

Understanding the Criminal Legal System, Making Change Happen in Illinois,
and Addressing the Needs of the Incarcerated and of Those Who Have Been
Released

OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES FOR GETTING INVOLVED

Revised January 31, 2025

See the Table of Contents of this Document, starting on page 7 below
after the **Headlines** section)

Also note that **all new items** added to this document since the last update are shown
in bold throughout.

Digital Access - Please go to <http://incarcerationreform.com/> for digital access to this
same information

Questions, Suggestions

Please direct questions or suggestions to: johnmclees@outlook.com

Headlines

Advocacy for Justice Reform in the Illinois General Assembly

**THREE WITNESS SLIPS needed BEFORE Tuesday February 4 at 2:30 pm, the time of the Illinois
Senate committee hearings on these bills.**

In each case, it just takes a minute to:

Go to the link

Fill in your information – write in “self” if you do not represent a firm or organization

Indicate your support or opposition to the bill, by clicking “PROPONENT” or “OPPONENT”

For testimony - choose “record of appearance only.”

Click your agreement with the ILGA Terms of Agreement

1. **Please go to this link: [file witness slip](#) to file as a PROPONENT of SB 108, which would make the existing Cook County traffic fee waiver program permanent, to continue to allow judges to waive traffic fees for people who can’t afford them**
2. **Please go to this link: [SB 81](#) to file as an OPPONENT of SB 81, which would increase the sentence for aggravated battery if the victim is a DCFS employee (The ACLU and others strongly oppose this bill, whose sole effect would be to contribute to the damage caused by mass incarceration and would not, as studies have shown, deter these awful crimes.)**
3. **Please go to this link: [file witness slip](#) to file as a PROPONENT of SB31-HB1823, which would extend existing protections for youth in custody for child protection to those in custody due to delinquency petitions**

Please go to the convenient links below to connect directly with your legislators to support the following important legislative initiatives, which will come before the General Assembly in this session:

Automating Expungement and Sealing of Criminal Records in Illinois – Contact your state legislators now at this link: <https://secure.everyaction.com/4Lu0wbj26U-t56nL87x7ew2#!> to support Illinois legislation following the example of other states in _____, to eliminate the (often prohibitively complicated) extra procedures that are now required for the individual to obtain the expungement and sealing to which he or she is entitled.

Public Defense - Contact your state legislators now using [this action tool](#) to support the FAIR Act for reforming the structure and funding of the Public Defender System in Illinois. This is a top legislative priority in Illinois for upcoming sessions of the General Assembly.

You can [access the fact sheet here](#) and the [campaign website](#) to learn more about the bill.

Preserving Mail to Prisoners - Please use this link:

https://actionnetwork.org/letters/9e43e633e906c4cd1d53c908e76caf980ef24976?mc_cid=3c445ebd2e&mc_eid=1d41dd6a29

now to ask your state legislators and the Governor to urge the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) NOT to stop the delivery of physical mail and permanently replace it with scanned copies, reducing the already limited connection of incarcerated people with their families and others in the outside world.

Restore Justice has issued a statement opposing these restrictions. - [read it here](#)

[Find information about more opportunities for advocacy in Illinois and nationally (along with tools for effective advocacy and information about how to contact your Illinois Representatives and Senators) on pages 63 through 73 below.]

Capability Building

Get free LinkedIn Premium Accounts for formerly incarcerated individuals, employees of a reentry organization and others working with justice impacted individuals – available here:

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/f62ee1ae3a697fc96fe8cdea1591ce90?r=use1> -

Upcoming In-Person Events

Wednesday February 5, 5:30 pm, "In Their Hands" Panel Discussion, presented by The Illinois Justice Project at the Union League Club of Chicago at 65 West Jackson Boulevard

- [Register for the event](#) without charge
- [Watch the documentary "In Their Hands"](#)

Saturday February 15, 2025, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Legislative Advocacy Workshop at a location to be announced to registrants, on the South Side of Chicago: Unlocking your influence in Springfield to roll back so-called Truth in Sentencing, sponsored by Restore Justice and FAMM.

Register for the Workshop at:

https://act.famm.org/a/legislative-advocacy-workshop?ms=RestoreJustice&mc_cid=cac9394ad1&mc_eid=b92d12e360

Monday March 3, 2025, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm, 23rd Annual CARRE Conference at Malcolm X College on Redemption in Practice, 1900 West Jackson Boulevard, organized by The Safer Foundation – details coming soon

March 13, 2025 [save the date], 2025 Illinois Reentry Conference of The Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago – open to the public

[Sign-up here](#) to receive updates, or go to bit.ly/ILReentryConference

Friday April 4, 2025, 7:00 to 11:00, Third Annual Hoodie Ball Fundraiser of My Blook My Hood My City, at the Bridgeport Art Center at 1200 West 35th Street

visit <https://www.formyblock.org/hoodieball> to purchase early bird tickets

Upcoming Online Events and Programs

Tuesday February 4, 1:00 pm, Monthly Coalition Meeting of the Illinois Coalition to End Permanent Punishments

Register here;

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/2JnrcONZRTSQRtZvYIYwXg?emci=7dd97285-30cd-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&emdi=e5730e30-d0cd-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&ceid=2953827#/registration>

Wednesday February 19, 12:00 to 1:00 pm, Conversations with CARA on how employment social enterprises fuel economic mobility on Chicago's South and West Sides, presented by the **CARA Collective**

Get more information and register here:

https://caracollective.org/conversations/?utm_source=Cara&utm_campaign=0fc60be348-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_FY24_NEWSLETTER_JANUARY_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bb93760f88-0fc60be348-362025539

March 11 through April 17, Workshop on Community Lawyering – 2025, a six-week online course offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, organized by the **Shriver Center for Poverty Law**– earn 20 CLE credit hours

Learn more at:

<https://mailchi.mp/povertylaw.org/community-lawyering-2025-promo-1?e=efaaa22a04>

Register by March 10 at:

https://www.povertylaw.org/event/community-lawyering-spring-2025/?utm_source=Shriver+Center+Allies&utm_campaign=20f3af8f58-Community-Lawyering-2025-promo-1&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-e99a0a1842-367009133

Thursday March 13, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the **UIC Student Center West, 2025 Illinois Reentry Conference**, presented by the **Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago**, and **Pre-Conference Networking Mixer** on **March 12, 2025, 6:00 to 8:00 pm** at **CARA Collective, 237 South Desplaines Street**

Register without charge at:

https://whova.com/portal/registration/74M@R1Cb9pzTANlivHHk?preview_image=3

Online Resources –Briefings, Podcasts, Webinars. Conference Videos Available On Demand

Recording of the January 30, 2025 webinar on the **Clean Slate Initiative** is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nwe0SGU7ZaY>

discussing the **The Advocate's Guide to Automatic Record Clearance**:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uweAMRdNga2V3Yn-070cfGAIYodEV2ckaAvNmrH3Vbc/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.io3a6ccpxoby>

issued in September 2024 by **Code for America** – essential knowledge for crafting policy that the government can initiate to implement the **Clean Slate Initiative**. Additional information available at

<https://www.cleanslateinitiative.org/faq>

The **October 2024 Newsletter** of the **Social Justice Resource Center**, accessible here:

<https://conta.cc/4eoDgnq> contains an encyclopedic collection of facts and figures about our prison system and links to more information.

Envisioning Justice RE: ACTION Curriculum Guide – a guide produced by **Illinois Humanities** to prompt high school teachers and students in Illinois to learn about and reflect upon the impact of mass incarceration on our state, to consider the meaning of freedom, and to imagine the possibilities for transformative justice. Access it here: <https://envisioningjustice.org/the-reaction-curriculum-guide/>

There is a new Illinois Sentencing Dashboard: Prison and Probation Sentences (with information for each county by year since 2000 for class 1 to 4 felonies), created by the Loyola University Chicago Center for Criminal Justice

accessible here: <https://loyolaccj.org/blog/idoc-prison-dashboard>

[see a comprehensive list of transformational on-line resources, with links, on pages 9 through 19 below]

Federal Advocacy

December 2024 Letter of the Clean Slate Initiative Urging the Trump-Vance Administration to Champion Clean Slate Legislation

<https://www.cleanslateinitiative.org/updates/trump-vance-letter>

Recent Reports To Guide Justice Reform Efforts in Illinois and Nationally:

Punishing Fear: the Devastating Impacts of the War on Gun Possession in Chicago, a November 2024 report of Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts

<https://mailchi.mp/chicagoappleseed.org/punishing-fear?e=9b71449375>

How Accreditation Can Improve Health of People in Jail, a January 2025 report of Arnold Ventures

<https://www.arnoldventures.org/stories/how-accreditation-can-improve-health-of-people-in-jail>

New Facility Reports for Graham, Shawnee, Vienna and Re-Entry Focused Facilities of the John Howard Association available at:

<https://www.thejha.org/>

Bad Behavior: How prison discipline manufactures misconduct, a January 2025 report of the Prison Policy Initiative

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/discipline.html>

The First Year of the Pretrial Fairness Act, a September 2024 report of the Loyola University Chicago Center for Criminal Justice

<https://pfa-1yr.loyolaccj.org/>

2024 Year-End Report of the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice

<https://mailchi.mp/endmoneybond/celebratingoneyear-4089180?e=26813fbadd>

Lockdowns, Overtime and Unmet Needs: Why we must solve the current prison staffing crisis, an October 2024 report of the John Howard Association

<https://www.thejha.org/special-reports/102124>

[See a comprehensive list of reports on justice reform issues, with links, on pages 34 through 52 below, including reports on a wide range of topics, including pretrial electronic monitoring, ending racial inequity in incarceration, youth justice, monitoring Illinois prisons and jails, safety beyond sentencing, and the role of technical violations of supervised release on prison admissions in Illinois

Recent Articles on Justice Reform Issues

“A Chicago judge just erased her predecessor's historic ruling on forensic firearms analysis”, a January 14, 2025 article by Radley Balko in The Watch

https://radleybalko.substack.com/p/a-chicago-judge-just-erased-her-predecessors?utm_source=TMP-Newsletter&utm_campaign=952ed324dd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_01_16_11_42&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5e02cdad9d-952ed324dd-174976893

“State's attorney accused of threatening witness in murder case to chill wrongful conviction cases” a January 6, 2025 article by Matthew Hendrickson in The Chicago SunTimes
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2025/01/06/states-attorney-eileen-oneill-burke-threatening-witness-murder-case-wrongful-conviction-cases-updated>

“Criminal justice, victims rights laws go into effect Jan. 1 in Illinois,” a December 23, 2024 article by Greg Bishop in The Center Square
https://www.thecentersquare.com/illinois/article_21ea8582-bf18-11ef-b46e-a79b6c1cd976.html

Report on the Steppenwolf Theater performance of Searching for Justice, a play of the Mud Theatre Project, a company born at the Dixon Correctional Center, and supported by Restore Justice, a report by Mike Davis of WBEZ
<https://www.wbez.org/theater-stages/2025/01/23/mud-theatre-project-searching-for-justice-chicago-theater-steppenwolf>

“This Jail in Rural Maine Is a Model for Treating Opioid Addiction”, a January 17, 2025 article by Kristina Samuelewski in The New York Times
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/16/opinion/opioid-addiction-treatment-maine-jail.html>

“In the Netherlands we’re closing our emptying prisons. What can other countries learn from how we did it?”, An October 14, 2024 article by Renate van de Zee in The Guardian
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/oct/14/netherlands-prisons-dutch-sentencing>

[See a comprehensive list of articles on justice reform issues, with links, *on pages 52 through 59 below*, including articles on a wide range of topics, including juvenile justice, challenges facing reform prosecutors, e-carceration, success in using restorative justice practice in Chicago public schools, continuing imprisonment of older prisoners, and addressing challenges of reentry]

Books Addressing Mass Incarceration

Correction: Parole, Prison and the Possibility of Change by Ben Austin, published in November 2023 by Flatiron Books, an imprint of MacMillan Books
<https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250758811/correction>

Excessive Punishment: How the Justice System Creates Mass Incarceration. edited by Laure-Brook Eisen, published in April 2024 by the Columbia University Press
<https://cup.columbia.edu/book/excessive-punishment/9780231559249>

[See a comprehensive list of books on justice reform, with links, *on pages 32 through 34 below*, including new books on how to address the problems with our systems of incarceration, parole and probation]

Regular Electronic Reports on Justice Related Issues:

Front and Center, the bimonthly newsletter of Loyola Chicago Center for Criminal Justice. Subscribe at:
<https://loyolaccj.us21.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=5d5de947a005fa0edf7a4fa35&id=a92754e84c>
Invisible Institute updates- <https://invisible.institute/contact/>
Justice 20/20 Network Weekly Newsletter – join the network and get the newsletter at:
<https://justice2020.org/>

Illinois Justice Project Weekly News Summary – subscribe by scrolling down at:

<https://www.iljp.org/news>

The Marshall Project’s daily “Opening Statement” – See an example and subscribe at

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/newsletters/opening-statement>

Vera News of the Vera Institute of Justice – to subscribe go to <https://www.vera.org/>

Brennan Center for Justice updates – subscribe at

<https://www.brennancenter.org/subscribe>

[Find a more complete list of relevant reports, and links for subscribing to them on pages 24 to 25 below]

Resource Guides and Hubs:

[*A New Path: A Guide to the Challenges and Opportunities After Deportation*](#), a 2024 guide of the Education Justice Project for people who live in the United States with the threat of deportation, Supplementing the 2024 Reentry Guides of the Education Justice Project:

<https://reentryiltemp.web.illinois.edu/reentry-guides/>

[See a comprehensive list, with links, on page 31 below]

Support for Returning Citizens

[Find information on pages 60 through 63 about services, information and support for returning citizens.]

Volunteer Opportunities in Illinois

[Find other volunteer opportunities, including Chicago Community Jail Support opportunities and Pen pal opportunities, with links, on pages 8 through 9 below.]

Opportunities for Positions in Justice Reform

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority – information at

<https://icjia.illinois.gov/about/employment/> about a positions available as a Research Scientist, Research Internships and Graduate Design Internships

Lawndale Christian Legal Center – information at <https://lclc.net/join-our-team/> for

positions available for an Outreach Worker, an Outreach Civic Engagement Coordinator, and a Facilities Director

Organizations and Membership Opportunities in Illinois:

Justice 20/20 Network –

Learn more at <https://justice2020.org/> and join working groups, including groups with focus on Pretrial and the Courts and on Incarceration and Reentry

The Illinois Alliance for Reentry and Justice

Join the Alliance (as an individual or an organization) at <https://www.ilarj.org/>

Justice-Focused Organizations to Investigate and Support

[Find comprehensive lists, with links, on pages 26 through 29 below, for:

- Media organizations

Restorative justice supporting organizations

Interactive Network Resource for connecting returning citizens with service providers

Illinois-based initiatives led by formerly incarcerated individuals

Other Illinois-based service organizations

Other organizations serving the accused, those incarcerated, and the formerly incarcerated

Illinois-based organizations leading reform efforts
Other organizations leading reform effort

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Volunteer Opportunities in Illinois:

Volunteer opportunities at **Safer Foundation** at locations throughout Illinois and eastern Iowa
Learn more at: <https://saferfoundation.org/get-involved/>

Kolbe House Prison Ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago – volunteer to help prep, deliver, or underwrite the cost of meals for their twice monthly FAITH night--Families Affected by Incarceration; contribute basic items to their clothing and food pantry which serves individuals coming out of jail and families in need, and find out about possible opportunities to participate in their in-jail ministry at the Cook County Jail

Information about how to learn more about Kolbe House's mission, ministry, and needs is available at <https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/kolbe-house-jail-ministry/contact-us>

Chicago Community Jail Support – on-site assistance 5:00 to 10:00 pm daily at 27th and California for those being released from Cook County Jail, run entirely by volunteers

<https://chicago-community-jail-support.webnode.com/>

Learn how to volunteer at:

<https://chicago-community-jail-support.webnode.com/my-work/>

Learn about volunteer roles at:

<https://chicago-community-jail-support.webnode.com/volunteer-roles/>

Learn of other ways to contribute:

<https://chicago-community-jail-support.webnode.com/donate/>

Follow on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook:

<https://chicago-community-jail-support.webnode.com/follow-us/>

Join the Illinois Alliance for Reentry and Justice (as an individual or an organization) at

<https://www.ilarj.org/>

Defy Ventures <https://www.defyventures.org/>– volunteer to mentor incarcerated and formerly | incarcerated individuals in the entrepreneurial programs that enable them to find their inner strength and to become the CEOs of their own lives: <https://www.defyventures.org/take-action-main/take-action-volunteer/volunteer> .

Register to be a volunteer at: <https://volunteer.defyventures.org/>

For more information about volunteering at Defy Ventures, email Melissa at melissa@defyventures.org

Volunteer opportunities at **St. Leonard's Ministries** including mentoring, training in interviewing and other skills,

Learn more from Gloria Riley at gloria.riley@slministries.org

Volunteer opportunities for lawyers at **Cabrini-Green Legal Aid** to provide legal assistance to formerly incarcerated individuals and other in a wide variety of matters, from administrative proceedings, to litigation to helping people expunge and seal their criminal records

Learn more at <https://www.cgla.net/volunteerwithcgla>

Fill out this form to learn of future volunteer opportunities at the **John Howard Association** in:

Prisoner Information Services

General Administrative/Office & Fundraising

Citizen Prison Monitoring

<https://www.thejha.org/volunteer-application>

Opportunities to be a **Pen Pal** with someone who is incarcerated. Find details for:

Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry Network through the **Church of the Larger Fellowship Ambassador Program for Illinois** /

follow the steps outlined at <http://www.uupmi.org/penpals.html>

The **Friends Beyond the Wall** program at <http://www.friendsbeyondthewall.com>

The **Write to Prisoners Project** at <https://prisoninmates.com/>

Go to <https://jmail.cc/> for further information about how to communicate with prisoners without

disclosing your address
The Federal Prisons all have email via www.corrlinks.com

Social Change – Volunteer to become a change agent in amplifying community voices and disrupting the legacy of systematic injustice through organizing, policy advocacy and storytelling, at <https://socialchange.site/join-us>

Help in the work of **Chicago Books to Women in Prison** (<https://www.cbwp.org/>) by contributing paperback books, hosting a book drive or fundraiser, volunteering in packaging and sending incarcerated women books that they have requested, or soliciting books from publishers and authors.

Learn more here: <https://www.cbwp.org/volunteer> or by writing to chicagobwp@gmail.com and note “Volunteer Training” in the subject line
(Semimonthly volunteer orientations start again in February 2025)

Volunteer opportunities in **Illinois Correctional Facilities** through the Department of Corrections
Learn more at <https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/programs/Pages/VolunteerPrograms.aspx>
and from the volunteer coordinators at each facility (available at the phone number for each facility available at a link in that page)

Tutor/Mentor Program of the Tutor/Mentor Institute – Volunteer to tutor at risk kids all over Chicagoland. *Get more information at:* <http://www.tuormentorexchange.net/volunteer>

Campaign to Free Incarcerated Survivors of Police Torture (CFIST)

Learn how to help in getting the Cook County State’s Attorney to vacate convictions and in seeking pardons from Governor Pritzker at <https://www.caarpr.org/take-action-sao>

Join the CFIST list serve by writing to cfist@caarpr.com to participate in the monthly online CFIST meetings at 6:00 the first and third Thursday of each month

Volunteer opportunities at the **Community Renewal Society** in Policy and Organizing, depending on available time commitment and areas of interest -see:
<https://www.communityrenewalsociety.org/take-action> .

