

Speaker Biographies | | NACDL SCJN Conference 2018

Jarrett Adams recently launched the Law Offices of Jarrett Adams, PLLC, a firm specializing in criminal defense and civil rights matters. Prior to starting his firm, Mr. Adams was a Post-Conviction Litigation Fellow with the Innocence Project, a non-profit legal services firm which focuses on exonerating the wrongfully convicted through DNA testing. Before practicing with the Innocence Project, in 2000, at the age of 17, Mr. Adams was sentenced to a 28-year prison term for sexual assault.

After state post-conviction proceedings were exhausted, the Wisconsin Innocence Project filed a federal habeas petition on Mr. Adams's behalf. The petition was denied by the district court, but that decision was overturned in 2006 by a unanimous Seventh Circuit panel. The state dismissed all charges against him and Mr. Adams was released in February of 2007. Upon release in February of 2007, Mr. Adams obtained his Associates degree (2010), Bachelor's degree (2012), graduated from Loyola Law School in Chicago (2015), clerked for the same Seventh Circuit that overturned his conviction, litigated the reversal of two other convictions, and is now practicing law in several states and residing in New York.

Rev. Aundreia Alexander is the Associate General Secretary for Action and Advocacy for Justice and Peace for the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC). The NCC is a leading force for ecumenical cooperation among Christians in the United States focusing on issues of social justice, interreligious relationships and the bible and Christian life. For over twenty years Rev. Alexander has worked with ecumenical, interfaith, and government entities such as the United Nations, World Council of Churches, Church World Service and others, on a variety of justice issues. She has preached, lectured and facilitated workshops throughout the United States and around the world including Egypt, South Africa, Turkey, Mexico, and South Korea. She is a former lawyer and received both her law and undergraduate degrees from the University of Missouri in Columbia. Rev. Alexander also has a M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. She is a member of the Advisory Board for Community Engagement in the State Courts.

Attiyah Ali visited a local prison to show those incarcerated that there is hope for a better future. She increased her visits to weekly, knowing that an impact was being made. In 2013, the outreach efforts included providing essential personal supplies to the homeless in the Atlanta, GA community. With the aid of fellow local San Francisco 49ers fans, the "Helping Hands" Homeless Supplies Drive has become an annual event with donors from all over the country. Along with friend, who works for the juvenile court system, they determined that providing youth in foster care with duffels so they could transport their belongings from one home to the next. This project became the "Duffels Not Trash" Program, where kids can not only move their treasures with dignity, but receive books and toys to cherish in the future. These three outreach initiatives serve as the foundation for A Loving Act's support to the disenfranchised.

Marcus Bullock was sentenced to 8 years in prison at age 15 in 1996 alongside his co-defendant R. Dwayne Betts. It was February 2004 when he was released from prison and opted to do things a little differently. Marcus realized how much of a hassle it was to write to a friend that was still incarcerated and created the mobile app Flikshop that gives all incarcerated person's the ability to get mail every single day from their loved ones. Through the Flikshop app, you can take a great photo to send to your loved one, add a short message, and click "Send A Flikshop."

Susan Burton's five-year old son was accidentally hit and killed by a car and she subsequently numbed her grief through alcohol and drugs. As a result, she became enmeshed in the criminal justice system for nearly two decades before finding freedom and sobriety in 1997. Drawing on her personal experiences, she founded A New Way of Life Re-Entry Project (ANWOL) in 1998, dedicating her life to helping others break the cycle of incarceration. ANWOL provides resources such as housing, case management, employment, legal services, leadership development and community organizing on behalf of, and with, people who struggle to rebuild their lives after dwelling in an underworld of incarceration.

Susan is widely recognized as a leader in the national criminal justice reform movement. She is a past Soros Justice Fellow; a CNN Top Ten Hero; and received the prestigious Citizen Activist Award from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Susan is a co-founder of All of Us or None (AOUON) and the Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted People's Movement (FICPM). In collaboration with UCLA's Critical Race Studies Program, she launched the Employment Rights Re-Entry Legal Clinic which has grown to be the largest of its kind in Southern California.

Brandon E. Chrostowski is on a mission to change the face of re-entry in the United States. In 2007, he founded EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute, with the belief that every human being regardless of their past has the right to a fair and equal future. Under Chrostowski's leadership, EDWINS has grown to include culinary education and life skills training at its flagship Cleveland, Ohio restaurant and Second Chance Life Skills Center, a program at Grafton Correctional Institute, and curriculum for inmates of all 30 Ohio prisons. He earned dozens of awards including CNN Heroes, Crain's 40 under 40 and The Richard C. Cornuelle Award from the Manhattan Institute for Social Entrepreneurship and is the subject of the Academy nominated documentary, "Knife Skills". Chrostowski holds an Associate's degree in Culinary Arts and a Bachelor's degree in Business and Restaurant Management from The Culinary Institute of America. He is married to Catana and is a proud father of Leo and Lilly.

Governor Nathan Deal

"Georgia's unprecedented success in criminal justice reform serves as the standard for other states to emulate," said Deal. "As a result of our efforts, fewer Georgians were committed to prison last year than any time in the past 15 years, thereby saving millions of taxpayer dollars and keeping families and communities intact. "

A Sandersville native, Governor Deal served in the U.S. Army at Fort Gordon in Augusta after graduating with college and law degrees with honors from Mercer University. He then began a private law practice in Gainesville, the hometown of his wife, Sandra Deal. While his wife taught in Hall County public schools, Governor Deal began a career in public service, working as a prosecutor, judge, state senator and U.S. Congressman for Georgia's 9th District. Governor Deal was re-elected as governor in 2014.

