very laws that once obstructed their own paths. Their relentless efforts have now opened the doors of opportunity for every Californian seeking expungement.

Jay played a crucial role in ballot campaigns, including the instrumental success of Prop 57 and leading the charge to defeat the regressive ballot Prop 20, showcasing his strategic prowess in influencing public opinion and policy.

His work has attracted significant media attention, with appearances and features in The New York Times, The Guardian, The Hill, and on platforms like The Breakfast Club and The Problem with Jon Stewart, underscoring his role as a prominent voice in justice reform. Jay Jordan's story is not just one of personal triumph but also a testament to the power of determined advocacy in effecting systemic change.

AIDAN KOHN-MURPHY



 @AidanKohnMurphy
 @AidanKohnMurphy
 @AidanPleaseStopTalking

Aidan Kohn-Murphy is a 19-year-old political organizer, born and raised in Washington D.C., and now a freshman at Harvard University. Dubbed “an unlikely leader of America’s largest and fastest-growing progressive media empire” by Politico, he is the Founder of Gen-Z for Change and served as Executive Director for almost two years before transitioning to his current role as Board Chair. Aidan has nearly 300,000 followers on TikTok and was selected as a member of the Forbes 30 under 30 Class of 2023. He is a member of the REFORM Alliance’s Future Shapers Advisory Council.

PROGRAM Participants

MYSONNE LINEN



Mysonne “the General” is an independent hip hop artist and criminal justice reform activist from the Bronx whose singular work with impacted communities has made extraordinary contributions to stopping violence. As Paul Robeson said “Artists are the gatekeepers of truth. They are civilization’s radical voice”. And nobody uses their radical voice more effectively, or more impactfully than Mysonne.

As a member of the rapid response group Justice League NYC, and in his role as a valued member of Women’s March, Mysonne helped lead national demonstrations against police brutality and gun violence, including leading the 250 mile March2Justice from New York to Washington, DC in 2015 and organizing the Women’s March NRA2DOJ march in 2018. More recently, Mysonne founded the KINGS STOP KILLING KINGS Movement to honor the late Nipsey Hussle, which works with gang leaders to negotiate peace truces in communities ravaged by violence. So far the Kings marches have taken place in the Bronx, Newark and Baltimore, and have led to historic gang violence reduction in those cities.

Mysonne is also the Founder of RAISING KINGS, a program he built for youth and adults inside prisons and schools. Mysonne’s message of personal determination, self respect, nonviolence and racial equity has made such tremendous impact, that the program is now running in 3 schools and in Rikers, through a collaboration with the acclaimed peace organization Life Camp, Inc.

And Mysonne is the Co-Founder of UNTIL FREEDOM, an intersectional social and racial justice organization led by diverse people to address systemic racial injustice. With Until Freedom, Mysonne has led efforts to get justice for Breonna Taylor, including relocating to Louisville in the summer of 2020 to build community unity around a justice strategy with local activists and elected leaders and Breonna’s family; #FreeMeekMill and fight for justice for Chikesia Clemons, Atatiana Jefferson, and more victims of police violence and oppression.

Mysonne has also been on the frontlines of prison reform, working most recently in Mississippi, organizing with the families of victims of the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman. He is a valued member of the United Justice Coalition, a vibrant network of industry leaders, media professionals, artists, organizers and more brought together in partnership by Roc Nation.

In 2020 in the midst of the pandemic, Mysonne developed the Boycott Black Murder initiative to stop violence and the glorification of violence in Black and Brown communities. The initiative has included in-school programming and community programs in Newark, New Jersey, Louisville, Kentucky, Las Vegas, Nevada, Baltimore, Maryland and across the 5 boroughs of New York City.

Mysonne is the author of two children’s books, *I Know My Rights* published in 2021 and *Raising Kings: 10 Principles of Manhood*, published in September 2023.

TAMIKA MALLORY



 @TamikaDMallory

 @tamikadmallory

 TDMallory

Tamika D. Mallory is a nationally recognized civil rights activist and seasoned community organizer. She served as the youngest ever Executive Director of the National Action Network. Mallory was the co-chair of the Women's March on Washington, the largest single day demonstration in US history. She most recently gave what has been dubbed "the speech of a generation" – State of Emergency in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. She is an expert in the areas of gun violence prevention, criminal justice reform, and grassroots organizing.

PROGRAM **Participants**

VIOLET MARTIN



Violet Martin is a native of Wyandotte County in Kansas City, Kansas. A wife and mother of 5 children. Violet acquired her Associates of Applied Science Degree in 2005. In 1997, Violet's brother Brian Betts and cousin Celester McKinney were wrongfully convicted of 1st Degree Murder and sentenced to 25 years to life. At this time Violet was 15 years old. The impact of Violet's family suffering this injustice defined her at that moment. "I never wanted another family to experience what my family went through. I would never accept being a victim, nor stop using my voice to help others from being bullied by this corrupt legal system."

Mrs. Martin is an Executive Board Member for the MORE2 (Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity), and also a Community Leader for the Wyandotte County Task Force since 2021. Since joining MORE2 in 2021, Violet has been very proactive in Leadership Training, Organizing Rallies, Public Speaking Events, Parole Board Hearings and Public Interviews with the media. Throughout her leadership Violet continues to bring awareness to corruptness of the Kansas City Police Department and the former Prosecution of Wyandotte County.

CRYSTAL MASON



@Crystalmasonthefight



Crystal Mason The Fight

Crystal Mason is the founder of Crystal Mason The Fight Against Voter Suppression foundation. She has a personal story of trials, tribulation and triumph and through that story, she has become the face of Voter's Suppression. In 2016, Crystal did what any noble American would do, she cast her vote at the ballot box hoping to be the change that she wants to see. Instead, she was given a five-year prison sentence after casting a provisional ballot that was ultimately rejected in the 2016 election.

Crystal is adored by her family, friends and colleagues. She is a mother, grandmother and successful business owner. If asked who she is, Crystal will tell you; "I am a rehabilitated felon that believes in second chances."

Crystal's vision for her foundation is clear and concise. Her mission and strategy is built upon networking and working with other organizations on areas such as prison reform and felons who are transitioning back into the world; specifically education and guidance as it relates to their voting rights. Crystal wants to ensure they know when they can vote, why they need to vote and the importance of voting. Crystal has hosted numerous events across the state of Texas using tactics such as round tables, rallies, and open floor discussions on ballot candidates. She stressed the importance of voters understanding who they are voting for with a good grasp on policy interpretation. Crystals motto in this fight reads "You are not defined by the word felon; you have a voice and with Crystal Mason the Fight your voice will be heard."

PROGRAM **Participants**

XAVIER MCELRATH-BEY



 @nochildbornbad
 @theCFSY
 @nochildbornbad
 @theCFSY
 Xavier McElrath-Bey

Xavier McElrath Bey is a champion for the human rights of incarcerated children. Through his work as the Executive Director of the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth (CFSY) and a Co-Founder of the Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network (ICAN), Xavier fights to abolish "life without parole" for children in America. During his earlier years at the Campaign, Xavier played a crucial role in ending this practice in several states—including Nevada, Utah, Arkansas, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

Xavier's passion for this work stems from personal experience. At the age of 13, Xavier was "charged as an adult" for a first-degree gang-related murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison. After serving 13 years in prison, Xavier came out with a remorseful heart, a bachelor's degree, and a mission to advocate for poor, disadvantaged, and at-risk youth.

Soon after his release, Xavier earned a Master of Arts from Roosevelt University's Counseling and Human Services Program; and, since his graduation and prior to his current position at the CFSY, Xavier worked in gang intervention (CeaseFire), violence prevention (Catholic Charities), youth diversion (Alternatives, Inc.), and clinical research (Northwestern University) - looking at the mental health needs and outcomes of current and former incarcerated youth.

Currently, Xavier serves as a Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) Advisory Council Member at MacArthur Foundation, an Advisory Council Member at Eighth Amendment Project, an Ambassador Alumni with Represent Justice, and an Advisory Council Member at Fair Chance Initiative (FCI). Previously, Xavier served as a board member at the Community Justice for Youth Institute (CJYI) and as a member of the Chicago Police Accountability Task Force's (PATF) working group on Community and Police Relations.

In recent years, Xavier received the 2018 Justice Roundtable Excellence Award, the 2019 JustLeadershipUSA Leading with Conviction Award, the 2021 Bright Promises Foundation's Champion for Children Award, and the 2023 Juvenile Law Center Leadership Prize award.

Although Xavier's life has changed dramatically since he was a child in the justice system, it wasn't until 2016, when he met Pedro's family in a restorative justice healing circle, that he truly felt free from his troubled past. That day, Pedro's family forgave him and forged a relationship that continues until this day - encouraging him to continue his work.

In his powerful TEDx Talk, titled "No Child is Born Bad", Xavier reminds all of us that no child should ever receive a "death in prison" sentence; that all children, including those who have made terrible mistakes, have the capacity for positive change.

DESMOND MEADE



✕ @desmondmeade
@desmondmeade44
f desmondmeade44

Desmond Meade is a formerly homeless returning citizen who overcame many obstacles to eventually become the President of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC), Chair of Floridians for a Fair Democracy, a graduate of Miami Dade College, Florida International University College of Law, a Ford Global Fellow, and a 2021 MacArthur “Genius” Fellow.

