

NACDL  
Foundation for  
Criminal Justice

PRESENTS

20<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary Gala

**BUILDING ON THE PAST,  
IMAGINING THE FUTURE**

*October 7, 2021 | 7:00–11:00 PM*

*The National Building Museum, Washington, D.C.*

NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION  
OF CRIMINAL  
DEFENSE LAWYERS



NACDL  
FOUNDATION FOR  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE



**In honor of Norman Reimer  
and his 15 years  
of service  
to the NACDL.**

**He is someone  
I respect and  
admire — one of  
my great personal  
heroes.**

**I salute him and  
the entire team  
at the NACDL.**



**— Jason Flom, Founder and CEO of  
Lava Records and Lava for Good**



## The National Building Museum

Since it was created in 1980 through an act of Congress, the National Building Museum has transformed the public's understanding of the impact of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, construction, planning, and design. Through exhibitions, educational programs, and special events, we welcome visitors of all ages to experience stories about the built world and its power to shape our lives, our communities, and our future. The Museum resides in the historic Pension Building, which contains one of the most awe-inspiring spaces in the nation's capital: a soaring, expansive Great Hall featuring eight colossal Corinthian columns. On the exterior, a 1,200-foot-long terra cotta frieze wraps the building.

Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress; National Photo Company collection, circa 1918

**A  
MESSAGE  
FROM:**

**Lisa M. Wayne**  
NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice President



As President of the NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice (NFCJ), I welcome you to tonight's Foundation Gala at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC — "Building on the Past, Imagining the Future" — celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Foundation. On behalf of the NFCJ, thank you for the critical support that you provide to the Foundation and the work it makes possible at NACDL.

The mission of the Foundation is to preserve and promote the core values of America's justice system guaranteed by the Constitution — among them due process, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, fair sentencing and effective assistance of counsel — by educating the public and the legal profession to the role of these rights and values in a free society. Tonight, we honor four remarkable individuals who in different ways have advanced that mission: Jason Flom, Carrie Johnson, Nkechi Taifa, and Norman L. Reimer.

Your involvement here tonight — whether in person, or virtual, as a sponsor, friend, ally, or advocate — sends a signal that you are committed to addressing the extraordinary inequities and injustices that plague our criminal legal system. The funding secured through this event, and all fundraising efforts by the Foundation, support groundbreaking research, policy advocacy, robust pro bono services, and much more. Your support ensures that core NACDL values remain at the center of the Association's work, including the eradication of systemic racism in the criminal legal system, the provision of top continuing legal education and resources to the defense bar, and reforming flaws and inequities in the criminal legal system.

Through its Return to Freedom Project, NACDL and its partners match pro bono attorneys with individuals who are incarcerated. These attorneys will seek relief through clemency, compassionate release, second chance legislation, and expungement upon release on behalf of the clients. I am proud to say that the NFCJ, through your generous and ongoing support, has been able to provide critical support and resources to enable NACDL to be at the vanguard of these efforts.

None of this work would be possible without your support. As I have often said, whenever you see the nation's criminal defense bar leading the charge and making the change that we need in our criminal legal system, it is in no small measure owing to your financial contributions to the NFCJ. Together, there is nothing we cannot accomplish as we look to the Foundation's next 20 years, and beyond. Thank you and enjoy the evening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa M. Wayne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "W".

President, NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice  
Past President, NACDL

**A  
MESSAGE  
FROM:**

**Martín Antonio Sabelli**  
NACDL President



On behalf of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, welcome to tonight's Gala celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice. Tonight marks not only our platinum anniversary but a return, we hope, to community after nearly two years of distance from our NACDL family. Welcome home.

Welcome and thank you. Thank you for your support for the Foundation which, as you know, empowers NACDL's wonderful staff to move us further along the moral arc of the universe toward a fair, rational, and humane criminal legal system. Your support for the Foundation allows NACDL to serve as a leader, alongside diverse coalitions, to reform the flaws and inequities in the criminal legal system, redress systemic racism, and ensure that our members and others in the criminal defense bar have the skills, resources, and opportunity to serve all accused persons at the highest level. This is our Vision and Mission, and your support provides the life blood for NACDL's noble work and far-reaching success.