Michael DiLauro is Director of Training & Legislative Liaison for the Rhode Island Department of the Public Defender (RIPD). Prior to creating this position he was a member of the RIPD's Trial Division where he tried approximately sixty capital (potential life sentence) cases to verdict. As Director of Training & Legislative Liaison he is responsible for creating programs that meet the professional needs of the department's forty plus attorneys and advancing the RIPD's legislative

package through the RI General Assembly while responding to other legislation touching upon the practice of criminal law and procedure, respectively. He maintains a select caseload for systemic litigation purposes.

Mr. DiLauro is a member of the RI Bar Association (RIBA) and its Criminal Law Bench Bar Committee; National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and its State Criminal Justice Network (SCJN); the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) and its National Alliance of Indigent Defense Educators (NAIDE); and is a charter member of the RI Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (RIACDL). In 2013 Mr. DiLauro received the Commitment Award from his alma mater the University of Toledo College of Law and in 2011 Mr. DiLauro was the first recipient of NACDL's SCJN *Champion of State Criminal Justice Reform Award* in recognition of, "exceptional efforts that have led toward progressive reform of a state criminal justice system."

Marissa Dodson is the Public Policy Director at the Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR). Marissa is responsible for developing and advocating for legislation that furthers SCHR's mission, including reforming harsh sentence laws, enhancing alternatives to incarceration, abolishing the death penalty, strengthening the public defender system, and ending the criminalization of poverty.

In 2008, Marissa was awarded an Equal Justice Works Fellowship to develop the first program in Georgia to address individual and systemic barriers facing people with a criminal history through direct service, education and legislative advocacy at the Georgia Justice Project. Marissa received the Commitment to Justice Award in 2012 from the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyer Division for her advocacy of reforms to the state's expungement law. In 2015, Marissa was named by the Fulton County Daily Report as an "On the Rise Georgia lawyer under 40" and was the recipient of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyer's SCJN Champion of State Criminal Justice Reform Award.

Marissa received her B.A. in Political Science from Spelman College in 2005 and her J.D. and Bachelors in Civil Law from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in 2008. She is a member of the Georgia bar.

Mike Epps has generated an extraordinary amount of buzz among his peers within the entertainment industry for being one of the funniest comic actors to emerge in the Hollywood scene as of late. When Epps isn't filming, he is touring the country and performing his comedy act, *The Mike Epps on the Edge Tour* to sold-out theaters and arenas across the country. His film career has spanned several years and includes films *Friday*; *Hancock*; *Something New*; *Guess Who*; *Talk To Me*; *Dr. Doolittle 2*; remake of *The Honeymooners* and numerous others. In March 2018, Mike released his first book *Unsuccessful Thug: One Comedian's Journey from Naptown to Tinseltown*. A native of Indiana, he currently resides in Los Angeles.

Christopher Ervin founded Lazarus Rite, Inc. According to Christopher, "The Lazarus Rite was created to address the very intentional, policy protected intention to legally marginalize and thus relegate predominantly Black people, to servitude. "In other words, as long as punishment for crime, slavery and involuntary servitude is back in play, we at The Lazarus Rite will train people for an economic opportunity to lift them out of a perpetual state of low income servitude. This is how we will bring Baltimore back."

Mr. Ervin studied Social Science at Coppin State and Criminal Law at the University of Maryland College Park. He is well known throughout the State of Maryland for his expertise on the subject matter of criminal justice reform and has worked tirelessly on quality of life issues impacting youth and families, seniors and the developmentally disabled, specifically the restoration of rights to those formerly incarcerated.

Drew Findling is NACDL's President. Drew spent the first three years of his career as a lawyer as a Fulton County, Georgia, assistant public defender assigned to the courtroom of the late Judge William Daniel, known throughout Georgia for having authored three fundamental treatises on Georgia criminal practice. Just a few years after graduating from law school, in 1987, Drew "hung out a shingle" and started The Findling Law Firm. Since then, Drew has represented clients in state and federal courts in many states, including Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas. He has also handled international matters in the Middle East and Europe.

Drew has enjoyed great success as a trial lawyer representing clients with charges ranging from minor offenses to multi-million dollar federal conspiracy cases. Over the years, his reputation for zealous and skilled representation has resulted in his being retained to represent numerous high-profile clients, including Grammy-nominee Faith Evans, Former Douglas County District Attorney David McDade, Former Fulton County, Georgia, Sheriff Jackie Barrett, current Clayton County Sheriff Victor Hill, Former President of Morris Brown College Dolores Cross, NBA Superstar Shaquille O'Neal, former NBA great Dennis Rodman and NBA first-round draft choices Al-Farouq Aminu and Roshown McLeod and retired baseball slugger Oscar Gamble, and rap superstars Gucci Mane Waka Flocka Flame and Migos' Offset.

Drew has published numerous articles; given speeches in over 35 states; and lectured at various institutions. He has also participated on various panels. He has appeared as an analyst on cable programs hosted by Shepard Smith of Fox News and Brook Baldwin of CNN.