Programming and Training Opportunities in Illinois

Legislative Advocacy Training with Restore Justice Illinois Director Jobi Cates –recorded March 6, 2021, presented in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzfHkqvaEe4>

Online Resources – Briefings, Podcasts, Webinars and Conference Videos Available on Demand:

Recording of the January 30, 2025 webinar on the Clean Slate Initiative is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nwe0SGU7ZaY>

discussing the The Advocate’s Guide to Automatic Record Clearance:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uweAMRdNga2V3Yn-070cfGAIYodEV2ckaAvNmrH3Vbc/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.io3a6ccpxoby>

issued in September 2024 by Code for America – essential knowledge for crafting policy that the government can initiate to implement the Clean Slate Initiative. Additional information available at <https://www.cleanslateinitiative.org/faq>

Envisioning Justice RE:ACTION: <https://envisioningjustice.org/>, an interactive Virtual Exhibition and [Activation Kit](#) produced by [Illinois Humanities](#), using the arts and humanities to imagine a future without mass incarceration

RE: ACTION Curriculum Guide – a guide produced by [Illinois Humanities](#) to support 9th through 12th grade educators in Illinois interested in exploring the impact of mass incarceration on the people and communities that comprise our state. Access it here: chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://d2qd2qnifmjghq.cloudfront.net/PDFs/Web_IH-EJ-REACTION-Curriculum-Guide_FINAL.pdf

Join the [Clean Slate Initiative](#) in hearing first-hand about the real life experiences of people who have, or had, an arrest or conviction record, at: [CSI's storyteller series](#)

The [October 2024 Newsletter](#) of the [Social Justice Resource Center](#), accessible here: <https://conta.cc/4eoDqng> contains an encyclopedic collection of facts and figures about our prison system and links to more information.

There is a new [Illinois Sentencing Dashboard: Prison and Probation Sentences](#) (with information for each county by year since 2000 for class 1 to 4 felonies), created by the [Loyola University Chicago Center for Criminal Justice](#)
accessible here: <https://loyolaccj.org/blog/idoc-prison-dashboard>

Here is a complete playlist for the September 2024 [Convening of the National Parole Transformation Project](#) of the [MacArthur Justice Center](#) on [Realizing Release: Parole Advocacy and the Fight or Decarceration](#):

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLELacBoG-Q4sR_V2h7YjU73tP6dET-rmW
with links to recordings of panel discussions on:

- Advancing Parole Advocacy: Lesson and Strategies on State-based Campaigns
- Fighting for Full Freedom: Mass Supervision, Prison Expansion and the Carceral Society
- Decarceration: Shared Struggles and Shared Strategies for Social Change
- Battle of Ideas: Challenging the Tough on Crime Paradigm
- Freeing One to Free Them All: Building Participatory Defense Campaigns
- Information is Power: Investigating State Parole Systems
- Does Supervision Keep Our Communities Safe?

[This American Life: This Is the Case of Henry Dee](#), an October 18, 2024 NPR program about the Illinois' Prisoner Review Board and the C# parole system in Illinois, specifically Henry Dee's story as told by Ben Austen

<https://www.thisamericanlife.org/844/this-is-the-case-of-henry-dee>

[Cook County Court Plans for Juvenile Detention Alternatives](#), April 2024 presentation by Dr. Miquel Lewis to the [Juvenile Justice Initiative](#)

Use passcode [.5IJ%JS?](#) to listen to the presentation at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/81nSX0sid2RiOHIC2wcUqXXVFOB8o3qMXNdwkUFgOtL6g4cVijFkdJoeD6ZXgZBV.FL28tDWRU_pvaOoJ

[Building Bridges to Successful Reentry – Reducing Barriers and Advancing the Role of Education for Returning Citizens](#), a discussion presented by the [Jane Addams College of Social Work](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enuyx8eJNJ8>

[A Reality Check on Illinois Prisons](#), recording of the November 27, 2023 edition of [The 21st Show](#), from [Illinois Public Media](#), featuring Jennie Volen-Katz, David Olson, Harold Hirshman and Alan Mills

https://will.illinois.edu/21stshow/story/a-reality-check-on-illinois-prisons?&utm_source=email&utm_medium=social-media&utm_campaign=addtoany

WTTW's 2023 series: First Hand: Life After Prison: Documentaries, Talks, Stories from the Community, Reentry in the News

<https://interactive.wttw.com/firsthand/life-after-prison>

Discussion Guide for the series:

<https://interactive.wttw.com/firsthand/life-after-prison/discussion-guide?bblinkid=267707907&bbemailid=46518854&bbejrid=-1653185454>

Ongoing accumulation of Reports, Short Issue Explainers, Data Visualizations, Fact Sheets, and Blog, published and compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative available at:

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports.html>

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/briefings/>

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/graphs/>

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/factsheets.html>

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/>

Illinois Reentry Guide of the Education Justice Project: *Mapping Your Future: A Guide to Successful Reentry, 2022*

download a free copy [here](#) or purchase a hard copy [here](#)

New Illinois Reentry Website of the Education Justice Project, with a searchable database of reentry resources, links to videos and reentry stories and of course, downloadable pdfs of EJP's reentry guides in English and Spanish:

reentryillinois.net

U.S. Department of Justice online resources regarding Prisoners and Prisoner Re-Entry

https://www.justice.gov/archive/fbci/progmenu_reentry.html

Locked in Solidarity 2023: Addressing Mental Health and Trauma from Juveniles Through Reentry, an initiative of the Christian Community Development Association

To learn more go to <https://ccda.org/lis2023/>,

Go to https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PoXw4xqvQy1kWzwOqqpZ_WgNq36ACOQE/view

to get the 2023 Locked in Solidarity bundle of *resources, templates, and opportunities to connect*, to use in raising awareness and in advocating for those affected by mass incarceration.

Address questions to Christina Foor, Advocacy and Communications Lead, at 773.475.7370 or

christina@ccda.org

Data Visualization Tools for Illinois Department of Corrections Public Datasets, from The John Howard Association, updated in March 2023

<https://www.thejha.org/data-visualization-tools>

Building a Career After Incarceration, resources and information from Resume Builder

<https://www.resumebuilder.com/building-a-career-after-incarceration/>

Beyond Bars: a Path Forward After 50 Years of Incarceration in the United States, an electronic book from The Sentencing Project and The Society for the Study of Social Problems, published by Policy Press of Bristol University

FREE ELECTRONIC DOWNLOAD at

<https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/beyond-bars?emci=b88773ed-7730-ee11-b8f0-00224832eb73&emdi=38c3d0dd-7d30-ee11-b8f0-00224832eb73&ceid=10194244>

Inside the System: The Impact of Incarceration, a September 28, 2022 panel discussion presented by Defy Ventures

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4llpDxIV7Gk>

We Are More, a campaign, featuring storytelling Micro Docs, that seeks to counter harmful narratives about clemency and other forms of post-conviction release by centering on the experience of formerly incarcerated people

<https://www.soapboxpo.com/we-are-more.html>

Juvenile Justice Initiative recordings of August 28, 2022 panel discussions with Illinois legislators and foundation leaders discussing their priorities and visions for reimagining justice for children in Illinois

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgQU5lep-jLc5Ov2FeUJh00mjohleKNNZ>

Stop Building Prisons, a 2022 Failed Architecture podcast featuring Sashi James, Maggie Luna and Avalon Betts Gaston

<https://failedarchitecture.com/podcast/stop-building-prisons-w-sashi-maggie-avalon-and-christin/>

Season Four of WBEZ's podcast Motive: Stories and Scandals from Prisons in Rural America

Obtain recordings of all of the episodes at:

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/motive/8c9f445c-4f62-46d6-a7f6-dc70a835e99b>

Episode 4: No Justice in Politics, at

<https://www.wbez.org/stories/motive-season-4-episode-4-no-justice-in-politics/a95b458a-306f-4e5e-8c1d-d3feadd34204>

explores the consequences for the county prosecutor in Livingston County, Illinois of trying to interrupt the practice of adding years onto sentences of mentally ill prisoners at the Pontiac Correctional Center

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&ei=UTF-8&p=A+New+Story+of+Justice%3A+Nonviolence+and+Restorative+Justice&type=E211US1249G0#id=1&vid=c74f52648920d0f6bb5de6eb9bd13520&action=click>

Episode 5: The Trial, at

<https://www.wbez.org/stories/motive-season-4-episode-5-the-trial-of-the-guards-accused-in-larry-earvins-death/68fa2f92-839c-480c-9b49-fd4b6139ab57>

explores the culture inside Western Illinois Correctional Center in McComb, which allowed two prison guards to beat prisoner Larry Earvin to death

A New Story of Justice: Nonviolence and Restorative Justice, a 3 minute animated video resource from The Meta Center for Nonviolence, suitable for distributing widely, which describes restorative justice, contrasts it with our current system of retributive "justice," and provides important information comparing the impact of each

[Watch now.](#)

Go to [Envisioning Justice: RE:ACTION](#), to access the new digital exhibition and activation kit produced by Illinois Humanities, which use the arts and humanities to envision a future without mass incarceration.

Go here: <https://envisioningjustice.org/exhibitions/> to view the exhibition of 14 imaginative Installations, and to sign up for a bi-weekly newsletter featuring events, updates and resources

Update on Programs of the Illinois Department of Corrections – discussion with Alyssa Williams, IDOC's Chief of Programs & Support Services, at the April 21st monthly meeting of the Interfaith Criminal Justice Task Force

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KITibbynkklF7rbemZITx5prF-Zlf498/view?usp=sharing>

Unlocking Minds, Unlocking Possibilities, recording of an April 27 webinar hosted by Laura Washington on

the impact of the novel reentry program of Reading Between The Lines
<https://www.readingbetweenthelines.org/>

watch the webinar at this link: <https://vimeo.com/705493795>.

Conversation presented by the John Howard Association about the new book Redeeming Justice: From Defendant to Defender, My Fight for Equity on Both Sides of a Broken System between the author, and founder of <https://www.lifeafterjustice.org/>, Jarret Adams and Cook County Public Defender Sharone Mitchell

[watch the recording here](#)

Prison Reform – In Person Symposium presented by Rainbow Push Coalition on May 7, 2022

<https://www.facebook.com/bishoptavis.grantii/videos/329623192635027/>

Bailing on Bail, a Zoom event of the Lawndale Christian Legal Center in collaboration with The Bail Project discussing their Community Release with Support Program

To watch the replay click [here](#) and enter the password: &SvU*3!4.

Mental Illness in Solitary Landed These Men an Extra 832 Years in Illinois Prisons, WBEZ, September 27, 2020 – listen at:

<https://www.wbez.org/stories/solitary-confinement-and-mental-illness-in-illinois-prisons/d77e6347-b1cc-4d10-8d76-d5540394a1a7>

Revolt Against the Carceral World, discussing the origins, functions, and methods for combating the reach of our carceral system, a February 22, 2022 program of The Real News

Watch it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_47u8UDris

New Visions of Justice blogposts from the Illinois Humanities:

- [Poetry of Witness: Dispatches from Hill Correctional Center](#)
- [Taking the Band-Aid off Mass Incarceration](#)
- [Art in Isolation: A Conversation with VAM Studio Co-founder Jordan Phelps](#)
- [Roundup: Perspectives from Across the Landscapes of Mass Incarceration](#)

2021 CARRE (Council of Advisors to Reduce Recidivism through Employment) Conference – Making Illinois a Second Chance State, presented on December 7, 2021 by the Safer Foundation (featuring the Safer Foundation's publication Holistic ReEntry: a Blueprint for Action 2021-2024:

<https://saferfoundation.org/reentryblueprint/>)

Get program details and a link to a recording of the program at:"

[2021 CARRE Conference — Illinois Alliance for Reentry & Justice \(ilarj.org\)](#)

Webinar on Challenging Racial Disparities to End Mass Incarceration presented on December 2, 2020 by The Sentencing Project

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1003356036885843

Racially Charged: America's Misdemeanor Problem, a documentary produced by Brave New Films

Watch it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bm2PxEOHMr4&t=4s>

Beyond the End of Bail – where are we and what's next for pretrial fairness?, a program of Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts and the Chicago Council of Lawyers, featuring Sarah Staudt, State Senator Robert Peters and Garien Gatewood of the Illinois Justice Project

Watch it at <https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/october-2021-events/>

Eliminating Disparities – ensuring accessible justice for all in Illinois courts, a program of Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts and the Chicago Council of Lawyers, featuring Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, and Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court Anne Burke

Watch it at <https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/october-2021-events/>

Visions of Justice: An Eight-Part Video Series Examining the Far-Reaching Impacts of Mass Incarceration throughout Illinois, presented by Illinois Humanities

You can access video recordings of the entire series at:

<https://www.ilhumanities.org/program/visions-of-justice/?bblinkid=255569953&bbemailid=35320829&bbejrid=-2143824128>

Injustice Watch September 29 Virtual Townhall on The Future of Criminal Justice Reform in Illinois, featuring State Senator Robert Peters, and Cook County Public Defender Sharone Mitchell

You can access the recording at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W15qdTX6x8s>

Amy Campanelli of the Lawndale Christian Legal Center discussing Restorative Justice and Reform of Our Criminal Legal System in the December 2021 meeting of the First Unitarian Universalist Criminal Justice Task Force

Access the video recording [here](#), in the First U Criminal Justice Google Drive folder Final 2021 Summer Friday Program, focused on closure of the existing St. Charles youth prison and the proposed construction of a new youth prison in Lincoln Illinois, presented by the Final Five Campaign – <https://www.thefinal5campaign.com/about>, which is dedicated to closing the five remaining Illinois juvenile detention facilities

You can access the recording [here](#).

Final 2021 Summer Friday Program, focused on closure of the existing St. Charles youth prison and the proposed construction of a new youth prison in Lincoln Illinois, presented by the Final Five Campaign – <https://www.thefinal5campaign.com/about>, which is dedicated to closing the five remaining Illinois juvenile detention facilities

You can access the recording [here](#).

“Don't Believe the Hype: Cutting through False Narratives and Protecting Pretrial Justice Reforms” a program on protecting and implementing the Pretrial Justice Act of 2021, presented on July 28, 2021 by the Coalition to End Money Bond

watch the event on [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), or [Periscope](#)

Philly D.A. – eight-part PBS documentary series on the first term and reform initiatives of Larry Krasner, the recently reelected District Attorney in Philadelphia

<https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/documentaries/philly-da/>

“Somebody”: a podcast of the Invisible Institute about a mother investigating the death of her son in police custody– finalist for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Audio Reporting,

<https://invisible.institute/somebody-podcast>

Ballots Behind Bars: A Discussion on Incarceration and Voting Rights, a June 15, 2021 webinar presented by the John Howard Association

<https://www.thejha.org/events/toast2021>

Discussion about reforms at the Illinois Department of Corrections with Alyssa Williams, Chief of Programs & Support Services at IDOC at the Wednesday April 21 meeting of the Interfaith Justice Reform Task Force

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KITibbynkkIF7rbemZITx5prF-Zlf498/view>

Introducing the Fully Free Campaign <https://fullyfree.org/>, which Seeks to End System of ‘Permanent Punishments (from laws and restrictions that make it prohibitively difficult for people with criminal records to rebuild their lives after incarceration):

June 27, 2021 report on WTTW television

<https://news.wttw.com/2021/06/27/fully-free-campaign-seeks-end-system-permanent-punishments>

Report from the Heartland Alliance

https://www.heartlandalliance.org/news_clip/fully-free-campaign-seeks-to-end-system-of-permanent-punishments/

July 22, 2021 report from the Illinois News Room

<https://illinoisnewsroom.org/new-campaign-aims-to-help-formerly-incarcerated-people-through-laws-outreach/>

Conversations with University of Chicago Professor Reuben Jonathan Miller about his new book: Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration

at the Ford School of Public Policy

<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-miller-discussed-racial-issues-aftermath-mass-incarceration-ford-school>

and with NPR's Terry Gross:

<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-jonathan-miller-talks-about-his-new-book-npr%E2%80%99s-terry-gross>

The book is available at:

<https://www.semcoop.com/halfway-home-race-punishment-and-afterlife-mass-incarceration>

April 2021 Fifth and Final Convening of the Square One Roundtable Discussions on the Future of Justice Policy, presented by the Colombia University Justice Lab

<https://squareonejustice.org/april-2021-roundtable/>

including descriptions of the sessions of this year's Roundtable, links to the papers, and online videos of all eight sessions:

The Introductory Evening - the Values of the Justice System: Implications for Justice Policy: and Practice

The Role of Values

The Values of Justice

The Keynote Evening Gathering: Featuring Marlon Peterson and Daryl Atkinson

The Irreducible Minimum

Operationalizing the Values of Justice: The Guiding Principles

Justice in New York City

Aspirations for the Values of Justice

Parenting from Prison, an April 15, 2021 presentation of The Nation Magazine, featuring Sylvia Harvey, author of *The Shadow System: Mass Incarceration and the American Family*, and Chesa Boudin, District Attorney for San Francisco and author of a moving personal essay in *The Nation's special issue on parenting* on what it meant for him personally to be raised by incarcerated parents

<https://www.thenation.com/events/parenting-from-prison-chesa-boudin-sylvia-harvey/>

Conversations with University of Chicago Professor Reuben Jonathan Miller about his new book: *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*

at the Ford School of Public Policy

<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-miller-discussed-racial-issues-aftermath-mass-incarceration-ford-school>

and with NPR's Terry Gross:

<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-jonathan-miller-talks-about-his-new-book-npr%E2%80%99s-terry-gross>

The book is available at:

<https://www.semcoop.com/halfway-home-race-punishment-and-afterlife-mass-incarceration>

5 Discussions That Shaped the Justice Reform Movement in 2020, compiled by the Center for American Progress in March 2021

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/criminal-justice/news/2021/03/18/497328/5-discussions-shaped-justice-reform-movement-2020/>

The Words We Use to Cover Incarceration, a May 2021 online briefing on The Language Project of The Marshall Project, examining how the media uses language and how that can change the narrative around criminal justice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vc7uclhszZk>

Spring 2021 Spotlight of the Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts and the Chicago Council of Lawyers launching the Collaboration for Justice: <https://www.collaborationforjustice.org>

Criminal Justice Forum, featuring Sharone Mitchell, Cathryn Crawford, April Preayer, Sarah Staudt and Tanya Woods

Keynote Address by Professor Traci Burch of Northwestern University

Mental Illness is Not a Crime podcast from the Sozosei Foundation, December 2020

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/mental-illness-is-not-a-crime/id1543026246>

Saving Prisoners, Saving Ourselves, a January 25 episode of Rattling the Bars on vaccinating prisoners from The Real News Network

https://therealnews.com/refusing-to-vaccinate-prisoners-is-both-cruel-and-dangerous?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Real+News+Network&utm_campaign=fdc3b0ecac-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_01_27_07_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_020676f7fe-fdc3b0ecac-420850729&mc_cid=fdc3b0ecac&mc_eid=a4ff50a13a

Shriver Center's Spotlight on the Foster Care System Webinar Series (November through January 2021)

Webinar #1: Parent Leaders' Perspectives on the Movement for Child Welfare Justice at

[Watch it here](#)

Webinar #2: Policing By Another Name: Mandates Reporting as State Surveillance at

[Watch it here](#)

Webinar #3: Recommendations for the Biden Harris Administration at

<https://www.povertylaw.org/report/recommendations-for-the-biden-harris-administration/>

Webinar #4 Intersection Between the Health Care and Foster Care Systems at

<https://www.povertylaw.org/article/webinar-your-family-or-its-health/>

Chicago Appleseed's on-line October panels on Reshaping Criminal "Justice" in Cook County and Illinois

Watch at [October panels](#)

From October 9 – Vision for Collaborative Justice Reinvestment

From October 16 – Improving the Bench in Cook County

From October 23 – Reshaping Criminal "Justice" in Cook County and Illinois

The ACLU's October 27th Virtual Town Hall on The Future of Policing and Criminal Justice in Illinois

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOoOpf4KPil>

Anti-Racism –four-part series on Christian Discipleship and the Problem of Racism presented by Bexley Seabury Seminary and St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church.

