14th Annual Harry Frank Guggenheim Symposium on Crime in America

VIOLENCE IN AMERICA: Myth and Reality

Feb 21-22, 2018
John Jay College

(WORKING) AGENDA

Times and speakers subject to change.

DAY 1 Thursday Feb 21

Continental Breakfast
Lobby, 524 W. 59th St.
8:30am-9:00am

WELCOME
9:00am-9:15 am
Stephen Handelman Director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice, John Jay
Karol Mason, President, John Jay College

KEYNOTE
9:15-9:45
George Gascon, San Francisco DA

PANEL 1: The Midterms & Justice: What Just Happened?
9:45 am-11:15 am

The November midterm elections significantly changed the justice landscape in many parts of the country, with new innovative prosecutors elected in many jurisdictions, as well as voter approval of key referenda on marijuana legislation, police training and others issues. And the federal government, possibly in response to what appears to be overwhelming public support for changing our justice system. Will the bipartisan momentum continue in 2019?

**SPEAKERS:**
Holly Harris, executive director, Justice Action Network  
Mark Holden, general counsel, Koch Industries  
Larry Obhof, Ohio Senate President  
Locke Thompson, newly elected Cole County MO prosecutor

**MODERATOR:**
Sheila Dewan, New York Times (INVITED)

**BREAK**
11:15am-11:30am

**PANEL 2: American Violence**  
11:30am-12:45 pm

What do the figures tell us about the extent of violence in American society? A full exploration of the question looks at the many varieties of violence, from shootings and domestic abuse to violence against minorities and immigrants, and draws some lessons journalists can use in covering the issue.

**SPEAKERS**
Al Blumstein, Carnegie Mellon University  
Janet Lauritsen, University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Rick Rosenfeld, University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Frank Straub, Police Foundation

**MODERATOR:**
Steve Handelman, director, CMCJ/John Jay

**LUNCH**
1:00pm-2:00 pm

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General, New Jersey (invited)

**PANEL 3: Gun Violence in America**  
2:00pm-3:15 pm

Mass shootings in schools and other public places have been prominent in the headlines over the past year, and while there is a debate about whether such shootings pose a growing threat, gun violence—particularly access to guns remains a central focus of concern and some have defined it as a public health epidemic. What does current research and practice tell us about strategies for reducing it?

**SPEAKERS**
Increasing violence directed at ethnic and religious groups by extremist groups, particularly in the so-called alt-right, has been one of the most troubling developments of 2018. Would treating the perpetrators as domestic terrorists make it easier for the federal government to counter the trend?

SPEAKERS
The Hon. Henry T. Wingate, Southern District of Mississippi
Karen Greenberg, Center on National Security, Fordham Law
Faiza Patel, Liberty and National Security Program, NYU Brenner Center
George Selim, Senior VP, Anti-Defamation League

Moderator: Peter Romaniuk, John Jay Center on Terrorism

BREAK
4:15PM-4:30PM

Strategies for intervening and preventing violence are now high on the national agenda. What do research and best practices tell us about how successful they are?

Stephanie Ueberall, director, Violence Prevention Programs, NYC Citizens Crime Commission
Igor Volsky, Guns Down, Wash DC
Daniel Webster, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy & Research

Moderator: TBD

FELLOWS WRAP SESSION
5:30-6:30PM

TRAILBLAZER DINNER
7pm-9pm
Contintental Breakfast
Lobby, main campus, 524 W. 59th St.
8:30am-9:00 am

**PANEL 5** HOLISTIC DEFENSE
9:00-10:30 AM

Public defenders are now being asked to do more than just keep their poor clients out of jail. In some cases, they are aiming to ensure that the health or family issues that put many of them in contact with the law can be incorporated into treating them justly. The concept is known as ‘holistic defense.’

**SPEAKERS:**
Rick Jones, exec director, Neighborhood Defender Services, Harlem NY
Issa Kohler-Hausmann, Yale Law School, author ‘Misdemeanorland’
Tom Reed, director, Milwaukee Public Defenders office

**MODERATOR:**
Paul Heaton, Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice

**BREAK**
10:30am-10:45 am

**PANEL 6:** Forgotten But Still Not Forgiven: America’s Community Supervision Challenge
10:45am-12:00

**SPEAKERS:**
Topeka Sam, Ladies of Hope Ministries
Brian Lovins, Asst Dir Harris County (Texas) Community Supervision Services
Vincent Schiraldi, Columbia University Labs, Former NYC Probation commissioner
Connie Utada, Pew Public Safety Performance Project

**MODERATOR:**
Mark Obbie, freelance author, editor, The Crime Report

**WORKING LUNCH**
Venue-TBA
12:00 pm-1:30 pm
Criminal Justice Coverage: The Year in Review
Presented by Ted Gest, Criminal Justice Journalists

**PANEL 7:** Tackling the Opioid Epidemic: Pre-Arrest Diversion and the Justice System
1:30pm-3:00pm
Partnerships between police and drug treatment providers have already made significant headway in developing non-punitive means of addressing substance-abusers in some parts of the country. [The panel will examine how new strategies of “deflection” and pre-arrest diversion have eliminated some of the traditional tensions between law enforcement and behavioral health specialists—and explore how such strategies can address other public health challenges faced by communities.

SPEAKERS
Leslie Balonic, Balonick & Associates TASC
Carmen Best, Chief of Police, Seattle (invited)
Jac Charlier, executive director, TASC Center for Health and Justice

MODERATOR:
Aviva Kurash, International Association of Chiefs of Police.

WORKSHOP FOR FELLOWS & INVITED GUESTS ONLY

Story Lab Reporters Workshop 1: Covering Bail, Jail & Pretrial Issues
3:00 pm-4:30 pm

How journalists cover the increasingly complex and controversial area of bail reform is a critical favor in developing informed debate over pretrial issues. The roundtable will explore some of the legal issues and context reporters need to know when examining the question of pretrial justice.

The Hon. Truman Morrison, DC Superior Court
Additional Speaker (TBD)

FACILITATOR
Mark Obbie

• FINAL WRAP (with Fellows)
4:30 PM-6 PM pm

FACILITATORS: Joe Domanick + CMCJ staff