The Next Four Years: Justice in the Biden Era

“Our criminal justice system cannot be just unless we root out the racial, gender, and income-based disparities in the system.”

-- Biden-Harris Transition Plan, Build Back Better.

Will they live up to their pledge?

A week after the 2020 election, President-elect Joe Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris presented an ambitious agenda for criminal justice reform. Many were skeptical that there was bipartisan support to get it done. But with Democrats set to control both houses of Congress, has the likelihood for success has improved? The stage is set for a genuine national debate on the contours of justice reform—and perhaps most significantly a long-overdue reimagining of policing.

The 2021 Harry Frank Guggenheim Symposium on Crime in America will look at the debate, how it fits in with what we currently know and may anticipate about the state of crime and
violence in the U.S., with a special emphasis during the second day on the risks and opportunities that this fast-evolving landscape poses to the challenge of reforming American policing.

All sessions will be held as Zoom webinars. Prior registration required. For information, contact Stephen Handelman, Director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice at stephenhandelman20@gmail.com

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

*Times are EST. Subject to change

DAY ONE—MARCH 4, 2021

Where Do We Go From Here?

9:00 am-9:40     PANEL 1
WELCOME
Dan Wilhelm, President Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation
Stephen Handelman, Director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice

KEYNOTE:
Rep. Val Demings (D-FL) INVITED

Discussant: Adam Gelb, President, Council on Criminal Justice

9:40 am-9:50 am BREAK

9:50am-10:50am     PANEL 2
Setting a Bipartisan Agenda
Officials, staffers and scholars look at prospects for continuing reforms begun during Trump administration. Next steps in Second Chance?
SPEAKERS
Chiraag Bains, Criminal Justice Adviser, Domestic Policy Council, White House (invited)
Brandon Garrett, L. Neil Williams Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law
Christine Leonard, Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary
Stephen Tausend, Legislative Director, Office of Sen. John Cornyn (R-TEX)

Moderator:
Stephen Handelman

10:50am-11:00am   BREAK

11:00am-12:00am   PANEL 3
CRIME TRENDS BACKGROUNDER 2020-2021
Leading U.S. criminologists will discuss and forecast crime trends, including homicide spike, impact of COVID-19, the rise of white-power nationalist violence, etc.

Prof. Al Blumstein, Professor Emeritus, Carnegie Mellon University
Prof. Richard Rosenfeld, Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri /St. Louis
Prof. Cynthia Miller-Idriss, Director, Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab, American University

MODERATOR:
Stephen Handelman

12:00am-12:30pm   LUNCH BREAK

12:30pm-2:00 pm   PANEL 4
Where does the ‘Progressive’ Prosecutor movement go from here?
Backlash against “progressive prosecutors”. Will Federal attorneys follow suit?

**SPEAKERS**

*Chesa Boudin*, District Attorney, San Francisco  
*Darcy Covert*, Deputy Public Defender, Seattle  
*John Chisholm*, District Attorney, Milwaukee *invited*

**Additional Speakers: TBD**

*Miriam Krinsky*, Fair and Just Prosecution  
*Carter Stewart*, former US Attorney Ohio

**Moderator**

*Marissa Bluestine*, Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice

**MODERATOR:** tbd

**2:00pm-2:10pm**

**BREAK**

**2:10 pm-3:15pm**

**PANEL 5**

**AGENDA FOR THE STATES :PART 1**

Rethinking Probation  
How states can shorten probation *and* protect public Safety?

**SPEAKERS**

*Sen. Gerald Malloy, SC, invited*  
*Sen. Jeff Brandes, FL invited*  
*TBD*

**MODERATOR**

Mark Obbie

**3:15pm-3:25 pm**

**BREAK**
3:25pm-4:30pm  PANEL 6
AGENDA FOR THE STATES PART2
America’s Jail Dilemma: Beyond the Pandemic
Reducing jail populations. Preparing for the next pandemic.

