

**RETHINKING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT**

**Where Do We Go From Here?**

**National Conference & Journalism Fellowship Launch**

**April 26-27, 2018**

**John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

**(Working agenda: Subject to minor changes)**

**Thursday, April 26**

**8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast**

**9 a.m. Opening Speaker**

[**Leann Bertsch**](https://www.governor.nd.gov/administration/leann-bertsch)**,** president, Association of State Correctional Administrators; and director, North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation,

**9:45-11 a.m.**

**The Politics and Policy of Solitary Confinement**

* [**Johnny Perez**](http://heymancenter.org/people/johnny-perez/)**,** Washington, D.C.-based National Religious Campaign Against Torture director of U.S. Prisons Policy/Together to End Solitary Confinement; was in solitary confinement as a juvenile and an adult.
* [**Jessica Sandoval**](https://twitter.com/JLawJustice) Washington, D.C-based chief strategist for the Unlock the Box Campaign, a national campaign to end solitary confinement.
* [**Minnesota State Rep. Nick Zerwas**](http://www.startribune.com/solitary-reform-author-criticizes-dayton-doc-for-bill-collapse/423936003/) (R-Elk River), leading author of, thus far, failed legislation to remove Minnesota from the list of states without any rules on long-term/to limit solitary confinement, including for the mentally ill.
* [**Marc Levin,**](file:////Users/KattiGray/Mozy%20Sync/•%2509Elias%20Husamudeen,%20president%20Corrections%20Officers%20Benevolent%20Association,%20NYC%253B%20has%20cited%20dangers%20to%20officers,%20including%20one’s%20recently%20attacked%20and%20injured%20by%20Rikers%20Island%20inmates.%20%20Moderator%20TBA) J.D., vice president of criminal justice at Texas Public Policy Foundation; co-author, *Pre-Trial and Mental Health Policy in Harris County, Texas: Front-end Protections that Protect Citizens, Control Costs and Ensure Justice.*

*Moderator: Steve Handelman, Center on Media, Crime and Justice executive director*

**11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**The Brain and Body in Solitary Confinement**

* [**Stuart Grassian, MD,**](http://www.trainingourprotectors.com/uploads/5/4/1/5/5415260/psychiatric_effects_of_solitary_confinement.pdf) former Harvard Medical School physician-research who has interviewed hundreds of solitarily confined patients and published such papers as this one.
* [**Brie Williams**](http://profiles.ucsf.edu/brie.williams)**,** MD, UCSF Medical School prof and director of its Criminal Justice and Health program; lead researcher of [The Health Risks and Costs of Solitary Confinement](http://globalprojects.ucsf.edu/project/health-risks-and-costs-solitary-confinement-advancing-evidence-policy-reform), a study slated to end in 2019; California DOC consultant; an expert witness in various courts.
* **Homer Venter,** MD, MS, lead researcher/author of [“Solitary Confinement and Risk of Self-harm Among Inmates,”](http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2013.301742) director of programs for Physicians for Human Rights, NYU School of Medicine.

*Moderator:* ***Gerard W. Bryant****, PhD, John Jay College of Criminal Justice director of counseling services; New York City Department of Corrections board of directors; former federal Bureau of Prisons assistant warden.*

**12:30-2 p.m.**

**Lunch: Keynote Convo with:**

* [**Anthony Graves**,](https://www.anthonygravesfoundation.org/about-agf/our-team) exonerated, former Texas death row and solitary confinement inmate; author of “Infinite Hope;” founder/executive director of Anthony Graves Foundation
* [**Mario Bueno**](http://luckincsolutions.org/our-team/), author of “Reformed: Memoir of a Juvenile Killer;” former solitary confinement inmate and co-founder/co-director of Leaders Under Correct Knowledge (LUCK Inc.), a Michigan re-entry program.

*Moderator: Freelance journalist* ***Curtis Stephen****, former Open Society Institute Fellow.*

**2-2:15 p.m.**

**Interlude:** Snippet of **Kaleif Browder** story by actor [Donnell E. Smith](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm7275197/?ref_=tt_ov_st_sm), who played Browder in a docu-series on Browder. Celebrity rapper Jay Z produced the docu-series.