He has been named as one of Georgia's Legal Elite in Georgia Trend Magazine, Georgia "Super Lawyer" by Atlanta Magazine, and the Atlanta Journal Constitution's Top Lawyers in Georgia. He has received the NAACP's Civil and Human Right's Award and most recently was the recipient of the prestigious Robert C. Heeney Memorial Award is given annually to the one criminal defense attorney who best exemplifies the goals and values of the Association and the legal profession.

Angelyn C. Frazer-Giles is currently the Network Manager for the National Network for Justice (NNJ), a newly established organization designed to support and strengthen the work of state-based criminal justice reform groups seeking to safely and permanently reduce prisoner populations through capacity and movement-building, as well as, peer-to-peer support. She was formerly the State Legislative Affairs and Special Projects Director at NACDL and currently serves NACDL in a consultancy capacity.

In her previous role, she was responsible for the development, articulation, and strategic vision of NACDL's agenda on the state level. Angelyn received her A.A.S degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology; her B.A. from the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington; studied Spanish at the Universidad De Guadalajara in Jalisco, México, and received her Paralegal Certification from The Center for Legal Studies.

Anthony Graves joined the ACLU of Texas in 2017 as their Smart Justice Initiatives Manager. Before that, he was known as U.S. Death Row Exoneree #138. He spent 18 ½ years behind bars, 16 of these years in solitary confinement and 12 years of my sentence on death row. He wrote a book about his experience, *Infinite Hope: How Wrongful Conviction, Solitary Confinement, and 12 Years on Death Row Failed to Kill My Soul*, in addition to starting his own foundation focused on getting innocent people out of prison.

In October 2010, all charges against him were dropped and he was set free. Prosecutors reviewing the case found not only that he was innocent, but that then prosecuting attorney Charles Sebesta had engaged in numerous acts of prosecutorial misconduct. Graves has turned the tragedy of his wrongful conviction into a fight for a smarter criminal justice system. Today Graves works with the ACLU of Texas Smart Justice Campaign in Texas, and travels around the country and the world enlightening politicians, criminal justice reform organizations, law students, and the general public about the injustices of our system and our need for comprehensive criminal justice reform.

Jason Hernandez was sentenced to life without parole at the age of 21 for a nonviolent drug crime. While incarcerated, he became a “jailhouse lawyer,” litigating on behalf of others in prison. In 2011, Hernandez filed his own petition for clemency and in 2013 received a commutation from President Barack Obama, leading to his release in 2015. Since gaining his freedom, he has continued to advocate for people serving life sentences. Jason Hernandez advocates for the clemency process to be reformed and expanded to undo the injustices caused by the war on drugs. A member of the Latino Justice Reform Coalition, Hernandez is a recent recipient of a Media Fellowship from LatinoJustice PRLDEF and was just named a 2018 Soros Fellow. He is also a recipient of the Latino Justice Media Fellowship, which will assist in preparing his memoir.

Teresa Hodge a passionate advocate for people with criminal convictions is committed to reducing the lasting harm caused by prison. It was a 70-month federal prison sentence for a white-collar, non-violent, first-time offense that introduced her first-hand to the justice system and mass incarceration in America. Upon coming home, she and her daughter Laurin Leonard (Hodge) co-founded Mission: Launch, Inc. a non-profit focused on introducing technology and entrepreneurship to previously incarcerated individuals as a way of ensuring self-sufficiency. Additionally, the organization manages the Rebuilding Re-Entry Coalition, a citizen-led movement committed to creating a more just and inclusive society for returning citizens (a person who exits prison or jail).

Teresa is a 2016-2017 Open Society Soros Justice Fellow. Teresa’s TEDx talk “We’ve Made Coming Home Too Hard” highlights the impact of personal bias and social stigma on formerly incarcerated people. Additionally, she is a part of JustLeadership USA's inaugural cohort and New Profit's Unlocked Futures inaugural cohort.

Mark Holden serves as senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Koch Industries, Inc. He is also president and COO of the Legal Division of Koch Companies Public Sector, LLC, which provides legal, government and public affairs services to Koch Industries, Inc. and its affiliates. In addition, he also serves as Chairman of the Board of Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, Inc. and serves on the Board of Directors of Americans For Prosperity. Mr. Holden began his career with Koch Industries in 1995 as a litigation attorney and has worked with the various Koch companies on a variety of litigation, regulatory, compliance, and commercial issues.

Mr. Holden earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts and his law degree from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America.

Shon Hopwood's unusual legal journey began prior to him attending law school and included the U.S. Supreme Court granting two petitions for certiorari he prepared. Shon's research and teaching interests include criminal law and procedure, civil rights, and the constitutional rights of prisoners. He received a J.D. as a Gates Public Service Law Scholar from the University of Washington School of Law. He served as a law clerk for Judge Janice Rogers Brown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. And his legal scholarship has been published in the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties, Fordham, and Washington Law Reviews, as well as the American Criminal Law Review and Georgetown Law Journal's Annual Review of Criminal Procedure.

His amazing story about success after prison has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, The New Yorker, NPR, and the Seattle Times. Shon co-wrote his memoir entitled *Law Man: My Story of Robbing Banks, Winning Supreme Cases and Finding Redemption*. Shon is currently a tenure-track Professor of Law at Georgetown Law School. He is a founding partner at PrisonProfessors.com and he works to create content that will improve outcomes of our nation's criminal justice system.

