Is America Ready for Prison Reform?

FEBRUARY 20-21, 2020
JOHN JAY COLLEGE
524 WEST 59TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY
AGENDA

DAY 1: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
All conference panels except where noted take place in
the Moot Court, 6th floor, John Jay New Building

8:30-9:00am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Journalists, Guests, Speakers

9:00am-9:15am WELCOME
Dan Wilhelm, President, Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation
Stephen Handelman, Director, Center on Media Crime and Justice at John Jay College (CMCJ)

9:15am-10:15am OPENING KEYNOTE:
Leann Bertsch, Director, North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

10:15am-11:00am SESSION 1
DISCUSSION OF KEYNOTE:
CAN WE CHANGE THE CULTURE OF INCARCERATION?
Stanley Richards, Vice President, Fortune Society
Nicholas Turner, President, Vera Institute of Justice
Discussant: Stephen Handelman, Director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice (CMCJ)

11:00am-11:15am BREAK

11:15am-12pm SESSION 2
IS AMERICA READY FOR REFORM?
Albert Reed Jr., Social justice commentator, poet, former “lifer”
Jhody Polk, Founder, Florida Council for Incarcerated Women and Girls

Moderator: Katti Gray, Contributing Editor, The Crime Report

12:00pm-1:00pm LUNCH
Invitation only. 9TH floor conference room 9.64 John Jay

CONVERSATION: LIFE AFTER PRISON
Jeremiah Bourgeois, Columnist, The Crime Report

1:30pm-2:30pm SESSION 3
WHO’S IN PRISON & WHY?
Alfred Blumstein, J. Erik Jonsson University Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research, Carnegie Mellon University
Richard Rosenfeld, Founders Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri, St. Louis
Thaddeus Johnson, Ph.D. Candidate, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University

Moderator: Stephen Handelman, Director CMCJ

2:30pm-4:00pm SESSION 4
REIMAGINING CONFINEMENT:
WHAT SHOULD A 21ST CENTURY PRISON LOOK LIKE?
Michele Deitch, Senior Lecturer, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas-Austin
Marirosa Lamas, Superintendent, Chester State Correctional Institution, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections
Jeffrey Mansfield, Design Director, Mass Design Group/Restorative Justice Design Lab

Moderator: Mark Obbie, Contributing Editor, The Crime Report

4:00pm-4:15pm BREAK

4:15pm-6:00pm SESSION 5
INCARCERATION AND INNOVATION:
CREATING “HUMANE” PRISONS
Brian Dawe, National Director, COPTSD156 Coalition
Scott Erfe, District Administrator, Connecticut Department of Correction; former director TRUE pilot project
Nancy La Vigne, Vice President for Justice Policy, Urban Institute
Jeremiah Mosteller, Policy Counsel, Due Process Institute

Moderator: Sebastian Johnson, Criminal Justice Manager, Arnold Ventures
DAY 2: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:30-9:00am  CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00am-10:30am  SESSION 6  
REENTRY READY?  
THE POLITICS OF REFORM

Sen. Brian Benjamin, President Pro Tem, New York State Senate

Lamont Carey, Acting Executive Director, Mayor’s Office on Returning Citizen Affairs, Washington, DC

Rhett Covington, Assistant Secretary, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Vikrant Reddy, Senior Research Fellow, Charles Koch Institute

Moderator: Lawrence Bartley, Editor “News Inside” The Marshall Project

10:30am-10:45am  BREAK

10:45am-12:30pm  SESSION 7  
TRANSFORMING THE CULTURE OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Barbara Broderick, Former Chief Probation Officer, Maricopa County, Arizona

Tara Cobbins, Leader, Katal Center, Albany NY

C. West Huddleston, Vice President for Business Development, Nexus/SCRAM Systems

Vincent Schiraldi, Co-Founder, Justice Lab, Columbia University

Moderator: Michael Williams, Senior Manager for Adult Policy and Research, Pew Public Safety Performance Project

12:30pm-2:00pm  LUNCHEON KEYNOTE

Invitation only, 9TH floor conference room 9.64 John Jay

The Hon. James McGreevey, Chair, New Jersey Reentry Commission

2:00pm-3:00pm  SESSION 8  
THE FALLIBLE DETECTIVE  
CHANGING PERSPECTIVES ON WRONGFUL ARRESTS AND POLICE MISCONDUCT

Kim Rossmo, Director, Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation, Texas State University

Peter Moskos, Associate Professor, Department of Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration, John Jay College

Moderator: John Hollway, Director, Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice

3:00pm-4:00pm  REPORTERS’ NETWORKING SESSIONS

QUATTRONE FELLOWS  
Room 3.61 New Building

GUGGENHEIM FELLOWS  
Moot Court, 6th Floor New Building  
Presentation of updated Journalists’ Guide to Covering Corrections.  
Ted Gest, President, Criminal Justice Journalists

4:00pm-5:00pm  SESSION 9  
STORY LAB  
THE MEDIA AND FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY

Clare Garvie, Fellow, Georgetown University Center on Privacy and Technology

5:00pm-5:30pm  FINAL WRAP
KEYNOTES

Leann K. Bertsch
Leann K. Bertsch has served as the Director of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation since July 2005. She was President of the Association of State Correctional Administrator from 2014 through 2018, and was awarded the Tom Clements Award for Innovation in Corrections by her peers in 2016. Prior to serving as Director, Bertsch was the Commissioner of the North Dakota Department of Labor. Before entering state government, Bertsch worked as a state court prosecutor and as a legal aid attorney. As North Dakota’s prison chief, Bertsch has worked to transform the state’s corrections system from one that is focused on punishment, monitoring and compliance to a system that is focused on repairing the harm that crime causes for individuals, families and communities. Bertsch serves on the Board of International Corrections and Prison Association, the Advisory Board of the Prison Fellowship Warden’s Exchange, and the Executive Committee of the Association of Women Executives in Corrections.