**2:30-4 p.m.**

**Confining the Young: Costs and Controversies**

* [**Marsha Levick**](http://jlc.org/about-us/who-we-are/staff/marsha-levick)**,** Esq., chief counsel and co-founder of Philadelphia-based Juvenile Law Center, who’s litigated cases involving juvenile confinement and cases of juvenile family law that she contends feed that pipeline.
* [**Sarah Vinson, MD**](https://www.drsarahvinson.com/forensics), Atlanta-based forensic and juvenile psychiatrist; Morehouse School of Medicine and Emory School of Medicine professor; and Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice doctor.
* [**Kyung Ji Kate Rhee**](https://www.nuleadership.org/staff-board-list/kyung-ji-kate-rhee)**,** deputy director Brooklyn-based Center for NuLeadership Solutions and director of its youth justice advocacy project.

*Moderator: Leslie Lapides, managing editor of the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange.*

**4-5:30 p.m.**

**Race, Class, Disabilities, Et cetara: A Partial Profile of Who’s in Solitary**

* [**Anna VanCleave**](file:///C:\Users\KattiGray\Mozy%20Sync\Anna%20VanCleave)**,** Yale Law School lecturer; director of Yale’s Liman Center for Public Interest Law, which, with the Association of State Correctional Administrators, authored [“Aiming to Reduce Time in Cell,”](https://law.yale.edu/system/files/area/center/liman/document/aimingtoreducetic.pdf) a November 2016 report on restrictive correctional housing.
* [**Margo Schlanger**](https://www.law.umich.edu/FacultyBio/Pages/FacultyBio.aspx?FacID=mschlan), University of Michigan Law professor, author of “[How the ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) Restricts Solitary Confinement for People with Mental Disabilities”](https://www.acslaw.org/sites/default/files/How_the_ADA_Regulates_and_Restricts_Solitary_Confinement.pdf) and [“Against Solitary Confinement: Jonah’s Redemption and Our Need for Mercy.”](http://repository.law.umich.edu/articles/1560/)

*Moderator: Freelance journalist* ***Katti Gray****, The Crime Report contributing editor and “Rethinking Solitary Confinement” conference/journalism coordinator.*

**Friday April 27**

**8:30 a.m. Continental breakfast**

**9-10:30 a.m.**

**The Courts’ Impact on Solitary Confinement Reform**

* **U.S. District Judge James Peterson,** who in September 2017 [ordered Wisconsin to end solitary confinement of juveniles](http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/federal-judge-grants-class-action-status-to-inmates-at-youth/article_0ff571c5-8e10-591b-8d01-dfd4edb9dca2.html) and allowed a class-action lawsuit against a couple of the state’s juvenile detention centers
* **Former U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlen**, who, responding to a class-action suit[, in 2016 ordered New York’s prisons to limit the “frequency, duration and severity”](https://www.aclu.org/news/federal-judge-approves-solitary-confinement-overhaul-new-york-state) of solitary confinement. She’s now in private practice.
* [**Laura Rovner**](http://www.law.du.edu/faculty-staff/laura-rovner)**,** Esq., University of Denver Strum School of Law/Civil Rights Clinic, litigator on prisoner rights; and author of this 2015 legal brief[, Dignity and the Eighth Amendment: A New Approach to Challenging Solitary Confinement.](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2675228)

*Moderator: John Jay College of Criminal Justice Distinguished Lecturer* ***Martin Horn,*** *executive director of New York State Sentencing Commission.*

**10:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Correctional Professionals on the Pros & Cons of Solitary Confinement**

* [**Elias Husamudeen**](https://www.cobanyc.org/elias-husamudeen), president Corrections Officers Benevolent Association, NYC; former corrections officer.
* Former corrections officer and retired Colorado [**DOC Warden Susan Jones**](https://info.nicic.gov/virt/node/8)**,** PhD.; author, *The Faces of Change: Women Wardens of Colorado.*

**11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.**

**Gaining Access: Storytelling Tools, Techniques and Logistics**

* Brooklyn-based filmmaker [**Kristi Jacobson**](https://www.catalyst-films.com/kristi-jacobson/), director and producer of 2017’s “Solitary: Inside Red Onion State Prison,” a Virginia supermax facility where some have spent 23 hours a day, sometimes for decades, in an 8-by-10 square foot cell. (23 hours is something of a national standard.)
* Solitary Watch investigative journalist and Solitary Watch editor [**Jean Casella**](http://solitarywatch.com/author/casellaj4/)**,** co-author of “Hell is a Very Small Place.”

*Moderator:* ***Mensah H. Dean****, a Philadelphia Inquirer/Daily New criminal; justice/courts reporter.*

**12:30 p.m.: Field trip TBD**

**4-5:30 p.m. Fellows Wrap (story ideas, etc)**

**Good-byes**