Recognized by Time Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2019, Desmond presently leads efforts to empower and civically re-engage local communities across the state, and to reshape local, state, and national criminal justice policies. His work has resulted in being named Floridian and Central Floridian of the Year 2019.

As President and Executive Director of FRRRC, which was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2023 is recognized for its work on voting, criminal justice reform issues, and a historic victory in 2018 with the successful passage of Amendment 4, a grassroots citizen’s initiative which restored voting rights to over 1.4 million Floridians with past felony convictions. Amendment 4 represented the single largest expansion of voting rights in the United States in half a century and brought an end to 150 years of a Jim Crow-era law in Florida.

A sought-after speaker, Desmond has made numerous appearances on radio and television and has spoken before national organizations such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Bread for the World. Desmond has testified before Congressional members and staffers and was part of a delegation to the United Nations where he gave testimony regarding disenfranchisement in Florida. Desmond orchestrated a historic meeting at the White House between returning citizens and President Obama’s administration. Most recently, Desmond served as a Commissioner on the National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice which was co-chaired by former U.S. Attorney Generals Loretta Lynch and Alberto Gonzalez. He is also a member of the Council on Criminal Justice. He has appeared on numerous shows such as Al-Jazeera, Democracy NOW, MSNBC with Joy Ann Reid, FOX News with Dana Perino and Tucker Carlson, Samantha Bee, and All In with Chris Hayes. He is a guest columnist for the Huffington Post in which one of his articles about the death of Trayvon Martin garnered national attention. Desmond has been featured in several newspaper and magazine articles and was chosen as a “Game Changer” by Politic 365, as well as being recognized as a “Foot Soldier” on the *Melissa Harris-Perry Show* on MSNBC. Desmond is married and has five beautiful children.

PROGRAM Participants

MICHELLE MILLER



 @CBSMiller
 @CBSNewsPress
 @michellemiller29
 @CBSNewsPress

Michelle Miller is a co-host of *CBS Saturday Morning*. Her work regularly appears on *CBS Mornings*, *CBS Sunday Morning* and the *CBS Evening News*. She also files reports for *48 Hours* and anchors *CBS NEWS STREAMING's EYE ON AMERICA*.

Since joining CBS News in 2004, Miller has reported on stories of national and international importance. From presidential elections to the climate crisis, her area of coverage is wide-ranging, but her reporting around social justice has been particularly groundbreaking. From her coverage of the killings of George Floyd, Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown, to the nationwide outrage of the Emanuel 9 Massacre in Charleston, to sexual assault allegations against prominent celebrities,

Miller has been at the forefront of CBS News' coverage of the protest movement involving these issues. She was the first CBS News correspondent on the ground at the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and followed the movement to change the nation's gun laws, including the March for Our Lives protests. Her coverage has also extended overseas to the refugee crisis in the Middle East, the celebration and life of Nelson Mandela, the Coronation of Charles III and Camilla and Super Bowl 50.

Miller's reporting has earned her several prestigious journalism awards including an Emmy for her series of reports on the National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy, an Edward R Murrow for her coverage of a day care center stand-off in New Orleans, and she was part of the Alfred I. duPont – Columbia Award winning team for coverage the Newtown, Connecticut, school shooting. She won a Gracie Award for her 2019 report on the hidden world of sex trafficking in "48 Hours: Live to Tell: Trafficked" and again for her 2023 report on an NYPD detective who triumphed over domestic abuse and survived being shot 10 times in "48 Hours: Katrina Brownlee: The Good Cop."

She was honored at the 2023 Color Comm Circle Dinner

She also earned a Salute to Excellence Award from NABJ and was voted Woman of the Year by the National Sports Foundation. In 2014, TV Week named Miller as one of the "12 to watch in TV news."

Miller has interviewed global leaders, politicians, artists and

celebrities, including President Bill Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, former Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, Beyoncé, Tiffany Haddish, Angela Bassett, John Goodman, Tony Bennett, James Earl Jones, Lenny Kravitz, LL COOL J, Carlos Santana, Denzel Washington and violinist Yo-Yo Ma.

Her career in broadcast and print journalism includes work at the Los Angeles Times; the Star Tribune in Minneapolis; CBS affiliate WWL-TV in New Orleans; WIS-TV in Columbia, South Carolina; the Orange County News channel; and ABC News "Nightline" in Washington, D.C. Miller also taught journalism and mass communication at Dillard University in New Orleans.

In addition to her co-hosting and reporting duties, Miller is a board member for the School of American Ballet and Education Africa and has served on the March of Dimes National Communications Advisory Council. She is a member of the Greater New York Chapter of the Links, Inc., Jack & Jill of America and is a founding member of the Women's Leadership Initiative for the United Way of New Orleans. Previously, Miller served as vice president of the YWCA of Greater New Orleans and president of both the Black Journalists Association of Southern California and the New Orleans Association of Black Journalists. She is also a former member of the Board of Advisors at Hampton University's Scripps Howard School of Journalism.

Miller has participated in the Poynter Institute, was a Hitesman Lecturer at Louisiana State University's Manship School of Mass Communication, the Annual H. Naylor Fitzhugh Conference

at the Harvard Business School and a guest speaker for the National Model UN Program. She holds Honorary Degrees from St. Francis University and St. Peter's University, and was the Commencement Speaker at Tennessee State University and was awarded Distinguished Alum from both of her Alma maters, Howard University and The University of New Orleans.

Miller is also the author of the New York Times Best Seller *Belonging: A Daughter's Search for Identity Through Loss and Love*, a memoir which details Miller's deeply personal journey of confronting her past and finding her voice.

Miller earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Howard University and studied abroad in Kenya and Tanzania. Miller also holds a master's degree in urban studies from the University of New Orleans.

Miller is married with three children.

PROGRAM **Participants**

ZANDER MORICZ



 @zandermoricz

 @zandermoricz

Zander Moricz is the founder and Executive Director of the SEE (Social Equity through Education) Alliance, a coalition of thousands of grassroots organizers from across the United States most known for organizing the largest student-led protest in Florida's history. He is also a primary plaintiff in the Don't Say Gay Lawsuit against Governor Ron DeSantis and the state of Florida, on the Reform Alliance's Future Shaper Advisory Council, Florida Democratic Party Youth Council, Revolve College Council, and Boxser Diversity Initiative Advisory Board.

Zander and SEE's activism have reached over 1 billion people in 101 countries. In response to SEE's explosive growth, Zander has taken a leave from Harvard to lead the Alliance in organizing actions, registering youth voters, and in opening SEE Spaces. Zander's activism has been written about in the Washington Post, Rolling Stone, Teen Vogue, The Hill, Politico, Vice, The Independent, USA Today, People Magazine, ABC, the Boston Globe, and NBC. He has also given commentary repeatedly on Good Morning America, CNN, and MSNBC.

In addition to being one of Seventeen's Voices of the Year, Zander is one of GLAAD's 20 under 20, one of Axios' Power Players, LGBTQ Nation's Hero of 2022, the Stonewall National Museum and Archives Leader of Tomorrow, one of Into Magazine's 20 under 20, WST Alliance's Inaugural Creative Activism Award recipient, the Spirit of Matthew Shepard Award recipient, Anti-Defamation League's Kay Family Award recipient, the Standing Strong Award recipient, Equality Florida's Voice of Equality Award recipient, and the recipient of Equality Forum's Frank Kameny award.

JARAD NAVA



Jarad Nava 28 years old. Was sentenced to 162 years to life for a crime he committed at the age of 17. At the age of 19 turned his life over to Jesus. Obtained an AA degree in business and technology. His sentence was commuted in 2020 by Governor Gavin Newsom to 10 years to life. After that he came home December 22, 2020. He now works for the senate Public Safety Committee and is pursuing his bachelors in Criminal Justice at Sacramento State University.

PROGRAM **Participants**

AMNA NAWAZ



@IAmAmnaNawaz



@amnaonpbs

Amna Nawaz serves as co-anchor of PBS NewsHour. Prior to joining PBS NewsHour in April 2018, Nawaz was an anchor and correspondent at ABC News, anchoring breaking news coverage and leading the network's live stream coverage of the 2016 presidential election. Before that, she served as foreign correspondent and Islamabad Bureau Chief at NBC News. She is also the founder and former managing editor of NBC's Asian America platform, built in 2014, to elevate stories from America's fastest-growing and most diverse population.

At the NewsHour, Nawaz has reported from the White House, across the country, and around the world on a range of topics including politics, immigration, foreign affairs, education, gun violence, criminal justice reform, the climate, culture, and sports.

She also serves as an NBC News and MSNBC contributor.

Throughout her career, she has covered major events such as the January 6th attacks on the U.S. Capitol; the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas; the elections and inaugurations of President Joe Biden, President Donald J. Trump, and President Barack Obama; Hurricane Katrina; the 2010 Haiti earthquake; the U.S. war in Afghanistan; and the September 11th attacks.

Nawaz has interviewed multiple heads of state and international leaders including Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett. She has interviewed numerous lawmakers and administration officials, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. Nawaz has also interviewed newsmakers across industries, including acclaimed director Ava Duvernay, actor Riz Ahmed, WNBA star Sue Bird, and country singer Reba McEntire.

