PRELIMINARY AGENDA

The 17th annual Harry Frank Guggenheim Symposium on Crime in America at John Jay College

Justice at the Crossroads:

Is the Reform Window Closing?

V4 FEB 17

* 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. More
DAY ONE—MARCH 3, 2022

The symposium will take sharply focused looks at specific areas of the system—e.g., corrections, courts/prosecutors and law enforcement—where the impetus for reform is at risk because of the changing political environment, and ask our speakers to assess what's salvageable, what is open to compromise, and what may need to wait for a friendlier political environment.

9AM-915AM   WELCOME
Dan Wilhelm, President, Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation
Stephen Handelman, Director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice

915AM-1030AM   PANEL 1
DOES REFORM HAVE A FUTURE?
With the rise in crime likely to dominate the mid-term elections, will justice reformers have to scale back their ambitions?

Jamila Hodge, Executive Director, Equal Justice USA
Michael Nutter, Former Mayor, Philadelphia
Insha Rahman, VP, Advocacy and Partnerships, Vera Institute of Justice

MODERATOR: Elizabeth Glazer, former NYC Justice Advisor

1045AM-12PM   PANEL 2 CRIME TRENDS 2021-2022
A closer look at crime statistics shows why ‘alarmism’ about a crime wave may be unwarranted.
Alfred Blumstein, *Erik Jonsson University Professor of Urban Systems, Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University*

Rick Rosenfeld, *Curators' Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri/St. Louis*

Julia Schleimer *UC-Davis Violence Prevention Research Program*

**MODERATOR:**

Stephen Handelman *director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice*

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1230PM-2PM **PANEL 3 CORRECTIONS AND THE PANDEMIC**

*Are states and federal prison reforms instituted during pandemic now at risk?*

Jennifer Brobst, *Southern Illinois University School of Law*

Alex Piquero, *Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Miami*


John Wetzel, *Pennsylvania Secretary of Corrections (2011-2021)*

**MODERATOR:**

Maurice Possley, *Journalism Coordinator, Center on Media, Crime and Justice*

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210PM-320PM **PANEL 4 BAILING OUT?**

*Bail reform mandated by legislatures or instituted by progressive prosecutors has probably done more to change the visible structure of the justice system than anything else in 2021. But it's become an easy target for tough-on-crime critics.*

Satana Deberry, *District Attorney, Durham, NC*

Michael Rempel, *Director, Data Collaborative, John Jay College*

Cindy Redcross, *Director, Strategic Planning and Analytics, Bronx County (NY) District Attorney’s Office*
MODERATOR:
Stephen Handelman director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice

3:30PM-5:00PM  
PANEL 5 PROSECUTOR MISCONDUCT
The lack of transparency about prosecutorial misconduct such as the misuse of plea bargaining is driving skepticism about the legitimacy of the justice system. A Quattrone study of Pennsylvania courts suggests that it’s a national problem.

Mark Fondacaro, Former Director, Doctoral Training Program in Psychology & Law at John Jay College
Kim Foxx, Cook County State’s Attorney
Miriam Krinsky, Director, Fair and Just Prosecution
Ross Miller, Associate Director, Quattrone Center for the Administration of Justice, UPenn Carey Law School

MODERATOR:
John Hollway, director, Quattrone Center for the Administration of Justice, University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law

5:05PM-5:30PM  
PANEL 6 CONVERSATION: REIMAGINING JUDGES
Judges are usually overlooked in reform conversations, but unless they sign on to the drive for changes in the justice system, little will get done, says veteran Boston judge and author of a landmark paper, “Reimagining Judges.”

The Hon. Nancy Gertner, Harvard, former federal judge (author of Square One paper, “Reimagining Judges”)  

DISCUSSANT:
Stephen Handelman director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice
DAY TWO MARCH 4

9AM-1030AM PANEL 7 GUN VIOLENCE

Experts can disagree on the causes for rising gun violence, but few take issues with the fact that sales of guns are at a new peak in America, along with growing legal support for concealed carry laws. What’s driving Americans’ hunger for guns, and the corresponding rise in support for “self-defense”? Can we get a handle on the underground trade in illegal guns?

T. Markus Funk, University of Colorado School of Law
Kristen Rand, Legislative Director, Violence Policy Center
Joseph B. Richardson, Jr, The Joel and Kim Feller Professor of African-American Studies, University of Maryland

MODERATOR:
Maurice Possley, Journalism Coordinator, Center on Media, Crime and Justice

1040AM-1200PM PANEL 8 POLICE: BEYOND DEFUNDING

The defunding movement appears to have sputtered out of steam, but it doesn’t mean police reform is dead. What’s the current state of play on ideas such as ending qualified immunity, national standards for policing, improving racial diversity of police forces, getting cops out of traffic stop business, etc.?

Eddie Garcia, Dallas police chief
Rosie Rivera, Sheriff, Salt Lake County (Utah)
Elsie Scott, Director, Ronald W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center, Howard University
Chuck Wexler, Director, Police Executive Research Forum

MODERATOR:
Nancy La Vigne, Director Task Force on Policing, Council on Criminal Justice

1230-2:00 PM PANEL 9 MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

An estimated 10 percent and 15 percent of U.S. prisoners suffer from serious mental illnesses, yet experts say few receive proper treatment for their disorders. Should they be behind bars in the first place?
Dr. Mary Alice Conroy, Sam Houston State University
Dr. Eric Hickey, Walden University
Hanna Shoshanny, NY Criminal Defense Attorney
Dr. Patricia Zapf, past president American Psychology Society

MODERATOR:
Stephen Handelman director, Center on Media, Crime and Justice

210-2:40 PM  PANEL 10A CONVERSATIONS

Shytierra Gaston, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology, Georgia State University

Will more representative police forces reduce misconduct?

DISCUSSANT: Stephen Handelman, CMCJ

2:45PM-3:15PM  PANEL 10B CONVERSATIONS

Emily Galvin-Almanza, founder, Partners for Peace

Can an investment in more public defenders increase public safety?

DISCUSSANT: Maurice Possley, CMCJ

3:30PM-500 PM  PANEL 11  STATE(S) OF REFORM

Beyond the headlines, states and municipalities have embarked on a number of reforms. Too early to tell whether they are working but worth noting. Panel will look at landmark changes in New Jersey, Michigan and California through the eyes of the legislators who sponsored them.

Rebecca Brown, Director of Policy, The Innocence Project
Brian Egolf, Speaker of the House, New Mexico INVITED
Robert Peters, Chair, Public Safety Committee State Senate, Illinois
Tenisha Yancey, State Representative, Michigan;
MODERATOR:
Maurice Possley, Journalism Coordinator, Center on Media, Crime and Justice

530PM-700PM

PANEL 12  JOHN JAY PRIZES, AND TRAILBLAZER

Announcement winners of the 2021 H.F. Guggenheim prizes for excellence in criminal justice journalism. Introduction of this year’s Trailblazer Award winner, David Inocencio, founder of THE San Francisco “Beat Within” prison writers workshop and, through him prison writers nationwide, who are making a huge difference in perceptions of justice system.