Omar Howard is the founder of Freedom is a Choice Inc., He uses his previous incarceration as a tool for counseling and mentoring at risk youth and troubled adults from making bad decisions that will impact the rest of their lives. While in prison, Omar realized he had to make a drastic change in his life. He joined the Christian faith and changed the direction of his life. While serving an 18-year sentence for multiple crimes, he joined the prison ministry choir, self-help groups, and obtained his GED as well as several trades.

While incarcerated and because of his positive institutional conduct, he was asked to join the mentoring program where he mentored juvenile that were incarcerated in Lee Arrendale State Prison also known as "Alto". His successful transition from prison and the readjustment to society serves as a viable positive example to at risk and troubled youth to choose freedom over incarceration. He is the author of his memoir *The Omar Howard Story* that portrays is of a young man who found himself on the other side of the law starting at the age 14 his life went from have dreams of playing basketball and going to college to a life of crime that lead him to serve 15 years in prison.

Dominique "Lil Baby" Jones said to Gulf Times.com, "I always loved music and knew a lot of people on the Atlanta music scene. But I had never considered the possibility of becoming a rapper. "I was born into poverty. My father left when I was two. My mother had to raise me and my two sisters as a single parent. We lived on food stamps and government assistance. I grew up around people who made it in the music business. That's how I came to be part of the scene without being a rapper or musician. "When you are poor, you do what you can to put food on the table. I dropped out of school in tenth grade to become a full-time drug dealer. This raised my family's standard of living, but I couldn't stay ahead of the police forever. I got caught and spent two years in jail." Baby had no wish to endure more time in prison. Upon his release, he listened to all those friends who kept urging him to try rapping. He was surprised and delighted by the result

"My friends saw things in me that I definitely didn't see in myself. I'd never even tried rapping. But

I realized I was good. I could do this thing that I'd never even thought about." His debut mixtape, *Perfect Timing*, was released in April, 2017. This was followed by three more mixtapes throughout the rest of the year. The last of these, *Too Hard*, was issued last December.

Rick Jones is the Executive Director and a founding member of the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem (NDS). He is a distinguished trial lawyer with more than 25 years' experience in complex multi-forum litigation. He is a lecturer in law at Columbia Law School and on the faculty of the National Criminal Defense College in Macon, GA.

Rick served as President of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) (2017-2018). At NACDL he has served as co-chair of both the Special Task Force on Problem-Solving Courts and the Task Force on Restoration of Rights and Status After Conviction. Both of these efforts resulted in the publication of ground breaking reports and continuing reforms.

Internationally, Rick was invited to participate as an expert in a Rule of Law Symposium sponsored by the United Nations in Monrovia, Liberia. He was similarly invited by the International Legal Foundation (ILF) to travel to Kathmandu, Nepal in an effort to help sustain, strengthen and institutionalize the public defense function in their newly created constitutional government. Most recently, Rick was invited to the Second International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems in Buenos Aires, Argentina as a speaker to address issues pertaining to government contracted public defense models of service and the disparate impact of fees, fines and bail on the poor, the marginalized and people of color.

Rick is a commissioner on the New York State Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration. He is an inaugural member of the steering committee of the National Association for Public Defense, sits on the boards of the New York State Defenders Association and the Sirius Foundation and serves on the Editorial Board of the *Amsterdam News*. He was recently appointed to the Advisory Board of the National Task Force on Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices.

John Koufos is the National Director of Reentry Initiatives at Right on Crime, and the Executive Director of the Safe Streets and Second Chances project. John has been widely recognized for his professional advocacy and was previously certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a criminal trial attorney. He has tried complex jury trials to verdict, and received numerous professional achievement awards and accolades. In 2014, John helped start the New Jersey Reentry Corporation. Under John's leadership NJRC grew from a single-location startup to approximately 60 employees in nine program sites. John designed NJRC's nationally recognized legal program, combining staff lawyers with approximately 70 pro bono lawyers to help the reentry community clear old tickets and warrants and restore driver's licenses that lead to jobs.

John's lived experience on all sides of the criminal justice system makes him a credible spokesperson. He is strongly committed to recovery, reentry, and reintegration. His leadership in the business community was recognized in 2016 when NJBIZ named him one of New Jersey's "Top 40 Under 40." He is a regular speaker on criminal justice, healthcare and reentry issues to local, state and federal governments. John holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degrees from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, as well as a law degree from the Fordham University School of Law.

David LaBahn is President and CEO of the national Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, an organization that gives prosecutors the opportunity to collaborate with all criminal justice partners, and conducts timely and effective training and technical assistance to improve the prosecutorial function. Mr. LaBahn frequently speaks on behalf of the prosecutorial profession and has testified regarding criminal justice reform before legislative bodies at the city, county, state and federal levels. Prior to forming APA, Mr. LaBahn was the Director of the American Prosecutors Research Institute and the Director of Research and Development for the National District Attorneys Association. Prior to his work in DC, David was the Executive Director of the California District Attorneys Association and began his career as a trial prosecutor in Orange and Humboldt Counties in California where he was recognized for his work in the area of child abuse and gang violence investigation and prosecution.

Honorable Shawn LaGrua was appointed to the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit in December 2009, sworn in on June 29, 2010, and reelected in 2012 and 2016. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she served as Inspector General for the Georgia Secretary of State, overseeing investigations in the Elections, Securities, Charities and Licensing Divisions. In 2004, she served as the Solicitor General for DeKalb County where she expanded the Domestic Violence Unit. While serving as DeKalb's Solicitor, she also founded the "Rise Up and Attend" truancy initiative. Judge LaGrua has over 20 years of trial experience, including her work as Chief Senior Assistant District Attorney in DeKalb and Fulton Counties and as Chief Assistant District Attorney in the Tallapoosa Circuit.