Nawaz was part of NewsHour's team honored with a Peabody Award in 2023 for its coverage of the gun violence epidemic in America, including her on-the-ground coverage of the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. She was also part of the team honored with a Peabody Award in 2022 for NewsHour's coverage of the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Nawaz previously won a Peabody for her documentary work on 2019's *The Plastic Problem*, examining global plastic pollution and efforts to address it. Her other documentaries include *Raising the Future*, a 2021 documentary on America's childcare crisis; and 2022's *Life After Lockup*, which followed the lives of four formerly-incarcerated people to track the challenges of re-entry after prison.

In 2020, Nawaz hosted a criminal justice podcast, *Broken Justice*, which was named a finalist for the Silver Gavel Awards, honoring work that fosters the American public's understanding of law and the legal system. She also hosted 2021's *The Longest Year*, a pandemic-focused podcast series on the many ways Covid-19 changed Americans' lives.

Nawaz has hosted three seasons of the primetime PBS series, *Beyond the Canvas*, featuring profiles and interviews of some of the world's leading artists, musicians, and creators.

In 2019, Nawaz became the first Asian American and the first Muslim American to moderate a presidential debate.

While at ABC News, Nawaz hosted the documentary, *Roberts County: A Year in the Most Pro-Trump Town*, following four families' lives over President Trump's first year in office. She also hosted the podcast series, *Uncomfortable* for ABC News Radio, featuring in-depth, one-on-one conversations with thought leaders on the issues dividing America.

While at NBC News, she was the first foreign journalist to gain access to North Waziristan – then the global hub of Al Qaida and the Taliban - while pregnant with her first daughter.

Nawaz was a Fall 2021 Fellow at Georgetown University's Institute of Politics and Public Service. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Asian American Journalists Association, the South Asian Journalists Association, and the Inter-American Dialogue.

In 2023, Nawaz was named an A100 honoree by Gold House. She was the recipient of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies' Vision Award and the Media Award from the Muslim Affairs Public Council's Media Award in 2022. She has also been honored with the American Muslim Institution's Excellence in Media Award in 2018 and an Emmy award as part the 2009 NBC News Special "Inside the Obama White House."

She is the first-generation American daughter of Pakistani parents, born and raised in Virginia. Nawaz earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where she captained the varsity field hockey team and studied abroad at the University of Zimbabwe. She later earned her master's degree from the London School of Economics.

She lives with her husband, Paul, and their two daughters in the Washington, D.C. area.

PROGRAM **Participants**

SOLEDAD O'BRIEN



@soledadobrien



@soledadobrien

Soledad O'Brien is an award-winning documentarian, journalist, speaker, author, and philanthropist, and founder of Soledad O'Brien Productions, a media production company dedicated to telling empowering and authentic stories on a range of social issues. She anchors and produces *Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien*, a Hearst political magazine program seen in 95% of the country. She is a correspondent for HBO Real Sports. was inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of fame in May 2023.

Soledad has a national impact through her op-eds, social media, speeches and books, including her critically acclaimed memoir *The Next Big Story* and her 1.3 million Twitter followers. She gave Congressional testimony on media disinformation. She has anchored shows and specials on CNN, MSNBC and NBC's Today Show, Nat Geo, BET, ABC, and CBS.

Soledad O'Brien Productions' most recent projects include the Peabody-Award winning documentary, *The Rebellious Life of Rosa Parks* which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and streams on Peacock, and the multi-part series *Black and Missing*, which won the Independent Spirit and NAACP awards and streams on HBO. Other productions have appeared on Discovery Plus, CNN, BET, PBS, and others. She also works with major foundations, like Ford and Gates, to produce impactful documentaries on topics like hunger, race and education..

O'Brien's work has been recognized with four Emmy awards, three times with the George Foster Peabody Award, four times with the Gracie Award, which honors women in media, twice with Cine Awards for her work in documentary films and with an Alfred I. DuPont Award.

She founded the PowHerful foundation in 2011 which has helped dozens of young women get to and through college and connects with thousands of others through regional mentoring conferences.

NICOLE PAULTRE BELL



 @RealNicoleBell

Nicole Paultre Bell is an advocate for social justice and mental well being. She is a mother, and a national symbol for the pursuit of justice for Sean Bell.

Nicole is a published author and has been featured as a key speaker on several outlets including national television networks such as CNN, MSNBC, BET and more. Nicole has dedicated over a decade of her life's work towards non-profit and community organizing.

Nicole is a former NYC council candidate. She rallied alongside Hillary Clinton with the "Mothers of the movement" for Clinton's 2016 race to become President of the United States. Nicole has served as a member of the Queens District Attorney's 2019 Transition Committee and currently serves as a member of the Queens DA's advisory board.

Nicole has lobbied for legislative change within the NYPD by testifying before the U.S. Senate, and in 2021, Nicole testified before the United Nations - International commission of inquiry on Police violence in the U.S. Her testimony is now a part of American history.

Today, Nicole continues to advocate for social change, civil rights, as well as mental health coping mechanisms for grief.

PROGRAM **Participants**

CARMEN PEREZ-JORDAN



Carmen Perez-Jordan is a renowned and influential figure in the realm of civil rights and feminist advocacy, recognized globally for her transformative work. As President & CEO of The Gathering for Justice, she spearheads initiatives aimed at ending child incarceration and eliminating racial inequalities in the justice system. Her leadership extends to co-founding Justice League NYC and Justice League CA, both pivotal task forces committed to driving criminal justice reform and police accountability.

In 2017, Carmen co-chaired the historic Women's March on Washington, a monumental event that mobilized over 5 million participants worldwide, marking a significant moment in social activism history. Her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to empowerment are further exemplified through her co-founding

of Poderistas, a platform dedicated to amplifying Latina voices.

Carmen's influence and expertise are sought after in prestigious circles. She serves on the Advisory Board of Monogram and Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos. Her thought leadership has graced stages and institutions such as the Academy, The World Forum, and renowned universities including Notre Dame, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford and more, providing enlightening discourses on pertinent social issues.

Her accolades are numerous and noteworthy. Carmen has been recognized as the Latina of The Year and featured on Forbes Mexico's list of Most Powerful Women, showcasing her significant influence in the Hispanic community and beyond. Additionally, her global impact is highlighted by her inclusion in Fortune's Top 50 World Leaders and TIME's 100 Most Influential People. Her multifaceted accomplishments have also led to her being honored as a Glamour Woman of the Year. Carmen's insights and contributions have consistently attracted the attention of leading media outlets including Forbes, TIME, MSNBC, and Univision, cementing her role as a prominent and respected voice in the landscape of modern social and civil discourse.

Beyond her professional triumphs, Carmen cherishes her role as a mother, which she considers her most beloved and rewarding title. She balances her distinguished career with the joys and challenges of raising two young children, embodying the essence of a modern, impactful leader and advocate.

NICOLE D. PORTER



 @nicoleporter

 @nicoleporter

Named a “New Civil Rights Leader” by Essence Magazine for her work to challenge mass incarceration, Nicole D. Porter manages The Sentencing Project’s state and local advocacy efforts on sentencing reform, voting rights, and confronting racial disparities in the criminal legal system. Since joining The Sentencing Project in 2009, Porter’s advocacy and findings have supported criminal legal reforms in several states including Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, California, Texas and the District of Columbia.

Porter’s areas of expertise include research and grassroots support around challenging racial disparities, felony disenfranchisement, in addition to prison closures and prison reuse. Her research has been cited in several major media outlets including Salon and the Washington Post,

and she has appeared in The New York Times, Washington Post, and on National Public Radio and MSNBC. Porter has also been invited to speak on state sentencing policy, collateral consequences, and racial disparity to various audiences including the League of Women Voters, NAACP, and the United Methodist Women’s Assembly and on Capitol Hill. She has authored reports highlighting ballot access for people detained in jails, state prison closures and declining prison populations, in addition to articles on the collateral impacts of justice involvement on communities of color and how current social movements are challenging mass incarceration.

Porter is the former director of the Texas ACLU’s Prison & Jail Accountability Project (PJAP) where she advocated in the Texas legislature to promote felony enfranchisement reforms, eliminate prison rape, and improve prison medical care.

Porter received her undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin. Her master’s thesis addressed exploring self employment among formerly incarcerated African Americans. She also studied African politics at the University of Ghana, West Africa.

PROGRAM **Participants**

JASON PYE

 @pye

Jason Pye is the director of rule of law initiatives for the Due Process Institute. He joined Due Process Institute in 2021, bringing many years of lobbying experience to the team. Jason's views on criminal legal reform are partially formed by his own life experiences, the advocacy work he has done, and his libertarian and limited government convictions. He has worked on several pieces of legislation that have become law, including the First Step Act and the Fair Chance Act. Prior to joining the Due Process Institute, Jason was the vice president for legislative affairs for FreedomWorks, a libertarian-leaning conservative advocacy organization.

RASHAD ROBINSON



 @rashadrobinson
@colorofchange
 @iamrashadrobinson

Rashad Robinson is President of Color Of Change, a racial justice organization with more than 7 million members who demonstrate the power of Black communities every single day. Color Of Change uses innovative strategies to bring about lasting change in systems and sectors that affect Black people's lives. Under Rashad's leadership, Color Of Change has developed winning strategies for leading the \$7 billion advertiser boycott of Facebook, changing how crime, policing and race are represented on TV, winning net neutrality as a civil rights issue, and holding decision-makers accountable to Black communities — from local prosecutors to multinational corporations. Rashad's analysis, advocacy and activism are featured frequently in a wide range of major media and community media. He also regularly serves as a keynote speaker at events across the country, won a Webby Award for Best Political Podcast, has been a speaker at roundtables convened by both Oprah Winfrey and President Obama, has received several other awards and has authored several published works related to social change. He testified to Congress about regulating Big Tech corporations, and about ensuring racial equity in banking, housing and education, served as Co-Chair of the Aspen Commission on Information Disorder and sits on the board of the Marguerite Casey Foundation.