Despite these successes, we must do more to support our members and protect our brothers and sisters caught in the cruel machinery of the criminal justice system. We face profound challenges including systemic racism, the tyranny of the trial penalty, mass incarceration, disparate policing practices, and overcriminalization, including dangerously unconstitutional efforts to criminalize the exercise of reproductive rights and voting rights. Thankfully, through hard work and strategic thinking, NACDL is at the top of its game; we are stronger than ever and, unlike every other voluntary bar organization, we have grown despite the trials and tribulations of the semi-apocalyptic world of 2020 and 2021. We will build together our own brighter future.

Our future is built, of course, on the power of our past. Today's NACDL stands upon the dedicated labor of professionals who, for 63 years, have defended the Constitution, human beings, and ethical advocacy. Tonight, we honor Norman and his immense contributions to NACDL and to the Foundation with NACDL's Lifetime Achievement Award. We also honor three dedicated visionaries: activist Nkechi Taifa, journalist Carrie Johnson, and philanthropist Jason Flom. Thanks to all of you for your focused compassion, celebrated intelligence, and strategic efforts to deliver justice to our clients, our members, and our world.

I also want to thank Interim Executive Director Kyle O'Dowd, Development Director Clay Braswell, and the superb professional staff of NACDL for their huge hearts, consistent dedication, and unflinching courage. You are NACDL's heart and soul.

Thank you all for joining us. Let's raise our glasses together, in the warmth of our NACDL family, to celebrate these extraordinary individuals!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martín Antonio Sabelli'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

**Martín Antonio Sabelli**  
NACDL President

**A  
MESSAGE  
FROM:**

**Theodore “Ted” Simon**  
NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice Vice President



*“There is no higher calling than to champion liberty and to pursue a rational and humane criminal justice policy for America.”*

*— Norman L. Reimer, November 9, 2006*

This statement is as true tonight as it was when honoree Norman L. Reimer said it upon his installation as Executive Director of NACDL, 15 years ago. It is our mantra and a unifying reason to celebrate NACDL and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation.

So, welcome to the nation’s capital. Welcome to the beautiful National Building Museum. And welcome to the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice (NFCJ). As a Foundation trustee, its Vice President, and as a Past President of NACDL, I express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the vital support that each of you provides to the Foundation and the work it supports. It is an honor to have your support, and it is, as those of you who know me, my honor to seek that support on behalf of the NFCJ.

The Foundation provides critical financial resources for the nation’s criminal defense bar — the constitutionally-ordained guardians of individual liberty. We stand with our clients, protecting them and our most cherished freedoms. The NFCJ ensures — through training, collegial support, litigation, and institutional change — a better, fairer criminal legal system and society. The NFCJ is the most important charity I can think of to support in order to fix America’s criminal legal system and empower a robust defense bar.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary work done by NACDL’s professional staff, without whom tonight would not be possible. And I congratulate tonight’s esteemed Champions of Justice: Nkechi Taifa, Carrie Johnson, and Jason Flom. The work of these professionals has been critical to the movement for a fair, just, humane, and accountable criminal legal system.

Tonight, we also honor our friend and colleague Norman L. Reimer with NACDL’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Words cannot capture the immense debt of gratitude we collectively owe Norman for what he has done to elevate the nation’s criminal defense bar and to advance the cause of criminal legal system reform. Under Norman’s leadership, NACDL achieved a doubling of the size of staff and the annual budget, an expansion of capacity that has enabled numerous, successful initiatives, including numerous groundbreaking reports, and at the same time through unparalleled education, training, support and collegiality has advanced the practice of criminal law, providing countless benefits to members and favorable and just results for their clients. Norman transformed NACDL and the NFCJ.

NACDL is comprehensively spearheading criminal legal reform efforts. Know that their efforts are supported by your steadfast support. You are making a difference in a system that is desperately in need of reform. Thank you for your support, solidarity, and friendship. Now, savor the evening and all that you have done, for so many and for so long!

NACDL + NFCJ, Amen!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theodore Simon".

Theodore “Ted” Simon  
Past President, NACDL  
Vice President, NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice

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## NKECHI TAIFA

Nkechi Taifa is an attorney, activist, academician, and author. A passionate and visionary professional, she enjoys decades of experience as an accomplished justice system reform strategist and advocate. Taifa excels at advancing creative, cutting-edge approaches that encourage out-of-the-box thinking and action. The wealth of her experiences has allowed her to pursue justice from different vantage points — as a litigator, lobbyist, academician, advocate, policy analyst, community activist, convener, and grant-maker.