Judge LaGrua serves on the Fulton County Superior Court's Executive Committee and Co-chairs its Magistrate Committee. She presides over "My Journey Matters," a pilot probation program designed to divert young offenders from a lifetime of incarceration, as well as the Court's first Re-Entry Court, which works to integrate prior offenders back into the community using close supervision, substance abuse counseling, job-training, and advancing education.

She is also a founding member and past Chair of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers, Judicial Application Review Committee. She currently serves as the Chair of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Georgia and is a member at large of the Atlanta Bar's CLE committee and Celebrating Service Committee. She is an alumna member of Leadership Atlanta, Class of 2012, and served as the Vice Chair of the Criminal Justice Day for 2014-2015.

Judge LaGrua received her undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia and received her Juris Doctorate from Georgia State University College of Law, where she later taught Advanced Evidence and Litigation. Judge LaGrua is married to Chris Beanland. She has two step-sons, Daniel and Ben, and two fur-children, Grizzly and Riley.

Randy Lanier is a former professional race car driver and was an overnight sensation in the mid-1980s. He was the 1984 International Motor Sports Association Grand Tourer (IMSA- GT) Champion, and the 1986 Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year. After getting involved in selling and trafficking marijuana in the 1970s, he was arrested in 1987 for being the principal administrator of Continual Criminal Enterprise and sentenced to life without parole. After several unsuccessful escape plans and solitary confinement in multiple prisons, he and lawyers filed motions that led to his 2014 release, after 27 years behind bars. He returned to his old haunts, training younger races

and racing himself. He now works as a Behavioral Health Technician in a substance abuse treatment center. Randy is a father of two. In his spare time, he paints oil on canvas.

Marc Levin is Vice President of Criminal Justice Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Based in Austin, Texas, Levin is an attorney and an accomplished author on legal and public policy issues. Levin served as a law clerk to Judge Will Garwood on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Staff Attorney at the Texas Supreme Court. In 1999, he graduated with honors from the University of Texas with a B.A. in Plan II Honors and Government. In 2002, Levin received his J.D. with honors from the University of Texas School of Law. Levin's articles on law and public policy have been featured in national and international media outlets that regularly turn to him for conservative analysis of states' criminal justice challenges.

Margaret Love practices law in Washington, D.C., specializing in federal executive clemency and restoration of rights, and sentencing and corrections policy. She is Executive Director of the Collateral Consequences Resource Center (CCRC), and maintains the Restoration of Rights Project, a state-by-state survey of restoration of rights mechanisms that is available on the website of the CCRC. She is co-author of *Collateral Consequences of Criminal Conviction: Law, Policy and Practice* (NACDL/West, 3d ed. 2018), and serves as an Adviser to the 2014 Model Penal Code: Sentencing project. Before establishing her private practice in 1998, Ms. Love served in the U.S. Justice Department for twenty years, from 1978 to 1997, including as U.S. Pardon Attorney (1990-1997). She received her law degree from Yale, has an M.A. in Medieval History from the U. of Pennsylvania, and sings in two early music groups in the Washington area.

Lee McGrath is the Managing Attorney of the Institute for Justice's office in Minnesota. He also serves as IJ's Senior Legislative Counsel nationwide. Lee became IJ's legislative counsel in 2011 and has been instrumental in lobbying for greater economic liberty and reforms to forfeiture laws in states across the country. Lee received his law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in Saint Paul. Additionally, Lee holds an MBA in finance from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University. Lee was also a Policy Fellow at the Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota.

Desmond Meade is a formerly homeless returning citizen who overcame many obstacles to eventually become the current State Director for Florida Live Free Campaign, President of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC), Chair of Floridians for a Fair Democracy, Chair of the Florida Coalition on Black Civic Participation's Black Men's Roundtable, and a graduate of Florida International University College of Law.

As State Director of the Live Free Campaign, Desmond is currently engaged in a national campaign to reduce mass incarceration, reduce gun violence in urban communities, and re-enfranchise the over 5 million returning citizens nationally who are prevented from voting. The Live Free Campaign is a part of the PICO National Network, the nation's largest organizer of faith based congregations with over 1,000 member institutions.

As President of the FRRC, which is recognized for its work on felon disfranchisement issues, Desmond has orchestrated the reorganization and incorporation of a coalition comprised of over 70 state and national organizations and individuals which includes, but not limited to the NAACP, ACLU, PICO, Florida League of Women Voters, A. Philip Randolph Institute, PICO Florida, and

Florida Immigration Coalition. Desmond has also received many accolades, celebrating his hard work and dedication to leadership and commitment to social justice.

A sought-after speaker, Desmond has made numerous appearances on radio and television including numerous shows such as Al, Jazeera, Democracy NOW and MSNBC with Joy Ann Reid. He is a guest columnist for the Huffington Post in which one of his articles about the Trayvon Martin incident garnered national attention. Desmond is married and has five beautiful children.

Roberta “Toni” Meyers is Director of the Legal Action Center's National H.I.R.E. (Helping Individuals with criminal records Reenter through Employment) Network project. She has worked at the LAC for over 20 years in various capacities and in October 2007 became the sole director of HIRE. She works directly with policy makers and advocates to reform policies and practices that limit employment opportunities for people with criminal histories. She has accepted invitations to present at dozens of national, regional, and local criminal justice and workforce development conferences and has been called to testify before Congress and state legislators.

