

PANELISTS, SPEAKERS and MODERATORS

RETHINKING THE AMERICAN WAY OF PUNISHMENT

WHAT ARE PRISONS FOR?



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KEYNOTE



Martha Minow

Martha Minow is the 300th Anniversary University Professor at Harvard University where she has taught at Harvard Law School since 1981. She served as dean from 2009-2017. Her courses include advanced constitutional law; fairness and privacy; family law; international criminal justice; law and education; and law, justice; and design.

An expert in human rights, constitutional law, and advocacy for members of racial and religious minorities and for women, children, and persons with disabilities, she also writes and teaches about media policy, privatization, technology and ethics, military justice, and ethnic and religious conflict. She is the author of many scholarly articles and books, including Saving the News (forthcoming, June 2021) When Should Law Forgive? (2019); In Brown's Wake: Legacies of America's Constitutional Landmark (2010); Between Vengeance and Forgiveness: Facing History After Genocide and Mass Violence (1998); and Making All the Difference: Inclusion, Exclusion, and American Law (1990).

PANELISTS, MODERATORS

In Alphabetical Order



CHARLES ALLEN

Charles Allen represents Ward 6 on the District of Columbia Council, where he chairs the Council's Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety. In that capacity, he has led the Council and the country in passing transformative criminal justice measures, centering meaningful rehabilitation and successful reentry as key to improving public safety. He has championed services for crime survivors, including through legislation creating a continuum of care for sexual assault survivors, expanding hospital-based violence intervention, building a network of restorative justice programs, and reforming crime victims' compensation. Co-

Chair of the Council's Special Committee on COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery, he has also championed legislative efforts around education, the environment, transportation, public safety and criminal justice, campaign finance and election reform, and women's health. He lives in Northeast DC with his wife Jordi, their two children Cora Neal and Everett, and their dog Olive. Most days, he commutes on bus, metro, or bicycle.

Frank R. Baumgartner

Frank R. Baumgartner holds the Richard J. Richardson Distinguished Professorship in the Department of Political Science at UNC-Chapel Hill. He has decades of experience analyzing the public policy process in the U.S. and in other countries. In recent years he has focused on criminal justice issues, with large statistical studies of racial differences in traffic stops outcomes, and on the application of the death penalty nationwide. In a recent paper, he explored the extraordinary period of enthusiasm for "tough on crime" legislation in the 1980s and 1990s, and the legacy of those decisions of a generation ago: an explosion of elderly prisoners aging in place in the nation's prisons.



Baz Dreisinger

Baz Dreisinger, Ph.D., is the Founding Executive Director of **Incarceration Nations Network**, a global network that promotes prison reform and justice reimagining worldwide. A professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, she is the founder of John Jay's groundbreaking Prison-to-College Pipeline program, which provides university-level education and reentry assistance to

incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people throughout New York State. Dr. Baz is the author of the critically acclaimed book Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice in Prisons Around the World, named a notable book for 2016 by the *Washington Post*; and the director of *Incarceration Nations: A Global Docuseries*, which had its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival 2021. A 2018 Global Fulbright Scholar and current Fulbright Scholar Specialist, she speaks regularly about justice issues on international media and in myriad settings around the world, and is also a journalist who writes and produces for such outlets as *The New York Times* and National Public Radio (NPR).



Amy Fettig

Amy Fettig, Executive Director of The Sentencing Project, is a human rights lawyer and leading expert on criminal justice reform who has garnered national recognition for her work on prison conditions. Prior to joining The Sentencing Project, Fettig served as Deputy Director for the ACLU's National Prison Project. Fettig also founded and directed the ACLU's Stop Solitary campaign to end the practice of long-term

isolation in our nation's prisons, jails and juvenile detention centers through public policy reform, legislation, litigation and public education. Fettig served as a leading member of the national coalition seeking to end the practice of shackling incarcerated pregnant women. A national expert on prisoner rights law and criminal justice reform, Fettig has also provided technical assistance and advice to advocates around the country. Prior to law school, she worked with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people and their families in New York City. She holds a B.A., with distinction, from Carleton College; a Master's from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs; and a J.D. from Georgetown University. Fettig is a member of the New York State Bar (2002) and the Bar for the District of Columbia (2006).