PROGRAM Participants

ANGELA RYE



 @angela_rye

 @angelarye

Angela Rye, award-winning host, social justice advocate, lawyer, commentator, and self-described empowermenteur, embodies what it means to be a “bringer of truth.” Named and raised accordingly, the attorney’s no holds barred commentary has resonated with demographics all over the world. Her thoughtful yet incisive commentary and real talk about social justice, politics, culture, and history sparks much-needed conversation about the state of America.

She is special correspondent at ESPN and the host of the podcast “On One with Angela Rye.” She has also been seen on several programs and outlets from Breakfast Club to the Daily Show, BET where she has been nominated for multiple NAACP Image Awards, HBO, TV One, CNN, ABC, NBC, NPR, and many others. Recognized for her honest, refreshing commentary and social justice advocacy by our nation’s most prominent civil rights organizations such as National Urban League, NAACP, and National Action Network she has also been featured in publications including the New York Times, Vanity Fair, Essence, Washington Post, Glamour, Ebony, and the Undefeated.

Angela Rye is a 2019 recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from the historic HBCU, Wiley College. She is the Principal and CEO of IMPACT Strategies, a political advocacy, social impact, and racial equity firm based in Washington, D.C. where she creates strategic partnerships and coalitions with Capitol Hill, third party organizations, and influencers to ensure societal change. She served as the Executive Director and General Counsel to the Congressional Black Caucus for the 112th Congress. She also served as the Senior Policy Advisor and Counsel for the House Committee on Homeland Security for four years. With more than 15 years of political strategy and social responsibility experience, Angela has worked with every branch of government—on the municipal, state, and federal levels. She has also developed award-winning strategic partnerships between our nation’s most well known civil and human rights organizations for corporate and government partners. Working at the intersection of purpose, justice, and integrity, Angela is an effective leader who creates opportunities and opens doors for her peers and the next generation.

DR. TOPEKA K. SAM



 @TopekaKSam

 @TopekaKSam

Dr. Topeka K. Sam is a renowned advocate for criminal justice reform and has a remarkable history of dedication to the cause. She is the Founder & CEO of The Ladies of Hope Ministries, and also serves as President of TKS Ventures, LLC and EPIC Living Detroit LLC. She is also co-founder and Chief Visionary Officer of MyFRSH.com

Dr. Sam's commitment to justice reform has led her to serve on the board of directors for The Marshall Project, Operation Restoration, Pure Legatee, and United Justice Coalition, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to driving change in the criminal justice system.

She has been recognized globally for her tireless efforts, including her appointment as the Goodwill Ambassador for Social Justice of the Global Festival of Creative Economy by the United Nations.

Dr. Sam has received numerous accolades for her contributions, including a full presidential pardon for her dedication to helping women find a path to redemption.

Her work in advocacy and her recent Social Impact Award from Google highlight the profound impact she has had on the lives of justice-impacted women and girls.

PROGRAM **Participants**

VINCENT SCHIRALDI

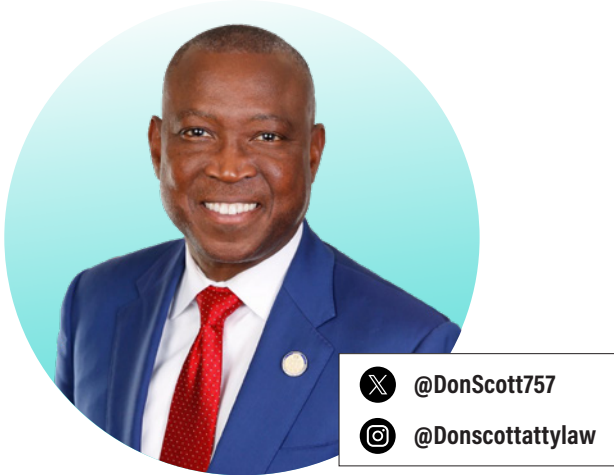


 @VinSchiraldi

Vincent Schiraldi is a national leader in criminal/juvenile justice and mass incarceration reform, a field he has worked in for more than four decades. He previously served as Commissioner of New York City's Department of Correction, and before that Columbia University, where he served as Senior Research Scientist at the Columbia School of Social Work and co-Director of the Columbia Justice Lab, working to reduce the footprint and negative impact of community corrections, eliminate youth prisons, and create a developmentally appropriate response to offending by young adults. Mr. Schiraldi went to Columbia from the Harvard Kennedy School Program in Criminal Justice where he was a Senior Researcher. Mr. Schiraldi also has extensive government experience in criminal and juvenile justice.

While Commissioner of New York City's Department of Correction, he attempted to close Riker's Island and end the practice of solitary confinement. Mr. Schiraldi also served as director of juvenile corrections in Washington D.C., as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation, and as Senior Policy Adviser to the NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. He also pioneered efforts at community-based alternatives to incarceration in NYC and Washington D.C. as founder and executive director of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice and Justice Policy Institute, respectively. Schiraldi has lectured at the Columbia University School of Social Work, Harvard Law School, NYU School of Social Work, San Francisco University, and the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. Schiraldi received a Master's in Social Work from New York University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Binghamton University.

DON SCOTT



Don Scott was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He was one of six children raised by a single mother. Scott was accepted to and graduated from Texas A&M University. From there, he enrolled in the Navy's officer candidate school in Rhode Island. He proudly served his country as an officer in the United States Navy before earning his law degree from Louisiana State University.

In 1994, in his final year at LSU, Scott made a mistake that almost cost him his future and led to him serving seven years in prison on Federal Drug Charges. He eventually met and married his wife, Dr. Mellanda Colson-Scott, and they settled in Portsmouth, Virginia. Like many formerly-incarcerated individuals, having a felony conviction in Virginia meant disenfranchisement for Scott because the law required that he make a direct appeal to the Governor.

He saw his rights restored under Republican Gov. Robert McDonnell.

In 2014, Scott spent six months studying for the Virginia bar exam, passing on his first try. In 2015, he started his own law practice before becoming a partner at Breit Biniazan P.C. Don Scott was first elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019, where his reputation as a fierce litigator and adversary to the Republicans in the House led to his turbocharged ascension to Leader of the Virginia House Democrats in 2022. Now, in just his third term, Scott is poised to become the first Black Speaker in the 400+ year history of the Virginia House of Delegates. The state house was established in 1619, the same year Africans were first brought to Virginia in chains.

In the Legislature, Scott has been a champion for reproductive freedom and uplifting working families through ensuring a strong economy. Scott's legislative priorities include strengthening Virginia's public schools, improving healthcare quality and affordability, and criminal justice reform. He is an active member of the Old Dominion Bar Association, the Virginia State Bar Association, the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, and the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. He also sits on several boards and commissions. He is the former Chair of the Portsmouth Economic Development Authority and former President of the Southeastern Employment and Training Association. He is also a member of the Eureka Club and holds lifetime memberships in the NAACP, V.F.W., Post #993, and American Legion Post #190.

PROGRAM **Participants**

DAN SLEPIAN



Dan Slepian is an award-winning journalist at NBC News and a veteran producer of its signature newsmagazine, *Dateline*. Slepian has spearheaded dozens of documentaries, hidden camera investigations, and breaking news reports.

Referred to as "A TV News Gumshoe" by The New York Times, Slepian is known for his in-depth reporting about the criminal legal system and specifically, wrongful convictions. His documentaries on the topic have earned him a total of eleven Emmy nominations.

In February 2023, NBC News released "Letters From Sing Sing," an eight-episode podcast hosted by Slepian that documents his 20-year journey investigating the wrongful conviction of Jon-Adrian "JJ" Velazquez. The podcast hit #1

on Apple's top charts the day of its release.

Slepian also conceived, developed and produced "Justice For All," an NBC News/MSNBC series about the criminal justice system. The week-long event included the Emmy nominated first town hall from a maximum security prison as well as *Dateline*'s Emmy nominated "Life Inside," an impactful and emotional hour about mass incarceration in which Slepian and anchor Lester Holt spent two nights inside Louisiana's notorious Angola prison.

In May 2019, *Dateline* debuted its first-ever podcast with Slepian at its helm. The eight-episode series "13 Alibis" chronicles Slepian's investigation into a confounding murder case and helped exonerate an innocent man.

In 2018, Slepian was granted exclusive access to film rapper Meek Mill on the day of his highly publicized release from prison. *Dateline*'s special, "Dreams and Nightmares" featured Lester Holt's exclusive interview with Meek just hours after his release.

As a volunteer, Slepian works with incarcerated men at Sing Sing prison where he helped create "Voices From Within," a video featuring deeply personal testimonials intended to help reduce gun violence. Slepian introduced the project, which is now a program at the prison, during a TEDx talk at Sing Sing.

LISA WAYNE



 @Lmonet

Lisa Monet Wayne has been an attorney in private practice in both state and federal courts around the country. She has represented individuals and corporations in both the investigation phase and criminally accused capacity. Previously, Wayne was a Colorado State Public Defender for 13 years where she served as office head, training director, and senior trial attorney. She lectures nationally with NACDL, National Criminal Defense College, National Institute of Trial Advocates, American Bar Association, Federal Defender Training Services, State Bar Associations, numerous Federal and State Public Defender Organizations and many other criminal legal reform organizations.