Nkechi is President and CEO of The Taifa Group LLC. She convenes the Justice Roundtable Coalition and serves as Senior Fellow for the Center of Justice at Columbia University. Over her career Taifa has worked for the Open Society Foundations, ACLU, Women’s Legal Defense Fund, Howard University School of Law, National Prison Project, and Washington Office on Africa. She has taught popular seminars on Law, Race and Justice and has litigated high-profile civil and criminal cases as a private practitioner in the District of Columbia and federal court.

Taifa served as Commissioner and Chair of the District of Columbia Commission on Human Rights and currently serves on the governing board of the Corrections Information Council and the National African American Reparations Commission. She has

testified before the U.S. Congress, the United States Sentencing Commission, the Council of the District of Columbia, the American Bar Association Justice Kennedy Commission, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

Nkechi Taifa’s primary area of focus is justice, including sentencing, policing, prisons, voting, reentry, clemency, racial justice, political prisoners, and reparations. She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including Essence Magazine’s 2019 WOKE 100 Black Women Advocating for Change; the Wiley Branton Award from both the National Bar Association and Washington Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights; Washington Council of Lawyer’s President’s Award; Equal Justice Award from the UDC School of Law; and numerous awards and honors from Howard University School of Law.

A native of Washington, Taifa received her B.A. from Howard University and J.D. from George Washington Law School. She is the author of a best-seller memoir, *Black Power, Black Lawyer: My Audacious Quest for Justice*, as well as several children’s books. Authentic and unapologetic, Nkechi Taifa is a captivating motivational speaker who has mesmerized diverse audiences across the country with her high energy and creative style.



## CARRIE JOHNSON

Carrie Johnson is a justice correspondent for the Washington Desk. Since 2000, Carrie has covered a wide variety of stories about justice issues, law enforcement, and legal affairs for NPR's flagship programs *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*, as well as the newscasts and NPR.org.

Johnson has chronicled major challenges to the landmark voting rights law, a botched law enforcement operation targeting gun traffickers along the Southwest border, and the Obama administration's deadly drone program for suspected terrorists overseas.

Prior to coming to NPR in 2010, Johnson worked at the *Washington Post* for 10 years, where she closely observed the FBI, the Justice Department, and criminal trials of the former leaders of Enron, HealthSouth, and Tyco. Earlier in her career, she wrote about courts for the weekly publication *Legal Times*.