Breaking Free from Ideologies that Hinder Our Christian Discipleship, with Rev. Dr. Reggie Williams - Professor of Christian Ethics at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago -

Recording: <https://www.facebook.com/330717800937/posts/10156972575125938/>

The History and Sin of Racism, with Rev. Dr. Jason Fout - Associate Professor of Anglican Theology at Bexley Seabury Seminary, in conversation with Dr. Williams

Recording: <https://www.facebook.com/330717800937/videos/144232357595344829th>:

Panel Discussion – faculty from Bexley Seabury Seminary, and Rev. Williams, moderated by the Rev. Wes Smedley of St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church

Recording: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=347005703311943>

Practical Next Steps – Rev. Williams and others

Recording: <https://www.facebook.com/StChrysChicago/videos/660234881547786/>

Video of John Howard Association's Virtual Annual Event of Thursday October 22 at:

<https://www.thejha.org/virtual-event>.

Webinar presented by the Shriver Center on Poverty Law on Justice for Black Lives – Reforming the Criminal Justice System,

[Click here](#) to view the September 22, 2020 webinar

NEW Podcast – Chasing Justice – with Chesa Boudin, San Francisco’s new State’s Attorney
Listen to the recordings of all episodes (and subscribe) at:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/chasing-justice/id1517729177>

These include:

Race Policing and Protest with James Forman, Jr.

Modern Civil Rights Movements with Angela Davis

Prosecutorial Discretion with Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx

The Personal is Political with San Francisco State’s Attorney Chesa Boudin

An Epidemic within an Epidemic: The Drug Crisis with Dr. Leana Wen

Who’s Policing the Prosecutors? Prosecutorial Accountability with Emily Bazelon

For the People”: Finding the Humanity in Our Criminal Legal System – with Sajid Khan and Avi Singh

Playing Ball with People’s Lives: The Three Strikes Law – with Susan Champion

The Criminalization of Poverty: Bail – with Alec Karakatsanis

Season 1 Finale: Overcoming Obstacles to Our Movement–with DA Rachael Rollins

Justice Reform – Full recording at <https://www.iljp.org/justice-2020> of the July 24, 2020 Justice 2020 Convening of the Illinois Justice Project and Cabrini Green Legal Aid

Policing | 9:00am-10:15am

Courts & Incarceration | 11:15am-12:45pm

Post Release & Re-Entry | 1:30pm-2:45pm

July 8 2020 City Club speech of Jamaal Cole of My Block My Hood My City:

<https://www.cityclub-chicago.org/video/2474/jahmal-cole>

University of Chicago Law School Discussion on Policing –

Watch all of the sessions here: <https://www.law.uchicago.edu/discussion-series-policing>:

July 8 – Civilian Control of Police, Public and Private with Sharon Fairley and Jonathan Masur

July 15 – Police Culture: Training and Unions with Mary Anne Case and Richard McAdams

July 22 – Police Hiring, Certifications and Use of Force Policies with C. Flors and J. Rappaport

July 29 – Race, Equal Protection, and Policing with Aziz Hug and Alison Siegler

August 5 – Policing and Substantive Criminal Law: Overcriminalization and Police Defenses with Herschella Conyers and John Rappaport

August 12 – Civil Lawsuits and Qualified Immunity with Will Baude and Craig Futterman

University of Chicago Law School Colloquium on the Crisis in Policing of June 12, 2020:

https://www.law.uchicago.edu/recordings/colloquium-crisis-policing?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTUdFeU5EUm1aRE15TkRCaSlInQiOiJKYTIOQ2k4dWtkRTBueWFvZE10KzdZWFBuY0NaWXhwMHdrT2VMUjV4T2JhaVIIRWViTFRxelwvWHJwQU9xMjhmUHlrdkxHdUj2ODJwOXBpQ1FiNm1VZTJGWnBsRU1mSndqQXQyRWc3QWxDZDZCQVwvblUzV0FwaDZ6ejBaXC9HY080UCJ9

Marshall Project May 21, 2020 Briefing on Criminal Justice Policy in a Pandemic –

[watch it here.](#)

Vera Institute of Justice Conference: Best of Conversations on Justice Reform at the University of Iowa on January 30, 2020

Review the program at <https://mailchi.mp/vera/bestof2019-773629?e=6f6e47c276>

Watch the 2 hour video of the program at [this link](#) (the session starts 10 minutes in)

Sentencing Project webinar: Criminal Justice: Racial Injustice on advancing racial justice in criminal justice reform

- Get access the Webinar at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Y25nw7IEQ8&feature=youtu.be&t=1>

National Reentry Resource Center webinar: Using the National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction Website (the NICC is an important compendium of the legal and regulatory restrictions that limit or prohibit people convicted of crimes from accessing employment, housing, and other rights, benefits, and opportunities long after their sentences have been served.)

- Get access the Webinar and a PDF of the presentation at:

<https://niccc.csgjusticecenter.org/2018/10/31/using-the-new-national-inventory-of-collateral-consequences-of-criminal-conviction-website/>

Vera Institute of Justice Conversation on Race and Criminal Justice in a Color Blind America of October 15, 2019, with Kim Foxx and others,

<https://www.facebook.com/verainstitute/videos/vb.104760636770/537540307004469/?type=2&theater>

(start listening a minute 5:00)

Vera Institute of Justice 60 Minutes Segment Featuring the Success of the Restoring Promise Initiative for Young Adults in Prison at the T.R.U.E. Community prison housing unit in Connecticut –

[Watch the episode here.](#)

TED Talks

Sheena Meade making the case for “clean slate” laws to streamline the complicated process for the 30 million people in the US who are eligible to have their arrest or conviction record cleared

https://www.ted.com/talks/sheena_meade_how_second_chance_laws_could_transform_the_us_justice_system

Deanna Van Buren on building structures for restorative justice and imagining the world without prisons:

https://www.ted.com/talks/deanna_van_buren_what_a_world_without_prisons_could_look_like#t-4755

Alice Goffman on how we are priming some kids for college and others for prison

<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/resources/how-were-priming-some-kids-for-college-and-others-for-prison/>

Adam Foss on a prosecutor’s vision for a better justice system:

https://www.ted.com/talks/adam_foss_a_prosecutor_s_vision_for_a_better_justice_system

Eve Abrams on the human stories behind mass incarceration:

https://www.ted.com/talks/eve_abrams_the_human_stories_behind_mass_incarceration?language=end

Salil Dudani on how jails extort the poor:

https://www.ted.com/talks/salil_dudani_how_jails_extort_the_poor

Judicial Decisions in Illinois

Federal Court Orders Illinois Department of Corrections to Fulfill Its Duty to Provide Adequate Health Care to Inmates. *More details available at:*

<https://ilsinglepayer.org/article/federal-judge-issues-permanent-injunction-idoc-mental-health-lawsuit>

Developments in Illinois Justice

Juvenile Expungement: SB 3463, enacted in August 2024, requires automatic scheduling of expungement hearing dates for juveniles two years after a sentence ends

<https://gov-pritzker-newsroom.prezly.com/gov-pritzker-signs-legislation-increasing-opportunity-for-juveniles-seeking-expungement>

Justice, Equity and Opportunity (“JEO”) Initiative website of Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton reports on developments in Illinois Justice, with links to the JEO annual reports

<https://ltgov.illinois.gov/priorities/justice.html>

The Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3) website <https://r3.illinois.gov/> and the Restore, Reinvest, Renew Board website <https://ltgov.illinois.gov/councils/restore-reinvest-renew-r3.html> report on the investment of 25% of tax revenue from adult-use cannabis sales in Illinois to fund grants that support communities that are most impacted by economic disinvestment, violence, and the severe and multi-layer harm caused by the war on drugs:

with links to information on how to apply for grants and links to the R3 Annual Reports and the R3 Board Annual Reports

Healing Beyond Harm Restorative Justice Pilot Program of the Illinois Healing Centered Task Force established in 2023 by Public Act 103-0545

<https://healingbeyondharm.org/#:~:text=Illinois%20is%20joining%2013%20other%20states%20to%20use,have%20a%20letter%20of%20apology%20written%20to%20them.>

City of Chicago Budget – the City’s 2024 budget contains a \$4 million allocation for the City’s Office of Reentry

Facilities Master Plan, Illinois Department of Corrections, released in May 2023

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5beab48285ede1f7e8102102/t/64c154aff325484b7df01026/1690391744325/Final_IDOC+Master+Plan+Report.pdf

Cook County Policy Roadmap:

Safe and Thriving Communities section on pages 28 through 32)

https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/policy-roadmap?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Illinois Justice Reform Legislation Enacted in 2023, with support from witness slips filed by citizens

Public ACT 103-0345 (House bill 3345), which provides for the Secretary of State to Issue a standard Illinois ID Card to a person committed to the Illinois Department of Corrections or Department of Juvenile Justice – <https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.26504.html>

Public Act 103-0545 (Senate Bill 646)– which created a task force to expand trauma-informed and healing-focused efforts statewide

Public Act 103-1008 (House bill 1496), which
Public Act 103-0397, which extends the jurisdiction of the Illinois Office of Juvenile Ombudsman to cover the 16 county run juvenile detention centers
Public Act 103-0370, which (1) makes the sentencing credits of the SAFE-T Act retroactive and (2) makes the First Time Weapons Offender Program permanent
Public Act 102-1133, which removes the felony bar to name changes
Public Act 103-0271, which made minor changes in the system of mandatory supervised release
Public Act 102-1128, which prospectively ends most life without parole sentences for individuals whose crimes were committed when they were under 21 years of age, and creates parole eligibility after 40 years for people sentenced to natural life for first degree murder on or after June 1, 2019
Public Act 103-1006, which increased the funding for Public Defenders in Illinois
Public Act 103-0403, which liberalizes resentencing of incarcerated survivors of gender-based violence
Public Act 103-0341, which prohibits use of deceptive tactics during interrogation of persons with severe intellectual or developmental disability.
Public Act 103-1379, which eliminates juvenile court fines and fees
Public Act 103-0178, which places limits on the use of solitary confinement for youth

Highlights from the 2022 Spring session of the Illinois General Assembly –

- Overall, the battles in the 2022 session, as in the past, focused on defending against attacks on prior reforms and defeating punitive bills, proposing sentencing enhancement and additional restrictions on the activities of those who have been convicted and served their time, which trend to figure as “accomplishments” in candidate mailings but cause great harm and do little or nothing to contribute to public safety.
- Defending Fundamental Reforms – There was a successful effort to head off amendments to the justice reforms enacted a year ago (in the “SAFE-T Act”, which included the Pretrial Fairness Act), but the last-minute approval by the House (but not the Senate) of changes to the Act underlines the fact that major efforts will continue to be needed from now on to protect those reforms at any time that the legislature is in session.
- New Felonies and Penalty Enhancements – With the help of our witness slips, the advocacy community defeated bills that would have created a new felony for tampering with an electronic monitoring device and penalty enhancements that to single out attacks on employees of the Department of Children and Family Services, which are already subject to severe penalties.
- Confidentiality of Juvenile Records – The bill that would have compromised the confidentiality of juvenile records also failed to pass.
- Retail Theft – A big accomplishment of the advocacy community and the victims’ rights community, which we supported with our witness slips, was to water down the much-hyped retail theft legislation proposed by the Retail Merchants Association with the support of Attorney General Kwame Raoul, which would have increased penalties for retail theft across the board, in spite of the fact that retail theft in Chicago is at its lowest level in decades and that the threshold for treating retail theft as a felony in Illinois is already among the lowest in the country. While disappointing, the penalty enhancements in the bill that passed are limited to narrower situations such as the actions of certain organized theft rings and theft that causes property damage.
- Lifetime Restrictions on Those Who Have Served Their Sentences. Among the disappointing outcomes in this session was the failure to pass the bill that we supported that would have repealed the law prohibiting people convicted of felonies from acting as an executor of an estate. Our witness slips contributed, however, to the defeat on a 13-13 tie vote in committee of HB2538, which would have

restricted those convicted of a felony from being licensed the general contractor, adding to the hundreds of Illinois laws that already restrict the ability of people who have served their time to earn a living. Unfortunately, as Ben reports, we were unable to defeat the bill expanding the categories of fairs and other such events in which of sex offenders (broadly defined) are prohibited from working for the rest of their lives.

- Carjacking – Like so many other areas, this is one in which little can be accomplished by additional legislation, but in which legislators feel political pressure to do something. Of the proposals that were floated, the bills that passed create a new felony for possessing a key fob to unlock a car door with the intent to commit a theft or a felony and provisions to assist victims of car theft to pay the resulting red light and speed camera tickets and towing and storage fees.

2021 Enactment of the SAFT-T Act, Including the Pretrial Fairness Act and the Elimination of Cash Bail

In addition to eliminating cash bail, The Pretrial Fairness Act enacted a comprehensive reform of the system of pretrial proceedings and detention pretrial:

- It conditions pretrial detention on judicial determination that the accused is a flight risk or a danger to other people
- It reformed the process for violations of pretrial release conditions;
- It requires reconsideration of detention and release conditions at every court date;
- It ensures people who are on electronic monitoring pretrial receive time-served credit and guaranteed movement permissions;
- It authorizes law enforcement to release people charged with low-level offenses instead of holding them until they can appear in court;
- It reformed the warrant process;
- It regulates risk assessment tools; and
- It ensures transparency and oversight through data collection, publication, and ongoing advisory groups.

Information about the passage and implementation of the Pretrial Fairness Act at this link:

[Pretrial Fairness Act](#), and in the following sources:

Separating Fact from Fiction: the Pretrial Fairness Act, from the Chicago Community Bond Fund
<https://chicagobond.org/2022/09/27/debunking-fake-news-about-the-pretrial-fairness-act/>
Setting the Record Straight on the Safe-T Act, National Public Radio “The 21st Show, with J Hanley, Sharone Mitchell and Garien Gatewood

https://will.illinois.edu/nfs/21st_092022_segaandb.mp3

“Dollars and Sense in Cook County, 2021 analysis by Loyola University Chicago’s Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy, and Practice, concluding that Cook County’s 2017 bond reform, which limited the use of cash bail in felony bond court, did not increase crime rates in Cook County

<https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/resources/dollars-and-sense-in-cook-county/>

Join the Coalition to End Money Bond and subscribe to its mailing list at:

<https://endmoneybond.org/>

“General Assembly Passage of SAFT-T Act Language Changes: Peters Says That It Protects Legislation’s Intent”, Hyde Park Herald, December 1, 2022

https://www.hpherald.com/news/politics/senate-passes-safe-t-act-language-changes-peterssays-it-protects-legislations-intent/article_a8febade-714f-11ed-b182-ef8b1b18daa4.html

For broader discussion of the many other important provisions in The Omnibus Criminal Justice Reform Bill (the SAFT-T Act) on policing, on conditions of arrest, on imprisonment and mandatory supervised release, on ending prison gerrymandering, and on victim compensation, see:

“6 Key Reforms in the Massive Criminal Justice Bill Illinois Lawmakers Passed Last Week”
by Patrick Smith for WBEZ (January 20, 2021)

<https://www.wbez.org/stories/6-key-reforms-in-the-massive-criminal-justice-bill-illinois-lawmakers-passed-last-week/5f526342-9f19-40e6-8563-d8e0bbfe1138>

Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts has this summary of the bill

<https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/victory-illinois-just-ended-money-bond-by-passing-the-pretrial-fairness-act/>

“Illinois criminal justice reform critics playing “Fear-Mongering Bingo, by Senator Robert Peters

<https://www.injusticewatch.org/commentary/2021/black-caucus-criminal-justice-reform-end-cash-bail/>

Statement of Governor J.B. Pritzker

<https://www2.illinois.gov/news/release?ReleaseID=22643>

Comments of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle:

https://paper.suntimes.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=23852361-79c8-4994-a0a3-014c0bd43838 “

Massive Illinois Police Reform Bill Ends Cash Bail, Limits Deadly Force, Mandates Body

<https://reason.com/2021/01/14/massive-illinois-police-reform-bill-ends-cash-bail-limits-deadly-force-mandates-body-cameras-and-makes-it-easier-to-dump-crooked-cops/>

Sweeping reforms could transform Illinois’ criminal justice system, Injustice Watch, January 15

<https://mailchi.mp/injusticewatch/newsletter37-3867637?e=5e64435292>

Cameras, and Makes It Easier To Dump Crooked Cops, January 24, 2021 in Reason Governor Signs HB 3653 Criminal Justice Reform Bill that Abolishes Bail, Requires Body Cameras”

<https://kanecountyconnects.com/2021/02/governor-signs-hb-3653-criminal-justice-reform-bill-that-abolishes-bail-requires-body-cameras/>

Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Wins National Award for Family Engagement,
Illinois.gov press release of August 22, 2023

<https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.26915.html>

also - <https://www.thetelegraph.com/news/article/grafon-youth-facility-earns-national-honor-18328902.php>

October 5, 2022 Press Release: Illinois Department of Corrections Announces Comprehensive College Education in Prison Policy:

<https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.25525.html>

Press Release of Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White Announcing a New State ID Program for Those Being Released from Prison – November 3, 2021

<https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.24097.html>

Governor Pritzker’s October 6, 2020 announcement of Reform Principles Aim to Modernize Criminal Code, End Cycles of Recidivism, and Increase Police Accountability.

See [Office of the Illinois Governor news release](#)

Governor Pritzker’s Four-Year Plan for Transforming the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

<https://www2.illinois.gov/idjj/Pages/transformation.aspx>

Announcement video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mDU8NGe24U&feature=youtu.be>
John Howard Association’s comments:

<https://www.thejha.org/statements-and-testimony/073120>

Evaluation of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission's Final Report and Recommendations on Pretrial Practice, issued on July 22, 2020 by the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice

<https://endmoneybond.org/2020/07/22/report-release-evaluation-of-the-illinois-supreme-court-commissions-final-report-and-recommendations/>

"Justice For Black Lives" Resolution Passes the Cook County Board of Commissioners – August 22, 2020 report of the Chicago Community Bond Fund

<https://mailchi.mp/chicagobond/justice-for-black-lives-resolution-passes-cook-county-board?e=26813fbadd>

Formation of Special Senate Committee on Public Safety in February 2020, to set legislative priorities on Criminal Justice Reform

Approval by the Cook County Board, on November 21, 2019, of Rules implementing the Just Housing Amendment to the County's Human Rights Ordinance, enacted early in 2019, prohibiting landlords:

- from refusing to rent to an individual because of an arrest record,
 - from having a policy of not renting to anyone who has been convicted of a crime, and
 - from refusing to rent to an individual based on a conviction that is more than three years old
- (Landlords retain the right to consider prior convictions within the last three years on an individual basis under standards set forth in the ordinance.)

For more details about this significant development, go to

<https://justhousinginitiative.org/> and

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1102405162255&ca=7a450cb8-d28b-4da1-bb96-64814ce14382>

Appointment of a Rob Jeffries as the New Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections

To read the response of the John Howard Association to his appointment, go to:

<http://www.thejha.org/statement051419>

New Parole System Enacted in Illinois for Juvenile Offenders with long sentences

Allows individuals convicted prior to reaching age 20 of crimes committed after June 1, 2019, to petition the Illinois Prisoner Review Board for parole after 10 years (20 years in the case of conviction for first-degree murder or aggravated criminal sexual assault) and to give such individuals information on parole, legal guidance, and rehabilitation.