Wayne served as an adjunct law professor at the University of Colorado where she taught trial advocacy for 22 years, she continues to serve on faculty at the Trial Practice Institute at Harvard Law School, The National Criminal Defense College, and Cardozo Law School. Ms. Wayne is an advocate in all venues of the media addressing important issues confronting the criminally accused. She has served as a legal analyst for numerous media outlets including, ABC, CBS, CNN, Al Jazeera, Fox, NPR and World Radio regarding high profile cases and legal issues around the country. She is frequently quoted in print media such as the Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, New York Times, Washington Post, Detroit Free Press, and the AP wire.

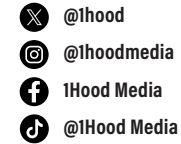
Ms. Wayne testified before the United States Sentencing Commission in 2012 against the implementation of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines as mandatory. In 2005, Wayne was honored with the Robert J. Heeney Award, NACDL's most prestigious recognition. Wayne is the Past President of NACDL, Past President of National Foundation of Criminal Justice, and serves on numerous committees' around criminal justice issues. Wayne was a member of the Colorado Supreme Court Standing Committee on Ethics from 2003-2023. She was also a member of The Colorado Sentencing Reform Task Force. Wayne is a law graduate of Pepperdine University Law School, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



1HOOD MEDIA

The mission of 1Hood Media is to build liberated communities through art, education, and social justice



ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES
FOR JUSTICE

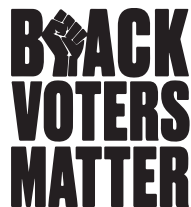
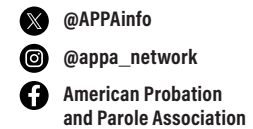
ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES FOR JUSTICE

The mission of the Alliance of Families for Justice is to support, empower, and mobilize families and individuals impacted by the criminal justice system so they can marshal their collective power to create a just world.



AMERICAN PROBATION AND PAROLE ASSOCIATION

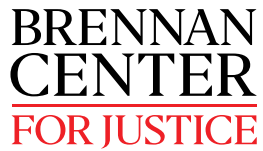
As the voice of the community corrections industry, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) serves as the field's leading professional membership association. Their work is supported by thousands of passionate members throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as other countries actively involved in strengthening community corrections work.



BLACK VOTERS MATTER

Black Voters Matter's goal is to increase power in marginalized, predominantly Black communities. They believe that effective voting allows a community to determine its own destiny. They agree with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said, "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."





BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

As an independent, nonpartisan law and policy organization, the Brennan Center conducts rigorous research to identify problems and provide in-depth empirical findings and compelling analyses of pressing legal and policy issues. They also pioneer and champion policy solutions, such as automatic voter registration and small donor public financing.

-  @BrennanCenter
-  @BrennanCenter
-  Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law



CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES (CEO)

CEO's mission is to provide immediate, effective, and comprehensive employment services exclusively to individuals who have recently returned home from incarceration. Their vision is that anyone with a criminal record who wants to work has the preparation and support needed to find a job and stay connected to the labor force. CEO believes that everyone, regardless of their past, deserves the chance to shape a stronger future for themselves, their family, and their communities.

-  @CEOWorks
-  @CEOWorks
-  Center for Employment Opportunities - CEO



THE CENTER FOR JUSTICE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Center for Justice is committed to ending mass incarceration and criminalization, and advancing alternative approaches to justice and safety through education, research, and policy change. Its mission is to help transform approaches to justice from being driven by punishment and retribution to being centered on prevention, healing and accountability. The Center is interdisciplinary and works in partnership with schools, departments, centers and institutes across Columbia, other universities, government agencies, community organizations, advocates and those directly affected by the criminal justice system.

-  @CFJColumbia
-  @ColumbiaCenterforJustice
-  The Center for Justice at Columbia University

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



CENTER FOR POLICING EQUITY

The Center for Policing Equity (CPE) is a racial justice non-profit that protects, supports, and empowers historically marginalized communities—particularly Black communities—to redesign their public safety systems. They provide leaders with data, stories, and relationships to facilitate change that's bold, innovative, and lasting. They do science to promote justice.

CPE gathers and analyzes data on behaviors within public safety systems and uses that data to help communities achieve safer policing outcomes. Their goal is to make policing less racist, less deadly, and less omnipresent. They believe we can unlock bold action toward justice by redesigning public safety systems to better keep communities safe.

-  @PolicingEquity
-  @PolicingEquity
-  Center for Policing Equity
-  @PolicingEquity



CHILDREN OF PROMISE, NYC

Children of Promise, NYC is a community-centered organization that partners with children and families impacted by mass incarceration to dismantle the stigma and heal from the trauma plaguing Black and Brown communities.

-  @ChildrenofCPNYC
-  @ChildrenofPromiseNYC
-  Children of Promise, NYC



COLOR OF CHANGE

Color Of Change is the nation's largest online racial justice organization. They help people respond effectively to injustice in the world around us. As a national online force driven by 7 million members, Color of Change moves decision-makers in corporations and government to create a more human and less hostile world for Black people in America.

-  @ColorOfChange
-  @ColorofChange
-  Color Of Change



CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Correctional Association of New York (CANY) provides independent oversight of prisons in New York State to promote transparency and accountability; safeguard the human and civil rights of incarcerated people; identify and provoke a response to harmful practices and policies; promulgate information that supports reform, and advocate for the decreased use of incarceration in New York.

The National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement's (NACOLE) mission is to create a community of support for independent, civilian oversight entities that seek to make their local law enforcement agencies, jails, and prisons more transparent, accountable, and responsive to the communities they serve.

- @CANY_1844
- @CANY_1844 @NACOLE_org
- Correctional Association of NY AND National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement



DUE PROCESS INSTITUTE

Due Process Institute is a bipartisan nonprofit that works to honor, preserve, and restore principles of fairness in the criminal legal system.

- @iDueProcess
- @iDueProcess
- Due Process Institute



EQUAL JUSTICE USA

Equal Justice USA is a national organization that works to transform the justice system by promoting responses to violence that break cycles of trauma. They work at the intersection of criminal justice, public health, and racial justice to elevate healing over retribution, meet the needs of survivors, advance racial equity, and build community safety.

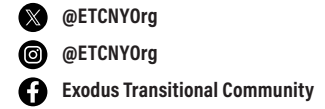
- @EJUSA
- @EqualJusticeUSA
- Equal Justice USA

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



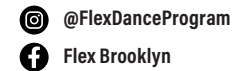
EXODUS TRANSITIONAL COMMUNITY

With a firm belief in human resilience, Exodus Transitional Community delivers innovative programming tailored to adults and youth affected by the justice system, and advocates for a society in which all can achieve social, economic, and spiritual well-being.



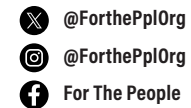
FLEX DANCE PROGRAM

Flex Dance Program is an arts education non-profit that uses dance as a tool to combat violence and recidivism.



FOR THE PEOPLE

Today, there are thousands of people in prison serving excessive sentences who could be safely released. Prosecutors are uniquely positioned to look back at these past sentences. For The People is the leading national organization working with prosecutors to bring people home from prison—reuniting families and restoring communities.



FOUNDATION TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM

To win the hearts and minds of non-Jews and Jews through powerful positive messaging and partnerships, motivating and equipping them to be defenders of and upstanders for Jews.





FREDERICK DOUGLASS PROJECT FOR JUSTICE

Frederick Douglass Project for Justice changes policy and the public's perception of the criminal justice system by creating avenues for lawmakers, business leaders, and everyday Americans to become proximate with the humanity of incarcerated people.

-  @DouglassProject
-  @TheDouglassProject
-  The Frederick Douglass Project for Justice



GEN-Z FOR CHANGE

Gen-Z for Change is dedicated to empowering our generation through education and civic engagement, using the power of social media to drive progressive change and hold those in power accountable. They collaborate with content creators and organizations to create impactful campaigns, promote responsible use of technology, and advance our vision for a better future.

-  @GenZforChange
-  @GenZforChange
-  Gen-Z for Change
-  @GenzForChange



GOOD CALL

Their mission is to empower marginalized communities and create systemic transformation by using technology, community organizing, and advocacy to provide immediate access to legal support.

-  @GoodCallNYC
-  @GoodCallNYC
-  Good Call



HOURLY CHILDREN

Hour Children's mission is to help incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and their children successfully rejoin the community, reunify with their families, and build healthy, independent, and secure lives. Hour Children's name acknowledges the key hours that impact the life of a child whose mother is incarcerated – the hour of her arrest, the hour of their visit, and the hour of their reunification. Hour Children's supportive programs help justice-involved families remain connected during a mother's imprisonment and build positive, hope-filled lives after her release. Unique among service providers, their approach is to provide women with the services they need to be successful – housing, childcare, job-skills training and education, and mental health services.