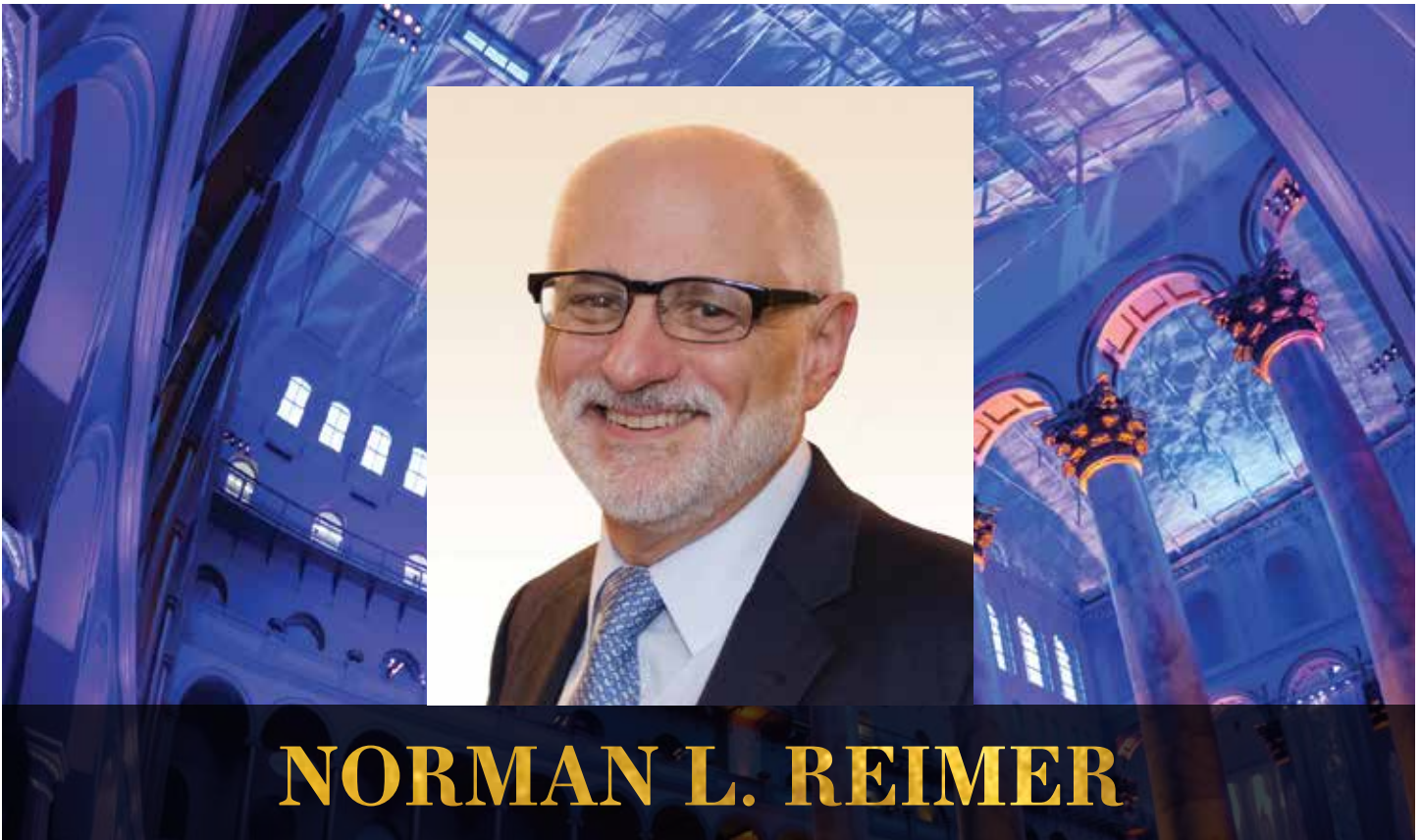
Her work has been honored with awards from the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, the Society for Professional Journalists, SABEW, and the National Juvenile Defender Center. She has been a finalist for the Loeb Award for financial journalism and the Pulitzer Prize in breaking news for team coverage of the massacre at Fort Hood, Texas.

Johnson is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Benedictine University in Illinois.



## JASON FLOM

Jason Flom is the Founder and CEO of Lava For Good Podcasts and Lava Media. Flom previously served as Chairman and CEO at Atlantic Records, Virgin Records, and Capitol Music Group, and he is personally responsible for launching acts such as Katy Perry, Kid Rock, Lorde, and Greta Van Fleet. He is a leading philanthropist and expert on criminal justice issues and an internationally recognized and celebrated public speaker. Flom is the founding board member of the Innocence Project and serves on the boards of numerous criminal justice reform organizations. He is the host of the hit podcast *Wrongful Conviction* with Jason Flom, which features interviews with men and women who have spent decades in prison for crimes they did not commit, some even sentenced to death. Flom also hosts *Righteous Convictions*, which spotlights social justice leaders such as Senator Dick Durbin, U.S. Representative James Clyburn, and Serial creator and activist Rabia Chaudry — true rockstars of these turbulent times. Flom's love for animals inspired his latest project, the children's book *Lulu is a Rhinoceros*, co-written with his daughter Allison Flom and released in June 2018. The book explores social themes addressing individuality, tolerance, and most importantly, acceptance, and launched with partnerships including Bonobos, Zappos, and the African Wildlife Foundation.



## NORMAN L. REIMER

Norman L. Reimer is Senior Policy Consultant at the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). Prior to serving in this role, he was the Executive Director of the Association and of the NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice from 2006 until July 2021. NACDL is the preeminent organization in the United States advancing the mission of the nation's criminal defense bar to ensure justice and due process for all and to advocate for rational and humane criminal justice policies. As Executive Director, Norman Reimer led a professional staff based in Washington, D.C., serving NACDL's approximately 9,000 direct members and 90 local, state, and international affiliate organizations with up to 40,000 members. Through Norman's vision and leadership, NACDL and the NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice saw an unprecedented period of expansion, including fundraising, resulting in more than doubling the size of staff and the annual budget, thus enabling the organization to launch numerous reform initiatives.