Jeremiah Bourgeois
Jeremiah Bourgeois served over 27 years in Washington State prisons after a conviction for a murder committed at the age of 14, in 1992, and sentenced to Life Without Parole. While in prison Jeremiah earned his GED, an information technology certificate from Edmonds Community College and his Bachelor’s Degree, magna cum laude. At the same time he began publishing a blog and in academic journals. He was a member of the prisoner advisory committee for the University Beyond Bars, and a leader in the Concerned Lifers Association. In 2016, he became a regular columnist for The Crime Report. After multiple attempts to gain parole based on Supreme Court rulings barring juvenile LWOP sentences, Jeremiah was released in October 2019, and is currently working as a paralegal and studying for a degree in Washington State, where he lives with his fiancée. A collection of his prison writings, The Extraordinary Ordinary Prisoner: Essays From Inside America’s Carcer-al State, was published as an E-book in February.

The Hon. James McGreevey
Jim McGreevey, former governor of New Jersey (2002-2004), is currently Chairman of the New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC), which provides critically needed services to assist persons returning from incarceration to successfully reintegrate into society. Those services include the integration of addiction treatment, sober housing, employment and training, identification and legal services, and linkage to Medicaid and medical and behavioral healthcare for formerly incarcerated persons. Before working at the NJRC, Jim was Executive Director of the Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCETP), overseeing programs targeted in support of employment training for single mothers, displaced workers, the historically disadvantaged, court involved, and unemployed persons. Having pursued seminary education and training at the General Theological Seminary, Jim served his field education working with formerly incarcerated women and men at Exodus Transitional Ministry in Harlem, New York City. He completed his pastoral care at the former Cabrini hospice and long-term healthcare center. Before he was elected the state’s 52nd governor, he served as a state senator, state assemblyman, and over ten years as mayor of Woodbridge, one of New Jersey’s largest mu-
nicipalities. He was Executive Director of the NJ State Parole Board and Assistant Prosecutor in Middlesex County. McGreevey holds a law degree from Georgetown University, a Master’s of Education from Harvard University, and a Master’s of Divinity from the General Theological Seminary.

SPEAKERS/MODERATORS

Lawrence Bartley
(See Lawrence’s full bio in the Fellows section)

Brian A. Benjamin
Brian A. Benjamin, a Democrat, was elected New York State Senator for District 30, which encompasses Harlem, East Harlem, and the Upper West Side in 2017. A leader of efforts to reform New York’s corrections system, he is President Pro Tem of the NY Senate and Chair of Committee on Revenue and Budget. A graduate of Brown University, he earned his MBAS at Harvard Business School. He spent three years working in investment banking at Morgan Stanley before returning to Harlem to work on affordable housing.

Alfred Blumstein
Alfred Blumstein, Ph.D., is the J. Erik Jonsson University Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research at Carnegie Mellon University. Prof. Blumstein’s research over the past 20 years has covered many aspects of criminal justice phenomena and policy, including crime measurement, criminal careers, sentencing, deterrence and incapacitation, prison populations, demographic trends, juvenile violence, and drug-enforcement policy. A past president of the American Society of Criminologists and one of the country’s most renowned criminal justice scholars, he has been one of the most popular speakers at John Jay/Guggenheim Symposia. Among his most recent accomplishments, he headed the National Consortium on Violence Research (NCOVR), a multi-university initiative funded by the National Science Foundation, headquartered at the Heinz College.

Barbara Broderick
Barbara Broderick is former chief probation officer for Maricopa County, Arizona, and co-chair of Executives Transforming Probation and Parole (EXiT). She has devoted more than 30 years to the criminal justice system. She became chief probation officer for Maricopa County in December 2000 and from June 2005 to August 2006 also served as Interim Chief Juvenile probation Officer. Prior to that, she was state director of the Adult Probation Office for the Arizona Supreme Court for five years, assisting local jurisdictions and treatment providers. Named as the nation’s top probation executive by the National Association of Probation Executives for her sustained and distinguished service, she earlier served as New York State Director of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. She earned her B.A. from Niagara University and her masters at the School of Criminal Justice at State University of New York at Albany.

Lamont Carey
Lamont Carey, acting executive director of the Mayor’s Office on Returning Citizens in Wash., DC, is a native Washington who has been involved in various facets of reentry for the past 17 years. He has used his personal experiences with the criminal justice system to fuel his passion to help others recognize and overcome barriers to increase the opportunity for success. He writes, “Being a product of my experiences, I believe that waking up every morning in an environment that has opportunities for personal growth and enrichment is the ultimate success. The majority of my staff is a living testament that in Washington, DC every returning citizen can be successful.” His awards and honors include the 2018 Justice Roundtable Certificate of Excellence from the Sentinel Newspaper; the 2018 Black Inspiration award from the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus; the 2016 Civil Rights Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and the 2008 Senate Congressional Award.

Tara Cobbins
Tara Cobbins is a leader in the Albany, NY branch of the Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice,
A nonprofit that works with returning citizens and the wider community to advance health, equity and justice. A lifelong resident of Hudson, NY, Tara is a mother of six, a grandmother, and an active community leader in the West Hill Section of Albany. Formerly incarcerated, Tara has drawn from that experience and been instrumental in advocating for an overhaul of New York State’s parole policies. Currently on parole, she reports that she has been subject to electronic monitoring and is under constant threat herself of reincarceration, due to her advocacy, “yet remains committed to her passion of assisting others that are oft-forgotten and marginalized.”

Rhett Covington
Rhett Covington has served as Assistant Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Correction under Secretary James Le Blanc since December, 2014. He formerly served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Reentry since 2009, and was a Probation & Parole supervisor and agent for 15 years in the Baton Rouge area. Covington is an advisory member of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission and previously co-chaired the Reentry & Evidence Based Committee. He is the correction department’s designated representative on the Louisiana Reentry Advisory Council and on the Workforce Investment Council, and is involved in efforts to create and expand local and regional reentry coalitions throughout the state. Covington currently oversees the Office of Offender Reentry and works with other state and local agencies to expand reentry opportunities for offenders in the custody of Louisiana corrections.