-  @HourChildrenInc
-  @Hour_Children
-  Hour Children, Inc.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



HUDSON LINK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN PRISON

Since 1998, Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison has worked to address the fundamental lack of access and opportunity available to people looking to use the transformative power of higher education to change their lives during and after involvement with the justice system. They do this by providing degree-granting college programs in six New York State correctional facilities and transitional care and support to their students and alumni as they are released from prison. The result of this work speaks for itself: the twenty-five-year recidivism rate for Hudson Link graduates is under 2%, compared to three-year recidivism rates of 43% statewide and approximately 68% across the country.

-  @HudsonLink
-  @Hudson_Link
-  Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison

INNOCENCE PROJECT

INNOCENCE PROJECT

The Innocence Project works to free the innocent, prevent wrongful convictions, and create fair, compassionate, and equitable systems of justice for everyone. Founded in 1992 by Barry C. Scheck and Peter J. Neufeld at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, the organization is now an independent nonprofit. Their work is guided by science and grounded in anti-racism. Since its inception, the Innocence Project has used DNA and other scientific advancements to prove wrongful conviction. To date, they have helped to free or exonerate more than 200 people who, collectively, spent more than 3,800 years behind bars. Their efforts have led to the passage of more than 200 transformative state laws and federal reforms. Today, the Innocence Project continues to fight for freedom, drive structural change, and advance the innocence movement.

-  @Innocence
-  @InnocenceProject
-  Innocence Project
-  @Innocence

JUSTICE FOR GREENWOOD

JUSTICE FOR GREENWOOD

The mission of Justice for Greenwood is to secure justice and reparations for the Greenwood community and Diaspora through direct services, public education, and advocacy.

-  @Just4Greenwood
-  @JusticeForGreenwood
-  Justice For Greenwood Foundation, Inc.



LAST PRISONER PROJECT

The Last Prisoner Project is dedicated to freeing those incarcerated due to the War on Drugs, reuniting their families, and helping them rebuild their lives. As laws change, there remains a fundamental injustice for individuals whose conviction is no longer a crime. They work to repair these harms through legal intervention, constituent support, direct advocacy, and policy change.

-  @LastPrisonerPrj
-  @LastPrisonerProject
-  Last Prisoner Project
-  @LastPrisonerProject



LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

The Legal Defense Fund (LDF) is America's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice. Using the power of law, narrative, research, and people, we defend and advance the full dignity and citizenship of Black people in America.

-  @NAACP_LDF
-  @NAACP_Idf
-  The Legal Defense Fund



LIFE CAMP INC.

LIFE Camp Inc. is here to promote wellness and keep our communities safe. At LIFE Camp, their goal is to promote making Peace a LIFEstyle, which starts from the inside. "Everyday people are walking around infected with the disease of violence. And the trauma – the catalyst for this disease – often goes unaddressed."

-  @LIFECampInc
-  @LifeCampInc
-  Life Camp, Inc



MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

Born out of a tragic school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland, Florida, March For Our Lives is a courageous youth-led movement dedicated to promoting civic engagement, education, and direct action by young people to end the epidemic of gun violence. Their mission calls for bold and transformative change. They call for a world re-imagined: a world where oppressive power structures are abandoned and community is embraced. A world where all human needs are met and the love of people is centered.

-  @AMarch4OurLives
-  @MarchForOurLives
-  March For Our Lives

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA

Mental Health America is the nation's leading national nonprofit dedicated to the promotion of mental health, well-being, and illness prevention. Mental Health America advances the mental health and well-being of all people living in the U.S. through public education, research, advocacy and public policy, and direct service.

-  @MentalHealthAm
-  @MentalHealthAmerica
-  Mental Health America



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers envisions a society where all individuals receive fair, rational, and humane treatment within the criminal legal system. NACDL's mission is to serve as a leader, alongside diverse coalitions, in identifying and reforming flaws and inequities in the criminal legal system, and redressing systemic racism, and ensuring that its members and others in the criminal defense bar are fully equipped to serve all accused persons at the highest level.

-  @NACDL
-  @NACDL
-  @NACDLOfficial
-  NACDL



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The entire NFL family is committed to conversations and actions that move us all towards a more equal and just tomorrow. Inspire Change showcases how NFL players, clubs, and the league are joining together to ensure that access to opportunity is a reality for all and to create progress in police-community relations, criminal justice reform, and education and economic advancement.

-  @InspireChange
-  @InspireChange



NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD-NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

Their mission is to use law for the people, uniting lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers to function as an effective force in the service of the people by valuing human rights over property interests.

-  @NLGNYCNews
-  @NLG_NYC
-  National Lawyers Guild - New York City Chapter (NLG-NYC)



NATIONAL LEGAL AID & DEFENDER ASSOCIATION AND BLACK PUBLIC DEFENDER ASSOCIATION

Because the quality of justice in America should not depend on how much money a person has, National Legal Aid & Defender Association leads a broad network of advocates on the frontlines to advance justice and expand opportunity for all by promoting excellence in the delivery of legal services for people who cannot afford counsel.

The Black Public Defender Association aims to improve the quality of defense provided to low-income communities across the United States by creating and maintaining a national network of skilled Black public defenders that identify with and are committed to the populations they serve.

- ✕ @NLADA @BPDA_Justice
- 📷 @NLADA_dc @BPDA_Justice
- f National Legal Aid & Defender Association AND Black Public Defender Association



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

NSA's national initiative to help jails replicate a program of the Genesee County (MI) Sheriff's Office, that offers comprehensive education, job certification, and post-incarceration work opportunities and assistance to incarcerated individuals. The program, started by Sheriff Christopher R. Swanson, is called I.G.N.I.T.E., which is an acronym for Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education.

- ✕ National Sheriffs' Association
- 📷 @NationalSheriffs
- f National Sheriffs' Association



NEW HERITAGE THEATRE GROUP

The mission of the New Heritage Theatre Group is to present high quality art and cultural experiences; and keep our audiences connected to the importance of black and indigenous theater, identify a new generation of talented playwrights, authors, directors, musicians, and actors, to create new works in theater and film, provide training, and exposure to veteran and emerging artists from communities of color locally and globally.

- 📷 @HarlemHeritageNow

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



PEACEPLAYERS BROOKLYN & PEACEPLAYERS US

The mission of PeacePlayers is to unite divided communities through the transformational power of sport.

 @PeacePlayers
 @PeacePlayers_US
 PeacePlayers United States

Perlmutter
Center for Legal Justice
at Cardozo Law

PERLMUTTER CENTER FOR LEGAL JUSTICE AT CARDOZO LAW

Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice at Cardozo Law is empowering the next generation of lawyers to fight for freedom for those unjustly serving time through their programs, including a partnership with the National Forensic College, The Perlmutter Freedom Clinic at Cardozo Law and The Perlmutter Forensic Science Education Program. As legal educators and practitioners, they believe in having a duty to address the inequities of our justice system and strive to give hope to those bearing the consequences of unjust incarcerations.

 @PCLJ_Cardozo



PROMISE OF JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The Promise of Justice Initiative works to create positive change for people in the criminal legal system at the intersection of impact litigation, direct services and community engagement. Their tools include criminal and civil litigation, organizing, direct support, and policy advocacy.

Some of their areas of focus include: Ending the death penalty, challenging inhumane conditions of confinement, exposing prosecutorial and judicial misconduct, providing pro bono representation for criminal defendants, and fighting racism in the criminal legal system.

 @JusticesPromise
 @JusticesPromise
 The Promise of Justice Initiative



QUATTRONE CENTER FOR THE FAIR ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania is a leading interdisciplinary, data-driven policy and research hub designed to address the systemic factors that lead to errors in the criminal justice system. The Center collaborates with experts from various fields like business, criminology, engineering, medicine, and more to identify institutional and policy-level barriers to fairness and accuracy, and designs solutions that prevent future mistakes. The Center's research encompasses wrongful convictions, cash bail, sentinel event reviews, justice system quality improvement, conviction integrity, forensic science evaluation, accountability for prosecutors, indigent defense best practices, victim redress, and the influence of politics, economics, and the media on justice system fairness. The Quattrone Center hosts various events, including conferences, symposia, workshops, and roundtables, bringing together scholars, practitioners, lawyers, law enforcement officials, judges, legislators, and the media to generate knowledge and policy ideas addressing major issues confronting the justice system. By combining top-tier scholarship with real-world perspectives, the Quattrone Center aims to impact public discussions and enhance the fairness and accuracy of the legal system.

-  @QuattroneCenter
-  @QuattroneCenter
-  Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice



REFORM ALLIANCE

REFORM Alliance aims to transform probation and parole by changing laws, systems and culture to create real pathways to work and wellbeing. A justice system that holds people accountable and redirects back to work and wellbeing leads to stronger families and safer communities.

-  @REFORM
-  @REFORM
-  REFORM
-  @REFORM



REHABILITATION THROUGH THE ARTS (RTA)

Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) helps people in prison develop critical life skills through the arts, modeling an approach to the justice system based on human dignity rather than punishment.

-  @RTA_ARTA
-  @RTA_Arts
-  Rehabilitation Through the Arts

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



SEE ALLIANCE

SEE Alliance, which began as a club at a Florida high school, is now a statewide, youth-led nonprofit of civic organizers using innovative technology and techniques to register and turn out young voters while organizing themselves into a movement.

-  @SeeOurPower
-  @SeeOurPower
-  Social Equity and Education Alliance



SEEDS OF PEACE

At a time when divisions run deep and polarization is growing, Seeds of Peace continues life-changing work of bringing young people together across lines of conflict—to learn skills of dialogue, develop empathy and respect, and take their place as leaders in society. They operate regional programs for diverse communities in the Middle East, South Asia, the United States and United Kingdom; a flagship International Camp; and fellowships and networking programs for alumni. Their 8,000+ graduates are leaders across all sectors of society, working to build a more just, inclusive and peaceful world.