Roberta has a Master of Science degree in Public Safety with specialization in Criminal Justice Policy and Public Administration from Capella University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business, Management, and Economics from the State University of New York/Empire State College. She serves on the Board of Directors of Youth Represent, Women On the Rise Telling Herstory (WORTH), Collateral Consequences Resource Center, and Advisory Board member of the National Clean Slate Clearinghouse.

Ngozi Ndulue, is responsible for providing leadership in initiating, formulating, implementing and coordinating programming and objectives for the NAACP's efforts to reform the criminal legal system. Ngozi will develop and manage an annual plan in alignment with organizational strategy that shapes the litigative, policy and programmatic agenda around criminal and juvenile justice reform. She will also conceptualize grassroots projects and campaigns to support advocacy among NAACP field units around issues of disproportionate representation of African American and other populations of color at all levels of criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Ngozi Ndulue has a wealth of experience in addressing racial justice issues through litigation, policy advocacy and public education. After law school, she completed a judicial clerkship at the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and subsequently represented death-sentenced individuals as an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the District of Arizona. In 2011, Ngozi joined the Ohio Justice & Policy Center, a Cincinnati non-profit law firm that focuses on reforming the criminal legal system. During her time at OJPC, Ngozi represented prisoners in federal civil rights cases, worked on state and local racial justice policy campaigns, and administered a law school clinic. Ngozi is a daughter of Nigerian immigrants who grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ngozi earned her Bachelors of Arts in French and Mathematics from the University of Cincinnati and her Juris Doctor from Yale Law School.

Serena Nunn McCullers' life forever changed in 1989 when she was arrested as part of a drug conspiracy. She was found guilty at the young age of 19 and sentenced to close to 16 years. In 1989, Nunn was arrested for helping her drug-dealer boyfriend. She was charged, along with 23 other people, with participating in a conspiracy and aiding and abetting the distribution of cocaine.

A jury found her guilty of all counts and at 19, she became the face of young women who were caught up in the controversy over mandatory minimum sentencing for drug crimes. Nunn was sentenced to 15 years and eight months in federal prison. Eight years later a young lawyer named Sam Sheldon read an article about Serena, contacted her and agreed to file a commutation petition on her behalf. In 2000, President Bill Clinton granted her clemency petition Serena went on to gain her Bachelor's degree in political science from Arizona State University and law degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

On December 16, 2018 she received a Presidential pardon from President Barack Obama. Serena later relayed to ProPublica, "The commutation process was about my freedom. And I think the pardon process is about my future. This is the second round for me, but this time it's about redemption. There is no better way to start my professional career as an attorney than to have the president of the United States pardon me." Serena has been a criminal defense attorney in Atlanta and is looking at various new initiatives designed to support those formerly incarcerated.

Marjorie J. Peerce is a litigator, with a practice focus on white collar criminal defense, regulatory matters, and complex civil litigation. In her more than 30 years of practice, she has handled matters across the criminal and regulatory spectrum, including the representation of Cindy Shank. She is Co-Managing Partner of the firm's New York office and is a leader of the firm's Virtual Currency team. In addition, she served on the Steering Committee for Clemency Project 2014.

Margie appears in New York state and federal courts, as well as in federal districts around the country. She has handled criminal and regulatory investigations concerning, for example, violations of the Internal Revenue Code, securities fraud (including Bitcoins), the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), the Bank Secrecy Act, government contract procurement and subsidy fraud, mail fraud, bribery, accounting fraud, immigration fraud, health care fraud, environmental matters, commodities fraud, computer fraud and hacking, and criminal customs investigations. Margie has handled a significant number of matters with the SEC, as well as with FINRA and the CFTC. She has handled numerous matters with the New York Attorney General in a variety of areas. She also regularly represents individuals in myriad matters in the Criminal and Supreme Courts in New York City.

Mary Price is General Counsel of Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM). She directs the FAMM Litigation Project and advocates for reform of federal sentencing and corrections law and policy before Congress, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, the Bureau of Prisons, and the Department of Justice.

She is a member of the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section, is a member of its Sentencing Committee, serves on the ABA's Task Force on the Reform of Federal Sentencing for Economic Crimes, and was a founder of Clemency Project 2014, serving on its Steering, Screening and Resource committees. Previously, she served on the Practitioners' Advisory Group to the United States Sentencing Commission.

Ms. Price graduated cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was a Public Interest Law Scholar and the Law Center's first recipient of the Bettina Pruckmayr Human Rights Award. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Oregon. Ms. Price joined the staff of FAMM in late 2000.

Divine Pryor serves as the Executive Director of the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions, an independent research, training and advocacy Human Justice think tank, formerly at Medgar Evers College in the City University of New York, founded and developed by academic professionals with prior experience within the criminal punishment system. It is the first of its kind in the country. Dr. Pryor is a social scientist with extensive knowledge and expertise in the criminal justice, health and social service fields, having spent over half his career administering HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, substance abuse and other social service non-profits.

He is a highly sought-after technical assistance provider who continues to work with various non-profit and governmental agencies to build infrastructure, program capacity and innovative solutions.