Before assuming this position, Norman Reimer practiced law for 28 years, most recently at Gould Reimer Walsh Goffin Cohn LLP. A criminal defense lawyer throughout his career, with expertise in trial and appellate advocacy in both state and federal jurisdictions, Mr. Reimer is a recognized leader of the organized bar and a spokesperson on behalf of reform of the legal system.



# ABOUT THE AWARDS

**Champion of Justice Awards** are bestowed upon those individuals who — through legislative, legal, journalistic, philanthropic, or humanitarian pursuits — have staunchly preserved or defended the constitutional rights of individuals in the United States and have endeavored to ensure justice and due process for persons accused of crime.

**The Champion of Public Defense Award** recognizes an individual or group for exceptional efforts in making positive changes to a local, county, state, or federal public defense system. Although the outstanding direct, individual representation of every defendant is one of NACDL's foremost goals, this award is intended to highlight efforts toward systemic advances through legislation, litigation, or other strategies.

**Lifetime Achievement Awards** are presented in recognition of exceptional accomplishments over a lifetime of distinguished leadership and service on behalf of the law.



# CHAMPION OF PUBLIC DEFENSE AWARDEES

Tonight, on behalf of NACDL's Public Defense Committee, we will recognize the 2021 Champion of Public Defense, the International Legal Foundation (ILF), for its tireless work as a global advocate for the right to counsel. For 20 years the ILF has helped nations establish robust public defense systems lead by zealous, passionate, and committed defense lawyers who are committed to high caliber, client-centered advocacy.

In addition, we will recognize the 2020 Champion of Public Defense, the Legal Aid Society of Puerto Rico's Juvenile Justice Program. Known locally as "The Last of the Mohicans," this small band of juvenile defenders is the only organization in all of Puerto Rico that represents indigent minors in every jurisdiction and through every stage of the legal process. Beyond having an impact on their clients, this group of committed attorneys has championed legislation, developed pilot programs, and trained other court officials with a singular goal of improving the treatment of youth in Puerto Rico's legal system.

## INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FOUNDATION

The logo for the International Legal Foundation (ILF) features the letters "ILF" in a large, bold, blue serif font. A thin orange horizontal line is positioned below the letters.

THE INTERNATIONAL  
LEGAL FOUNDATION

**About the ILF:** Every day, millions of people languish in jails around the world because they cannot afford a defense lawyer. The International Legal Foundation (ILF) is a non-profit organization founded to address this global crisis in access to justice. For nearly two decades, the ILF has fought to guarantee high-quality legal representation for everyone arrested or detained. Around the world, we provide quality criminal defense services and build sustainable, effective legal aid institutions. Currently, we provide direct legal services in Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Palestine, and Tunisia and offer technical assistance worldwide.

## SOCIEDAD PARA ASISTENCIA LEGAL DE PUERTO RICO

The logo for Sociedad para Asistencia Legal de Puerto Rico (SA) features the letters "SA" in a large, bold, red serif font. To the right of "SA", the words "sociedad PARA asistencia legal" are written in a smaller, red serif font, with "DE PUERTO RICO" in a smaller, red sans-serif font below "legal".

**About the PR Legal Aid Society:** The mission of Sociedad para Asistencia Legal de Puerto Rico, or the Legal Aid Society of Puerto Rico, is to protect and defend the rights of indigent people, offering free, effective, compassionate and excellent legal services, promoting equal treatment before the law. Our vision is to improve and expand services to our clients and be recognized and respected for our contribution to the criminal justice system.

# ABOUT THE NFCJ

The NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice (NFCJ), and its member organization, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), are the preeminent organizations in the United States advancing the mission of the nation's criminal defense bar to ensure justice and due process for persons accused of a crime, to foster the integrity and independence of the criminal defense profession, and to promote the core values of America's justice system. NACDL envisions a society where all individuals receive fair, rational, and humane treatment within the criminal justice system. NACDL's mission is to serve as a leader, alongside diverse coalitions, in identifying and reforming flaws and inequities in the criminal justice system, 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 pursues this mission by providing training and resources to the defense bar, and by more broadly promoting criminal justice reform throughout the legal profession and society as a whole.