To learn more click [here](#) or contact Jobi Cates at: jcates@restorejustice.org

Justice, Equity and Opportunity Initiative

in 2019 Quinn Rallins, formerly of the Illinois Justice Project was appointed to lead the Pritzker administration's Justice, Equity and Opportunity Initiative, created by executive order in February 2019 under the auspices of the lieutenant governor's office, to work with state agencies and other organizations across Illinois to conduct research, create pilot programs and advocate for legislation with a "restorative justice" approach, prioritizing rehabilitation over incarceration. There also will be a focus on creating educational and economic opportunities in areas with high crime and incarceration rates.

Developments in Federal Justice

December 2020 Repeal of the 1994 statutory ban on the “Second Chance Pell Grants” to finance the college credit state and Federal prisons –

The repeal of that ban, and repeal of the 1998 law restricting federal financial aid for college students who are convicted of a drug crime, were included in 2020 year-end spending bill.

See: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/12/20/congress-pell-grant-prisoners-449364>, and <https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?u=6542df2be696ba0ea2f17b66a&id=fa4e549ff1&e=6f6e47c276>

On November 15, 2019, Senators Dick Durbin of Illinois and Mike Lee of Utah introduced the Smarter Sentencing Act, to enact sentencing reform not included in last year’s “First Step Act”, with cosponsors Senators Patrick Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Ron Wyden, Angus King, Tim Kaine, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Cory Booker, and Kamala Harris (D-CA):

<https://www.durbin.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/durbin-lee-introduce-smarter-sentencing-act>

On November 14, 2019, Ayanna Presley, Member of Congress from Massachusetts introduced H.Res. 702, as The People’s Justice Guarantee, , designed to transform the criminal justice system based on “Shared Power, Freedom Equality, Safety, and Dignity” by reducing prison populations, transforming the experience of confinement, eliminating wealth based discrimination and corporate profiteering, and investing in impacted communities:

<https://pressley.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-presley-launches-bold-progressive-criminal-legal-reform-resolution-people> and

<https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hres702/BILLS-116hres702ih.pdf>

On March 7, 2019, Senator Cory Booker and Congresswoman Boney Coleman introduced the Next Step Act to follow up the First Step Act enacted last year with Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform:

https://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=895 and

<https://www.scribd.com/document/401327169/S-697-Next-Step-Act-Booker>

On February 7, 2019, a bipartisan group of Senators and Members of Congress introduced the Fair Chance Act to “Ban the Box” in applications for Federal Employment introduced by–

https://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=888

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Passed

by Congress on December 13, 2018

Bans states from holding children in adult jails, require states receiving federal funds to collect data on racial disparities in the juvenile system and come up with plans for addressing those inequities, ban the shackling of pregnant girls, and provide funding for tutoring, mental health, and drug and alcohol programs for kids.

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/12/12/the-criminal-justice-reform-bill-you-ve-never-heardof?ref=hp-2-111>

Electronic Newsletters and Updates:

Front and Center, the new bimonthly newsletter of Loyola Chicago Center for Criminal Justice, subscribe at:

<https://loyolaccj.us21.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=5d5de947a005fa0edf7a4fa35&id=a92754e84c>

Invisible Institute updates- <https://invisible.institute/contact/>

ACLU of Illinois - register for updates at <https://www.aclu-il.org/>

Clergy for a New Drug Policy Newsletter - register for the newsletter at <https://www.newdrugpolicy.org/>

Juvenile Justice Initiative - register for updates at <https://www.jjustice.org/>

Illinois Justice Project’s news summary -

To subscribe go to <https://www.iljp.org/news/>

Archive of past issues is available at:

<https://us9.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=eec202973d7612f9b029f7a8d&id=04ed805c10>

Justice 20/20 Network Weekly Newsletter – join the network and get the newsletter at:

<https://justice2020.org/>

Restore Justice News and Updates - subscribe at

<https://restorejusticeillinois.org/>

Safer Foundation newsletters - register for the weekly newsletter at <http://www.saferfoundation.org/>

Lawndale Christian Legal Center – subscribe at:

<https://lclc.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/sign-up-for-lclc-s-newsletter>

ECCSC ex-cons for community and social change –

subscribe for the newsletter at: <https://www.eccsc.org/>

The Marshall Project's daily "Opening Statement", subscribe at <https://www.themarshallproject.org/newsletters/opening-statement>

Week In Review from The Marshall Project -

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/>

Children and Family Justice Center newsletters register at

<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/cfjc/>

Brennan Center for Justice updates - register at

<https://www.brennancenter.org/subscribe>

Prison Journalistic Project Newsletter - <https://prisonjournalismproject.org/newsletter/>

Envisioning Justice Digest of Illinois Humanities

To subscribe contact Elliot.Heilman@ilhumanities.org or go to <https://envisioningjustice.org/>

Children's Best Interest Project quarterly Newsletter – subscribe by writing to:

Gail Smith gail.smith@childrensbestinterestil.org

Vera News of the Vera Institute of Justice

To subscribe go to <https://www.vera.org/>

Freedom To Learn Campaign – subscribe to its newsletter at: <https://www.freedom-to-learn.net/>

Newsletter of Designing Justice + Designing Spaces - <https://designingjustice.org/connect/>

Law Enforcement Leaders To Reduce Crime and Incarceration - register at

<http://lawenforcementleaders.org/>

Newsletter of the Catholic Mobilizing Network – <https://catholicmobilizing.org/join>

Chicago Reporter Electronic Edition- subscribe at - <https://www.chicagoreporter.com/subscribe/>

Social Justice Resource Center Monthly Newsletter r

resources regarding the Criminal Justice System at:

<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/cause/criminal-justice-system/>

subscribe using the link on the home page at

<http://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/>; for past Newsletters, [click here](#).

Newsletter of the Tutor Mentor Institute – to subscribe [Click here](#).

Media Organizations to Follow and Support-

Invisible Institute - <https://invisible.institute/introduction>

The Marshall Project - <https://www.themarshallproject.org/>

Media Justice - <https://mediajustice.org/>

The Chicago Reporter - <http://www.chicagoreporter.com/category/key-issue/criminal-justice/>

Next City – <https://nextcity.org/about>

WBEZ - <https://www.wbez.org/>

Prison Journalistic Project - <https://prisonjournalismproject.org/>

ProPublica Illinois - <https://www.propublica.org/about/illinois/>

The Intercept - <https://theintercept.com/>

The Atlantic: The Presence of Justice - <https://www.theatlantic.com/projects/the-presence-of-justice/>

The Real News Network: Prisons and Policing -
<https://therealnews.com/category/sections/prisons-and-policing>

Restorative Justice - Supporting Organizations That Provide Restorative Justice Training, Operate Restorative Justice Hubs, or Design Facilities in Which to Conduct Restorative Justice Processes

Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation <https://pbmr.org/>
Lawndale Christian Legal Center Restorative Justice Hub - <http://lclc.net/programs/rjhub/>
Nehemiah Trinity Rising - <https://www.nehemiahtrinityrising.org/>
Circles and Ciphers - <http://www.circlesandciphers.org/>
Designing Justice +Designing Spaces - <https://designingjustice.org/>

Other Organizations to Support and Follow -

Checking the Websites for information about the Justice Reform Efforts and Service Activities of these 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations, and about Donating to support their work:

Interactive Networking Resource Connecting Returning Citizens with Services Of All Kinds

Inside Out Network – <https://insideoutnetwork.net/welcome>, donate at:
<https://secure.myvanco.com/YGKR/campaign/C-YGXA>

Illinois Based Organizations and Initiatives Led by Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

Inner City Muslim Action Network ("IMAN") - <https://www.imacentral.org/>
Learn more from Rami Nashashibi at shamar@imacentral.org
ECCSC – Ex-cons for Community and Social Change - <https://www.eccsc.org/>
Learn more from Tyrone Farrakhan Muhammad at tyronemuhammad17@gmail.com
Alumni Association –
Learn more from Ray Robinson at rayrobinson1108@gmail.com
Families and Prisoners United - <https://www.facebook.com/p/Families-Prisoners-United-100080465895704/>
Learn more from Fahmi Jones at (312) 846-0744
Inmates for Change -
Learn more from Budder Jones at inmatesforchange@yahoo.com
Real Youth Initiative - <https://www.realyouthinitiative.com/>

Other Illinois-Based Organizations Serving the Accused, Those Incarcerated, and the Formerly Incarcerated

Alliance for Reentry and Justice - <https://www.ilarj.org/>
Bridge to Freedom – <https://bridge2freedom.org/>
BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement and Leadership Development) – -
<https://www.buildchicago.org/>
Chicago Books to Women in Prison - <https://www.cbwp.org/>
Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness –
<https://chicagohomeless.org/our-work/reentry/>
Chicago Prison Outreach Ministries – <http://www.cpoministries.org/>
Children’s Best Interest Project - <https://www.facebook.com/ChildrensBestInterestIL>
Community Reentry Project - <https://phimc.org/initiatives/crp/>
Counseling First - <https://sites.google.com/a/counselingfirst.org/counseling-first/home>
Defy Ventures <https://www.defyventures.org/>
Education Justice Project – <https://educationjustice.net/>
Equip for Equality – <https://www.equipforequality.org/>

Fully Free Campaign to End Permanent Punishments-

<https://search.issuefab.org/resource/the-fully-free-campaign.html>

Gift of Voice - www.giftofvoice.com

Got Jobs America - www.gotjobsamerica.com

GRO Community – <https://grocommunity.org/services/justice-involved>

Illinois Prison Project – www.illinoisprisonproject.org

Illinois Justice Project - <https://www.iljp.org>

John Howard Association – <http://www.thejha.org/>

Kolby House Jail Ministry -

<https://pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/kolbe-house-jail-ministry>

Lawndale Christian Legal Center - <http://lclc.net/>

Live Free Illinois – <https://livefreeillinois.org/>

ManKind Project Chicago – <http://chicago.mkp.org/>

Mental Health America of Illinois - <http://www.mhai.org/>

Nehemiah Trinity Rising - <https://www.nehemiahtrinityrising.org/>

One Parish One Prisoner - <https://undergroundministries.org/opop>

Phalanx Family Services – <https://www.phalanxgrpservices.org/>

Prison and Neighborhood Arts/Education Project - <https://p-nap.org/>

Reading Between the Lines - <https://www.readingbetweenthelines.org/>

Recipe for Change - <http://recipeforchangeproject.org/>

Renewing Sovereignty Project - <https://www.rsproject.us/>

Safer Foundation - www.saferfoundation.org/

Saint Leonard's Ministries - <https://slministries.org/>

Shriver Center for Poverty Law - <http://www.povertylaw.org/communityjustice>

Social Change - <https://socialchange.site/solve>

Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC)

<https://www.tasc.org/tascweb/home.aspx>

Thresholds - <http://www.thresholds.org/>

Transforming Re-entry Services - www.transformingreentry.org

UCAN - [NEW WEBSITE](#)

Uptown People's Law Center - <https://www.uplcchicago.org/>

Walls Turned Sideways- <https://wallsturnedsideways.org/#>

Westside Health Authority - <http://healthauthority.org/>

Other Organizations Serving the Accused, Those Incarcerated, and the Formerly Incarcerated

Anti-Recidivism Coalition – <https://antirecidivism.org/>

Bard Prison Initiative - <https://bpi.bard.edu/>

Inside Circle – <https://insidecircle.org/>

Institute for Justice - <https://ij.org/ij-clinic-on-entrepreneurship/what-we-do/>

Prison Education Foundation – <https://www.prisonedu.org/our-mission/>

Prison Fellowship - <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/>

Illinois based Organizations Leading Reform Efforts

Alliance for Reentry and Justice - <https://www.ilarj.org/>

ACLU of Illinois - <https://www.aclu-il.org/>

Chicago 400 Alliance – <http://www.chicago400.net/chicago400alliance>

Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts - <http://www.chicagoappleseed.org/criminal-justice/>

Chicago Community Bond Fund - <https://chicagobond.org/site/give/index.html>

Chicago Community Jail Support – <https://chicago-community-jail-support.webnode.com/>

Children and Family Justice Center - <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/cfjc/>

Children's Best Interest Project – <https://www.facebook.com/ChildrensBestInterestIL/>

Clean Slate Campaign <https://www.cleanslateillinois.org>

Clergy for a New Drug Policy – <http://newdrugpolicy.org/>

Coalition to Decarcerate IL – <https://www.coalitiontoDecarcerateIL.com/>

Cook County Justice Advisory Council - jac.info@cookcountyil.gov
 Dismantle Solitary Confinement - <https://www.dismantlesolitaryconfinement.com/>
 Coalition To End Money Bond - <http://www.chicagoappleseed.org/coalition-to-end-money-bond/>
 Community Renewal Society - <http://www.communityrenewalsociety.org/>
 Education Justice Project – <https://educationjustice.net/>
 Envisioning Justice Initiative of Illinois Humanities – <https://envisioningjustice.org/>
 Equity and Transformation Chicago – <https://www.eatchicago.org/>
FAMM (Families for Justice Reform) - https://famm.org/?mc_cid=cac9394ad1&mc_eid=b92d12e360
Freedom to Learn Campaign - <https://www.freedom-to-learn.net/>
 FWD.us - <https://www.fwd.us/>
 Heartland Re-Entry Program - <https://heartlandhumancareservices.org/program/heartland-re-entry-program/>
 Housing Action Illinois - <http://housingactionil.org/who-we-are/mission-values-vision/#>
 IL-CHEP – The Illinois Coalition for Higher Education in Prison –
<https://ilchep.org/>
 Illinois Coalition to End Permanent Punishments
<https://endpermanentpunishments.org/>
 Illinois Prison Project – www.illinoisprisonproject.org
 Illinois Justice Project - <https://www.iljp.org>
 Impact for Equity - <https://www.impactforequity.org/> (formerly BPI)
 Jane Addams Center for Social Policy and Research
<https://socialwork.uic.edu/community-impact/jane-addams-center-social-policy-research/>
 John Howard Association – <http://www.thejha.org/>
 Juvenile Justice Initiative - <http://jjustice.org/about-us/>
 Justice 20/20 – <https://justice2020.org/>
 (with information on joining working groups on Pretrial and the Courts and Incarceration and Reentry)
 Live Free Illinois - <https://livefreeillinois.org/#home>
 Loyola University Chicago Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
<https://www.luc.edu/criminaljustice/index.shtml>
 MacArthur Justice Center – macarthurjustice.org
 Mental Health America of Illinois - <http://www.mhai.org/>
 Nehemiah Trinity Rising –
<https://www.nehemiahtrinityrising.org/>
 Parole Illinois – <https://paroleillinois.org/>
 Pro Publica Illinois - <https://www.propublica.org/illinois/>
 Restore Justice - <https://restorejustice.org/about-us/>
 Shriver Center for Poverty Law - <http://www.povertylaw.org/communityjustice>
 Social Change - <https://socialchange.site/>
 Social Justice Resource Center - <http://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/cause/criminal-justice-system/>
 Southern Poverty Law Center - <https://www.splcenter.org/issues/mass-incarceration>
 The Square One Project – Reimagine Justice - <https://squareonejustice.org/>
 Transforming Reentry Services – <https://transformingreentry.org/>
 Unitarian Universalist Ministry of Illinois – <http://www.uupmi.org/>
 University of Chicago Smart Decarceration Project – <https://voices.uchicago.edu/smartdecar/>
 Women's Justice Institute - <https://womensjusticeinstitute.org/>

Other Organizations Leading Reform Efforts

Action Committee for Women in Prison - <https://acwip.wordpress.com/>
 Arnold Ventures LLC – <https://www.arnoldventures.org/>
 Brennan Center For Justice - <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/justice-all>
 Catalyze Justice – <https://catalyzejustice.net/>
 Catholic Mobilizing Network – <https://catholicmobilizing.org/>

Center for the Study of Human Flourishing of King's College in New York City
<https://www.tkc.edu/academics/cshf/>
Civil Rights Corps - <http://www.civilrightscorps.org/>
Drug Policy Alliance - <https://www.drugpolicy.org/about-us>
Housing Not Handcuffs – <https://housingnohandcuffs.org/>
Human Rights Watch Illinois: Criminal Justice - <https://www.hrw.org/united-states/criminal-justice>
Justice Action Network – <https://www.justiceactionnetwork.org/>
Law Enforcement Leaders To Reduce Crime and Incarceration -
<http://lawenforcementleaders.org/>
Media Justice - <https://mediajustice.org/>
Prison Policy Initiative – <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/>
The Sentencing Project – <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>
Vera Institute of Justice - <https://www.vera.org/>
Worthy Now Prison Ministry Network of the Church of the Larger Fellowship -
<https://worthynow.org/>

Organizations Addressing the Causes of Crime and Poverty

The Tutor/Mentor Institute - <http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/>

Learning From the Experts -

Presentation Videos From Winter 2018 Programs on Confronting the Moral Crisis of Mass Incarceration - now available digitally at <http://incarcerationreform.com/>

and

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ZYmD3yv4fw9RsoMo1_jXA

Discussion of the Origins and Impact of Mass Incarceration - January 25, 2018

Rev. Al Sharp, Professor David Olson, Sharone Mitchell, moderator Rob Wildeboer

Discussion of Imprisonment, Release and Reentry - February 1, 2018

John Baldwin, Jennifer Vollen-Katz, Victor Dickson, Erwin Mayer, moderator John Bouman

Discussion of Alternatives to Incarceration - February 8, 2019

Pam Rodriguez, Mark Ishaug, Professor Mark Heyrman, moderator Carroll Bogert

Discussion of What's Changing, What More Needs to be Done, What We Can Do To Help -

February 15, 2018

Amy Campanelli, Kim Foxx, John Maki and Ben Ruddell, moderator Rob Wildeboer

Earlier presentations on Mass Incarceration and Criminal Justice Reform from the fall of 2017

are also available at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ZYmD3yv4fw9RsoMo1_jXA:

Rev. Al Sharp - How Our System of Incarceration Has Developed, and Some Key Issues - 9/10/17

Jamal Cole - Broadening Horizons of Chicago's Youth - 9/17/17

Amy Thompson - How the Criminal Justice System Works, Barriers to Reducing Incarceration - 9/24/17

Courtney Lance - *Pruno, Ramen and a Side of Hope: Stories of Wrongful Conviction* - 10/1/17

Andrea Ritchie - Special Problems with the Treatment of Women and LGBT People - 10/15/17

Rev. Andrew McGowan - How Faith Communities Engage with Integrity and Impact - 10/22/17

Pam Rodriguez - Adult and Juvenile Alternatives to Incarceration - 11/05/17

Paula Wolff - Criminal Justice Reform: a Historical Perspective - 11/12/17

Toni Preckwinkle - County Reform Initiatives: Progress and Next Steps - 11/19/17

Nate Steinfeld -Prison Reform Initiatives: Proposals, Actions and Practical Implications - 11/26/17
Mark Ishaug and Jill Valbuena - Focus on Mental Health Issues and Imprisonment - 12/3/17
Professor David Olson - Who Pays: The Real Cost of Excessive Criminalization - 12/07/17
Ben Ruddell - Pending Criminal Justice Reform Legislation - 12/10/17
Erwin Mayer - Release and Reentry - Issues Facing Those Who Leave Prison - 1/7/18

Other Sources of Ideas/Information/Advocacy on Criminal Justice Reform

Websites

New Website of the Loyola University Chicago Center for Criminal Justice
<https://loyolaccj.org/>

Web Page and bundle of resources for the 2023 Annual Locked in Solidarity Awareness and Action Week, February 5 to 13 Addressing Mental Health and Trauma From Incarceration: Juveniles through Reentry, an initiative of the Christian Community Development Association

_ To learn more go to <https://ccda.org/lis2023/>, and go to <https://mailchi.mp/ccda/locked-in-solidarity2023> to get the 2003 Locked in Solidarity bundle of resources, templates, and opportunities to connect, to use in raising awareness and in advocating for those affected by mass incarceration.