Brian Dawe
Brian Dawe is a leading figure in the prison reform movement. He is the Executive Director for the American Correctional Officer Intelligence Network (ACOIN) and the National Director for the COPTSD156 Coalition. An outspoken critic of many aspects of the criminal justice system and advocate for his profession, Dawe is a veteran corrections officer and co-founded the Massachusetts Correctional Officers Federated Union. Dawe has testified before the U.S. Attorney General’s Commission on Safety and Abuse in America’s Prisons and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and has addressed conferences at Yale University, the University of Minnesota Law School, and public forums throughout the country on matters related to corrections and criminal justice. Dawe earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Massachusetts. In 2010 he was inducted into the American Correctional Officer Hall of Fame for his advocacy on behalf of Correctional Officers and for developing an intelligence network where corrections professionals can share best practices. He resides in Belmont, MA.

Michele Deitch
Michele Deitch is an attorney and Senior Lecturer on criminal justice policy at the University of Texas’s LBJ School of Public Affairs and at UT School of Law. She is one of the country’s leading experts on correctional oversight, and has been a court-appointed monitor of prison conditions in Texas, a criminal justice consultant, and a policy advisor to the Texas Legislature. She chaired the Travis County (TX) Sheriff’s Advisory Committee on the Women’s Jail, which proposed a reimagined women’s facility based on best practices around the world. Michele is a frequent commentator in the national and local media on prison and jail issues, as well as on juvenile justice, and was a speaker at the Center on Media, Crime and Justice workshop for Texas journalists in Austin in September, 2019.

Scott Erfe
Scott Erfe is District Administrator of the Connecticut Department of Correction in New Britain, CT. With over 28 years of experience in the corrections field, he has served in posts from correctional officer to warden. Most recently he was warden of the Cheshire Correctional Institution, a supermax facility for adult, long-term offenders. At Cheshire, he managed the T.R.U.E. pilot program, an innovative approach for 18-25 year-old offenders modeled in part on the prison system in Germany. He was featured in a CBS “60 Minutes” documentary earlier this year.
Clare Garvie
Clare Garvie is a senior associate with the Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law. She was the lead author on The Perpetual Line-Up: Unregulated Police Face Recognition in America in 2016 and two follow-up reports. In 2019 she testified before the House Oversight Committee about police use of face recognition. Her commentary has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal, and she serves as an expert resource to both Democrats and Republicans in Congress and state legislatures. She received her J.D. from Georgetown Law and her B.A. from Barnard College in political science, human rights, and psychology. She is on Twitter at @ClareAngelyn.

Ted Gest
Ted Gest is president of Criminal Justice Journalists, the nation’s only association of criminal justice reporters, which he co-founded in 1997. He oversees the daily news digest “Crime and Justice News” for The Crime Report, and serves as TCR’s Washington Bureau Chief. Mr. Gest covered the White House, the Justice Department, the Supreme Court, and legal/justice news during a 24-year career at U.S. News & World Report. From September 2011 through March 2015, he served as public information officer for the Washington, D.C., Attorney General. A veteran journalist, Ted began his career at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (his native city). A former coordinator of the Council of National Journalism Organizations (2003-2006), Ted has been cited by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, and won an American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award. He is the author of Crime and Politics (Oxford University Press, 2001). Mr. Gest is a graduate of Oberlin College and the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. He serves as a juror for the annual John Jay/Harry Frank Guggenheim Awards for Excellence in Criminal Justice Reporting. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife.

Stephen Handelman
Stephen Handelman is Director of the Center on Media, Crime and Justice (CMCJ) at John Jay College, and Executive Editor of The Crime Report. He also serves as host of “Criminal Justice Matters,” a monthly TV show at CUNY-TV; and has served consulting managing editor of Americas Quarterly, a journal on hemisphere affairs published by The Americas Society. An award-winning veteran journalist, columnist and foreign correspondent with over 30 years’ experience in reporting and editing (most recently TIME Magazine), he has been a consultant to U.S. law enforcement agencies and the United Nations, and has lectured and taught at universities throughout the U.S.

John F. Hollway
John F. Hollway is Associate Dean and Executive Director of the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. The Quattrone Center is a national research and policy hub created to catalyze long-term structural improvements to the US criminal justice system. Hollway is the author of Killing Time: An 18-Year Odyssey from Death Row to Freedom, which covered the case of John Thompson, a Louisiana Death Row inmate who was exonerated and freed after 18 years in prison. Hollway graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992, and received his JD with honors from the George Washington University Law School.

C. West Huddleston
C. West Huddleston is VP for Business Development at Nexus/SCRAM systems. A former CEO (of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, he is an internationally-recognized advocate for alternative court dockets, known as problem-solving courts, and evidence-based community corrections for offenders involved in drug and alcohol abuse as a component of their crimes. He’s a widely published author and keynote speaker, has testified before state and federal legislators and international parliaments, and has worked with media outlets worldwide.

Sebastian Johnson
Sebastian Johnson helps to oversee the corrections and reentry portfolio on the Criminal Justice
team at Arnold Ventures. Prior to joining Arnold Ventures, he was a senior associate at Freedman Consulting, where he managed strategic planning and research for major philanthropies pursuing criminal justice reform. During his time as a State Policy Fellow at the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, he oversaw research focused on the use of fines and fees at the state and local level. Sebastian’s writing on criminal justice reform and other topics has been featured in *The Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times*, among other publications. He received a B.S. in political economy from Georgetown University before attending Harvard University to earn his M.P.P.

**Thaddeus Johnson**

Thaddeus L. Johnson is a Ph.D. candidate in Criminology & Criminal Justice at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, where he will become a tenure-track assistant professor this fall. A recently appointed Senior Fellow for the Council on Criminal Justice, he draws on his experience as a former ranking law enforcement official in Memphis, TN, to examine topics related to police innovations, urban violence, corrections, and criminal justice policy. Following his career in law enforcement, he received his bachelor’s degree (2014) and Master’s degree (2016) in Criminal Justice at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. Reflective of his interest in juvenile delinquency and education, Thaddeus’ thesis was entitled “Mitigating Delinquency through Academic Intervention: An Empirical Test of Social Control Theory.” His research interests include juvenile delinquency, policing, and the etiology of urban violence.