Fundraisers such as tonight's Gala provide the NFCJ, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, critical unrestricted support that enables NACDL to meet its mission.

Efforts supported by the NFCJ include:

- **Diversity Summer Law Fellowships** to promote diversity in the criminal defense bar and multi-faceted programs to address **systemic racial and ethnic disparities**;
- A major national effort to combat the tyranny of **the trial penalty**;
- **Pro bono clemency and compassionate release** (NACDL's Return to Freedom Project initiatives) programs to secure reduction of excessive sentences;
- Several projects focusing on **restoration of rights**;
- NACDL's groundbreaking research and reports including soon to be released reports on the **Overcriminalization of Abortion** and another on the perils of **Predictive Policing**; various strategic initiatives to promote **sentencing reform**;
- Ongoing efforts to **oppose overcriminalization** and **ensure adequate *mens rea* requirements** in all criminal statutes; and
- Support for NACDL's **Fourth Amendment Center** to equip the criminal defense bar to challenge unprecedented governmental challenges to privacy in the digital age.

**Know that your presence here tonight helps NACDL and the NFCJ fight for a more just, and humane, criminal legal system. Thank you!**



# JOSH DUBIN & DRC CONGRATULATE

**Jason Flom**

Recipient of the first **CHAMPION OF JUSTICE** Philanthropy Award  
for his commitment to criminal justice reform

&

**Norman L. Reimer**

NACDL and NFCJ Executive Director  
for his vision and leadership for the past 15 years

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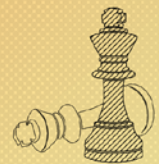
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Barry Scheck, Dorothy Rick, and our colleagues at the Innocence Project and Neufeld, Scheck & Brustin salute Liberty's Last Champions, our cherished friend, Jason Flom, NACDL's most consequential ED, Norman Reimer, and honorees, Nkechi Taifa and Carrie Johnson.

**Now more than ever, we need courage and smarts to save our democracy and Constitution.**



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**TO HONOREES**

**Norman Reimer & Nkechi Taifa**

---

Norman has been a partner *par excellence* in so many noble efforts. Knowing his passion for a fair criminal justice system, we know he will continue to fight the good fight. To that end, may G-d bless Norman to go from strength to strength!

We cannot think of a more worthy candidate for the Champion of Justice Award than Nkechi Taifa! Nkechi uses her decades of experience in championing criminal justice reform every single day. She is not just a leader in CJR, Nkechi inspires so many others to be CJR leaders. She is, in fact, one of the greatest champions for justice and fairness in our nation today, and it is an honor to work beside her.

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# NACDL Foundation for Criminal Justice and its 20th Anniversary Gala

We would like to congratulate this evening's distinguished honorees: Champion of Justice – Legal Award recipient **Nkechi Taifa**, Principal and CEO of The Taifa Group LLC; Champion of Justice – Journalism Award recipient **Carrie Johnson**, National Justice Correspondent for National Public Radio; and Champion of Justice – Philanthropy Award recipient **Jason Flom**, Founder and CEO of Lava For Good Podcasts and Lava Media.

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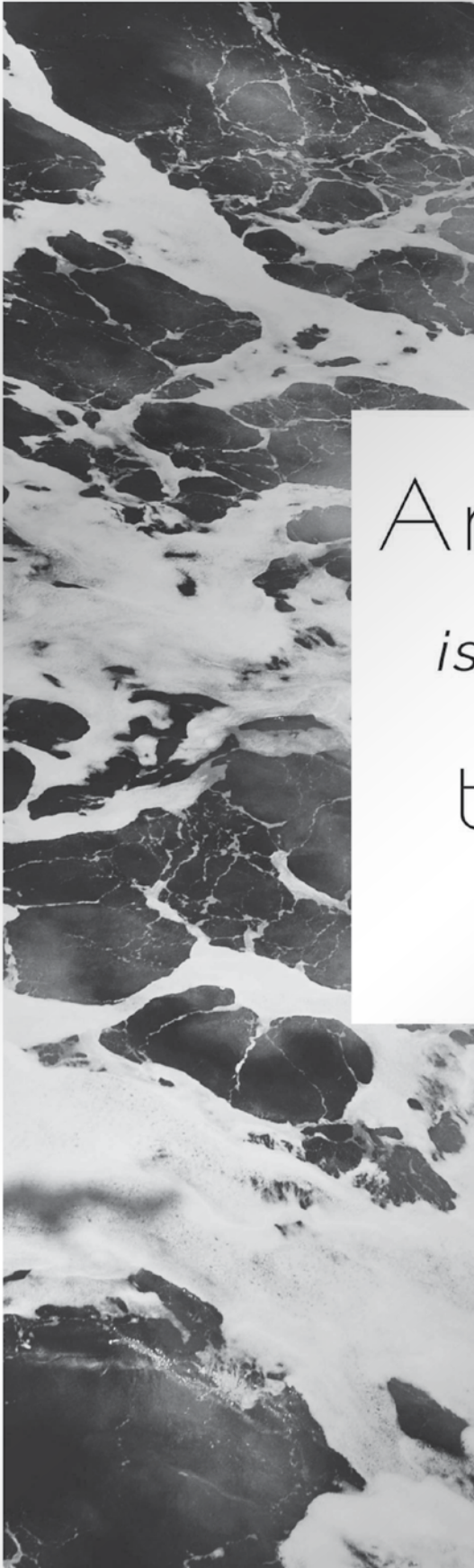
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## Linda Abrams Reimer salutes tonight's honorees, NACDL, and the NACDL Foundation.