-  @SeedsofPeace
-  @SeedsofPeace
-  Seeds of Peace



SOUTHERN COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Using a racial equity framework and community lawyering model, Southern Coalition for Social Justice partners with communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities across the South to defend and advance their political, social, and economic rights through the combination of legal advocacy, research, organizing, and communications.

-  @SCSJ
-  @SCSJOfficial
-  Southern Coalition for Social Justice
-  @SCSJOfficial



STUDENTS DEMAND ACTION

Students Demand Action is the largest grassroots, youth-led gun violence prevention group in the country with more than 700 groups and active volunteers in every state and the District of Columbia. The movement, created by and for teens and young adults, aims to channel the energy and passion of high school and college-aged students into the fight against gun violence. Students Demand Action volunteers organize within their schools and communities to educate their peers, register voters, and demand common-sense solutions to this national public health crisis at the local, state, and federal level. Students Demand Action is part of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country with nearly ten million supporters and more than 700,000 donors.

-  @StudentsDemand
-  @StudentsDemand
-  Students Demand Action
-  Students Demand



THE CLEAN SLATE INITIATIVE

The Clean Slate Initiative passes and implements laws that automatically clear eligible records for people who have completed their sentence and remained crime-free, and expand who is eligible for clearance.

-  @CleanSlate_Init
-  @CleanSlateInitiative
-  The Clean Slate Initiative
-  @CleanSlateInitiative



TERENCE CRUTCHER FOUNDATION

The mission of the Terence Crutcher Foundation is to create just and liberated communities free from racial violence and harm. They do this through building power, policy advocacy, community development, and education.

-  @CrutcherFdn
-  @TerenceCrutcherFoundation
-  Terence Crutcher Foundation
-  @CrutcherFoundation

**The Bronx
Defenders**

THE BRONX DEFENDERS

The Bronx Defenders is a public defender nonprofit that is radically transforming how low-income people in the Bronx are represented in the justice system and, in doing so, is transforming the system itself.

-  @BronxDefenders
-  @BronxDefenders
-  The Bronx Defenders

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE FAIR SENTENCING OF YOUTH

To catalyze the just and equitable treatment of children in the United States, The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth demands a ban on life without parole and other extreme sentences for children who cause harm; advance alternative responses that focus on their unique characteristics as children, including their capacity for change; and create opportunities for formerly incarcerated youth to thrive as adults and lead in their communities.



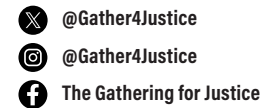
TCG IMPACT

TCG Impact inspires, empowers, and equips the next generation of learners and leaders to change their world.



THE GATHERING FOR JUSTICE

The Gathering for Justice (The Gathering), established by the late, iconic artist and activist Harry Belafonte, is an intergenerational movement to transform the criminal legal system in America. By training leaders, leveraging cultural organizing, advocating for policy change, and connecting the collective power of our community, they seek to end racial injustice in policing and the criminal legal system and realize the vision of the beloved community.



THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

The Legal Aid Society is built on one simple but powerful belief: that no New Yorker should be denied the right to equal justice. They seek to be a beacon of hope for New Yorkers who feel neglected, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or how they identify. The staff and attorneys deliver justice in every borough, working tirelessly to defend clients and dismantle the hidden, systemic barriers that can prevent them from thriving. From the start over 140 years ago, our growth has mirrored that of the city we serve. Today, they are proud to be the largest, most influential social justice law firm in New York City.





THE LOHM

Their mission is to empower women and girls to create sustainable lives post-incarceration. They drive change in the social justice movement by connecting them to housing, food, healthcare, living wage employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities, education, and advocacy that amplifies the voices of those who have been impacted by the criminal legal system.

-  @TheLOHM
-  @TheLOHM
-  The Ladies of Hope Ministries



THE SENTENCING PROJECT

The Sentencing Project advocates for effective and humane responses to crime that minimize imprisonment and criminalization of youth and adults by promoting racial, ethnic, economic, and gender justice.

-  @SentencingProj
-  @SentencingProject
-  The Sentencing Project



TRANSFORMATIONAL PRISON PROJECT

The mission of the Transformational Prison Project is to provide spaces where those who have been harmed and those who have done the harming can come together and engage in dialogue—to build understanding and empathy toward those who have been victims of violent crime. TPP is committed to understanding individual harms and the systemic harms that affect communities, more specifically communities of color.

-  @TppNonprofit
-  @TransformationalPrisonProject
-  Transformational Prison Project TPP



United Way
of New York City

UNITED WAY OF NEW YORK CITY

The mission of the United Way of New York City is to help mobilize their communities to break down barriers and build opportunities that improve the lives of low-income New Yorkers for the benefit of all.

-  @UnitedWayNYC
-  @UnitedWayNYC
-  United Way of New York City

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



UNTIL FREEDOM

Until Freedom is an intersectional social justice organization rooted in the leadership of diverse people of color to address systemic and racial injustice. At Until Freedom, they believe that those closest to the pain are closest to the solution, therefore, they focus on investing in those who are the most directly impacted by cyclical poverty, inequality, and state violence. Until Freedom is a clearinghouse for advocates, new & budding activists, seasoned community organizers, students, movement lawyers, entertainers and artists, policy experts, formerly & currently incarcerated individuals, and survivors of gun violence to work linearly to uplift all of our people. Everyone is worthy, everyone is needed to win.

 @UntilFreedom
 @UntilFreedom
 Until Freedom



VOICES FROM WITHIN, INC

Voices From Within, Inc empowers hope and create lasting impact in prisons and underprivileged communities by revolutionizing the concept of paying a debt to society through the transformative power of CHOICES.

 @TheVoicesMatter
 @VoicesFromWithinInc
 Voices From Within



WILSON CENTER FOR SCIENCE & JUSTICE AT DUKE LAW

The mission of the Wilson Center for Science and Justice at Duke Law is to advance criminal justice and equity through law and science.

 @WilsonCSJ_
 @WilsonCSJ
 Wilson Center for Science and Justice at Duke Law



YOUTH JUSTICE NETWORK

The mission of Youth Justice Network is to break cycles of incarceration and build an equitable justice system by providing young people with individualized advocacy, mentorship, and opportunities to grow, thrive, and lead.

 @YouthJusticeNY
 @YouthJustice_Network
 Youth Justice Network

FEATURES: **ART GALLERY**



 @artistic_noise

 ArtisticNoise.org

 artisticnoise.org

ARTISTIC NOISE

Artistic Noise builds community with system-impacted youth to enhance their lives through the empowering and therapeutic potential of art making. For over 20 years, we have explored the power of artistic practice alongside thousands of young people who are incarcerated, on probation, in foster care, or otherwise impacted by the juvenile court system. Through visual arts and entrepreneurship programs, participants give voice to their experiences, build community through collaborative projects and explore a variety of valuable life skills in the process. Artistic Noise programming creates safe and brave spaces where court-involved and system-involved young people can be seen, heard, and supported on their path to adulthood. We believe the practice of art making offers opportunities for young people and communities to transform and to grow. In particular, Artistic Noise helps young people share their individual stories to the public and advocate for themselves across their various communities.

Though people affected by the juvenile court system have a great deal to say they often have very few opportunities to be heard or seen by the public. There can be very few healthy opportunities to assume responsibility and demonstrate leadership, to experience personal accomplishments, grow professionally, or develop their creative voices. At Artistic Noise, we believe it is a healing experience for our artists to tell their own stories rather than relying on others to tell their stories for them.

At Artistic Noise the group is tasked with the care for, and responsibility to, the group itself. Tenets of Art Therapy and therapeutic techniques are interwoven across every aspect of the programming that's created with the young people who make up our community. Clinical rationale—which considers goals, strengths, and challenges—guides how individual and group sessions are conducted. Through modeling, reflection, and redirection from the staff, the group practices creating and sustaining integration, safety, and maturity within the group dynamic.

Reflective of the demographics of the people most impacted by the juvenile court system, more than 95% of Artistic Noise participants are Black or Hispanic, and range in age from fifteen to twenty one years old. Around half of the young people at Artistic Noise are on probation, a third of the young people are parents, and a quarter are in foster care or coming from a period of being unhoused. As a central tenet of Artistic Noise's mission is to compensate participants for their time and their labor, we seek to provide youth with the sort of early, paid professional experiences young people need in order to begin developing workforce skills and building their resumes. In addition, by paying our young participants an hourly-stipend for their work with us, it ensures they never need to make a difficult decision between personal growth, receiving mental health services, or providing for themselves.



RTA[®]
REHABILITATION
THROUGH THE ARTS



REHABILITATION THROUGH THE ARTS (RTA)

Founded at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in 1996, RTA helps people in prison develop critical life skills through the arts, modeling an approach to the justice system based on human dignity rather than punishment.

The intensive and comprehensive arts program builds a sense of community and accountability so incarcerated participants can meet the challenges of connecting with family and community when released. RTA's ongoing success is dramatic: less than 3% of RTA members return to prison, compared to the national recidivism rate of 60%.