The Hon. Nancy Gertner

After retiring as U.S. District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, where she served from 1994 to 2011, The Hon. Nancy Gertner became Senior Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School. She has written and spoken widely on various legal issues and has appeared as a keynote speaker, panelist or lecturer concerning civil rights, civil liberties, employment, criminal justice and procedural issues, throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia. Her autobiography, [In Defense of Women: Memoirs of an Unrepentant Advocate](#), was released on April 26, 2011. Her book, [The Law of Juries](#), co-authored with attorney Judith Mizner, was published in 1997 and is continuously updated. She has published articles and chapters on sentencing, discrimination, forensic evidence, women's rights, and the jury system. Gertner received her M.A. in Political Science at Yale University. She was the second woman to receive the Thurgood Marshall Award from the American Bar Association, Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities. (The late Justice Ginsburg was the first.)



In 2010 she received the Morton A. Brody Distinguished Judicial Service Award. Her other honors include the Massachusetts Bar Association's Hennessey award for judicial excellence (2011); the Arabella Babb Mansfield award from the National Association of Women Lawyers (2012); and the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement from the American Bar Association Commission on the Status of Women in the Profession (2014). She is presently working on a judicial memoir (focused on sentencing) entitled [Incomplete Sentences](#) (Beacon Press, forthcoming), a collection of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's opinions, and a Sentencing Treatise.



The Hon. Angel S. Harris

Elected to Orleans Parish Criminal District Court in November 2020, Angel S. Harris previously served as Assistant Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc.(LDF), where her advocacy focused on capital defense, juvenile life without the possibility of parole, felon disenfranchisement and policing reform. Prior to joining LDF, Judge Harris served as a Staff Attorney with the ACLU's Capital Punishment Project where she represented death-sentenced prisoners nationwide. Between 2009-13, Angel was a public defender in Louisiana (Orleans and Calcasieu Parishes). A nationally recognized expert on criminal justice and civil rights issues, Angel's writing has appeared in the *New York Times* and the *Huffington Post* and she has provided commentary on "Democracy Now!," "1A" and "The Roland Martin Show." Angel is also the co-founder of the Black Womxn Lawyers Collective, a platform providing Continuing Legal Education courses with a comprehensive intersectional framework rooted in advocacy with and for womxn, children, and communities of color taught by Black womxn lawyers. Angel graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 2009 and summa cum laude from Hampton University with a B.A. in English. She is a member of the Louisiana State Bar.



Renaldo Hudson

Renaldo Hudson, an educator, minister and community organizer, focuses his work on ending perpetual punishment in Illinois. After being sentenced to death row, Hudson worked for 37 years while incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections, where he developed and implemented groundbreaking programs inside the Department of Corrections. His projects included the prison newspaper *Stateville Speaks* and the Building Block Program, a transformational program run by incarcerated people within the Illinois Department of Corrections. Hudson's work and life have been featured in media outlets including the BBC, *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Magazine*, and others. His story and work to create back-end mechanisms for the release of incarcerated people is the subject of the documentary "Stateville Calling." He was released in September 2020 when Gov. Pritzker commuted his life sentence. He joined the Illinois Prison Project as its Director of Education later that year.

Lila Kazemian

Lila Kazemian, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is a graduate of Université de Montréal in Canada, and she earned her Ph.D. at the Institute of Criminology of the University of Cambridge. Her research has largely focused on the study of changes in offending behavior across time. Specifically, her work has examined the process of abandoning crime, otherwise known as *desistance from crime*. Dr. Kazemian's recent research investigated this process among long-term prisoners. Her current research examines the process of desistance from crime in the context of parole. Dr. Kazemian frequently serves as an expert in legal cases involving housing discrimination against individuals with a criminal record. Her most recent work, Positive Growth and Redemption in Prison: Finding Light Behind Bars and Beyond (International Series on Desistance and Rehabilitation) was published by Routledge in 2019.



Erin I. Kelly

Erin I. Kelly is Professor of Philosophy at Tufts University. Her current work focuses on how social injustice should bear on our thinking about individual responsibility and criminal justice institutions. She is author of The Limits of Blame: Rethinking Punishment and Responsibility (Harvard Univ. Press, 2018), which criticizes the role of blame in popular theories of criminal justice.