**Katti Gray**

Katti Gray, *The Crime Report* Contributing Editor, is a freelance journalist mainly covering criminal justice and health. Her bylines have appeared in *AARP, ABC News, CBS News, CNN, Health Affairs, Ms., Reuters, Salon, The Sun, The Washington Post* and other publications. For the Center on Media, Crime and Justice, she organizes journalism conferences and fellowships, including previous ones exploring solitary confinement; Obamacare provisions for prison, jails, the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated; and how the justice system handles persons with mental illness. Her honors include a Pulitzer Prize shared with a team at Newsday in New York. She has been a Pulitzer Prize juror and jury chair. She has won fellowships from, among others, the Fund for Investigative Journalism, National Institutes of Health Medicine in Media, Rosalyn Carter Mental Health Journalism and World Conference of Science Journalists. She runs the New York University Urban Journalism Workshop, and has taught journalism at Columbia University Workshop, and has taught journalism at Columbia University, Hunter College and Long Island University.

**Marirosa Lamas**

Marirosa Lamas has been superintendent at Chester State Correctional Institution (SCI) in Delaware County, PA since 2016. Marirosa began her corrections career in 1990 as a counselor at SCI Camp Hill. While still working at the prison, she also served as unit manager. After serving as superintendent of a number of facilities, in 2013, she was tasked with serving as a coordinator and trainer in the area of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training, which played a major role in helping the department to achieve its goal of training employees that deal with mentally ill offenders and how to respond to and deescalate situations and to provide offenders with appropriate services. A native of Puerto Rico, Marirosa is a professionally certified and trained hostage negotiator. She earned a bachelor’s degree in administration of justice from The Pennsylvania State University. She also holds a Master’s degree in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Prison Warden’s Association, Association of Women Executives in Corrections (AWEC) and the American Correctional Association.

**Nancy La Vigne**

Nancy G. La Vigne, Ph.D., is vice president for justice policy at the Urban Institute. She publishes research on prisoner reentry, criminal justice technologies, crime prevention, policing, and the spatial analysis of crime and criminal behavior. Her work appears in scholarly journals and practitioner publications and has made her
a sought-after spokesperson on related subjects. Before joining Urban, Dr. La Vigne was founding director of the Crime Mapping Research Center at the National Institute of Justice, and served as special assistant to the assistant attorney general for the Office of Justice Programs within the US Department of Justice. Dr. La Vigne was executive director for the bipartisan Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections Reform and was founding chair of the Crime and Justice Research Alliance. She has testified before Congress and has been featured on NPR and in the Atlantic, New York Times, Washington Post, and Chicago Tribune. She holds a BA in government and economics from Smith College, an MA in public affairs from the LBJ School at the University of Texas at Austin, and a PhD in criminal justice from Rutgers University.

Jeffrey Mansfield
Jeffrey Mansfield, a design director at MASS Design Group, explores the relationships between architecture, landscape, and power through his work. Jeffrey co-edited MASS Design Group’s first monograph, Justice is Beauty (The Monacelli Press), and his work has been published in the Cooper Hewitt Design Journal, AD, Tacet and exhibited at MoMA PS1, Bergen Assembly, Sao Paulo Biennale, the Sharjah Biennial, and Tallinn Art Hall. Jeffrey holds a Master of Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and an AB in Architecture from Princeton University and has been deaf since birth, attending a deaf school in Massachusetts, where his earliest intuitions about the relationship between architecture, power, and society emerged. Jeffrey is also a three-time Deaflympian, winning gold with the USA Men’s Deaflympic Ice Hockey Team in 2007 and 2019.

Peter Moskos
Peter Moskos, Ph.D., is chairperson of the Department of Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. He is the director of John Jay College’s NYPD Executive Master’s Program and a former Baltimore City Police Officer. In addition to his primary duties at John Jay College, Moskos is a faculty member in CUNY’s Doctoral Program in Sociology, has taught introductory criminal justice classes at LaGuardia Community College in Queens, and is a Senior Fellow of the Yale Urban Ethnography Project. Moskos’ three books — Cop in the Hood, In Defense of Flogging, and Greek Americans — have won high praise and earned him recognition as one of Atlantic Magazine’s “Brave Thinkers” of the year. He has also published in the Washington Post, Washington Monthly, the New York Times, CNN, Macleans, Pacific Standard, Slate, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and his blog, copinthehood.com. Moskos is currently working on an oral history of the New York City crime drop, told from the perspective of police officers who were on the job.

Jeremiah Mosteller
Jeremiah Mosteller serves as Policy Counsel at the Due Process Institute. Before joining the Due Process Institute, he worked alongside the teams at Stand Together, Prison Fellowship, and the Charles Koch Institute to advance positive reforms in many of our criminal justice systems across the country. Jeremiah’s research and writing focus on proportional punishment, constructive prison culture, and second chances in our justice system. Mosteller attended Liberty University School of Law, where he earned his Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration degrees.”

Mark Obbie
Mark Obbie, a contributor to The Crime Report, is a full-time freelancer based in upstate New York. His work focuses on criminal justice policy, including violent crime prevention, policing, and victims. He is a veteran reporter and editor at daily and weekly newspapers, in digital publishing, and at monthly magazines. He is the former executive editor of The American Lawyer in New York and a former magazine journalism professor at Syracuse University’s Newhouse School.

Jhody Polk
Jhody Polk, a native of Gainesville, Florida, is the Founder of L.E.A.H., the Legal Empower-
Jhody Hall is the Executive Director of the L.E.A.H. project & Advocacy Hub, and the Florida Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. She is also the Director of Community Justice at the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding. In 2018, Jhody was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship, where she launched the Jailhouse Lawyers Initiative, that same year she launched the first participatory defense hub in the state of Florida. Jhody is also known for her work as a central Florida organizer in the campaign to restore voting rights to over 1.5 million Floridians with felony convictions. Through L.E.A.H she uses strategies of legal empowerment, community peacebuilding, and community organizing to expand access to justice, peace, and power for isolated, vulnerable, and incarcerated communities. She served as the Director of the Alachua County Reentry Coalition 2018-2019 and is a proud member of the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, Namati, The National Lawyers Guild, Dream Defenders, and the League of Women Voters.

