The Honorable Jonathan Lippman served as Chief Judge of the State of New York and Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals from February 2009 through December 2015. During his tenure on the Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Lippman authored major decisions addressing constitutional, statutory and common law issues shaping the law of New York, the contours of state government, and the lives of all New Yorkers. As the state's Chief Judge, he championed equal access to justice issues in New York and around the country and took the leadership role in identifying permanent funding streams for civil legal services. Among his achievements, he made New York the first state in the country to require 50 hours of law-related pro bono work prior to bar admission. He strengthened the state’s indigent criminal defense system, addressed the systemic causes of wrongful convictions, created Human Trafficking Courts across New York State, and led efforts to reform New York’s juvenile justice, bail and pre-trial justice systems.

Judge Lippman was the 2016 American Bar Association’s John Marshall Award recipient, an award whose prior recipients include Supreme Court Justices Anthony Kennedy and Sandra Day O’Connor. Judge Lippman presently serves as the Chair of the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform, a 27 person blue ribbon commission, formed to examine the future of the Riker’s Island jail facilities in the context of systemic criminal justice reform.
Craig D. Apple, Sr.

Craig Apple has been sheriff of Albany County since 2011. He began his law enforcement career in 1989 as a corrections officer for the Albany Sheriff’s Department in New York. He has been recognized for his commitment to fighting the opioid epidemic through initiatives such as the Sheriff’s Heroin Addiction Recovery Program (S.H.A.R.P.), which connects people detained in Albany County Jail with evidence-based treatment and care. He is also a strong proponent of reducing recidivism by making sure that inmates have access to employment, housing, and support services after release. Sheriff Apple is the recipient of many awards and honors, and holds a B.S. and M.A. in public administration, in addition to certifications from the New York State Law Enforcement Institute at John Jay Criminal College, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the United States Department of Justice, the F.B.I. National Academy, and the New York State Corrections Academy.

Wesley Caines

Wesley Caines, Chief of Staff at The Bronx Defenders, is a graduate of Bard College and New York Theological Seminary. He spearheads the organization’s systemic reform efforts which includes overseeing the policy, impact litigation, strategic communications and community organizing teams. Before joining The Bronx Defenders, Wes worked at Brooklyn Defender Services and launched the Records Accuracy Project which utilized local area law students to identify and correct RAP (records of arrest and prosecution) sheet errors. Wes is a member of the New York City Bar, Reentry Subcommittee, a former member of the American Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section, and a founding member of the National Justice Impacted Bar Association. Wes describes his life goal as “the empowerment of underserved and marginalized communities as they become creative self-advocates who challenge policy-makers’ notion of the social contract.”

John Flynn

John J. Flynn was elected the 41st District Attorney of Erie County, New York in 2016. Born and raised in Western New York, he attended Bowling Green State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1988. Flynn joined the United States Navy after college, and served as the Assistant Supply Officer deploying overseas to the Western Pacific and served during the Gulf War. He joined the Erie County District Attorney’s Office as an Assistant District Attorney, and was quickly promoted to the Homicide Bureau, where he served until leaving in 2002 to
enter private law practice. He also served as a lecturer at SUNY Buffalo State from 2009 to 2016, teaching a Moot Court class in the Political Science Department. Flynn continued to serve in the Naval Reserves until his retirement in 2017, reaching the rank of Commander. Flynn is currently the 3rd Vice President of the District Attorneys Association of New York. In addition, he is a Vice President of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), and the head of the Metro Section of NDAA which represents the District Attorneys of large cities.

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 as consulting managing editor of Americas Quarterly, a journal on hemisphere affairs published by The Americas Society. An awardwinning 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.