Lee Kovarsky

Lee Kovarsky is the Bryant Smith Chair in Law at the University of Texas School of Law, where he also co-directs the UT Capital Punishment Center. Before he joined UT, he spent a decade teaching at the University of Maryland. A leading scholar of the death penalty and habeas corpus, he was elected to the American Law Institute in 2020. Prof. Kovarsky remains an active death penalty litigator. He regularly represents death-sentenced prisoners as they await execution, and frequently drafts amicus briefs before U.S. Supreme and other appellate courts, usually representing law professors or other professional organizations, including the American Bar Association (ABA) and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). Prof. Kovarsky received his B.A. in Political Science and Economics from Yale University, and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable Jerry E. Smith on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He began his academic career with a three-year appointment as an Acting Assistant Professor at NYU School of Law.



Lawrence S. Krasner

Larry Krasner was officially sworn in on January 2, 2018, as the City of Philadelphia's 26th District Attorney. Before being elected District Attorney, Mr. Krasner served of-counsel at Greenblatt, Pierce, Funt, and Flores, LLC. He worked as a public defender in Philadelphia from 1987 to 1991 and was then promoted to the Federal Public Defender's Office in Philadelphia (1991). In 1993 he started his own private practice, specializing in criminal defense and police misconduct matters. Throughout his 30 year career, Mr. Krasner has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to social justice, having defended protesters pro bono who were involved with movements such as ACT UP, Black Lives Matter, progressive clergy with POWER, Casino-Free Philadelphia, DACA Dreamers, and Decarcerate PA. He has resided in Philadelphia for over 30 years. His wife has been a judge of the Court of Common Pleas for 17 years. They have two adult sons.

Terah Lawyer-Harper



Terah Lawyer-Harper finds purpose in working to improve the justice system. She is the program manager for the Homecoming Project, an innovative re-entry housing program at Impact Justice. Her role includes matching eligible participants to compatible hosts while securing a support network for each arrangement. A former incarcerated, Terah has been an advocate for incarcerated people for more than a decade as a peer health educator, a certified drug and alcohol counselor, a youth diversion specialist. She is a past chair of the Beyond Incarceration Panel with the Central California Women's Facility. She also developed numerous curricula for therapeutic workshops and groups that empower and change the lives of people in California's state prisons. She is also a musician, graphic designer, and public speaker, and serves as a spokeswoman for the "Drop the Life Without the Possibility of Parole" campaign. She was featured on "A Living Chance" and "Wanda's Picks" podcasts. Terah volunteers with the California Coalition for Women's Prisoners, and is a Next Generation Fellow at Center of Juvenile and Criminal Justice. A Bay Area native, she joins Impact Justice with undergraduate degrees in business management and social & behavioral science.

Sydney McKinney



Sydney McKinney, Ph.D., is executive director of the National Black Women's Justice Institute (NBWJI). She is deeply committed to advancing rigorous research, policy, and technical assistance that lifts up the voices of system-impacted Black women, girls and gender-nonconforming people. Under her leadership, NBWJI's research and advocacy demonstrate the importance of centering the experiences of Black women, girls, and gender nonconforming people in efforts to end mass incarceration and how critical it is that our society advance new models of justice that are rooted in a commitment to individual and collective healing. Dr. McKinney has over 15 years of experience in the areas of child welfare and justice reform, leading and implementing research and evaluation in applied settings. She holds a Ph.D. in sociology and an M.A. in law and society from New York University, as well as an M.P.H from Columbia University.

Christine Montross



A 2015 Guggenheim Fellow in Nonfiction, Dr. Christine Montross, is Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She is a practicing inpatient psychiatrist and performs forensic psychiatric examinations. Born and raised in Indianapolis, she completed medical school and residency training at Brown University, where she received the Isaac Ray Award in Psychiatry and the Martin B. Keller Outstanding Brown Psychiatry Resident Award. Dr. Montross's first book, Body of Work, was named an Editors' Choice by *The New York Times* and one of *The Washington Post's* best nonfiction books of 2007. Her second book, Falling Into the Fire, was named a *New Yorker* Book to Watch Out For. Her latest book, Waiting for an Echo, was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. It was also named a *New York Times* Book to Watch For, a *Time Magazine* Book to Read in July and an Amazon.com Best Book of the Month. Dr. Montross has been named a 2017-2018 Faculty Fellow at the Cogut Center for the Humanities, a 2010 MacColl Johnson Fellow in Poetry, and the winner of the 2009 Eugene and Marilyn Glick Emerging Indiana Authors Award. She has also had several poems published in literary journals, and her manuscript *Embouchure* was a finalist for the National Poetry Series.