Address questions to Christina Foor, Advocacy and Communications Lead, at 773.475.7370 or christina@ccda.org

National Reentry Resource Center - <https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc>

The Illinois Alliance for Reentry and Justice announces a new website at <https://www.ilarj.org/>

Join the Alliance (as an individual or an organization) at <https://www.ilarj.org/>

Social Justice Resource Center on the Criminal Justice System

<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/cause/criminal-justice-system/>

highlighting Facts and Figures, Websites, Publications, Films, Prayers, Quotes, and Teachings of the Catholic Church

The National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction (NICCC) - a compendium of the legal and regulatory restrictions that limit or prohibit people convicted of crimes from accessing employment, housing, and other rights, benefits, and opportunities long after their sentences have been served

The Sentencing Project - <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>

Children and Family Justice Center - <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/cfjc/>

Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission - <http://ijjc.illinois.gov/publications/commission-resources>

Justice Divided - <https://justicedivided.com/>

Black and Pink - <http://www.blackandpink.org/>

Redeploy Illinois – <https://www.redeployillinois.org/>

Adult Redeploy Illinois - <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/redeploy/>

Illinois Institute for Community Law and Affairs -

<http://illinoisinstitute.net/idea-exchange/category/news-articles-essays/>

The Mental Health Summit - <https://mentalhealthsummit.wordpress.com/>

Gains Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation of The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – <https://www.samhsa.gov/gains-centerNew>

State Innovation Exchange - <https://stateinnovation.org/issue/criminal-justice-reform/>

American Legislative Exchange Council - <https://www.alec.org/issue/criminal-justice-reform/>

Projects and Campaigns

Coalition to End Money Bond

Learn more at <http://www.chicagoappleseed.org/coalition-to-end-money-bond/>

Coalition on Court Costs, Fines, and Fees of Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice

See discussion at: <http://www.chicagomag.com/city-life/March-2018/How-Court-Costs->

[Trap-People-in-Povertyand-How-Lawmakers-Are-Trying-to-Fix-It/](#)

Smart Decarceration Initiative of the center for Social Development, Washington University-St. Louis

Learn more at

<https://csd.wustl.edu/OurWork/SocialJustice/Decarceration/pages/default.aspx>

#ChallengingEcaraceration: Electronic Monitoring project of the Center for Media Justice proposes guidelines for the use of electronic monitoring

<http://centerformediajustice.org/our-projects/challengingecarceration-electronic-monitoring/>

Social Media Kit for spreading word about the proposed guidelines is available at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/18RLoSXTfjp2wtlAqp_Q12FiwAEhqoeCWwZEtKgKX2I/edit

Resource Guides and Hubs:

Envisioning Justice RE:ACTION Curriculum Guide, issued in 2024 by the **Envisioning Justice Project** of **Illinois Humanities** to prompt teachers and students in Illinois to learn about and reflect upon the impact of mass incarceration on our state, the meaning of freedom, and imagining the possibilities for transformative justice

<https://envisioningjustice.org/the-reaction-curriculum-guide/>

A New Path: A Guide to the Challenges and Opportunities After Deportation, a 2024 guide of the **Education Justice Project** for people who live in the United States with the threat of deportation
2024 Reentry Guides of the **Education Justice Project**:

<https://reentryiltemp.web.illinois.edu/reentry-guides/>

2022 Advocacy Toolkit of the Prison Policy Initiative

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/trainings/>

Guide to Higher Education After Incarceration, from the **Intelligent.com Higher Education Team** - Updated: Nov 8, 2022

<https://www.intelligent.com/education-and-career-guide-after-incarceration/>

Digital Hub – Taking on Transformation – a New Vision of Youth Justice –

View past events, browse upcoming events, and join the email distribution list at:

<https://www.takingontransformation.org/>

Watch recording **Setting the State**, the first in a series of events from November 2021 at:

<https://www.takingontransformation.org/setting-the-stage>

Sign up for future events at <https://www.takingontransformation.org/schedule:>

in February 2022 – **Racial Justice and Equity**

in March 2022 – **Centering Youth and Families**

Resource Guide: Prisons, Policing, and Punishment, by Micah Hirskind, last updated July 2020

<https://medium.com/@micahherskind/resource-guide-prisons-policing-and-punishment-effb5e0f6620>

Tools to Build and Equitable Justice System – links to things to read and watch, resources for faith communities and organizations to support, compiled by Represent Justice

<https://www.representjustice.org/blog/were-standing-with-protesters-across-the-nation-heres-how-you-can-support-them-too/>

TransformHarm.org of Mariame Kaba

<https://transformharm.org/>

Archives

Recordings of the presentations at meetings of Interfaith Criminal Justice Task Force, starting in 2020 through this year – access it her

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LL3ckTJEOZhIT8A-d1H7nMg_cVs0REmD?usp=sharing

Social Justice Resource Center Archive of Current Resources for Understanding and Reforming the Criminal Legal System -

<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/cause/criminal-justice-system/>

Database of 44,631 Collateral Consequences of Conviction maintained by the National Inventory of Collateral Consequences, searchable by description, jurisdiction, consequence type and keywords:

<https://niccc.csgjusticecenter.org/about/>

Bibliography Compiled by Illinois Birth Justice of Resources on the Effects of Incarceration on Breastfeeding, Pregnancy and Childbirth:

<https://www.illinoisbirthjustice.org/resources/>

Removing Barriers to Success Created by the Criminal Justice System, a July 31, 2021 article by Abby Schultz in Barron's

<https://www.barrons.com/articles/removing-barriers-to-success-created-by-the-criminal-justice-system-01627731570>

Media Amplifying Misinformation About Pretrial Justice Reforms Threatens Public Safety, a July 2021 report of the Coalition to End Money Bond

<https://endmoneybond.org/2021/07/14/media-amplifying-misinformation-about-pretrial-justice-reforms-threatens-community-safety/>

Building Exits off the Highway to Mass Incarceration – Diversion Programs Explained, a July 20, 2021 briefing update from the Prison Policy Initiative

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/diversion.html>

Opioids and the Justice-Involved: a Mishandled Crisis, a July 27, 2021 article in The Crime Report

<http://ps://thecrimereport.org/2021/07/27/opioids-and-the-justice-involved-a-mishandled-crisis/>

Educating Ourselves archive of the Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois -

<http://www.uupmi.org/self-led-learning>

Materials Distributed at Programs on Confronting the Moral Crisis of Mass Incarceration in the Winter of 2018

Now available digitally at <http://incarcerationreform.com/>

Books:

Correction: Parole, Prison and the Possibility of Change by Ben Austin, published in November 2023 by Flatiron Books, an imprint of MacMillan Books

<https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250758811/correction>

Excessive Punishment: How the Justice System Creates Mass Incarceration. edited by Laure-Brook Eisen, published in April 2024 by the Columbia University Press

<https://cup.columbia.edu/book/excessive-punishment/9780231559249>

Correction: Parole, Prison, and the Possibility of Change, by Ben Austin, published by Flatiron Books

<https://www.chicagomag.com/chicago-magazine/december-2023/the-indeterminate-sentence-of-johnnie-veal/>

MASS Supervision – Probation, Parole and the Illusion of Safety and Freedom, by Vincent Schiraldi, published by The New Press

<https://thenewpress.com/books/mass-supervision>

Beyond Bars: a Path Forward After 50 Years of Incarceration in the United States, from The Sentencing Project and The Society for the Study of Social Problems, published by Policy Press of Bristol University

FREE ELECTRONIC DOWNLOAD at

<https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/beyond-bars?emci=b88773ed-7730-ee11-b8f0-00224832eb73&emdi=38c3d0dd-7d30-ee11-b8f0-00224832eb73&ceid=10194244>

Parsimony and Other Radical Ideas About Justice, edited by Bruce Western and Jeremy Travis and featuring essays from more than twenty authors who've participated in the Square One Project, published by The New Press

<https://thenewpress.com/books/parsimony-other-radical-ideas-about-justice#:~:text=%E2%80%9C%20Parsimony%20and%20Other%20Radical%20Ideas%20About%20Justice,racialized%20capitalism%20to%20expand%20how%20we%20understand%20justice.>

Understanding E-Carceration: Electronic Monitoring, the Surveillance State, and the Future of Mass Incarceration, by James Kilgore, available at:

<https://bookshop.org/books/understanding-e-carceration-electronic-monitoring-the-surveillance-state-and-the-future-of-mass-incarceration/9781620976142?bblinkid=257748996&bbemailid=37809108&bbejrid=-2049724454>

The Sentences that Create Us – Crafting a Writer’s Life in Prison, by PEN America, edited by Caitis Meissner, available at:

<https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/1766-sentences-that-create-us?bblinkid=257755043&bbemailid=37809108&bbejrid=-2049724454#:~:text=The%20Sentences%20That%20Create%20Us%20provides%20a%20road%20map%20for,offer%20advice%2C%20inspiration%20and%20resources> . -

My Time Will Come – a Memoir of Crime, Punishment Hope and Redemption, by Ian Manuel

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/610493/my-time-will-come-by-ian-manuel/>

Necropolitics – The Religious Crisis of Mass Incarceration in America, by Professor Christopher Ringer of the Chicago Theological Seminary, published November 17, 2020 – available at:

<https://www.booktopia.com.au/necropolitics-christophe-d-ringer/ebook/9781793626806.html>

“Prisons Make Us Safer”: and 20 Other Myths about Mass Incarceration, by Victoria Law, (Beacon Press 2021) -

<https://bookshop.org/books/prisons-make-us-safer-and-20-other-myths-about-mass-incarceration/9780807029527>

Find excerpts from the book at Literary Hub Daily of April 8, 2021:

<https://lithub.com/lit-hub-daily-april-8-2021/>

Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration, by University of Chicago Professor Reuben Jonathan Miller, published February 2, 2021 – available at:

<https://www.semcoop.com/halfway-home-race-punishment-and-afterlife-mass-incarceration>

- Conversations with Professor Miller about his book:

- --at the Ford School of Public Policy

<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-miller-discussed-racial-issues-aftermath-mass-incarceration-ford-school>

and with NBR’s Terry Gross

<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-jonathan-miller-talks-about-his-new-book-npr%E2%80%99s-terry-gross>

“ *Life Imprisonment, a Global Human Rights Analysis*, by Dirk van Zyl Smit and Catherine Appleton (Harvard International Press 2019)

<https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674980662/>

Women Leaving Prison: Justice-Seeking Spiritual Support for Female Returning Citizens (Emerging Perspectives in Pastoral Theology and Care) by Jill Snodgrass

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41545555-women-leaving-prison>

Charged: The New Movement to Transform American Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration –by Emily Bazelon, published by Random House

Reviewed in the New York Times Book Review on April 8, 2019:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/08/books/review/emily-bazelon-charged.html>

Prisoners of Politics: Breaking the Cycle of Mass Incarceration by Rachel Barkow, published by Harvard University Press

<http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674919235>

Beyond Prisons: A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System (and study guide) by Laura Magnani and Harmon Wray of the American Friends Service Committee

For more information see:

<https://www.afsc.org/document/beyond-prisons-study-guide>

Community Health Equity: A Chicago Reader,
edited by Fernando De Maio, Raj Shah, John Mazzeo, and David Ansell
Beyond These Walls: Rethinking Crime and Punishment in the United States, by Tony Platt
American Prison: A Reporter's Undercover Journey Into the Business of Punishment, by Shane
Bauer
Locking Up Our Own, by James Forman Jr.
(winner of the Pulitzer Prize)
Race to Incarcerate, by Sabrina Jones and Marc Mauer
The Real Cost of Prisons Comix, by Lois Ahrens
The New Jim Crow, by Michelle Alexander
Locked In, by John Pfaff
The Collapse of American Criminal Justice, by William Stuntz
The Protestant Ethic and The Spirit of Punishment, by T. Richard Snyder
Not a Crime To Be Poor, by Peter Edelman
Men on the Inside, by Tyrone Muhammed - available for purchase at:
<http://www.lulu.com/us/en/shop/tyrone-f-muhammad/men-on-the-inside/paperback/product-23336713.html>
Policing the Black Man, edited by Angela Davis
Inside Private Prisons, by Lauren-Brooke Eisen

Reports

How Accreditation Can Improve Health of People in Jail, a January 2025 report of **Arnold Ventures**

<https://www.arnoldventures.org/stories/how-accreditation-can-improve-health-of-people-in-jail>

New Facility Reports for Graham, Shawnee, Vienna and Re-Entry Focused Facilities of the John Howard Association available at:

<https://www.thejha.org/>

2024 Year-End Report of the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice

<https://mailchi.mp/endmoneybond/celebratingoneyear-4089180?e=26813fbadd>

Bad Behavior: How prison discipline manufactures misconduct, a January 2025 report of the **Prison Policy Initiative**

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/discipline.html>

The Final Report: The Kim Foxx Administration – 2017-2024, issued November 30, 2024

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extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcqlclefindmkai/https://www.cookcountystatesattorney.org/sites/g/files/ywwepo351/files/document/file/2024-11/Foxx%20Administration%20Final%20Report%2011%2030%2024.pdf

34 Criminal Justice Reforms That Can Win in 2025, a December 2024 report of the **Prison Policy Initiative**

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/winnable2025.html>

Punishing Fear: the Devastating Impacts of the War on Gun Possession in Chicago, a November 2024 report of **Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts**

<https://mailchi.mp/chicagoappleseed.org/punishing-fear?e=9b71449375>

Reimagining Justice at Justice: Investing in Communities as Co-Producers of Public Safety, a July 2024 white paper of the **Square One Project**, discussing the recent groundbreaking work of the

Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice, expanding on remarks of Assistant Attorney General Amy L. Solomon at the Columbia University Justice Lab Square One Project convening, “Creating Community-Led Safety: What Does It Take?” on May 29, 2024.

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://squareonejustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ReimaginingJusticeatJustice_WhitePaper_Final-with-Cover.pdf

The First Year of the Pretrial Fairness Act, a September 2024 report of the Loyola University Chicago Center for Criminal Justice

<https://pfa-1yr.loyolaccj.org/>

A Year of the Illinois Pretrial Fairness Act Sets a National Model for Reform, a September 2024 report of the Vera Institute of Justice

<https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/pretrial-fairness-act-illinois?emci=8a1a6dbe-d88b-ef11-8473-0022483029fa&emdi=24690dfd-878c-ef11-8474-000d3a98fa6b&ceid=110393>

Lockdowns, Overtime and Unmet Needs: Why we must solve the current prison staffing crisis, an October 2024 report of the John Howard Association

<https://www.thejha.org/special-reports/102124>

IDOC Deaths in Custody, a November 2024 John Howard Association report of the on deaths between 2019 and 2024 of people in the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections

<https://www.thejha.org/idoc-deaths>

Research Roundup: Evidence that a single day in jail causes immediate and long-lasting harms, an August 2024 report of the Prison Policy Initiative

https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2024/08/06/short_jail_stays/

Recently Incarcerated People Account for Nearly 20% of US Suicides, a discussion in Medscape of a May 2024 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Network Open

<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/recently-incarcerated-account-nearly-20-us-suicides-2024a10009ub?form=fpf>

Here is a link to the [Defy Ventures 2023 Annual Report!](#), issued in November 2024

When You're a Hammer, Everything's a Nail: Examining the “Progressive Prosecutor” Movement and Possibilities for Future Reform, a March 2024 report of Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts

Discussed here: <https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2024/03/14/new-report-examining-the-progressive-prosecutor-movement/>

Access the report here: [report](#)

Investing in Pretrial Justice in Illinois: A Vision for Supporting Communities After the End of Money Bond, an April 2024 report of The Coalition to End Money Bond

<https://endmoneybond.org/2024/04/18/investing-in-pretrial-justice-in-illinois-a-vision-for-supporting-communities-after-the-end-of-money-bond/>

Looking Back: Six Months Without Money Bond in Illinois, an April 2024 report of The Coalition to End Money Bond

<https://endmoneybond.org/2024/03/18/looking-back-six-months-without-money-bond-in-illinois/>

Short-Trends in Jail Bookings and Populations after the Pretrial Fairness Act, a March 10, 2024 report by David Olson and Don Stemen of Loyola University Chicago Center for Criminal Justice find the report here: [research brief](#)

Measuring Culture and Climate in Illinois Prisons, a February 27, 2024 report of the Center for Criminal Justice at Loyola University Chicago in collaboration with the John Howard Association of Illinois – find the report [here](#).

Diversion: The Next Frontier in Reforming Youth Justice, April 2024 Issue Briefs issued by The Sentencing Project

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/diversion-the-next-frontier-in-reforming-youth-justice/?emci=c7ecea84-18fd-ee11-aaf0-7c1e52017038&emdi=8812b627-90fd-ee11-aaf0-7c1e52017038&ceid=10194244>

Never Fully Free: The Scale of and Impact of Permanent Punishments on People with Criminal Records in Illinois, a June 2020 report of the Social Impact Research Center of The Heartland Alliance

<https://socialimpactresearchcenter.issuelab.org/resource/never-fully-free-the-scale-and-impact-of-permanent-punishments-on-people-with-criminal-records-in-illinois.html>

See also: <https://www.heartlandalliance.org/heartland-alliance-2020-poverty-report/>

and: <https://www.heartlandalliance.org/its-time-to-break-the-permanent-punishment-cycle/>

Restorative Justice, Community, and the Courts: an Analysis of the Impact, Benefits and Elements “Constantly in Conflict” in Chicago’s Restorative Justice Community Courts, a February 2024 report of Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts and Chicago Council of Lawyers

<https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2024/02/22/restorative-justice/>

Lockdowns Harm People in the Illinois Department of Corrections, a January 24, 2024 statement of the John Howard Association -

<https://www.thejha.org/statements-and-testimony/012424>

Communication Impacts People in IDOC and Their Support Systems: Changes are needed to improve outcomes and daily living, a February 2024 report of The John Howard Association:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5beab48285ede1f7e8102102/t/65cccf7dd5466f2d79c1c817/1707929470652/JHA+Communications+Special+Report+February+2024+final.pdf>

New National Report: Women’s Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2024, a report of the Prison Policy Initiative, issued March 5, 2024:

https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2024/03/05/womens_pie_2024/

The Reentry Housing Issues in Illinois, a report of the Illinois Justice Project and The Metropolitan Planning Council

https://www.metroplanning.org/uploads/cms/documents/re-entry_housing_issues_report_final.pdf

Illinois Department of Corrections Reports Webpage, with current discussion and texts of reports related to Illinois corrections. Check especially “Other Reports”, which include annual reports on Digitization Impact, Evidence Based Practice, Medical Release, etc.