In 2001, Dr. Pryor was appointed by the Council of State Governors to the National Re-entry Policy Council where he and over 100 national experts produced the most voluminous work in re-entry in the nation. Dr. Pryor has also served on the advisory board of the DC Pre-Trial Services Agency, NYC Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Re-entry program of the Kings County Prosecutor office. In 2009, Dr. Pryor was appointed by the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate to co-chair the New York State Anti-Gang Violence Reduction Commission. In 2016 he was appointed as chair of the NYC Criminal Justice Clergy Taskforce and Co-Founded the Peoples Police Academy. In addition, Dr. Pryor is an active member of a number of local, regional & national legislative, social and political advocacy groups whose focus is to achieve de-carceration through community development.

Monica L. Reid serves as the Director of Advocacy for NACDL. In this capacity, Monica coordinates NACDL's efforts to mobilize individuals and groups in support of NACDL's policy objectives. This includes assisting in the preparation of advocacy materials for NACDL activists and affiliates; preparing and disseminating federal and state action alerts regarding pending legislation; monitoring and tracking state legislation on priority issues; initiating and coordinating lobby meetings between NACDL members and Members of Congress; coordinating other grassroots lobby events (e.g., Washington lobby days and call-in campaigns); and facilitating state-level coalition building with influential community members and organizations.

Monica currently serves as Convener for the Northern Virginia (NOVA) Coalition for Black Civic Participation, which is a coalition of over 30 nonprofit organizations created to register and educate African American voters in Northern Virginia through the "NOVA Votes: Educating and Encouraging the Black Vote" campaign. In 2013, Monica was awarded the Marian Van Landingham Legislation & Public Policy Award by the Alexandria Commission on Women, the Excellence in Social Action Award by the Omicron Zeta Sigma Alumni Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and was a 2013 recipient of the Top 40 Under 40 Award presented by the EnVest Foundation.

Monica is a graduate of George Mason University with a Master's in Public Administration and a B.A. in Government & International Politics and Economics.

Norman L. Reimer is the Executive Director of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). 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 leads a professional staff based in Washington, D.C. serving NACDL's approximately 10,000 direct members and 90 local, state and international affiliate organizations with up to 40,000 members.

Prior to 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 also a recognized leader of the organized bar, and a spokesperson in behalf of reform of the legal system.

He earned both his undergraduate and juris doctor degrees at New York University. Mr. Reimer is a recipient of the prestigious Champion of Indigent Defense Award, presented by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 2003 and the Gideon Award presented by the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 2002.

Cynthia W. Roseberry is Vice President for Institutional Advancement & Executive Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Wilberforce University, the nation's first private HBCU.

During the Obama administration, Ms. Roseberry served as project manager of the historic Clemency Project 2014. Often referred to as the nation's largest law firm of nearly 4,000 lawyers, it provided pro bono support to more than 36,000 applicants for presidential clemency. Ms. Roseberry also served on the Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections, a nine-member, bipartisan, Congressional blue-ribbon panel charged with examining the federal corrections system, including overcrowding, prison violence, public safety measures, prison rehabilitation and employment programs, and re-entry programs and policies to reduce recidivism. She was also the executive director of the Federal Defenders of the Middle District of Georgia, Inc. A founding board member of the Georgia Innocence Project, she was the first African-American female president of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She received the 2017 Champion of Justice Award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Ms. Roseberry earned her Bachelor of Science from Wilberforce University in Ohio, where she was initiated into Zeta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She earned her Juris Doctor from Georgia State University College of Law. A national and international speaker, Ms. Roseberry has presented in nearly every U.S. state, in Europe and the former Soviet Union. Her TEDx talk, *My Father, My Hero*, delivered from inside a prison, has been critically acclaimed.

Kevin Skidmore was arrested for Armed Robbery at the age of 16 in 1995. He was found guilty and sentenced to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years. During his 10- year stay, he earned a GED and two vocational trades: Graphic Design and Architectural Drafting. He was transferred to the Clayton Transitional Center in 2004 and was one of the first juvenile offenders to be approved to go to a Transitional Center. In April 2005, he was released. Four months after his release, he was hired by a company and served as Team Lead, supervising 21 people and earning \$60,000 a year. Six years later, he purchased his own home.

In May 2014, he launched his trucking company - FourFourtyTrucking, LLC which was named after the Senate Bill 440 that was pivotal in his release.

Amy Solomon leads the Laura and John Arnold Foundation's emerging corrections portfolio, with a focus on community supervision, prison reform, reintegration and fines and fees. Amy joined the Foundation after seven years in the Obama Administration, where she served as executive director of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council. Comprised of more than 20 federal agencies, the Council spearheaded substantial policy reforms including the federal Ban the Box rule, fair housing guidance, the Second Chance Pell initiative, Medicaid guidance for the justice-involved population, and a critical modification related to child support.

Amy concurrently served as director of policy for the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice. In that role, she worked with Justice Department leadership and the White House to shape, launch, and implement a broad range of domestic policy initiatives focused on criminal justice reform, health care reform, urban policy, and building trust between the justice system and communities of color.

Amy holds a master's degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Michigan.

Tracey Syphax has over 20 years of entrepreneurial experience, as a returning citizen and as a strong advocate for reentry reform. Tracey has spent his career advocating ending mass incarceration by using proper reentry tools. He has joined with the Obama Administration and companies from across the American economy as a founding partner for the launch of the Fair Chance Business Pledge. Tracey's success can be seen in diverse groups throughout the US. Through his entrepreneurship courses with CJ Meenan and motivational speaking, he offers returning citizens the opportunity to succeed. His influence and success have been to create an economic engine and revitalize the lives of the formerly incarcerated. Reuniting families and strengthen communities through the 3Es, Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship is viable for reentry.