Stephanie Morales

On February 10, 2015, Stephanie Morales was the first woman elected Commonwealth's Attorney in Portsmouth, VA. A mother of four, she committed her office to seeking restorative justice daily and correcting the wrongs done by the system to members of the community. In 2015, Morales established the "Ctrl+Alt+Del Program" to foster successful re-entry for the formerly incarcerated community. Additionally, she has mentored over 200



students under her program called the "Future Leaders Initiative." CA Morales advocates daily for those who can't fight for themselves and to end and disrupt racism and inequity in the legal system. Ms. Morales is the author of a new children's book called The Day I Became A Lawyer. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Links, Inc., a Board Member of the Legal Aid Society of South Eastern Virginia, and is a national board member of the Local Progress Organization.

Michael Romano

Michael Romano is the director and founder of the Three Strikes and Justice Advocacy Projects at Stanford Law School, where he currently teaches criminal justice policy and advanced criminal litigation. Previously, he was director of the Stanford Criminal Defense Clinic. In 2019, Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Michael as chairperson of California's new criminal law and policy reform committee, the [California Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code](#). Michael's litigation and traditional legislative campaigns have resulted in reduced sentences for over 15,000 people convicted of nonviolent crimes, including over 7,000 people sentenced to life for minor offenses under the state's "Three Strikes" recidivist sentencing law. Michael also founded the "Ride Home" prisoner reentry program, which has assisted formerly incarcerated inmates in 38 states and in 2015 partnered with the Obama administration and U.S. Dept. of Justice in support of the president's executive clemency initiative. With assistance from his students, Michael also represents incarcerated individuals in state and federal courts, winning the reversal of over 150 life sentences. Michael is also counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and has been named one of California's top lawyers. His work has been profiled in several news outlets, and in the award-winning PBS feature documentary "The Return." Michael graduated with honors from Stanford Law School and was a John Knight Fellow at Yale Law School. He clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.



Vincent Schiraldi

Vincent Schiraldi became New York City's Commissioner of Correction on June 1, 2021. With decades of experience in government, direct services and public policy, Schiraldi most recently served as a Senior Research Scientist at the Columbia School of Social Work and co-Director of the Columbia Justice Lab. He was also the founder of the policy think tank, the Justice Policy Institute. In 2014, Mr. Schiraldi served as Senior Adviser in the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, where he was instrumental in implementing Mayor de Blasio's criminal justice reforms. From 2010-2014, he served as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation. From 2005-2010, he served as the Director of Juvenile Corrections in Washington D.C. Commissioner Schiraldi pioneered efforts at community-based alternatives to incarceration in New York City and Washington DC and has gained a national reputation as a reformer who emphasizes the humane and decent treatment of the men,



women and children under his correctional supervision. A native New Yorker, Commissioner Schiraldi received an MSW from New York University, a Bachelor of Arts from Binghamton University, and is a graduate of Regis High School in New York City.

Danielle Sered



Danielle Sered envisioned and directs Common Justice, which develops and advances practical and groundbreaking solutions to violence that advance racial equity, meet the needs of those harmed, and do not rely on incarceration. Before planning the launch of Common Justice, Danielle served as the deputy director of the Vera Institute of Justice's Adolescent Reentry Initiative, a program for young men returning from incarceration on Rikers Island. Prior to joining Vera, she worked at the Center

for Court Innovation's Harlem Community Justice Center, where she led its programs for court-involved and recently incarcerated youth. She is the author of The Other Side of Harm: Addressing Disparities in our Responses to Violence; of Accounting for Violence: How to Increase Safety and Break Our Failed Reliance on Mass Incarceration, and Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and a Road to Repair. An Ashoka fellow and Stoneleigh fellow, Danielle received her BA from Emory University and her Masters degrees from New York University and Oxford University (UK), where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. Danielle has been featured widely in the public conversation about mass incarceration and violence, including the Aspen Ideas Festival the *Atlantic Magazine* Summit on Race and Justice.