<https://idoc.illinois.gov/reportsandstatistics/otherreports.html>

Winnable Criminal Justice Reforms in 2024, a November 2023 report of the Prison Policy Initiative

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/winnable2024.html>

Force multipliers: How criminal legal and child welfare systems cooperate to punish families, a January 2024 briefing by Emma Peyton Williams of the Prison Policy Initiative
<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2024/01/08/punishingfamilies/>

New Data Shows How Dire the Prison Staffing Shortage Really Is, a January 2024 report of The Marshall Project

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2024/01/10/prison-correctional-officer-shortage-overtime-data>

Final installment from January 2024 of the “One in Five” series of The Sentencing Project, examining criminal legal laws and policies that exacerbate socioeconomic inequalities

Link to:

[“One in Five: How Mass Incarceration Deepens Inequality and Harms Public Safety,”](#)

One in Five: Racial Disparity in Imprisonment – Causes and Remedies, a December 2023 report of The Sentencing Project

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/one-in-five-racial-disparity-in-imprisonment-causes-and-remedies/>

John Howard Association’s Role in Independent Prison Oversight and in the Arizona’s New Oversight Commission

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5beab48285ede1f7e8102102/t/65a7fb49a58f581dbacdbeff/1705507658170/Joint+Statement+on+AZ+commission+01.16.24.pdf>

Tracking the Cook County Jail and Community Corrections Population, a November 2023 report of the Loyola Chicago Center for Criminal Justice

<https://loyolaccj.org/pfa/blog/tracking-the-cook-county-jail-and-community-corrections-population>

One in Five: Ending Racial Inequity in Incarceration, an October 2023 report of The Sentencing Project

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/one-in-five-ending-racial-inequity-in-incarceration/>

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https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2023/10/30/electronic_monitoring/

10 statistics that you need to know about the scale and impact of mass incarceration in the U.S., an October 2023 report of the Prison Policy Initiative

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2023/10/24/ten-statistics/>

Many Prisons Restrict Books to Stop Drug Smuggling. Critics Say It Doesn’t Work, an October 2023 report of The Marshall Center

https://www.themarshallproject.org/2023/10/18/prison-drugs-overdoses-book-banning?utm_campaign=opening-statement&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_term=3401-prison-book-bans-don-t-stop-contraband&utm_source=TMP-Newsletter&utm_campaign=8f43d70e66-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_10_18_11_13&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5e02cdad9d-8f43d70e66-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

Monitoring Visit to Logal Correctional Center 2022-23, a September 2023 report of The John Howard Association

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5beab48285ede1f7e8102102/t/650b37aa7c19b5317e70f378/1695233963315/JHA+Logan+Facility+Report+final+2023.pdf>

Ending Mass Incarceration: Safety Beyond Sentencing (discussing five social interventions), an August 2023 report of The Sentencing Project

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/app/uploads/2023/07/Safety-Beyond-Sentencing.pdf?emci=0d68fdf6-6a31-ee11-b8f0-00224832eb73&emdi=d997ae09-0632-ee11-b8f0-00224832e1ba&ceid=10194244>

JHA Statement on the Recent Infrastructure Assessment of IDOC Facilities, August 3, 2023

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Effective Alternatives to Youth Incarceration, a June 2023 report by Richard Mendel of the Sentencing Project

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/effective-alternatives-to-youth-incarceration/>

Youth Justice By the Numbers, a May 2023 report of The Sentencing Project

<https://www.sentencingproject.org/app/uploads/2023/05/Youth-Justice-by-the-Numbers.pdf?emci=6bd08117-78f3-ed11-907c-00224832eb73&emdi=626b4e92-f2f3-ed11-907c-00224832eb73&ceid=10194244>

The Volume and Characteristics of Arrests Eligible for Detention [in Illinois under the new standards being implemented under the Pretrial Justice Act], an April 2023 report by Don Steiman of the Loyola Chicago Center for Criminal Justice

<https://loyolaccj.org/pfa/blog/estimate-pfa-act>

Monitory Visit to Fox Valley Adult Transition Center, an April 2023 report of the John Howard Association

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5beab48285ede1f7e8102102/t/642451ca67032c6044f5ae22/1680101835030/JHA+Fox+Valley+ATC+Report+March+2023+FINAL.pdf>

A Proposal to Reduce Unnecessary Incarceration – The Public Safety and Prison Reduction Act: Report and Fact Sheet, from The Brennan Center for Justice: , March 14, 2023

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/policy-solutions/proposal-reduce-unnecessary-incarceration>

Examining the Impact and Reasons for Technical Violations of Mandatory Supervised Release on Prison Admissions in Illinois, a March 2023 report of the Loyola University Center for Criminal Justice

<https://loyolaccj.org/blog/technical-violations-illinois>

The Rapid & Unregulated Growth of e-messaging in Prisons, a March 2023 report of the Prison Policy Initiative

access the report [here](#)

Bipartisan Illinois Resentencing Task Force FINAL REPORT – December 2022,

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https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H3P5obfMWHbO8_0szbS91K3U04evAajQ/view

Executive Summary:

<https://spac.icjia->

<api.cloud/uploads/ILSPAC%202022%20Resentencing%20Report%20Final-20230120T19392138.pdf>

along with a [toolkit](#) to help pass retroactive sentencing reform with sample social media posts, emails and text messages

Redeploy Annual Report available here:

[Redeploy Illinois Annual Report Calendar and Fiscal Year 2015-2021 \(state.il.us\)](https://www.redeploy.org/annual-report-calendar-and-fiscal-year-2015-2021)

Illinois Reentry Council Strategic Plan, issued December 12, 2022

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59653faf099c014ab2324724/t/6397cc998fd6494b9bc00376/1670892697983/Illinois+Reentry+Council+Strategic+Plan.pdf>

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[Explore the Vera Institute's new tool analyzing policing budgets:](#)

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Can We Eliminate the Youth Prison (And What Should We Replace It With?) – an Executive Session Paper of the Square One Project of the Columbia University Justice Lab

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with a [virtual event](#) introducing the paper, featuring author Vinny Schiraldi, Vivian Nixon and others in a conversation about ending youth prisons.

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<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/06/10/winnable-reforms/>

Organizing and Advocacy Resource of the Community Justice Exchange and Defender Impact Initiative:

[A Social Media Toolkit for Organizing and Advocacy to End Mass Criminalization and Incarceration](#)

Final Report of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices Concerning Pretrial Reform in the Illinois Criminal justice system, issued in April 2020:

<https://courts.illinois.gov/Probation/FinalReport.pdf>

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COVID-19 Survey of Illinois Department of Corrections Staff (June 2020):

[results of our IDOC Staff COVID-19 Survey](#)

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2019 Annual Report of the Sentencing Project - 2019 Annual Report.

ACLU Analytics April 2020 Report: COVID-19 Model Finds Nearly 100,000 More Deaths Than Current Estimates, Due to Failures to Reduce Jails

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Episcopal Public Policy Network Criminal Justice Series: Special comprehensive series of reports on criminal justice reform issued in February 2020 by the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations, with substantial resources covering:

- Introduction: 13th Amendment
- School-to-Prison Pipeline
- Public Defenders
- Sentencing
- During Incarceration
- Re-entry

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Aascds%3AUS%3A1c04cad1-07ae-4875-93ac-6c5175aff784> [Note – this one takes time to open]

Women in Prison: Seeking Justice Behind Bars – a comprehensive report of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission on the state of federal civil rights protections for incarcerated women and exploring women’s experiences while incarcerated

<https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/briefing-reports/2020-02-26-Women-in-Prison.php>

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<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/ltg/Documents/JEO-Draft-Report.pdf>

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[Read the report on Logan here](#) and [find WBEZ report here](#)

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click [here](#) to read the report.

- July 2019 Report of the People's Lobby and Chicago Appleseed on Kim Foxx's Second Year in Office

<https://www.thepeopleslobbyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-07-Final-Report-Kim-Foxx-ForPrint.pdf>

- August 2019 Report of the State's Attorney's Office (covering the period December 2016 to August 2019)

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"Prosecutors, Democracy and Justice: Holding Prosecutors Responsible" – a September 2019 report of the Institute for Innovation in Prosecution at John Jay College –

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No More Shackles: 10 Arguments Against Pretrial Electronic Monitoring, an October 2019 report of the Center for Media Justice

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<https://www.aclu-il.org/en/legislation/sb-1786-license-work-act>

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<https://strongnation.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/693/4af605ed-7f54-4d11-81fe-ce6ec893b106.pdf>

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– learning what policies Illinois and other states should consider. Click to:

[Find your state to get a blueprint of what smart justice could look like in your community.](#)

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Click [here](#) to view the report.

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Click [here](#) to access the report

ACLU Report – Cops and No Counselors – How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff is Harming Students
<https://www.aclu.org/report/cops-and-no-counselors>

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<https://www.brennancenter.org/blog/between-2007-and-2017-34-states-reduced-crime-and-incarceration-tandem>

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proportional to crimes, abolishing cash bail, reforming prosecutorial incentives, reforming marijuana laws, calibrating fines to defendants' ability, eliminating fees, reducing opioid deaths, and curbing the number of women entering state prisons

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https://chicago.suntimes.com/2023/8/30/23850747/prisoners-joe-coleman-medical-release-act-illinois-prisoner-review-board?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=083023%20Afternoon%20Edition&utm_content=083023%20Afternoon%20Edition+CID_7d11bc3604bdb5682d142caafc44aeb2&utm_source=cst%20campaign%20monitor&utm_term=READ%20MORE&tpcc=083023%20Afternoon%20Edition

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https://www.thecentersquare.com/illinois/article_ad323ac8-11d5-11ee-bcbb-0b79127da9d2.html

“Older Adults Coming Out of Illinois Prisons Face Steep Roadblocks in Their Reentry journey,” by Carlos Ballesteros in Injustice Watch, June 8, 2023
<https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/prisons-and-jails/2023/older-adults-prison-reentry/>

“This Rare, Underfunded Program, at Logan Correctional Center, is a Crucial Lifeline for Incarcerated Moms and Their Kids,” by Claire Savage on AP, June 5, 2023
<https://apnews.com/article/prison-women-children-visit-illinois-282589dffa38ee1aa27bc58c1b889ce>

“Nearly 70 Years of Housing, Healing and Hope for Reentering Citizens at St. Leonard’s Ministries,” by Erica Gunderson of WTTW, April 22, 2023
https://news.wttw.com/2023/04/22/nearly-70-years-housing-healing-and-hope-reentering-citizens-st-leonard-s-ministries?_gl=1*1huv6l0*_ga*MTg0NTQ1MjMzOS4xNjc2Mjk2Nzk0*_ga_KW00Y1RFC1*MTY4MjM4OTYyMC40NS4wLjE2ODIzODk2MjAuNjAuMC4w

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<https://www.injusticewatch.org/commentary/2023/foia-courts-transparency-bill/>

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<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20230127/does-bail-reform-lead-to-more-crime-what-2-loyola-university-professors-found>

"The Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act is law...now what?" by Wanda Bertram of the Prison Policy Initiative, January 19, 2023

<https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2023/01/19/martha-wright-reed-act/>

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<https://nextcity.org/urbanist-news/a-self-facilitated-prison-dorm-paves-the-way-to-prison-reform>

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<https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/01/18/a-closed-englewood-school-could-become-a-resource-center-for-formerly-incarcerated-neighbors/>

"Prisons and Jails Keep Making it Harder for Incarcerated People to Communicate with Loved Ones," by Nazish Dholakia, Vera Institute of Justice, December 13, 2022

<https://www.vera.org/news/prisons-and-jails-keep-making-it-harder-for-incarcerated-people-to-communicate-with-loved-ones?emci=b321701d-da7f-ed11-9d7a-000d3a9eb913&emdi=df38e39c-3b82-ed11-9d7a-000d3a9eb913&ceid=110393>

"The Formerly Incarcerated in Illinois Need to Know That They Have the Right to Vote," by Marlon Chamberlain, Chicago Sun Times, December 12, 2022

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2022/12/12/23505558/chicago-city-elections-2023-ex-offenders-voting-rights-fully-free-marlon-chamberlain-op-ed>

"Illinois Keeping the Spotlight on uplifting the wrongfully Convicted," Chicago SunTimes editorial, December 3, 2022

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2022/12/3/23488021/illinois-wrongful-convictions-exoneration-chicago-beyond-life-after-justice-editorial>

and reader response: "Ending Wrongful Convictions Will Take More Than Piecemeal Reform"

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2022/12/10/23496636/wrongful-convictions-justice-reform-gun-safety-highland-park-cubs-brittney-griner-sunday-letters/>

"Cook County Juvenile Jail Using 'Semantics' To Hide Many Hours Youths Are Isolated: Report," an August 23, 2023 article by Jonah Newman and Carlos Ballesteros of Injustice Watch, containing the text of the May 2022 report of the "blue ribbon" committee convened by Cook County Chief Judge Tim Evans, which called on the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Facility to be shut down

https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/juvenile-justice/2022/juvenile-detention-center-room-confinement-report/?utm_source=Injustice+Watch+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=ae94e47ae3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_04_02_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1a5f79d769-ae94e47ae3-229852929&mc_cid=ae94e47ae3&mc_eid=5e64435292

"Federal monitor finds Illinois prisons fail to provide adequate health care to inmates" an August 11, 2022 article in Corrections 1

<https://www.corrections1.com/correctional-healthcare/articles/federal-monitor-finds-illinois-prisons-fail-to-provide-adequate-health-care-to-inmates-KEpXU8m7187KnzdU/>

"The Rise and Fall of Prison Education," a February 16, 2022 article by Cassie M. Chew in The Crime Report

<https://thecrimereport.org/2022/02/16/the-rise-and-fall-of-prison-education/>

"There's No Second Amendment on the South Side of Chicago," by Cook County Public Defender Sharone Mitchell, Jr. in The Nation of November 12, 2021

<https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/gun-control-supreme-court/>

"Illinois women's prison offers a new chance at a degree," a January 3, 2022 article by Candice Norwood in The 19th Newsletter

read it at <https://19thnews.org/2022/01/illinois-womens-prison-degree/>

"Black Sexual Violence Survivors Are Telling Their Stories Only to Be Punished," a January 8, 2022 article by Victoria Law in Truthout, available [at this link](#)

<https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/2021/safe-t-act-changes/>

"Illinois Man Who Spent 22 Years in Solitary Confinement Seeks Reforms," a January 4, 2022 article by Sierra Henry in the Bloomington Pantagraph

here is a [Link to the article](#)

"Illinois criminal justice reformers won a historic legislative victory in 2021. But the law they passed isn't a done deal", a November 3, 2021 article from Injustice Watch

<https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/2021/safe-t-act-changes/>

"Health care in Illinois prisons is deficient: Report", a October 21, 2021 article on the latest report of an independent monitor, from Injustice Watch

<https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/prisons-and-jails/2021/health-care-illinois-prisons-monitor-report/> "D

Don't Blame Bail Reform for Violent Crime", a June 2021 Creators Syndicate column by Steve Chapman

<https://www.creators.com/read/steve-chapman/07/21/dont-blame-bail-reform-for-violent-crime>

"Bail Reform and Bond Funds Do Not Undermine Public Safety", by Curtis Black in The Chicago Reporter, May 8, 2020

<https://www.chicagoreporter.com/bail-reform-and-bond-funds-do-not-undermine-public-safety/>

COVID-19 Sweeps Through Cook County Jail (now exceeding 800 cases), by Daniel Tucker of WBEZ, May 5, 2020

<https://www.wbez.org/stories/covid-19-sweeps-through-cook-county-jail/d8ed7a11-802c-43aa-b55f-151ddb721985>

"In Rural Areas a 'Quiet Jail-Building Boom' Is Taking Place," by James Kilgore in Truthout, February 1, 2020

<https://truthout.org/articles/in-rural-areas-a-quiet-jail-building-boom-is-taking-place/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=ae0a9753-9e19-4f61-8606-2fa84a78fab6>

"Cash Bail Was Never About Safety" by Melissa Grant in The New Republic, January 10, 2020

<https://newrepublic.com/article/156155/cash-bail-neversafety?bblinkid=200935833&bbemailid=18937478&bbejrid=1351137705> "Tech CEO: "When a Company Doesn't Hire Ex-Offenders, It Misses Out on 3 Big Benefits", from Barron's, December 6, 2019.

Text available from johnmclees@outlook.com or jqintzler@hotmail.com

"Awakening to a Mass-Supervision Crisis (problems with community supervision release) from The Atlantic, December 26, 2019

"Can We Build Better Women's Prison", by Keri Blakinger, in the Washington Post Magazine, October 29, 2019

https://www.washingtonpost.com/magazine/2019/10/28/prisons-jails-are-designed-men-can-we-build-better-womens-prison/?arc404=true&utm_campaign=January%2011%20Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=November

"Arrests for Low-Level Crimes Are Plummeting, and the Experts Are Flummoxed", in the Wall Street Journal, October 6, 2019

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/arrests-for-low-level-crimes-are-plummeting-and-the-experts-are-flummoxed-11570354201?mod=mhp&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=33f7a2e2-0c85-425d-a97d-2793ad1405f8>

"New York's Jail-Reform Architect Looks to Norway for Ideas" by Ben Chapman, in the Wall Street Journal, October 16, 2019

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-york-citys-jail-reform-architect-looks-to-norway-for-ideas-11571263205>

“Could Norway’s Mental Health Focus Reduce Incarceration in Michigan?” by Karen Bouffard, in the Detroit News, October 10, 2018

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/special-reports/2019/10/10/norway-prison-model-fixing-mental-illness-problems-michigan-prisons/1504226001/>

“Four Ways America Gets It Wrong in Prosecuting Alleged Teen Offenders”, by Betsy Clarke in the Chicago SunTimes, August 26, 2019

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2019/8/26/20833794/juvenile-justice-initiative-reform-felony-murder-review-sun-times-elizabeth-clarke>

“Releasing Elderly Prison Inmates Could Save Illinois a Fortune — Without Endangering Public” by Jennifer Soble and Bill Ryan in the Chicago SunTimes, Aug 12, 2019

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2019/8/12/20802680/illinois-department-of-corrections-prison-elderly-inmates-jennifer-soble-bill-ryan>

“5 Teens Charged Under a Rule That Must Change” by Dahleen Glanton in the Chicago Tribune, Aug 15, 2019

http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?quid=61853e92-45c7-484e-bfc8-27319961046d

“If Prisons Don’t Work, What Will?” in the New York Times, April 5, 2019

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/05/opinion/mass-incarceration-sentencing-reform.html>

“Solitary Confinement Should be Eliminated Everywhere” by Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart in the Washington Post, reprinted in the Chicago Tribune of April 8, 2019

http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?quid=847e5070-9e4c-482c-9261-34340816f199

“Washington Watch: Expanding Pell to Prisoners Looks Promising”, Community College Daily, February 8, 2018

<http://www.ccdaily.com/2019/02/expanding-pell-prisoners-looks-promising/>

“Activism, Apps Bond in War on Cash Bail”, Chicago Tribune

http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?quid=33e07c42-02ed-427f-9344-e390d55775a2

“At the Hands of Police” by Cook County Public Defender Amy Campanelli in *The Progressive*

<https://progressive.org/dispatches/at-the-hands-of-police-campanelli-190214/>

“State Agrees to Sweeping Health Care Reforms, Oversight at All Prisons” – from the Chicago Tribune, January 4, 2019

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-illinois-prison-health-lawsuit20190103-story.html>

“Illinois Corrections Officers Contend Rules Not Binding on Their Conduct” (in arguments before the Illinois Supreme Court – from Injustice Watch, January 25, 2019 (the article contains a link to a recording of the arguments)

https://www.injusticewatch.org/news/2019/illinois-corrections-officials-contendrules-not-binding-on-their-conduct/?utm_source=Injustice+Watch+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=cfb498fc2d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_24_10_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1a5f79d769-cfb498fc2d-229852929

“Can Pritzker, Foxx Deliver on Criminal Justice Reforms?” – from The Chicago Reporter, January 17, 2019

https://www.chicagoreporter.com/can-pritzker-foxx-deliver-on-criminal-justicereforms/?utm_source=TCRNewsletter&utm_medium=Email_011819&utm_campaign=cjreform

“Preckwinkle’s Criminal Justice Plan Includes Ending Gang Database” – from WBEZ on January 14,

2019

https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/preckwinkles-criminal-justice-plan-includesending-gang-database/bf737539-d477-4d67-84a3-d07d2bc55e73?utm_source=email&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=Web-Share

"At Kalven's Invisible Institute, An Unfolding Effort to Tell a City's Story" in the Chicago Maroon of November 27, 2018

<https://www.chicagomaroon.com/article/2018/11/27/kalven-invisible-institute-unfoldingeffort-tell-c/>

"The Newest Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander, on the dangers posed by the growing wave of digital prisons in the United States.