DeAnna Hoskins

DeAnna Hoskins is President of JustLeadershipUSA (JLUSA). Dedicated to cutting the U.S. correctional population in half by 2030, JLUSA empowers people most affected by incarceration to drive policy reform. A nationally recognized leader and dynamic public speaker, she was formerly the Senior Policy Advisor over Corrections and Reentry with the Department of Justice. Ms. Hoskins was designated as the Interim Deputy Director of the Federal Reentry Interagency Council by Attorney General Loretta Lynch. Originally from Cincinnati, she holds a master’s degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, bachelor’s degree in Social Work, is a Licensed Clinical Addictions Counselor, is certified as an Offender Workforce Development Specialist, and is a JLUSA 2016 graduate. She has experienced the reentry system from all perspectives as she is herself a previously incarcerated individual who has successfully transitioned back into the community, ultimately receiving a pardon from Gov. Ted Strickland.

Marc Levin

Marc A. Levin is the chief of policy and innovation for the Right on Crime initiative at the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF.) An attorney and accomplished author on legal and public policy issues, Marc began the Foundation’s criminal justice program in 2005. This work
contributed to nationally praised policy changes that have been followed by dramatic declines in crime and incarceration in Texas. Building on this success, in 2010, Levin developed the concept for the Right on Crime initiative, a TPPF project in partnership with Prison Fellowship and the American Conservative Union Foundation. In 2014, Levin was named one of the “Politic050” in the magazine’s annual “list of thinkers, doers, and dreamers who really matter in this age of gridlock and dysfunction.” Marc has testified on criminal justice policy before Congress and has testified before legislatures in states including Texas, Nevada, Kansas, Wisconsin, and California. Since 2005, Marc has published dozens of policy papers on topics such as sentencing, probation, parole, reentry, and overcriminalization which are available on the TPPF website. In 2002, Marc received his J.D. with honors from the University of Texas School of Law. Marc was a Charles G. Koch Summer Fellow in 1996, and 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.

Maurice Possley

Maurice Possley, journalism coordinator, for the CMCJ Bail Reform project, won a Pulitzer Prize in 2008 for Investigative Reporting on dangerous children’s products for the Chicago Tribune, where he was a reporter for 25 years. He was a finalist for the Pulitzer four other times for his criminal justice reporting. In addition to his work for the Center on Media, Crime and Justice, Possley is senior researcher for the National Registry of Exonerations, a national online database of nearly 2,700 wrongful convictions in the United States since 1989. The Registry is a joint research project of Michigan and Michigan State law schools and the University of California, Irvine Newkirk Center for Science & Society. He has written five non-fiction books.

P. David Soares

P. David Soares is serving his fourth term as District Attorney in Albany County. Having handled thousands of cases in Albany County City Courts as an Assistant District Attorney, David witnessed the failings of the criminal justice system first hand. Since 2004, he has been committed bringing "One Standard of Justice" to Albany County. Born in Brava, Cape Verde, an island off the coast of West Africa, he moved to the U.S. with his family when he was six years old. His father was a mill worker and his union – Local 1196 IBEW - was instrumental in ensuring their family received a fair wage. David worked his way through Cornell University, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications. After Cornell, David attended Albany Law School and received his law degree in 1999. David is a proud father and remains active in his community as a mentor by teaching students throughout Albany County about Acts of Kindness.
Steve Zeidman

Steve Zeidman is a professor at CUNY School of Law and director of its Criminal Defense Clinic. He has spent the last 25 years working in the area of criminal defense. A graduate of Duke University School of Law, he is a highly respected trial lawyer and former supervisor at the Legal Aid Society. Prior to joining the CUNY faculty in 2002 (he was named CUNY’s Outstanding Professor of the Year in 2011), he served as executive director of the Fund for Modern Courts, a nonpartisan, statewide court reform organization. Prof. Zeidman is a member of the Appellate Division’s Indigent Defense Organization Oversight Committee and serves on the Board of Directors of Prisoners’ Legal Services, and was recently appointed by District Court Judge Shira Scheindlin to an Advisory Council created to help implement her remedial order in the *Floyd v. City of New York* stop-and-frisk litigation. He has also served on several statewide commissions, including the Commission on the Future of Indigent Defense Services and the Jury Project., and served as a member of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for the Judiciary in the Bloomberg and Giuliani administrations.