Jeremy Travis



Jeremy Travis, Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice at Arnold Ventures, is one of the nation's preeminent criminal justice reformers. He joined Arnold Ventures after serving 13 years as president of John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York (CUNY). Prior to his time at John Jay, Jeremy was a senior fellow with the Justice Policy Center at the

Urban Institute, where he launched a national research program focused on prisoner reentry, and served as director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), where he managed the growth of the organization's annual budget from \$25 million to \$120 million. Earlier, he was deputy commissioner for legal matters for the New York City

Police Department (NYPD); chief counsel to the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and special adviser to New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch. Jeremy clerked for then-U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg and was the Marden and Marshall Fellow in Criminal Law at New York University. He is the author of But They All Come Back: Facing the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry, and chaired the panel of the National Research Council that produced the landmark report, *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences*, which he co-edited. Jeremy serves on the Board of Trustees of the Urban Institute. He earned his J.D. and M.P.A. from New York University and his bachelor's degree from Yale College.

Steven Wasserman

Steven Wasserman is president of the National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys (NAAUSA), which represents the interests of AUSAs nationwide on pay/benefits, work life, and policy issues before DOJ and Congress. He is currently a prosecutor in the Violent Crime and Narcotics Trafficking Section at the office of the U.S. Attorney in Washington D.C. He began his career as an attorney at the Department of Justice in what was then called the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section, and then transferred to the Electronic Surveillance Unit within DOJ and worked primarily on wiretap and electronic surveillance issues. In 1998, he began working as a litigator in the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section at DOJ working on gang and other organized crime prosecutions, including RICO prosecutions and in 2003 served as an Assistant US Attorney in Washington, DC.



OUR TEAM



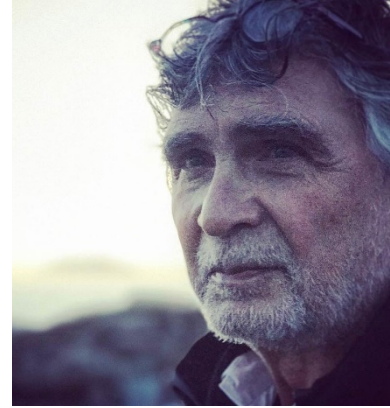
Stephen Handelman

Stephen Handelman is director of the Center on Media, Crime and Justice (CMCJ) and editor-in-chief of *The Crime Report*. A former prize-winning former columnist, foreign correspondent and senior writer/columnist for *TIME* magazine and *The Toronto Star*, he is the author of Comrade Criminal: Russia's New Mafiya,

the first account of the rise of organized crime in post-Soviet Russia. In a follow-up book, Biohazard, he unraveled the Soviet bio-weapons program. A frequent commentator and lecturer on criminal justice issues, transnational crime and organized crime, he has trained investigative journalists in Eastern Europe, Russia and Latin America. Steve earned his Master's in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University. He is a member of the board of communications alumni of the City College of New York, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Maurice Possley

Maurice Possley is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of four nonfiction books. Possley is the senior researcher for The National Registry of Exonerations, a database of more than 2,800 wrongful convictions maintained by the University of California Irvine Newkirk Center for Science & Society, University of Michigan Law School and Michigan State University College of Law.



Christopher Graham

Christopher Graham is the producer of the CMCJ's series of programs on criminal justice. He serves as technology coordinator and web designer for the International Thriller Writers (ThrillerWriters.org), Evil Eye Concepts (1001DarkNights.com), and several bestselling authors. He consults for a wide variety of companies and organizations that require technical, design, programming and various other IT services. He is the former founder of Backspace, LLC, and co-host of the Backspace Writers Conferences in New York City and the Bahamas, as well as online workshops and classes, and a subscription-based online

discussion forum with over 2,000 members.



Blake Diaz

Blake Diaz is a *Crime Report* intern. A senior at Loyola University Chicago studying both criminal justice and multimedia journalism, Blake was born and raised in Phoenix and currently lives in Chicago. He writes periodically for Loyola's student-run newspaper, the *Loyola Phoenix*. He is passionate about criminal justice reform and wants to pursue a career in public policy and investigative journalism.