With a roster of over 50 professional teaching artists, RTA operates in maximum and medium- security men's and women's New York State correctional facilities, including Bedford Hills, Fishkill, Green Haven, Sing Sing, Taconic and Woodbourne. RTA teaches theater, music, dance, creative writing and visual arts to over 225 incarcerated men and women at any one time, with plans to expand its programs within New York State and beyond.

About RTA Visual Arts Program:

RTA visual art participants tell stories, explore themes and experiment with materials and techniques. As they learn about art, they build focus and self-discipline, developing visual memory and observation skills. They learn to give and accept feedback. The arts develop the ability to see the world from different perspectives, encourage positive risk-taking, and allow for the discovery of hidden skills and talents.

FEATURES: **ART GALLERY**



 @incarcerationnations

 incarcerationnations

 incarcerationnationsnetwork.org

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

The Writing on the Wall is a shape-shifting, pop-up art installation made from writing by people in prison around the world, a partnership between Dr. Baz Dreisinger and the Incarceration Nations Network; the acclaimed visual artist Hank Willis Thomas; the nonprofit architecture firm MASS Design Group; the production team Openbox; and the creative agency Chemistry Creative. In an effort to center the words of those directly impacted at the heart of the fight for prison reimagining, the installation has been displayed in public spaces as a form of verbal and visual intrusion. Each debut of The Writing on the Wall is an event and ongoing campaign, coordinated in collaboration with local and global justice organizations and demanding that worldwide we must heed The Writing on the Wall: #DefundThePrisons and invest in communities and peace.

In myriad formats – as a pop-up in enclosed spaces, a collapsable booth and a series of light projections – The Writing on the Wall has thus far been exhibited in Detroit, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Miami, Washington DC, Columbus, and New York City on the High Line park, the most trafficked public park in the world.

The Writing on the Wall is a project of The Incarceration Nations Network (INN) a global network that supports, instigates and popularizes innovative prison reform efforts around the world. Their partners span every continent and more than 50 countries.

FEATURES: **LIVE PODCAST RECORDING**



LAVA FOR GOOD'S WRONGFUL CONVICTION PODCAST

with Jason Flom & Maggie Freleng with guests exoneree Andre Brown and lawyer Oscar Michelin **LIVE at the 2023 UJC Summit**

On January 15, 1999, two teenage boys were shot by a masked gunman on the street in Bronx County, New York. 22-year-old Andre Brown, knowing full well he had nothing to do with the crime, turned himself in to police a couple days later after learning that an eyewitness was describing him as the shooter. Andre was selected out of a lineup and despite no physical evidence tying him to the crime, was convicted and sentenced to 40 years in prison for the shooting.

**LAVA
FOR GOOD**

ABOUT LAVA FOR GOOD:

Lava for Good creates standout original content, podcasts, and experiences, amplifying the voices of contemporary social justice champions and inspiring action toward a more informed, empathic, and just society.

Founded and led by renowned music executive, children's book author, and activist Jason Flom, Lava for Good's #1-charting lineup of podcasts and the activism they inspire are credited with influencing exonerations, clemencies, pardons, legislation, and reforms nationwide. The lineup features Pulitzer, Emmy, and Webby Award-winning experts, attorneys, activists, and journalists on the front lines of human rights and justice movements.

 @lavaforgood
 @lavaforgood
 lavaforgood

**WRONGFUL
CONVICTION**

ABOUT WRONGFUL CONVICTION:

Hosted by celebrated criminal justice reform advocate and Founding Board Member of the Innocence Project Jason Flom, and Pulitzer prize-winning podcast host and producer Maggie Freleng, Wrongful Conviction features intimate conversations with men and women who have spent years in prison for crimes they did not commit. Some have been fully exonerated and reunited with family and friends while others continue to languish, with some even facing execution on death row. Each episode peels back the layers behind the stories of those who have found themselves caught in a legal system gone wrong, with illuminating insights from lawyers and leading experts sharing their in-depth knowledge about each case, from prison visits and courtroom battles to reexamined crime scenes and witness interviews. This gripping series reveals the tragedy of injustice...as well as the triumph that is possible when people step up and demand change.

 @wrongconviction
 @wrongfulconviction



JASON FLOM

Jason Flom is the Co-Founder and CEO of Lava Media and Lava for Good. He was the Chairman and CEO of Atlantic Records, Virgin Records, and Capitol Music Group, and is responsible for launching superstars including Katy Perry, Lorde, Stone Temple Pilots, and Greta Van Fleet. He is a philanthropist, criminal justice expert, public speaker, and author. Flom is a founding board member of the Innocence Project and serves on the boards of numerous criminal justice reform organizations. He hosts the Wrongful Conviction podcast and is the executive producer of the hit Bone Valley podcast.

 @itsjasonflom
 @itsjasonflom
 @itsjasonflom



MAGGIE FRELENG

Maggie Freleng is a renowned journalist in criminal justice reform, Pulitzer Prize winner, and podcast host and producer of Suave, Murder in Alliance, and Unjust and Unsolved, as well as Lava for Good's Wrongful Conviction with Maggie Freleng.

Maggie's work has been featured by the LA Times, MSNBC, People, HLN, WNYC, NPR, NBC, WHYY, The Boston Globe, and HuffPost. In addition, she was formerly an on-screen journalist for VICE and Oxygen. She was named a "NPR Next Generation Radio fellow" and counted in Ford Foundation's "50 Women Can Change the World in Journalism."

 @maggiefreleng
 @maggiefreleng
 @maggiefreleng



OSCAR MICHELEN

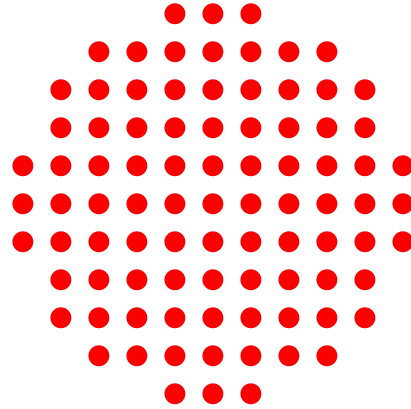
Oscar Michelen attended New York Law School and received his Juris Doctor degree in 1985. He was graduated magna cum laude and served as an Editor on the Law Review. He served as a law clerk for the Hon Vincent Broderick of the Southern District of New York. He is a partner at Cuomo LLC, a litigation boutique with offices in Manhattan and Long Island where he specializes in litigation in both Federal and State courts. Mr. Michelen has also been admitted to practice in various states around the country for specific litigation matters as both trial counsel and as an expert witness on a variety of legal topics. He was an adjunct professor of law at New York Law School for 8 years and currently teaches as an adjunct professor of law at Touro Law School for the past three years. In addition to his regular practice, he also handles cases of wrongful conviction, having exonerated 9 people in 10 separate cases over the past 15 years. He has represented numerous other exonerees in civil actions arising out of their wrongful convictions. A Dominican immigrant, Mr. Michelen is active in several organizations within the Dominican-American community as well as serving as President of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association and sitting on the Board of Directors of the Nassau County Legal Aid Society and the Nassau County Bar Association.



ANDRE BROWN

Andre Brown, is an OYP Specialist at CHOICE of NY, a non-profit organization that is a leading Care Management Agency serving Westchester County. He partners with the Honorable Jared R. Rice, the Legal Aid Society and the Westchester District Attorney's office in the Opportunity Youth Part of New Rochelle City Court. As a Credible Messenger of the Court, he helps emerging adults from the ages of 16-24 years old navigate through the criminal justice system by giving them the resources and life skills they need to become more efficient in society. His work is informed by his own personal experience with the Criminal Justice system. In 1999 at the age of 21 years old, he was wrongfully convicted of two attempted murders in Bronx County. Those convictions were later vacated on December 6, 2022.

THANK YOU TO OUR **SPONSORS**

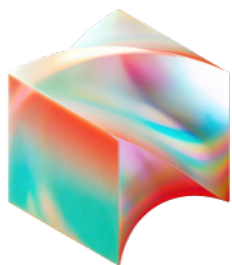


SONY MUSIC

REFORM



**INSPIRE
CHANGE**



BLOCK

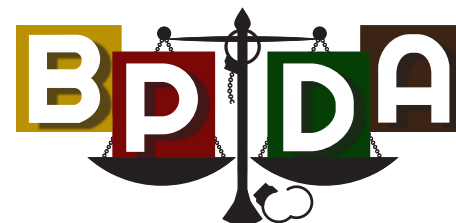


NLADA

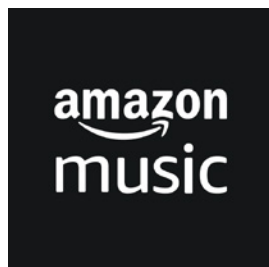
National Legal Aid &
Defender Association

nlada.org

Perlmutter
Center for Legal Justice
at Cardozo Law



THANK YOU TO OUR **SUPPORTERS**



megabus

NOBODY



UJC Summit

STUDENT STATE AMBASSADORS

During the summer and fall, thirty-six college students helped to further engage student voices from around the nation and inspire them to Activate for Change. We thank our UJC Summit Student State Ambassadors for their commitment to the UJC mission!



UJC SUMMER AMBASSADORS



UJC FALL AMBASSADORS

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE

UJC **SUMMIT**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK VISIT www.unitedjusticecoalition.com

FOLLOW US  @UnitedJusticeC  @UnitedJusticeCoalition  UnitedJusticeCoalition