

Transforming Texas' Criminal Justice System

A Symposium for Journalists



SPONSORED BY THE JOHN JAY COLLEGE CENTER ON MEDIA, CRIME AND JUSTICE AND THE CHARLES KOCH FOUNDATION
WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AUSTIN MOODY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

**JOHN
JAY** COLLEGE
OF
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE

**CENTER ON MEDIA,
CRIME AND JUSTICE**

OCTOBER 21ST – 22ND, 2019

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
MOODY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
BELO CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA
300 W. DEAN KEETON ST, AUSTIN TX 78712

AGENDA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

*All sessions at the University of Texas at
Austin Moody College of Communication*

**8:00–9:00am PRIVATE BRIEFING,
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
FOR JOURNALISTS**

**9:00am–9:15am
WELCOME**

Stephen Handelman, Director, Center on Media
Crime and Justice at John Jay College (CMCJ)

Kathleen McElroy, Dean, School of Journalism,
University of Texas at Austin

**9:15am–9:45am
OPENING KEYNOTE:**

A Summary of the CJ Reform Issues Currently at Play
in Texas, their Current Status and Changes of Passage

Joe Moody, Speaker ProTem, Texas House of
Representatives

**9:45am–11:00am
SESSION 1
THE POLITICS OF CJ REFORM
IN TEXAS, 2019**

Lauren Johnson, Criminal Justice Coordinator,
ACLU of Texas

Marc Levin, Vice President, Criminal Justice Policy,
Texas Public Policy Foundation

Sandra Guerra Thompson, Professor in Law,
Director Criminal Justice Institute at the University
of Houston Law Center

MODERATOR: Jolie McCullough, reporter,
Texas Tribune

**11:00am–11:10am
BREAK**

11:10am–12:25pm

**SESSION 2A
REDUCING INCARCERATION**

Recodifying Texas CJ Laws and Practices; Rolling Back
Mandatory Minimum Sentencing

Shawn Dick, District Attorney, Williamson County

Nick Hudson, Criminal Justice Policy Analyst,
ACLU of Texas

Kim Ogg, District Attorney, Harris County

MODERATOR: John C. Moritz, Austin Bureau USA
TODAY NETWORK

12:25–1:30pm LUNCH

**12:40pm–1:00pm
WELCOMING REMARKS**

William R. Kelly, Director, Center for Criminology
and Criminal Justice Research, Professor of Sociology,
UT Austin

**1:00pm–1:30pm
LUNCHEON PRESENTATION:**

The Problems in Accessing Texas's Criminal Justice
Data, and Efforts to Make the System More Transparent

Katharine Teleki, Director of Policy and Planning,
Texas 2036

**1:30pm–2:45pm
SESSION 2B
REDUCING INCARCERATION**

Pretrial Diversion / Cash Bail Reform / Wrongful
Convictions / Drug Prosecutions / Indigent Defense

Geoffrey Burkhart, Executive Director, Texas
Indigent Defense Commission

Lina Hidalgo, Judge Harris County (Houston)

Amanda Woog, Executive Director, Texas Fair
Defense Project

MODERATOR: Cary Aspinwall, Dallas-based staff
writer for The Marshall Project

2:45pm–2:55pm
BREAK

2:55pm–4:10pm
SESSION 3
**RETHINKING THE MISSION
AND PRIORITIES OF
TEXAS PROSECUTORS**

John Creuzot, Dallas County District Attorney

Mark Gonzalez, District Attorney, Nueces County
(Corpus Christi)

Stacey Mathews, Judge, 277th District Court

MODERATOR: Jessica Brand, Legal Director,
The Justice Collaborative

4:10pm–4:20pm
BREAK

4:20pm–5:30pm
SESSION 4
**SUCCESSFUL PRISON REENTRY
AND REDUCING RECIDIVISM:
AN EXPERIMENTAL MODEL**

“The Safe Streets and Second Chances”
pilot project in Texas

Kevin Garrett, Texas Jail Project

John Koufos, National Director of Reentry Initiatives
at Right on Crime, Executive Director of Safe Streets &
Second Chances

Carrie Pettus-Davis, Assistant Professor, Florida
State University, Founding Director, Institute for Justice
Research & Development, Lead Researcher, “Safe
Streets & Second Chances” Pilot Program

DISCUSSION LEADER: Andrea Ball, Austin
American-Statesman

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

8:30–9:00am **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

9:00am–10:20am
SESSION 5
**RETHINKING THE MISSION/
IMPROVING CONDITIONS
OF INMATES IN TEXAS
JAILS & PRISONS**

Diana Claitor, Co-Founder & Director, Texas Jail Project

Michele Deitch, Senior Lecturer, LBJ School
of Public Affairs UT School of Law, University of
Texas at Austin

MODERATOR: Keri Blakinger, Reporter,
Houston Chronicle

10:20am–10:30am
BREAK

10:30am–11:45am
SESSION 6
FROM THE INSIDE LOOKING OUT

Formerly Incarcerated Leadership on
the Future of Reform

Darwin Hamilton, Author/Speaker/Chair of
Grassroots Leadership

Annette Price, M.S., Statewide Coordinator of
Texas Advocates for Justice

Doug Smith, Senior Policy Analyst, Texas Criminal
Justice Coalition

DISCUSSION LEADER: Mark Wilson, Austin
American-Statesman

11:45am–1:20pm
**JOURNALISTS ROUNDTABLE
(BOXED LUNCH)**

SYMPOSIUM WRAP

Discussion of Texas Criminal Justice Coverage

DISCUSSION LEADERS:

Stephen Handelman, Director, Center on Media,
Crime & Justice

Terri Langford, Editor, Texas Standard

CENTER ON MEDIA CRIME AND JUSTICE at JOHN JAY COLLEGE

THE CENTER ON MEDIA, CRIME AND JUSTICE

The Center on Media, Crime and Justice at John Jay fosters quality, in-depth reporting on the criminal justice system. Operated by working journalists, it provides training and skills assistance to reporters at every level around the country, and nurtures the work of young and distinguished journalists on the new frontiers of the media industry. Over 850 reporters, editors and broadcasters have participated in center activities since 2007. Internship and work-study programs also provide opportunities for student journalists at John Jay and other educational institutions around New York to learn criminal justice reporting skills.

thecrimereport.org/center-on-media-crime-justice-at-john-jay-college/



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