Vikrant Reddy
Vikrant P. Reddy is a Senior Research Fellow at the Charles Koch Institute. Reddy previously served as a Senior Policy Analyst in the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF), where he managed the launch of TPPF’s national Right on Crime initiative in 2010. He has also worked as a research assistant at the Cato Institute, as a law clerk to the Hon. Gina M. Benavides of the 13th Court of Appeals of Texas, and as an attorney in private practice. Reddy graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BA in Plan II Honors, economics and history, and he earned his law degree at the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in Dallas. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, and he is an appointee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Texas State Advisory Committee.

Albert Reed Jr.
Albert Delon Reed Jr. is a consultant, social justice commentator, prison reform advocate, poet, and public speaker based in Gaithersburg, MD. On September 10, 1995 Albert was sentenced to a statutory mandatory life term of imprisonment without the possibility of parole for a nonviolent federal drug offense. On May 16, 2019 Albert was granted immediate release due in large part to the First Step Act Of 2018, after serving 25 years. Albert recognizes that sharing his life story and discussing the trials and tribulations that he has endured before going, and while being imprisoned, can possibly influence and save lives. He has appeared on multiple media interviews, including MTV, ABC News “Good Morning America” and was featured in The Crime Report. As a member of the Interdenominational Church Of God, Black Fathers Foundation, Montgomery Village Toastmasters International Club, and 2019-2020 Community Advocacy Institute (CAI). Albert writes that his life since leaving prison has been aimed at “showing the world that despite his past he has a promising and successful future ahead.”

Stanley Richards
Stanley Richards is the Executive Vice President of The Fortune Society, a service and advocacy non-profit in NYC whose mission is to support successful reentry from prison and promote alternatives to incarceration. Stanley, who describes himself as a “formerly incarcerated man of color,” is a “Champion of Change” recipient, awarded by the Obama Administration. His current appointments include: the NYC Board of Correction; the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform; and the Working Group on Design, a subcommittee of the Implementation Task Force to ensure effective implementation of the “Smaller, Safer, Fairer” criminal justice system

Richard Rosenfeld
Richard Rosenfeld, Ph.D., is the Founders Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri - St. Louis. His research interests include the study of crime trends, crime statistics, and criminal justice policy. Prof. Rosenfeld is a Fellow and past President of the American Society of Criminology. He received the Society’s 2017 Edwin Sutherland Award for contributions to criminology.

Kim Rossmo
Kim Rossmo, Ph.D., is the University Chair in Criminology and the Director of the Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation in the School of Criminal Justice at Texas State University. He was formerly a management consultant with the ATF, the Director of Research for the Police Foundation, and a Detective Inspector with the Vancouver Police Department. Dr. Rossmo is a member of the IACP Advisory Committee for Police Investigative Operations. He recently completed a large National Institute of Justice research project, the major findings of which were published in “Confirmation bias and other systemic causes of wrongful convictions: A sentinel events perspective” (Northeastern University Law Review, 2019).

Vincent Schiraldi
Vincent Schiraldi is co-director of the Columbia Justice Lab and senior research scientist/adjunct professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work. After founding the policy think tank, the Justice Policy Institute, he moved to government as director of the juvenile corrections in Washington DC, and then as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation. Most recently, Schiraldi served as Senior Advisor to the New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice. Schiraldi, a frequent contributor to The Crime Report, has been a leader in the campaign to rethink community supervision. He pioneered efforts at community-based alternatives to incarceration in NYC and Washington DC. Schiraldi received a MSW from New York University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Binghamton University.

Nicholas Turner
Nicholas Turner joined the Vera Institute of Justice as its fifth president in 2013. Under his leadership, Vera has worked closely with governments and advocates to enact sweeping bail reform in several states, built a bipartisan movement to reinstate Pell grants for people in prison, and partnered with dozens of local justice systems to reduce jail populations, end solitary confinement, and bring dignity to life behind bars. Nick came to Vera from the Rockefeller Foundation, where he was managing director, and previously served as vice president and chief program officer at Vera. Before attending Yale Law School, he worked with court-involved, homeless, and troubled young people at Sasha Bruce Youthwork, a Washington, DC, youth services organization, from 1989 to 1993.

Daniel F. Wilhelm
Daniel F. Wilhelm is president of The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, a leader in addressing violence and conflict through research and programs. Previously, Wilhelm was a Senior Fellow at the Vera Institute of Justice, a non-governmental organization working to improve justice systems. From 2007-2015, he was Vera’s Vice President and Chief Program Officer. He joined the Institute in 2001. Earlier Wilhelm was an attorney at Sidley & Austin and served as law clerk to U.S. District Judge Frederic Block in Brooklyn. He has written on justice matters for a number of publications and testified before legislative and other panels in some 20 states. Wilhelm is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law, Harvard Divinity School, and the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Michael Williams
Michael Williams is the senior manager of adult policy and leads the jail and community supervision portfolio at the Pew Public Safety Performance Project. Before coming to Pew, Williams was the deputy associate director for operations at the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia. In this role, he was responsible for overseeing risk assessment, supervision, and treatment operations. He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and a master’s degree in public administration from American University.
2020 Reporting Fellows

JOHN JAY/HARRY FRANK GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIPS

Lawrence Bartley
*News Inside, The Marshall Project*

Lawrence Bartley, Director of “News Inside” for The Marshall Project, holds an advanced degree in Professional Studies from New York Theological Seminary and a B.S. from Mercy College. He serves as a Board of Directors member for Prisoner Legal Services and Rehabilitation Through the Arts. He also serves on the advisory board for the Parole Preparation Project and Panacea Video. Previously, Lawrence co-founded “Forgotten Voices” and its successor “Voices From Within,” which highlights remorse, redemption and alters perception through video presentations. Lawrence is an accomplished public speaker and has provided multimedia content for NBC Nightly News, MSNBC, the NY Emmy-winning three-part series “Drama in the Big House”, NPR’s “All Things Considered,” WNYC’s Death, Sex and Money podcast, and his “Power of a Parent’s Voice” TED talk. Wipf, Stock, and Vice have also published his writing.