Tracey is the author of the award-winning memoir, *From The Block To The Boardroom*, and the recipient of numerous awards, including; 2016 One of the 25 Most Influential African Americans in New Jersey; 2014 White House Champion of Change; Empower Magazine's 2014 Person of the Year; and Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Entrepreneur of the Year; 1st African American in 51 years to receive this award. Tracey is also the President and COO of Phax Group Construction & Design LLC and the Senior Managing Partner of Phax Group Real Estate LLC. He owns and manages multiple properties.

Nkechi Taifa is the advocacy director for criminal justice at the Open Society Foundations. Her areas of expertise include federal sentencing reform, executive clemency, law enforcement accountability, and re-entry. Taifa also convenes the Justice Roundtable, a Washington-based advocacy coalition that advances criminal justice reforms. Taifa is the founding director of the Equal Justice Program at Howard University Law School and was adjunct professor at both Howard Law and American University Washington College of Law.

She was legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, serving as principal spokesperson for its Washington Office on criminal justice and civil rights issues. Taifa also served as public policy counsel for the Women's Legal Defense Fund and as staff attorney for the National Prison Project. As a private practitioner, she represented indigent adults and juveniles, and

practiced employment discrimination law. Taifa has served on the boards of numerous public interest organizations, and as an appointed commissioner and chair of the District of Columbia Commission on Human Rights. She has written and spoken extensively on issues of justice reform, receiving numerous awards for her social justice accomplishments. Taifa received her JD from George Washington University Law School and graduated magna cum laude from Howard University.

Rudy Valdez is a New York City-based filmmaker committed to making cinematic, meaningful documentary films about social, cultural and political issues. Most recently he shot and directed *THE SENTENCE*, a documentary about mandatory minimums and sentencing reform. Rudy got his start as a camera operator on the Peabody Award-winning, Sundance series *Brick City*, and his most recent credits include: **Cinematographer** for Academy Award-nominated Director Sebastian Junger's film *The Last Patrol* (HBO); **Director of Photography** for Whoopi Goldberg presents *Moms Mabley: I Got Something To Tell You*; **Director of Photography** for *Remembering the Artist*, Robert De Niro, Sr.; **Director of Photography** on *The Conversation Series*, a New York Times OpDoc; **Cinematographer** for the BET series *Second Coming?: Will Black America Decide the 2012 Election?*; **Director of Photography** for *Prison Dogs*; and **Cinematographer** for *Buried Above Ground*, directed by Ben Selkow and premiered at the Woodstock Film Festival. Valdez is also a proud volunteer as a mentor for the Ghetto Film School.

Tiffany Williams Roberts is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, and currently serves as Community Engagement and Movement Building Counsel for the Southern Center for Human Rights. She obtained a B.A. from Emory University in 2003. In 2008, Tiffany obtained her J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law, graduating with pro bono distinction and several other honors. While at Georgia State, Tiffany studied in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Panama City, Panama and Durban, South Africa.

Through the nationally acclaimed *Gideon's Promise* (formerly Southern Public Defender Training Center), Tiffany continued her legal education. Tiffany also serves as Deputy Director of the National Institute for Teaching Ethics and Professionalism, housed at the Georgia State University College of Law.

In addition to her legal career, Tiffany dedicates numerous hours to community organizing around issues of police accountability, public safety and civil rights. She is a volunteer and leader of *Ishmael's Promise*, a youth pretrial diversion program launched by the Board of Deacons at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Tiffany's solo practice specializes in criminal defense and civil rights issues. Her commitment is one to professionalism and client-centered representation.

Solicitor General Stephanie Woodard was appointed by the governor in December 2008. Ms. Woodard previously worked in the Fulton County District Attorney's Office as Senior Assistant District Attorney, in the Carroll County District Attorney's Office and in the DeKalb County Solicitor General's Office. She was an attorney in private practice from 2000 until her appointment to Solicitor General.

Ms. Woodard currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Edmundson-Telford Center for Children, and the Board of Advisors for Friends of Recovery, which supports alternative sentencing courts. She is formerly on the board of 3 Dimensional Life, a Christian substance abuse

rehabilitation program. She is a founding member of WomenSource, a nonprofit organization that empowers women with personal and professional resources, and Women Working Wonders, a program to support the children served by CASA.

Ms. Woodard earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Georgia State University and a Juris Doctor (JD) from Georgia State University Law School.

Sally Yates is the Former United States Deputy Attorney and a partner in King & Spalding's Special Matters & Government Investigations practice, twice named by Law360 as "White Collar Practice Group of the Year." Sally's deep experience, leadership and wide-ranging background provide clients with strong, independent judgment in difficult times. As the second-highest ranking official at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and as Acting Attorney General, Sally was responsible for all DOJ's 113,000 employees including all prosecutorial, litigating, and national security components as well as all US Attorney's offices and law enforcement agencies and the Bureau of Prisons.

Sally oversaw DOJ's most significant matters and was instrumental in setting DOJ's enforcement priorities and initiatives. Known for her lifelong, nonpartisan focus on public corruption, Sally is recognized worldwide for her integrity and credibility. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Attorneys, she specializes in independent investigations for public and private organizations and boards.