published as *an op-ed in The New York Times* of November 8, 2018, also accessible at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/08/opinion/sunday/criminal-justice-reforms-racetechnology.html>

ACLU blog: Prisoners Are Getting Paid \$1.45 a Day to Fight the California Wildfires

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/prisoners-rights/prisoners-are-getting-paid-145-day-fightcalifornia-wildfires>

ACLU blog: How Georgia's Probation System Squeezes the Poor and Feeds Mass Incarceration

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/criminal-law-reform/how-georgias-probation-system-squeezespoor-and-feeds-mass-incarceration>

Complexity and Criminal Justice - Article by Nathan Robinson in *Current Affairs Magazine* issue of April 24, 2018:

<https://www.currentaffairs.org/2018/04/complexity-and-criminal-justice>

Why Illinois Needs to Restore Parole for Juvenile Lifers

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-perspec-parole-juvenile-lifersprison-illinois-children-criminals-0222-story.html>

Monitoring Cook County's Central Bond Court: A Community Court Watching Initiative,

issued February 27, 2018 by the Coalition to End Money Bond, see [the press release](#) issued by the Coalition for more details

Theater:

Pipeline by Dominique Morisseau –premiered in February 2019 at Victory Gardens Theater at 2433 North Lincoln Avenue in Chicago

Explores parenthood, the state of our public schools and school to prison pipeline

Lettie, by Boo Killebrew – premiered last season, in the spring of 2018, at Victory Gardens Theatre

Portrays the struggles of a woman who has been released from prison

Inspired by the experience of women at Grace House of St.Leonard's Ministries in Chicago

Film, TV and Video:

"Firsthand – Life After Prison" – 2023 WTTW documentary series/

<https://video.wttw.com/video/firsthand-life-after-prison-trailer-33aofv>

<https://chicagodefender.com/firsthand-life-after-prison-launches-monday-february-13-2023/>

"Bail Reform" - Last Week Tonight with John Oliver for HBO, September 2022

[Bail Reform](#)

13th (Netflix documentary on criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom) –

more information at: <https://www.netflix.com/title/80091741>

No More Shackles"- short film produced by the Chicago Community Bond Fund and Media Justice on the experience of extended incarceration under electronic monitoring

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4QXmRIS_OI

College Behind Bars – A 4-part series from PBS that explores the transformative power of higher education programs for inmates

<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/resources/college-behind-bars/>

Girls on the Wall, an EMMY WINNING production of Story Catchers Theatre

<https://www.amazon.com/Girls-Wall-Heather-Ross/dp/B00GWPCVP4>

Short video about the collaborative program between Calvin College in Grand Rapids Michigan and the Michigan prison system that allows incarcerated people there to participate in a fully accredited college degree program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=neBbpwdgTJE>

Reclaiming the Crown – The Footwork King’s Battle with Money Bail – Prepared and released by the Chicago Community Bond Fund in January 2019

"American Jail," CNN Films Production premiered Sunday July 1, 2018 on CNN and CNNgo -

see: <https://www.cnn.com/shows/american-jail-film>

Milwaukee 53206 – about those affected by mass incarceration in America’s most incarcerated ZIP code –

<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/resources/milwaukee-53206/>

This is Crazy: Criminalizing Mental Illness -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fhg4M0GGTJI>

Ninth annual (In)Justice for All Film Festival, October 2024 – dozens of films at locations throughout the Chicago area –

information will be available later in 2024 at

<http://www.injusticeforallff.com/>

Reentry Services, Information and Support for Returning Citizens

Inside Out Network - Interactive Networking Resource Connecting Returning Citizens with Services

Of All Kinds – <https://insideoutnetwork.net/welcome>

Illinois Reentry Guide of the Education Justice Project:

Mapping Your Future: A Guide to Successful Reentry, 2022

download a free copy [here](#) or purchase a hard copy [here](#)

New Illinois Reentry Website of the Education Justice Project, with a searchable database of reentry resources, links to videos and reentry stories and of course, downloadable pdfs of EJP’s reentry guides in English and Spanish:

reentryillinois.net

U.S. Department of Justice online resources regarding Prisoners and Prisoner Re-Entry

https://www.justice.gov/archive/fbci/progmenu_reentry.html

National Reentry Resource Center - <https://csjjusticecenter.org/nrrc>

Website for people returning home from prison, at <https://reentryillinois.net/#/?step=1>, created by [Education Justice Project](#) and [Chi Hack Night](#),

New Texting Resource to facilitate communication between returning citizens and service providers

more information about the pilot program available at <https://www.tiltas.co/>;

see also the discussion at:

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20180524/ISSUE01/180529974/chicago-startup-tiltasconnects-ex-offenders-to-nonprofit-services>

2nd Opportunity, LLC, 847-257-2713, Website www.2ndopp.com

Learn more from Augie Bhilarducci at augie@2ndopp.com

Illinois Alliance for Reentry and Justice website at

<https://www.ilarj.org/>

Join the Alliance (as an individual or an organization) at <https://www.ilarj.org/>

Alumni Association – <http://thealumniassociation.org/>

Learn more from Ray Robinson at rayrobinson1108@gmail.com

Anti-Recidivism Coalition – <https://antirecidivism.org/>

Bridge to Freedom – Provides transitional housing, job training and placement, and other support services – <https://bridge2freedom.org/>

Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership - <http://www.workforceboard.org/>

BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement and Leadership Development) – provides people, programs and pathways, including expungement and sealing of criminal records for that young people need to reject gang involvement - <https://www.buildchicago.org/>

Chicago Jobs Council Member Directory - http://www.cjc.net/member_dir.php

Chicago Prison Outreach Ministries – <http://www.cpoministries.org/>

Counseling First – case management with DUI offenders and diversion referrals. (312) 620-0896

Learn more from Cynthia Barry at cynthia@counselingfirst.org

Black and Pink - <http://www.blackandpink.org/>

Redeploy Illinois – <https://www.redeployillinois.org/>

Adult Redeploy Illinois - <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/redeploy/>

Prison and Neighborhood Art Project Resources page - <http://p-nap.org/resources.html>

Defy Ventures – <https://www.defyventures.org/>

Got Jobs America - www.gotjobsamerica.com

GRO Community – <https://grocommunity.org/services/justice-involved>

Designing Justice +Designing Spaces - <https://designingjustice.org/>

Ex-cons for Community and Social Change - <https://www.facebook.com/TyroneECCSC/>

Learn more from Tyrone Farrakhan Muhammad at tyronemuhammad17@gmail.com or 708-677-8178

Families and Prisoners United

Learn more from Fahmi Jones at (312) 846-0744

Green Reentry – A project run by the Inner-City Muslim Action Network. They rehab foreclosed and vandalized property in Chicago Lawn. These are then used for transitional housing for ex-offenders during their reentry - <https://www.imacentral.org/project-green-reentry/>

Heartland Alliance, main number 312.660.1300

Learn more from Marlon Chamberlain at mchamberlain@heartlandalliance.org or (312) 216-0170,

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) - offers insurance to high-risk workers including ex criminals who need insurance to get certain types of jobs, through a Federal Bonding program -

Illinois Department of Employment Security / Chicago Jobs Council Website: Workforce Resources for those who Assist Ex-offenders - www.ides.state.il.us/exoffenders

Inmates for Change - <http://illinoisinstitute.net/idea-exchange/inmates-for-change/>

Learn more from Budder Jones at inmatesforchange@yahoo.com

Inner City Muslim Network, main number (773) 434-4626

Learn more from Shamar Hemphill, Director of Organizing, shamar@imacentral.org ,

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) – Focuses on ex-offenders building and/or maintaining relationships with their children, employment and life skills - <https://www.lssi.org/services-prisonerfamily.php>

MPOWR – A reentry network that connects many different people and organizations involved in the criminal justice system.

National H.I.R.E. Network / Legal Action Center - Services to ex-felons to help them in areas such as listing of agencies that help ex-felons with job placement - <http://www.hirenetwork.org/>

One Parish One Prisoner – a structured program organized and supported by Underground Ministries that enables a congregation of any faiths to impact the life of one prisoner by reaching out to engage in personalized reentry support as he or she prepares for release and navigates the challenges of reentry – <https://undergroundministries.org/chicago>

Phalanx Family Services – wrap-around supportive services, including employment readiness, vocational training, job placement, crisis prevention – <https://www.phalanxgrpsservices.org/adult-k92up>

Re-Entry Illinois – A directory of services and reentry housing for ex-offenders in Illinois - <http://www.reentryillinois.net/>

Reentry Source – A large organization that has branches in multiple states, offering free reentry services for people with criminal records looking for a better life

Resource Directory of Reentry Friendly Services and Housing - developed by the Corporation for Supportive Housing and Chicago Metropolis 2020 - www.reentryillinois.net/

Roosevelt University Reentry Project

Learn more from David DiSabato at ddisabat@gmu.edu or 703.993.5212

Safer Foundation – Education , employment services, other services - <http://www.saferfoundation.org/>

7-70 Re-entry Services – A faith-based organization that provides coaching, mentoring, and counseling - <http://70x7liferecovery.org/re-entry/>

St Leonard's House – Provides transitional housing, job training and placement, and other support services - <http://slministries.org/>

Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) – advocacy and case management services - <http://www2.tasc.org/>

Teamwork Englewood – Serving the South Side of Chicago, supporting ex-offenders connect with partners at their headquarters in Englewood - <http://www.teamworkenglewood.org/index.html>

Thresholds –helping ex-offenders create better lives and stay out of prison - <http://www.thresholds.org/>

Transforming Reentry Services - services, advocacy, and research to fill in the gaps in the systems, restore families, and build economic and political power - <https://transformingreentry.org/>

Victors of Circumstance, www.victorsofcircumstance.org, located in the south suburbs
Learn more from John Karedis, President at jkaredis@victorsofcircumstance.org or 630-360-6618

Westside Health Authority, main number 773- 378-1878
Learn more from Roger Ehmen, Director of Re-entry Services at (773) 378-1878, and Quiwana Bell, COO at (708) 937-3733 or qbell@healthauthority.org

Woodlawn Community Reentry Project –
<https://www.woodlawncommunityreentryprojectchicago.com/>

Sources of Legal Aid for Accused and Those Released from Prison

Cook County Public Defender – <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/public-defender-1> call
1(844) 81RIGHT i.e. 1(844) 817- 4448
24 hours a day / 7 days a week

Cabrini Green Legal Aid -www.cgla.net

Lawndale Christian Legal Center - <http://lclc.net/>

Uptown People’s Law Center - <https://www.uplcchicago.org/>

Illinois Legal Aid Online - <http://www.illinoislegalaidonline.org/>

Juvenile Expungement Help Desk - in the Juvenile Court Building at 1100 South Hamilton, Chicago, IL 60612; call for more information: 312.347.8373

CGLA Expungement Help Desk, in room 1006 at the Daley Center, 312.850.4783

Advocacy in Illinois

Advocacy with Governor Pritzker to Address Justice Issues

Go to

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/contactus/Pages/VoiceAnOpinion.aspx>

to write to Governor Prirzker, asking him to:

- Exercise his executive clemency powers in an expansive manner to address the historical harms and injustices of mass incarceration
- Encourage IDOC to use its discretion to release elderly people over age 55 with less than 12 months to serve and people serving Class 2-4 felonies.
- Commute the sentences of anyone over the age of 60.

- Encourage IDOC to expedite credit restoration, implementation of discretionary release programs, and every other step necessary to bring IDOC's population back to capacity.

Illinois Department of Corrections

go to doc.covid@illinois.gov to write to the IDOC, asking them to:

- Immediately release elderly people with less than 12 months to serve and people serving Class 2-4 felonies
- Expedite credit restoration, implementation of discretionary release programs, and every other step necessary to bring IDOC's population back to capacity
- Fast-track all requests for earned time credits made by inmates over the age of 60, all inmates who are due to be released within the next 24 months, and all at higher risk due to underlying medical conditions.

Cook County Jail Reform

Sign the petition here, asking Sheriff Dart to take measures to Stop the Loss of Life in the Jail and to Eliminate the Draconian Prohibition on Introduction of Paper into the Jail

Chicago City Council – Contact information for future advocacy:

[Find your Ward, your Alder and the Alder's Phone number here](#) by entering your Street Address
Identify members of the committees of the City Council at this link:
<https://chicago.councilmatic.org/committee/committee-on-workforce-development-0b950fd51e8b/>

Advocacy Toolkit and Advocacy Training

Advocacy Toolkit of the Prison Policy Institute, a collection of guides and training materials issued in March 2022 that advocates can use to strengthen their campaigns to end mass incarceration

Access it at [Advocacy Toolkit](#).

Legislative Advocacy Training with Restore Justice Illinois Director Jobi Cates –recorded March 6, 2021, presented in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois

Watch at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzfHkqvaEe4>

Organizing and Advocacy

New organizing and advocacy resource from the Community Justice Exchange and the Defender Impact Initiative, issued in April 2020:

[A Social Media Toolkit for Organizing and Advocacy to End Mass Criminalization and Incarceration](#)

Advocacy Needed for Justice Reform in the Illinois General Assembly

Current – 2024/2025

Automating Expungement and Sealing of Criminal Records in Illinois – Contact your state legislators now at this link: <https://secure.everyaction.com/4Lu0wbj26U-t56nL87x7ew2#!> to support Illinois legislation following the example of other states in automatically expunging and sealing criminal records when the individual has an absolute right to expungement and sealing, to eliminate the (often prohibitively complicated) extra procedures that are now required to implement the expungement and sealing.

Public Defense - Contact your state legislators now using [this action tool](#) to support the **FAIR Act** for reforming the structure and funding of the Public Defender System in Illinois. This is a **top legislative priority** in Illinois for upcoming sessions of the General Assembly.

You can [access the fact sheet here](#) and the [campaign website](#) to learn more about the bill.

Preserving Mail to Prisoners - Please use this link:

https://actionnetwork.org/letters/9e43e633e906c4cd1d53c908e76caf980ef24976?mc_cid=3c445ebd2e&mc_eid=1d41dd6a29

now to ask your state legislators and the Governor to **urge the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) NOT to stop the delivery of physical mail and permanently replace it with scanned copies**, reducing the already limited connection of incarcerated people with their families and others in the outside world.

Restore Justice has issued a statement opposing these restrictions. - [read it here](#)

Earlier years

Limiting Solitary Confinement in Illinois:

[Use this link to reach out to your legislators and ask for their support on SB 2257 / HB 4828](#) to limit the use of isolated confinement in Illinois correctional facilities.

Learn more about the bills here: [SB 2257 / HB 4828](#).

Direct questions to James Swansey at jswansey@restorejustice.org.

Assuring Success of the Pretrial Justice Act. Use this link:

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-your-legislators-to-support-the-pretrial-success-act/>

to tell your legislators you want them to vote for the **Pretrial Success Act**, a \$15 million appropriations request that will expand access to health and human services for people awaiting trial. Learn more about the act here: [the Pretrial Success Act](#),

Contact your legislators (find them here: <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/>) and ask them to support these important reforms to our criminal legal system:

- the Felony Murder Bill ([SB 2078/HB 3381](#)), [Fact Sheet](#), to end excessive sentencing under the felony murder rule
- the Mandatory Supervisor Release (MSR) Bill ([HB 5487](#)), [Fact Sheet](#) to allow early discharge for people who have satisfactorily met all required conditions of MSR
- Three Strikes Bill ([SB 2079/HB 3380](#)), [Fact Sheet](#): Returns discretion to judges and the ends a costly, ineffective, and overly punitive sentencing practice.
- Joe Coleman Clean-up Bill ([HB 5396](#)), [Fact Sheet](#): Provides minor but important clarifications/fixes to implement the bill as it was originally intended
- Juvenile right to counsel ([SB3321](#)) to guarantee counsel for all juveniles during custodial interrogation
- Juvenile detention ([HB4776](#)) to raise the age of admission to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice from 13 to 14

Raising the Minimum Age for Pretrial Detention of Juveniles in Illinois Gradually from 10 to 13

Call Senator. Elgie Sims - (773) 933-7715 to urge that he post [HB 2347](#) in committee asap, as it has already passed the House and represents a compromise after a decade of negotiations on how to raise the age of detention to avoid harming children.

Access a fact sheet on the bill here::

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63d1611dce49d866f7193ab1/t/659f04b6a3d0ca72f737242a/1704920248207/Det+Ref+fact+sheet+Jan+10%2C+2024.docx+%281%29+copy.pdf>

Ending Prison Gerrymandering

- Call [Senate President Don Harmon](#) at (217) 782-8176 to ask that he schedule a vote on [House Bill 1496](#), which would help with the proper implementation of the Illinois ban on prison gerrymandering.

Reintroducing Parole in Illinois

Monday Night Mobilizing with Parole Illinois – [Join here](#) for Zoom calls every Monday night from 7:00 to 7:45 to get updates and guidance on contacting legislators

Meeting ID: 814 3143 9034 Passcode: 740826

Learn more at:

<https://mailchi.mp/27efead16b18/parole-illinois-september-newsletter-17625031?e=76688094e9>

Tools for Ongoing Advocacy in the Illinois General Assembly

Learning about pending bills in the legislature:

You can learn more about the terms of a bill with simple search: e.g. for “HB ____ Illinois 2021”]

You can find details about the content and status of Senate and House Bills by number at:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/default.asp>)

Find your Senator’s and Representative’s names and addresses here to register support or opposition to a bill: <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/>.

Filing Online Witness Slips Online for Committee Hearings in the Illinois General Assembly,
as a proponent of important bills that need our support and
as an opponent of bad bills that we need to oppose.

It takes less than a minute, and it makes a difference:

It is important to emphasize:

- a. the importance in these battles of committee hearings, and the witness slips that we submit in advance of those hearings, because failure of a bill to “make it out of committee” can prevent it from being considered, and
- b. the importance of the challenging work that takes place during the last week of a legislative session, when new bills are floated and amendments adopted in floor votes, often without much notice.

Contact Avalon Betts-Gaston avalon.betts-gaston@saferfoundation.org of The Alliance for Reentry and Justice at to get on her distribution list for urgent messages with the legislature in session about opportunities to fill witness slips online

Ending our System of Permanent Punishments:

Illinois Coalition to End Permanent Punishments <https://endpermanentpunishments.org/> and the Fully Free Campaign <https://fullyfree.org/> seek to End System of ‘Permanent Punishments (from laws and restrictions that make it prohibitively difficult for people with criminal records to rebuild their lives after incarceration):

June 27, 2021 report on WTTW television

<https://news.wttw.com/2021/06/27/fully-free-campaign-seeks-end-system-permanent-punishments>

Report from the Heartland Alliance

https://www.heartlandalliance.org/news_clip/fully-free-campaign-seeks-to-end-system-of-permanent-punishments/

Conversations with University of Chicago Professor Reuben Jonathan Miller about his new book: *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*

at the Ford School of Public Policy

<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-miller-discussed-racial-issues-aftermath-mass-incarceration-ford-school>

and with NPR’s Terry Gross:

<https://crownschool.uchicago.edu/reuben-jonathan-miller-talks-about-his-new-book-npr%E2%80%99s-terry-gross>

The book is available at:

<https://www.semcoop.com/halfway-home-race-punishment-and-afterlife-mass-incarceration>

Joining the ACLU’s Redemption Campaign –

Sign its petition to the governors asking them to use their executive power to grant clemency to the thousands of people in their states who are unjustifiably imprisoned:

<https://action.aclu.org/petition/tell-governors-embrace-clemency-pathway-redemption>

Joining the Campaign to Free Incarcerated Survivors of Police Torture (CFIST)

Learn how to help in seeking pardons from Governor Pritzker at <https://www.caarpr.org/cfist>

Join the CFIST list serve by writing to cfist@caarpr.com

to participate in the monthly online CFIST meetings at 6:00 the first and third Thursday of each month

to help in drafting the survivor stories for these men. See

https://www.caarpr.org/survivor_stories

U.S. Justice Reform

Electing Reform-Minded Prosecutors

The Accountable Justice Action Fund equips local and national groups with the resources, relationships, and strategic insights to help elect prosecutors committed to justice reform. In the past two years it played a significant role in electing 29 new reform-minded DAs – 18 of whom are people of color – who now oversee a combined population of nearly 38 million people.