Michelle Theriault Boots
*Anchorage Daily News*

Michelle Theriault Boots has been a reporter for the Anchorage Daily News since 2012. Before moving to Alaska, she worked as a reporter in California, Oregon and Washington, earned a master’s degree from the University of Oregon’s literary journalism program, and reported for The Associated Press in South Africa. In Alaska, she worked for local TV stations and taught college journalism classes before joining the state’s biggest newspaper. Her work focuses on the human impact of policy decisions, ranging from an investigation of inmate deaths in Alaska prisons to in-depth coverage of an unfolding crisis at Alaska’s sole state-run psychiatric hospital. Her journalism has been recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists’ Northwest regional contest and the Society for Features Journalism’s national contest. Her numerous honors from the Alaska Press Club include a top investigative reporting award. She was a 2017 Kiplinger Fellow at Ohio State University.

Jon Collins
*Minnesota Public Radio*

Jon Collins focuses on class and criminal justice for MPR News’ Race, Class and Communities desk. He is a co-creator and co-host of the Peabody Award-winning podcast “74 Seconds,” which followed the case of the first officer in the state to be prosecuted for an on-duty killing (he was found not guilty). Jon later provided in-depth coverage for MPR News and NPR of the first officer in state history who was convicted and sentenced to prison time for killing a civilian. He has also focused extensively on the opioid overdose epidemic, reporting on gaps in resources and services in the state, culminating in a 2016 audio and online project. He is a former board member of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and a member of Investigative Reporters and Editors. Jon lives in Minneapolis with one dog and three bikes.

Molly Crane-Newman
*New York Daily News*

Molly Crane-Newman began working for the New York Daily News in June 2015 after moving from her hometown of Dublin to New York City. Since then, she has reported over 2,000 stories on an extensive range of topics — including local and national breaking news, crime and the criminal justice system, police brutality, policy issues within the NYPD and various city agencies, and sex abuse in the Catholic Church. Prior to taking over as The News’ Manhattan courts reporter, she covered multiple trials and other court proceedings, including the three-month-long federal drug traf-
ficking trial of Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán Loera in Brooklyn and, more recently, the murder trials of Lesandro “Junior” Guzman-Feliz and Matthew McCree in the Bronx. Currently, she is covering the Harvey Weinstein trial in New York City.

Noelle Crombie
The Oregonian

Noelle Crombie, a senior staff writer at The Oregonian, recently conducted a three-year investigation that revealed the toll of a long-delayed rape kit analysis on a sexual assault victim. She has also investigated white nationalism in Oregon and exposed a Portland-area police agency’s failure to discipline a veteran cop with a history of ignoring sex crime complaints. Her 7,000-word narrative series and five-part documentary published in 2018 won five regional Emmys and Oregon’s top investigative journalism award. Last year, she led a 10-month investigation into sexual abuse allegations against a founder of an international humanitarian organization based in Portland. Her reporting prompted the immediate resignation of the organization’s CEO, one of its top lawyers, and a veteran board member.

Rachel Dissell
The Plain Dealer

Dissell, a reporter for The Plain Dealer in Cleveland since 2002, has written investigative pieces that she says have “changed laws, policies, hearts, and minds.” “Reinvestigating Rape,” a series done in partnership with fellow reporter Leila Atassi, led to the testing of nearly 14,000 rape kits and the investigations of decades-old cases that followed. Since then, nearly 800 defendants in Cleveland have been indicted in previously unprosecuted rape cases. “Toxic Neglect,” a series with colleague Brie Zeltner, exposed Cleveland’s poor track record for investigating lead-poisoned children. Following the series, a coalition of more than 300 concerned individuals worked with the city to pass a law that requires all rental homes in the city to be inspected for lead hazards. In 2019, “Case Closed,” a series with Andrea Simakis, explored the systemic failures of Cleveland police through the experience of a woman who had to solve her own rape. Rachel was a 2016 Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma Ochberg Fellow and has received training in the neurobiology of trauma and trauma-informed interviewing, and storytelling techniques and ethics.

Melanie Eversley
TheGrio/Fortune

Melanie Eversley is an award-winning journalist who has covered race, criminal justice and politics in a career that has spanned numerous national news organizations. The native New Yorker has written about the proposed closure of Riker’s Island, the unsuccessful clemency campaign for Troy Davis, and wrongful incarceration and criminal justice as an issue in the 2020 presidential campaign. She has covered Washington for the Detroit Free Press and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and breaking news and race for USA Today. She is a contributor to TheGrio.com and a political contributor for Fortune.com. Her work also has appeared in the Chicago Tribune, Dallas Morning News, Miami Herald, Philadelphia Inquirer, New York Daily News, Essence, NBCNews.com and TheRoot.com. She hopes to launch a news organization that will include incarceration as a focus. Melanie is a graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Oberlin College. She lives in Manhattan.

Beth Fertig
WNYC

Beth Fertig is a senior reporter covering courts and legal affairs for WNYC, where she focuses on how different New Yorkers interact with the civil and criminal justice systems. Her work explores whether justice is meted out fairly and whether programs within the courts can reduce incarceration and solve social problems. She also covers the federal immigration courts and how changes in immigration law affect New Yorkers under President Donald Trump’s administration. Beth started at WNYC in 1995 covering city politics and spent many years covering public education. She is the author of Why can’t u teach me 2 read? Three Students and a Mayor Put Our Schools to the Test (FSG Books) which grew out of a radio series on the low graduation rate for special education students. She also worked on the award-winning WNYC series “Being 12,” and reported on efforts to promote integration in the New York City public schools. Beth, a New York City native, earned a Master’s in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago. A frequent contributor to National Public Radio, she has won many local and national awards, including the prestigious Alfred I. duPont Columbia University Award for
Broadcast Journalism for her series of reports in 2001 about an effort to privatize some struggling city schools.

Bethany Freudenthal  
*Las Cruces Sun-News*  
Bethany Freudenthal began her full-time journalism career in October 2015 assigned to cover a murder trial in Roswell, New Mexico. Prior to that day, she recalls, “I’d never stepped foot in a courtroom or read a criminal affidavit. My then editor wasn’t sure if I’d be a good fit for that position, but I ended up proving him wrong.” Since then, she has covered crime, courts and breaking news on the island of Kauai, and is currently working the beat for the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, part of the USA TODAY Network. As a Muslim woman who wears a hijab, she writes that “I don’t look like your typical crime and courts reporter. But I have found that my hijab often offers comfort to crime victims and their families, opening the doors of trust for exclusive reporting.”