SPEAKERS

TBD
Georgia State Sen. David Wilkerson (D), invitation pending
Dr. Alysse Wurcel, Tufts Medical Center, advisor
Massachusetts Sheriffs Association, invitation pending
Ed Gonzalez, Sheriff, Harris County, invitation pending
Others TBA

MODERATOR: TBD

4:30pm-5:00pm  PANEL 7
AGENDA FOR THE STATES PART3
CONVERSATION WITH REP. TARRA SIMMONS (Washington State) First former incarceree elected to state office.) PRERECORDED

DAY TWO-MARCH 5
The Future of American Policing
Five years after the Obama Commission on 21st Century Policing, are we any further along? How do police reformers build a consensus for change in a polarized America?

9:00 am-10:00 am  PANEL 8
Conversation with Chiefs
Can policing reflect America?

SPEAKERS

LaShall Brackney, Chief of Police, Charlottesville VA
Eddie Garcia, Chief of Police, Dallas
Dave Mahoney, Sheriff Dane County, WI., President National Sheriffs Association

MODERATOR
Stephen Handelman

10:00am-10:10am  BREAK

10:10am-11:20 am  PANEL 9

What Does Effective Community Policing Look Like?
Presentation of video & discussion.

Discussants:
Bill Bratton, executive chairman, Teneo Risk; former commissioner of police New York City and Los Angeles
Connie Rice, founder, Advancement Project, Los Angeles

MODERATOR:
Joe Domanick, Associate Director, CMCJ

11:20am-11:30 am  BREAK

11:30am-12:30pm  PANEL 10

Solutions to Excessive Force
Case Study: Tucson Sentinel Events Review
Focus on the landmark Sentinel Events 2020 review of Tucson police shooting (hailed as a major step in police accountability)

SPEAKERS

Margie Balfour, Member of Sentinel Event Community Review Board, critical care nurse
Chad Kasmar, Assistant Chief, Tucson Police Department
Tonya Strozier, School Principal, review board member

MODERATOR
John Hollway, Director, Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice, UPenn Law
12:30pm-1:00 pm

LUNCH BREAK

1:00pm-2:00 pm

PANEL 11

Cultural Change: Forming a New Policing Generation


SPEAKERS

Alex Del Carmen, Associate Dean, School of Criminology, Tarleton State University, instructor law enforcement
Jim Palmer, President Wisconsin Professional Police Association
Susan Radcliffe, mental health clinician, Dorchester County Health Department, Cambridge, Md.
Thaddeus Stevens, Fellow, Council on Criminal Justice

MODERATOR: TBD

2:00 pm-2:10 pm

BREAK

2:10 pm-4:10 pm

PANEL 12

Beyond Defunding?
Engaging the community

SPEAKERS

Richard Aborn, chair, Citizens Crime Commission of NYC
Sgt. Vincent Montague, president, Black Shield (Cleveland)
Prof. Alex Vitale, Author, The End of Policing; Coordinator, Policing and Social Justice Project, Brooklyn College

Jacob Frey, Mayor, Minneapolis invited
Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz (Mass) invited
Melina Abdullah, co-founder, Los Angeles chapter, Black Lives Matters, Professor of Pan-African studies, California State University (invited)
MODERATOR: TBD

4:10 pm-4:25 pm       BREAK

4:25 PM-5:00 pm       PANEL 13
Intersection of Technology and Policing
From Compstat to webcams to geofencing to facial recognition, the rapid sophistication in technology available to police has outpaced our ability to understand its impact. How can policymakers balance the risks to privacy with the opportunities for greater transparency?

SPEAKERS
Arthur Rizer, director, program on technology and criminal Justice, Lincoln Network
Chad Marlow, Senior Policy Counsel, ACLU
Prof. Tracey Meares, Walton Hale Hamilton Professor of Law and Founding Director of The Justice Collaboratory, Yale Law School

MODERATOR
Stephen Handelman

5:00pm-5:30 pm       BREAK

5:30 pm-7:00 pm       PANEL 14 SPECIAL EVENT
Presentation of Winners: 2021 John Jay/Harry Frank Guggenheim Annual Prizes for Excellence in Criminal Justice Journalism

GUEST SPEAKER: Jill Leovy
Author, Ghettoside

Facilitated conversation on media and policing. Fellows’ roundtable.

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