Contributing – If you are able to make substantial contributions to funding support for the election and reelection of reform-minded prosecutors in key races in 2021 and 2022, when more than 1,000 DAs will be on the ballot, consider joining the Accountable Justice Action Fund without initial obligation, by simply writing to Chris Maggiano <chris@cormierco.com>.

Monthly Briefings – Joining AJAF will give you access to a wealth of information and to AJAF's monthly briefings on the political landscape for these races at 4:00 central time on the second Tuesday of each month. The next briefing will take place at 4:00 on Tuesday March 9.

The Toxic Prisons Project is a participatory research initiative to map the environmental hazards that prisons, jails, and detention centers face from extreme heat, air pollution, flooding and more. Learn more about participating in the project at <https://www.toxicprisons.com/>

Advocacy for Proposed Federal Legislation

December 2024 Letter of the Clean Slate Initiative Urging the Trump-Vance Administration to Champion Clean Slate Legislation

<https://www.cleanslateinitiative.org/updates/trump-vance-letter>

“US judicial panel endorses independence for federal public defenders,” a December 19, 2024 article by Nate Raymond of Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-judicial-panel-endorses-independence-federal-public-defenders-2024-12-19/>

End The Exception Campaign – Use the following link to email your members of Congress asking them to support the Abolition Amendment pending in Congress to end the exception in the 13th Amendment of the Constitution allowing slavery for those who are incarcerated:

https://endtheexception.com/?link_id=0&can_id=689bd60994fb87e18417721714bf5f2d&source=email-slavery-was-never-abolished-it-was-moved-behind-prison-walls&email_referrer=email_1801263&email_subject=slavery-was-never-abolished-it-was-moved-behind-prison-walls

Illinois Legislative Archive – Justice Reform Bills Considered in Prior Sessions of the Illinois General Assembly

- Bills proposing reforms that the Illinois General Assembly considered in its 2021 spring session

Earned Discretionary Reentry – House Bill 2399, Senate Bill 2333, discussed at:

<https://paroleillinois.org/2021/03/02/senate-bill-2333-earned-discretionary-reentry/>

The Judicial Quality Act - Senate Bill 0563, discussed at:

<https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/support-for-sb-0563-judicial-quality-act/>

Reducing Barriers to Recovery - House Bill 3447, discussed at:

<https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/support-for-hb-3447-reducing-barriers-to-recovery/>

Limiting Negotiations by Police Unions to Wages Only - House Bill 3891 and Senate Bill 2447, to repeal current provisions allowing police union contracts to overpower Illinois Law, discussed at:

<https://www.illinoispolicy.org/illinois-law-lets-police-union-contracts-overpower-state-law/>

Restoring eligibility of former felons for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families - House Bill 0088

Bad Apples in Law Enforcement Accountability Act – House Bill 1727

Abolishing Juvenile Life w/o Parole Sentences – [House Bill 1821](#)
Confidentiality of Restorative Justice Proceedings – [House Bill 3248](#), [Senate Bill 0064](#)
Raising the Lower Age for Pretrial Detention – [Senate Bill 0065](#)
Criminal ID-Expungement Fee Reform – [House Bill 2367](#)
Theft and Retail Theft Sentencing Reform – [House Bill 2402](#)
Eliminating Felony Conviction as a Bar to Name Change – [House Bill 2542](#)
Torture Inquiry/Relief Commission - [House Bill 2613](#)
Torture Commission Restrictions – [Senate Bill 2119](#)
Criminal ID-Expungement Reform – [House Bill 2743](#)
Penalty Reduction – [House Bill 34443](#)
Restorative Sentencing Act – [House Bill 3594](#), [Senate Bill 2123](#)
State Resentencing Motion – [Senate Bill 2129](#)
Criminal Penalties – [Senate Bill 2186](#)
Accountability – [Senate Bill 2276](#)
Jury Duty, Prior Convictions – [Senate Bill 2437](#)
Felony Murder Reform – [Senate Bill 2113](#)
Sentence Credit – [Senate Bill 2115](#)
Community Emergency Services and Supports Act – [House Bill 2784](#), [Senate Bill 2117](#)
Elder Parole Bill – [House Bill 2399](#), [Senate Bill 2120](#)
Requiring Employment Background Checks To Be Conducted by the State Police –SB ?
Minimum Wage for Prisoners – [Senate Bill 0649](#)
Inmates Right to Seek Post Conviction Hearing – [House Bill 2745](#)
The Mind Strong Act (mandating education about adult mobile crisis response services) -
[House Bill 2944](#), [Senate Bill 347](#)
Making firearms sentencing enhancements discretionary – [House Bill 2989](#)
Making public grand jury proceedings regarding excessive use of force by a peace officer or
discharge of a firearm by a peace officer resulting in death or bodily harm – [House Bill 3230](#)
Use of Force Reporting – [House Bill 3239](#)
Expungement and Sealing of Criminal Records – [House Bill 3239](#)
Prohibiting No-Knock Warrants – [House Bill 3261](#)
Crime Victims Compensation – [House Bill 3295](#), [Senate Bill 0627](#)
Officer-Worn Body Camera – [House Bill 3347](#)
Re Bail-Rehearing Denial – [House Bill 3361](#)
Re Failure to Appear – [House Bill 3362](#)
Re Recognizance – [House Bill 3363](#)
Reporting Prisoner Deaths – [Senate Bill 0624](#)
Communication Rights for Those in Custody – [Senate Bill 0625](#)
Decriminalizing Transmission of HIV– [Senate Bill 0655](#)
Ex-Offender Preference – [Senate Bill 1945](#)
Statewide point of contact for families with IDOC – [Senate Bill 1976](#)
Assault Weapons Ban – [Senate Bill 2510](#)

- Other bills that were scheduled for consideration at the 2020 fall veto session, which was cancelled:

- HB1115 to Limit Electronic Monitoring for People on Mandatory Supervised Release,

Learn more about it in Shriver Center’s discussion of its the 2020 Veto Session at:

<https://www.povertylaw.org/article/veto2020/>

HB4613, HB4608 and HB4295, to limit the detention of juveniles in Illinois,

as discussed and supported in this letter to legislators the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus re Juvenile Justice Priorities for the November Veto Session :

https://jjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/JJI-Reforms-Letter-9_15.pdf

from a coalition of Illinois organizations including the Juvenile Justice Initiative, the ACLU, the John Howard Association, The Chicago Urban League, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, the Cook County Public Defender and 20 other organizations – it addressee: pretrial detention, availability of counsel,

legal privilege for communications in restorative justice proceedings, and beginning juvenile proceedings in juvenile court

- Partial List of other Illinois Bills to Support if and when they are considered in the future

The Violent Offender Registry Reform Bill (to reduce the time a person is on a public registry, to de-felonize all penalties, and to remove automatic 10 year penalty extension) and
The Restorative Sentencing Bill (to grant program sentencing credit eligibility for people sentenced under Truth in Sentencing)
The Employee Background Fairness Bill (to create reasonable standards in the hiring process for people with records) and
The Public Housing Access Bill (to minimize local housing authority restrictions/bans for people with records).

Contact Betsy Clarke or Luis Klein of the Juvenile Justice Initiative at

bcjuv@aol.com or lkjustice@gmail.com

to learn more about the following Bills and how you can support them:

Illinois House Bill 4613, to reform juvenile detention law to change the standard for detention to ensure it is last resort, and require the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission to include recommendations regarding the availability of youth services to address the use of detention in its annual report

Illinois House Bill 4610, to raise the minimum age for incarcerating children in juvenile detention from 13 to 14

Illinois Senate Bill 239, to expand the initial jurisdiction of Juvenile Court to include all young adults charged with misdemeanors (first defined as those 18 or younger and moving over time to those 20 and younger)

Illinois House Bill 4295, to establish a privilege for communications made during restorative justice proceedings

Illinois House Bill 4609, to expand the category of youth who must be accompanied by lawyers in any interrogation, up from 15 at present

Transfer Reform, to require a hearing in juvenile court to decide whether to prosecute a child under age 18 in adult criminal court.

ACLU's 2019 Illinois Legislative Wrap Up, with suggested Action Items for supporting enactment of the proposed License to Work Act, legislation to Ban the Box in Higher Education, and legislation for Defelonization of Drug Possession and for Increasing the Felony Thresholds for Property Crimes:

<https://www.aclu-il.org/en/news/2019-aclu-illinois-legislative-wrap>

ACLU October 29, 2019 Report on the passage of the Illinois License to Work Act (SB 1786)

<https://www.aclu-il.org/en/legislation/sb-1786-license-work-act>

- Legislative Action Illinois in the Spring of 2019 –

Before adjourning on May 31, in response to the hard work of many advocates, the Illinois General Assembly passed and sent to Governor Pritzker the following legislation making several important improvements our criminal justice system:

(thanks to Evan Freund of the Interfaith Criminal Justice Task Force for compiling the results of the legislative session):

Resources for Impacted Communities

HB 1438 legalizing the personal use and sale of Marijuana – will devote 25% of the revenue raised by the cannabis tax to communities defined by high levels of violence, of people returning from prison or jail and of childhood poverty

(Thanks to everyone who contacted their representative after the Senate added this provision to the House bill!)

(See a conversation about that important initiative between Sharone Mitchell of the Illinois Justice Project and Anna Lee of the Chicago Community Trust at:

<https://www.cct.org/2019/07/how-illinois-cannabis-laws-aim-to-reduce-violence-and-restore-communities/?fbclid=IwAR2sD1OIM5NHUYIXz0W0VgNLDu-vJGT1qbT3g-GwndZMg3u2k3Avt5pZIEU>)

HB1587 – provides harm reduction services to addicts

Driver's License Revocation

HB 3005/SB 1786 – License to Work Act – will limit driver license suspensions for nonpayment of fees, civil penalties or taxes - For discussion of the bill, see: <https://www.license2work.org/>

Policing

HB 0051 – Requires notice on default of fine 30 days prior to issuance of a warrant

HB 1613 – Combats racial profiling by maintaining data collection re traffic and

pedestrian stops– see: <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/publications/racism-rear-view-mirror>

and: <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/legislation/hb-1613-continue-traffic-and-pedestrian-data-collection-law-enforcement>

Definition of Offenses and Sentencing

HB 0094 – Grants sentencing credits for those convicted of offenses prior to 1998

HB 1587 – To reduce sentences for non-violent felonies -with probation, supervisory release

Pretrial Considerations

SB1609 – Increases “bail credit” compensation (deducted from fines) for pretrial incarceration to \$30 per day

Incarceration

HB2040 – Prohibits for-profit correctional institutions in Illinois

HB 2045/HB 2288 – Eliminates inmate co-payments for medical care

Post Release

HB 3061 – Enables initiation of background check prior to offer of employment in health care jobs

HB 3227/SB 1780 – prohibits landlords from using arrest records and records ordered expunged and sealed in rental decisions

HB 1438 legalizing the personal use and sale of Marijuana – will result in expungement of the individual's records for some minor drug offenses, after review by prosecutors

- Other Criminal justice reform bills considered in the 2019 session of the General Assembly:

Violence Prevention

HB 0327 – to provide Chicago Violence prevention targeted grants

Policing

HB 2519 – to repeal gang data base

(Passed the House, re-referred to the Senate Assignment Committee)

HB 0021 – to end practice of requiring sworn affidavit as basis for a policing complaint

HB 1616 – to require that police grant anyone taken into custody the right to three completed phone calls within one hour after arrival at the station

(2nd reading, re-referred to the Rules Committee)

HB 0056 – to regulate police officer accountability

Restorative Justice

HB 1458 – to create a new “privilege” to prevent statement made in restorative justice proceedings from being used in court proceedings

- (2nd reading, re-referred to the Rules Committee, held on calendar)

Definition of Offenses and Sentencing

- SB 1610 – Guilty plea – Alien admonition
- SB 1968 – Modifications for Class 3 and 4 Non-Violent Crimes < 4 months electronic Monitoring/Adult Transition Center
- HB 1614 – to increase the felony dollar threshold for retail theft
(2nd reading, re-referred to the Rules Committee)
- HB 1615 – to modify the level of responsibility required for conviction of felony murder
See: “5 Teens Charged Under a Rule That Must Change” by Dahleen Glanton in the Chicago Tribune, Aug 15, 2019
http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=61853e92-45c7-484e-bfc8-27319961046d
- HB 2039 – to allow those serving time for a crime for which the penalties have been subsequently reduced to petition the trial court for an equivalent reduction
(2nd reading, re-referred to the Rules Committee)
- HB2620 (see HB0094 above)– to provide sentencing credit for truth in sentencing offences
(Amendment re-referred to Rules Committee)
- HB 0055 – to limit imposition of sentence higher than documented pretrial offer
- HB 1587 – to reduce sentences/probation/supervision for non-violent felonies

Pretrial Considerations

- SB 1188 – to provide for diversion of mentally ill from the justice system pretrial
(Passed the Senate, sent to the House Judiciary/Criminal Law Committee)
- HB 2046 (see SB1609 above) – to provide for incarceration credit compensation (deducted from fines) to \$30 per day for unbailed incarceration
(2nd reading, re-referred to the Rules Committee)
- HB 2689 – Pretrial Data Act – to require monthly reporting by counties of Pretrial Orders, Pretrial Bail Proceeds, and Pretrial Custody and Release
- HB 3347 – Equal Justice for All Act – to abolish money bail and govern pretrial proceedings

Juvenile Justice

- HB1478 – to raise the minimum age that one can be held in juvenile detention from 10 to 13
(2nd reading)
- HB 2305 – to raise the minimum age to 14 for a youth to be incarcerated in Illinois
- HB 1465 – to expand the jurisdiction of the juvenile court for young adults charged charged with misdemeanors
- HB 1615 – to limit agency responsibility for murder for juveniles
See: “5 Teens Charged Under a Rule That Must Change” by Dahleen Glanton in the Chicago Tribune, Aug 15, 2019
http://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=61853e92-45c7-484e-bfc8-27319961046d
- HB 2644 – Best Interest of the Child Act
- HB 2922 – to require a lawyer for children in interrogation in any case that could be transferred to adult court

Incarceration

- SB 1158 – to repeal indemnification by prisoners for prison costs
(2nd reading in the Senate, re-referred to Judiciary/Criminal Committee)
- HB 0182 – to limit the use of solitary confinement
- HB 2620/SB 2054 – Restorative Sentencing Act – to enact a program of sentence credit for prisoners who participate in programs contributing to their rehabilitation to reduce time service to below the 85% or 100% of the prescribed sentence as otherwise required by law
- HB 2649 – Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents
- HB 2925 – to establish a separate Ombudsman Bureau within the Department of Corrections

HB 3090 – to require prompt investigation and reporting of all deaths of people while in custody – For discussion of this bill, see:
<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/new-bill-would-force-transparency-on-how-people-die-in-prison/58b387b8-667c-4295-a76d-90337a3e9f2f>

HB 1617 – to regulate use of vending machines in prison facilities

HB 3060 – to provide sentencing credit for home detention and to include electronic home monitoring in the definition of “custody”

HB 0179 – to address claims for wrongful incarceration of innocent individuals

Children and Family Considerations

HB 2444 – Best Interest of the Child Act – to require a Family Impact Statement and consideration of alternatives to incarceration in sentencing a parent or guardian

HB 2649 – to require recognition of the rights of children to maintaining their relationship with parents who are incarcerated

Parole

HB 3214 – to implement parole in Illinois for all prisoners other than sex offenders and those who have committed two or more murders

Post Release

HB2474 – to limit reasons for denials of professional licensing to those convicted of crimes (deadline extended – hold for 2nd reading)

HB0097 – to expand expungement of criminal records (to be reintroduced)

HB 01115 – Limiting electronic monitoring with Mandatory Supervised Release or Parole (Passed House, re-referred to Senate Assignment Committee)

HB 3056 – Employee Background Fairness Act – to regulate how employers take into account prior criminal records of job applicants

HB 0044 – to regulate publication of Criminal records – innocent, sealed or expunged

HB 0932 – to provide for non-violent probationer to attend job training and pre-employment session

HB 3332 – to provide a tax credit for landlords who rent to people with a conviction record

- Bills opposed by criminal justice reform advocates as steps backwards:

- HB0221 – to allow counties to opt out of bail reform
- HB0244 – to impose life imprisonment for all First Degree murders
- HB0287 – to deny Internet use to paroled sex offenders
- HB2244 – to place additional conditions on parole, to limit associations

- Other bills on which the Legislature did not complete action in 2018:

SAFE ACT (2017 Illinois House Bill 5308), which passed the Senate but not the House in 2017 This legislation would mobilize state economic development and social service agency outreach to the communities most damaged by violence.

- For more information on the SAFE Act introduced in 2017, including a fact sheet and a supporters list, please visit www.iljp.org/thesafeact/.

Sentencing Reform:

2017 Illinois House Bill 3355 – To Implement Recommendations of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform

Learn more from: Ben Ruddell - bruddell@ACLU-il.org

Juvenile Justice:

2017 Illinois House Bill 4473 - to require that a juvenile be brought before a judge within 24

hours of arrest to determine whether he or she should be further held in pre-trial custody

Learn more at: jjj@jjustice.org

2017 Illinois House Bill 4543 - to implement youth support services to provide alternatives to detention and to prevent deeper criminal involvement

Learn more from: <http://www.uuani.org/>

Prisoner Rights and Opportunities:

2017 Illinois House Bill 4505 - to authorize Illinois to participate in the Federal Prison Industry Enhancement Certification ("PIE") Program, which would provide Federal funds to develop training programs for inmates in Illinois Prisons (details attached here)

Learn more from: Patrick Simon patrick.simon@illinois.gov or Michael Lane

michael.r.lane@illinois.gov at the Illinois Dept. of Corrections

2017 Illinois House Bill 4741 - to safeguard prison visiting rights

Learn more from: Jobi Cates: jcates@restorejustice.org

2017 Illinois House Bill 4888 - to require improvements in conditions, treatment, accountability and communication and structural changes in the operation of the Department of Corrections, and collection and sharing of information and data

Learn more from Jennifer Vollen-Katz: jvollen@thejha.org

Restrictions on Rights and Opportunities of Former Inmates and those convicted of a crime: 2017

Illinois Senate "Path To Restoration" Bill 3489 - to allow individuals that are subject to registration after release from prison in the Violent Offender Against Youth Registry to amend incorrect information and appeal their inclusion in the database.

Learn more at <https://www.imacentral.org/support-path-restoration/>

2017 Illinois House Bill 3142 - to prohibit colleges, universities, and trade schools from asking or considering an individual's criminal record for purposes of admissions

Learn more from: Samantha Tuttle : stuttle@heartlandalliance.org

Records of Eviction Proceedings

2017 Illinois House Bill 4968 - to provide for sealing and impoundment of a court file for an ----- eviction action in which the court does not find that a tenant or an occupant has materially breached the lease

Learn more from Bob Palmer at bob@housingactionil.org

Availability and Allocation of Resources

Legislation to redirect budget priorities toward social services and away from incarceration See:

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/opinion/recognition-of-budget-cuts-not-enough-time-tofund-up/>

Political Organizations - Engaging with Political Organizations with a Focus on Criminal Justice Issues

Law Enforcement Leaders To Reduce Crime and Incarceration - <http://lawenforcementleaders.org/>