Henry Gass  
*Christian Science Monitor*  
Henry Gass, Texas Correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor*, was born and raised on the south coast of England, near the naval city of Portsmouth. He has lived in the U.S. since the age of 13. He began his journalism career as a volunteer reporter for the *Prince George’s County Sentinel*. After four years reporting and editing his student newspaper at McGill University in Montreal, he joined the *Monitor* as an intern in 2014. He became interested in the criminal justice system while covering the Dzhokhar Tsarnaev trial in Boston, and has been tasked with covering the U.S. Supreme Court, immigration and the border, policing and other justice issues. Outside work, his hobbies include hiking, film, and supporting Liverpool F.C.

Daniel Gross  
*Greenville News*  
Daniel Gross is an investigative watchdog reporter focusing on public safety and criminal justice for the *Greenville News* and the *USA TODAY Network* in Greenville, South Carolina. His award-winning reporting has examined law enforcement use of force, police shootings, opioid addiction, mental health treatment, jail overcrowding, prison safety, rehabilitation, civil litigation and public corruption. His most recent work, “Lethal Force,” was an 11-part series that revealed flaws in South Carolina’s officer-involved shooting investigations. The project won a Gannett Quarterly Award for public service/watchdog reporting. Gross has been enthusiastic about criminal justice reporting since his earlier journalism days at Towson University. His previous employers include the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal, The Frederick (MD) News-Post,* and *The Gazette*, a former weekly owned by *The Washington Post*. Gross remains passionate about the core to his profession: shining light in dark places and being a voice for the voiceless. Growing up near Washington, D.C., Gross and his wife now enjoy raising their two children in South Carolina.

Ashad Hajela  
*The News & Observer*  
Ashad Hajela covers public safety and breaking news for *The News & Observer* in Raleigh. He was awarded the Media Law Fellowship at the University of South Carolina in October 2019. Ashad previously covered prisons and politics for the Gotham Gazette and was a breaking news intern at NY1. His work has also appeared in *The Gothamist, West Side Spirit, Our Town NY* and *Chelsea News*. He graduated as a University Honors Scholar from New York University in 2019, double majoring in broadcast journalism and history. Ashad also participated in New York University’s Journalism in Ghana program in 2017, producing a capstone project about alternative energy sources in Ghana. He has written about police accountability, the use of drug-sniffing dogs in schools, and bail/bond reform.

Sandy Hodson  
*Augusta Chronicle*  
Sandy Hodson’s investigative work for the *Augusta Chronicle* has earned numerous accolades. Sandy has worked for newspapers from Indiana to Tennessee and Georgia. Her reporting led to criminal justice reforms in Augusta, and her series, “The Wait for Conviction,” earned national honors from Investigative Reporters and Editors. Her recent series on the dismal and abusive conditions in largely unregulated personal care homes lead to changes in state law and the formation of a task force to crack down on the unscrupulous owners. Sandy writes that she has turned an “unblinking spotlight on corruption and ex-
ploitation throughout her career and continues to report with a passion to expose the truth.”

Chelsia Rose Marcius
*New York Daily News*
Chelsia Rose Marcius is the criminal justice reporter at the New York Daily News and the author of *Wild Escape: The Prison Break from Dannemora and the Manhunt that Captured America*. She has covered some of the biggest national stories of the decade, including the mass shootings in Pittsburgh and Las Vegas; the marathon bombing in Boston; the Ariel Castro kidnappings in Cleveland; the Pulse shooting in Orlando; and the Sandy Hook school shooting in Newtown, CT. Now she covers the New York City Department of Correction — including Rikers Island — as well as other a host of other issues, like the prosecution of drug users and those with mental illness. She has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, BBC Radio, WNYC, CBS New York, among others, to discuss her reporting. Apart from her work at the News, Chelsia also teaches at New York University where she received a master’s degree in Journalism.

Marsha McLeod
*The Globe and Mail*
Marsha McLeod is an investigative reporter covering inequality, courts and law enforcement, based in Toronto. She is currently an investigative reporting fellow at *The Globe and Mail*, Canada’s national newspaper. In September, McLeod published a 7,400-word investigation into America’s largest correctional health care provider, Wellpath, and its private equity owner in *The Atlantic*. The work was cited by lawmakers, including Sen. Elizabeth Warren, in letters to H.I.G. Capital demanding greater transparency around their investment in the correctional industry. Previously, McLeod covered criminal justice fines and fees for *Investigative Post*, a non-profit newsroom in Buffalo. Using state databases, she specifically focused on traffic fines and driver’s license suspensions. McLeod graduated with honors from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism in May 2018, where she was a fellow at the Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism. Before diving into journalism, McLeod worked as a production assistant, podcaster and researcher.

Lauren Poteat
*National Newspaper Publishers Association*
Lauren Poteat currently serves as the Washington Correspondent for the *National Newspaper Publishers Association* (NNPA), which also produces *Black Press USA*. Heavily covering politics and general news, before NNPA, Lauren also served as a general assignment reporter for the *AFRO-American Newspaper* located in D.C. and the *Washington Informer*, where she was awarded with a “Dateline Award” and developed her own weekly column entitled “Africa Now,” that focused on international and domestic affairs happening within the continent. In addition to print journalism, Lauren also serves a general assignment field reporter for PG-CTV, located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Lauren was recently awarded a fellowship, through the Ida B. Wells Society, to this year’s Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) national convention in Houston and was given an “Emerging Leaders Award” from the Washington Women’s Public Relation Society.