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“ I would especially like to pay tribute to my husband, Norman Reimer, for his invaluable leadership at NACDL and for his unyielding commitment to make the world a better place through criminal justice reform. ”





With Gratitude and Admiration to the Magnificent NACDL Team  
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Nkechi, Carrie, and Jason!

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**Congratulations and  
thank you, Norman,  
for your lifelong  
commitment to the  
cause of justice.**

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**“Thank you, Norman.”**

---

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We honor Nkechi Taifa, Carrie Johnson, Jason Flom, and Norman Reimer for their compassion, commitment, and contributions to bending the moral arc of the universe toward justice. Tonight, we raise our glasses, with our NACDL family at last, to celebrate these extraordinary individuals!

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# Thank you, Norman Reimer

*Thank you for your endless hard work  
and dedication to NACDL*

*Congratulations to **Nkechi Taifa**, **Carrie Johnson**,  
and **Jason Flom** on receiving well-deserved  
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We few, we happy few,  
we band of sisters and brothers;  
For he to-day that  
sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my sister and brother.

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---

\* President's Column, We Are Enforcers of the Constitution at 6 (Aug. 2008) (quoting Shakespeare, Henry V, Act. IV, sc. 3, St. Crispin's Day Speech (1599) (corrected)).

Through unparalleled wisdom, professionalism, focus, and friendship, Norman Reimer did more for NACDL in his 15 years than all of us together in the previous 48. We are a better bar and all of us better lawyers working with him. We salute you for bringing us here. We are humbled.

—**John Wesley Hall**  
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and thank you Norm for all  
you have done for NACDL.**

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*Nancy Hollander*

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The Sentencing Project is pleased to honor our friends and partners whose work advances racial justice and an end to mass incarceration.

Congratulations to NACDL's Champions of Justice awardees: Nkechi Taifa, Carrie Johnson and Jason Flom.

Thank you to Norman L. Reimer for your longtime commitment to justice.





**Congratulations to our  
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Norman, on more than a  
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*Your friends,*

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– **Jerry Block**



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for his tremendous  
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**Justice Roundtable’s  
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Nkechi Taifa.**

Thank you, Nkechi, for your longtime advocacy for equity and justice, and for opening doors and giving a platform to so many past, current, and future leaders!





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“To Norman Reimer,  
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**Gerald B. Lefcourt**  
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for Another Amazing Year.

You do us all proud!

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**NORM,**

Thank you for your tireless efforts  
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**To Our Sista Nkechi,**

You are more than an inspiration to all of us, you are one of the originators of our sistahood. You helped inspire Solace and have been instrumental in manifesting the very best of us in your unflinching dedication to fighting for justice. We are proud of you, appreciate you and salute you as you receive NACDL's Champion of Justice Legal Award!

We love you always in all ways,  
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*Solace for Sistas is a social and support network of Black and Brown women committed to human and civil rights, and social, racial, and criminal justice advocacy and activities.*

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Attorneys Kathleen Stilling and Jerome Buting, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, are proud to support The Foundation for Criminal Justice and the 2021 gala as sponsors.

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