Levi Pulkkinen
*Freelance*
Levi Pulkkinen is an independent journalist based in Seattle. His work appears in *The Guardian*, *US News & World Report*, *The Appeal*, *High Country News*, *Crosscut*, and *Bitterroot* magazine. He previously served as senior editor for *SeattlePI*, where he covered crime and criminal justice for a decade. Early stints at vigorous rural newsrooms allowed him to explore once-booming, now-busted timber towns, and examine fights for identity in an urbanizing farming community at the mouth of one of the West’s great rivers. As a news reporter with the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, where he covered crime and criminal justice for a decade. Early stints at vigorous rural newsrooms allowed him to explore once-booming, now-busted timber towns, and examine fights for identity in an urbanizing farming community at the mouth of one of the West’s great rivers. As a news reporter with the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and its online successor, Pulkkinen writes, he “watched forest fires come to life, heard pastors’ midnight prayers for peace on the streets, smelled burning cedar in the longhouse, and tasted gallons of sweaty, desperate courtroom air.” His coverage of breaking news, health care and criminal justice has garnered top honors, as has his news feature writing.

Jordan Rubin
*Bloomberg Law*
Jordan Rubin is a legal reporter at *Bloomberg Law*, covering the U.S. Supreme Court and other nationally significant legal matters—criminal matters in particular. In August, his investigative
Connor Sheets
AL.com/The Birmingham News

Connor Sheets is an investigative reporter for AL.com / The Birmingham News. As a member of ProPublica’s 2019 Local Reporting Network, he is spending the entire year investigating Alabama sheriffs. Since he moved to Alabama in 2015, his reporting has had a major impact, including spurring state officials to clearing the way for thousands of low-income felons to restore their voting rights. He has exposed how the University of Alabama funnels large sums of “dark money” to political candidates to driving state lawmakers to pass a law barring sheriffs from pocketing jail food funds. His journalism has been published in many prominent outlets including ProPublica, The Guardian, Newsweek, The Washington Post, Salon, and Mother Jones. Born on Long Island, N.Y., he grew up in Maryland, where he delivered newspapers as a teenager and landed his first reporting job after graduating from the University of Maryland in 2007.

Dan Sullivan
Tampa Bay Times

Dan Sullivan is a writer for the Tampa Bay Times, where he has covered local police and sheriff’s departments, state and federal court cases, prisons, the death penalty, criminal justice reform, gun control, the opioid crisis, mental illness, and judicial politics. In the past year alone, he led coverage of three back-to-back high-profile homicide trials; wrote a long-form narrative about a man serving life for a crime he committed as a juvenile; and raised awareness about the case of a man who was set to be executed by the state of Florida despite doubts about his guilt. He graduated in 2006 from the University of Tampa.

Ryan Tarinelli
The Associated Press, Albany

Ryan Tarinelli is a temporary statehouse reporter with The Associated Press in Albany, focusing on criminal justice and mental health topics. His work recently uncovered the fact that New York State Police is the largest state-level law enforcement agency in the nation without bodycams or dashboard cameras. He is also a Report for America corps member. Before landing at the statehouse in Albany, Ryan worked as a temporary reporter for The Associated Press in Nevada and Texas. He led coverage of the killing of Botham Jean, who was shot by a white Dallas police officer who mistook his apartment for her own. Earlier, he worked as a crime reporter for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette in Little Rock, where he anchored the paper’s coverage of gangs and gun violence. He was part of a three-person reporting team that uncovered how Arkansas’ gun laws make the state one of the deadliest in the nation.
Michael Barajas
Texas Observer
Michael Barajas, a staff writer for the Texas Observer, has covered the criminal justice system, police brutality and other civil rights issues across Texas for the past decade. Before joining the Observer in 2017, he wrote for and edited the San Antonio Current, where he covered everything from Texas’ woefully funded and patchwork mental health care system to jails plagued by inmate suicide. Previously, he was also managing editor at the Houston Press, where he wrote about the city’s unconstitutional bail system, screw-ups by local prosecutors that resulted in hundreds of false convictions, and questionable police shootings.

Halley Freger
ABC News
Halley Freger’s career began at ABC News as an intern with Good Morning America, where she helped develop several investigative projects. She is currently an Associate Producer for the ABC News Investigative Unit. Some recent highlights include the 20/20 documentary report Seed of Doubt that revealed that a woman’s biological father was actually her mother’s former fertility doctor, and not the sperm donor her mother said she had selected. She also collaborated with ABC affiliate stations for a report about BMWs catching on fire while parked, and off. Halley is passionate about visually telling investigative stories.

Justin Fenton
Baltimore Sun
Justin Fenton has been a reporter with the Baltimore Sun since 2001, covering crime in Baltimore and various areas of the criminal justice for the past 11 years. During that time, he was part of a team that was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, for coverage of the police custody death of Freddie Gray and ensuing unrest. He was a two-time finalist for the Livingston Award for Young Journalists, for reporting on rape investigations that led to sweeping reforms and a narrative series going inside a homicide investigation. Justin is currently finishing a book, to be published by Random House, about a corrupt group of police officers who terrorized the city for years until a suburban opioid investigation led to their takedown by the FBI. A planned HBO miniseries, based on the material, is under development by Blown Deadline Productions and Spartan Productions.

Thomas Peele
Bay Area News Group
Thomas Peele is a Pulitzer Prize winning investigative reporter for the Bay Area News Group in northern California and a continuing lecturer at UC Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism. He specializes in accountability reporting focusing on public safety. From 2007-2011 he was lead reporter of the collaborative Chauncey Baily Project, which was widely credited with forcing the prosecution of all those responsible for Oakland journalist Chauncey Baily’s 2007 murder. Random House published his book on the case, Killing the Messenger, in 2012. Peele is currently reporting on thousands of cases involving California police misconduct and use-of-force contained in documents released under a new state transparency law. Jason Pohl was a member of ProPublica’s 2019 Local Reporting Network and spent the year investigating increasing dangers in county jails, indifference among elected sheriffs, and a lack of jail oversight since California began a court-ordered criminal justice system transformation a decade ago. Pohl previously reported on criminal justice, public safety and mental health for newspapers in Arizona and Colorado. He earned a master’s degree in sociology from Colorado State University, where his research focused on inequality and disasters. He has bicycled across America, is an avid runner and has recently started racing in ultra-marathons.
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SCOTT DECKER, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Rachel Friedman, Richard Relkin and Rama Sudhakar of the John Jay Communications Department
Anthony Carpi and Daniel Stageman of the John Jay Office of Advanced Research
Amanda Martinez, Chinua Thomas and members of the John Jay Audio and Visual Departments

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