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 October 6, 2026

See the Table of Contents of this Document, beginning *on page 6 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 in Illinois

All hands on deck to pass Home for Good legislation (HB274) in the Illinois Senate this November during the fall veto session of the Illinois General Assembly, to expand housing access and support for people leaving prisons (it has already passed the House!)

Sign up here: https://secure.everyaction.com/OJUYwHFUU0qmbCYZJe0f-A2?blm_aid=21539

- **to join a community canvas for Home for Good**
- **to join a community phone bank for Home for Good**
- **to join a digital day of action for Home for Good**
- **to be an advocate in Springfield during the fall veto session**

Sign up to here: *https://homeforgoodillinois.com/waukeganrsvp/?blm_aid=21539*
to attend the Tuesday October 13 Home for Good Town Hall organized by Home for Good's Senate sponsor, Senator Adriane Johnson, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in Waukegan at the Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization (NIRCO).

Upcoming In-Person Events for Learning and Supporting Advocacy for Justice in Illinois

Friday October 9, 11:30 to 1:30 pm, Stories of Transformation luncheon event of Restore Justice, celebrating recent legislative victories and the growing community impact of Restore Justice

Get your tickets to the event here:
https://secure.givelively.org/event/restore-justice-foundation/the-fund-for-restore-justice-fy2027/stories-of-transformation-2026?mc_cid=b6c1ebf418&mc_eid=b92d12e360

Friday October 16, 6:00 pm, Sixth Annual Illinois Prison Project Gala at the Chicago Cultural Center at 78 East Washington Street

Purchase tickets here:
https://illinoisprisonproject.networkforgood.com/events/97420-illinois-prison-project-s-6th-annual-gala

Friday October 23, 6:00 to 9:00 pm, 125th Anniversary Celebration of the John Howard Association of Illinois, featuring Larry Miller, Chairman of the Jordon Brand at Nike and Founder of JUMP (Justice and Upward Mobility Project), at the Union League Club at 65 West Jackson

Purchase tickets here:
https://www.thejha.org/events/125

October 22 to 25, Resilience Arts Fest, various hours at Definition Theatre at 1160 East 55th Street and Logan Center for the Arts at 915 East 60th Street, showcasing stories from prison and beyond, presented by Mud Theatre Project and the Chicago Torture Justice Center (attendance free or with optional donation)
Learn more at: https://www.resiliencefest.org/about-the-festival
Get tickets at: *https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-resilience-arts-festival*
See sponsorship opportunities at: *https://www.resiliencefest.org/*

Thursday October 28, 5:30 to 9:30, 16th Annual Gala of the Lawndale Christian Legal Center: a Justice Innovation Celebration, at Morgan Manufacturing, 401 North Morgan Street
purchase tickets here: *https://lclc.networkforgood.com/events/104088-2026-annual-gala?hid=NTYyOTIwODU=&utm_campaign=dms_email_blast_4817598*
For more information, contact DanaMarie Carreon at dcarreon@lclc.net

Thursday November 19, 5:00 to 8:30 pm, All in For Public Health, fall reception of the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago,
Learn more and purchase tickets at:
https://givebutter.com/all-in-for-public-health-copy-eauxmw

Training Opportunities in Illinois

Wednesday October 21, Wednesday November 4, and Tuesday November 24, 3:30 to 5:00, Justice Advocacy Training on advancing change in Illinois through the legislative process in Springfield, organized and presented by Restorative Justice
Register without charge here:
https://restorejustice.org/our-work/advocacy/advocacy-trainings/?mc_cid=312eaf9f86&mc_eid=b92d12e360

Thursday October 28, 9:00 am to 1:45 pm, Reentry Support Training presented by the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago, designed to educate and inform providers in community-based, corrections, and healthcare settings on medical and non-medical discharge planning for people who are justice impacted, covering:
- Overview of the Corrections System and Reentry Process
- Trauma-Informed Care for the Corrections Population
- Cultural Humility in Reentry
Register to participate without charge at:
https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6jru4j8?source_id=f297bcef-2972-45fd-8bb2-cdd57f23f3e8&source_type=em&c=AyTY01cWuFEni12e0GnvaSREvgmPlWAGwnfCQ_O1eJnYaxG7_vBK4A==
or call reentry@phimc.org as soon as possible if there are any issues with registration

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

Comprehensive Master Plan for Illinois Prisons - 2026 Summary by the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council of the May 2023 Facility Master Plan Final Report presented by CGL Companies to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) to help IDOC meet its facility-related goals
https://spac.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/spac/documents/reports/2025-2029/spac_cgl_summary.pdf

Health, Housing, and Household Circumstances Among Women on Parole, an August 2026 report from the Council on Criminal Justice
https://counciloncj.org/health-housing-and-household-circumstances-among-women-on-parole/?utm_source=TMP-Newsletter&utm_campaign=9592c51acb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_09_10_10_39&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5e02cdad9d-9592c51acb-174976893

Fighting for Safer and Healthier Communities, a comprehensive September 2026 Newsletter from the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice, including detailed discussion of:

- Provisions of the Illinois Pretrial Justice Act
- The Exploitation Playbook of the opponents of the Act
- Distorting the Facts in attacks on the judges by Aldermen, State officials, the Cook County State's Attorney and Chicago Mayoral candidates,
- Exploitation of Survivors, and
- Data vs. Anecdotes

https://mailchi.mp/fef3ddd3ae7c/happenings-in-pretrial-justice-sept-newsletter-4092611?e=26813fbadd

500 Days Forward . . Ten Years Back: an Evaluation of Eileen O'Neill Burke's First 500 Days As Cook County State's Attorney, a May 2026 report issued by Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts

https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Burke-500.pdf

August 17, 2026 follow-up report on 500 Days Forward . . Ten Year Back in the news:

https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2026/08/17/in-the-news-an-evaluation-of-eileen-oneill-burkes-first-500-days-as-cook-county-states-attorney/?ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_4_9_2025_16_43_COPY_01)&mc_cid=28b7ef883c&mc_eid=9b71449375

August 19, 2026 Community Teach-In on the report 500 Days Forward . . Ten Year Back

https://www.youtube.com/live/XG-zLMYYxM8

The Pretrial Fairness Act Explained, a July 2026 report of Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts, presenting an historical account of pretrial reform and a rigorous explanation of Illinois' prior and current systems of pretrial detention.

https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2026/07/24/pretrial-fairness-act-explained/?ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_4_9_2025_16_43_COPY_01)&mc_cid=90ec8fbe0b&mc_eid=9b71449375

How we built a database of Illinois jail records — and how you can use it to do your own digging, a September 2026 report of the Illinois Answers Project on their study of events over the years in Illinois Jails

https://illinoisanswers.org/2026/09/15/search-illinois-jail-records-free/

[See a comprehensive list of reports on justice reform issues, with links, *on pages 40 through 63 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

"Reform advocates: Why Illinois should reconsider its $1.1 billion prison project," a September 7, 2026 article by Joan Steffan, Raphael Sperry and Kayleigh Hassan in The Chicago Tribune

https://www.chicagotribune.com/2026/09/07/opinion-illinois-state-prison-project/

"Years after promising accommodations, Illinois prisons still leave people waiting," a September 10, 2026 article by Katie Schulder Battis in The Chicago Reporter

https://www.chicagoreporter.com/years-after-promising-accommodations-illinois-prisons-still-leave-people-waiting/

"The whistleblowers vs. the shadow prosecutors," a September 16, 2026 article by David Jackson of Injustice Watch (following up on the Injustice Watch report on misconduct in the Illinois Special Prosecutions Unit)

https://www.injusticewatch.org/project/shadow-prosecutors/2026/whistleblowers-vs-illinois-special-prosecutors/

"Advocates call for prison reforms, reducing prison population, a September 18 article in The Chicago Defender
https://chicagodefender.com/advocates-call-for-prison-reforms-reducing-prison-population/

"The American Prison Experiment: A 250-Year History of Good Intentions and Bad Results," an October 2026 article by C.J. Ciaramella in Reason magazine
https://reason.com/2026/09/08/the-american-prison-experiment/?utm_source=TMP-Newsletter&utm_campaign=9592c51acb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_09_10_10_39&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5e02cdad9d-9592c51acb-174976893

July 2026 Pretrial Newsletter of the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice reviewing reports revealing that the promises of the Pretrial Fairness Act are not being fully realized in Cook County
https://mailchi.mp/a1a4973477d8/happenings-in-pretrial-justice-june-newsletter-4092456?e=26813fbadd

"Illinois prison healthcare still poor as state goes 1 year without long-term medical provider" a July 7, 2026 article by Kaitlin Washburn in Chicago Sun-Times
https://chicago.suntimes.com/health/2026/07/07/illinois-department-of-corrections-health-care-contract-centurion-wexford?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=070826%20Morning%20Edition&utm_content=070826%20Morning%20Edition+CID_fc443010eb4cf5b9c8b7bac628e1a291&utm_source=cst_campaign_monitor&utm_term=READ%20MORE&tpcc=cst_cm

"Cook County prosecutor fights to block exonerated people from clearing their names" an April 30, 2026 article by Dan Hickel from Injustice Watch
https://www.injusticewatch.org/project/denying-innocence/2026/cook-county-prosecutor-fights-to-block-certificates-of-innocence/

[See a comprehensive list of articles on justice reform issues, with links, *on pages 63 through 74 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]

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

Recording of the August 19, 2026 Community Teach-In on the report: 500 Days Forward . .Ten Years Back: an Evaluation of Eileen O'Neill Burke's First 500 Days As Cook County State's Attorney, issued by Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts
https://www.youtube.com/live/XG-zLMYYxM8

The new *Incarceration and Inequality Project Data Explorer,* issued in April 2026 by Vera Institute of Justice, the first national tool to map how incarceration and economic outcomes are connected across U.S. counties

On pages 11 through 21 below, you will find a comprehensive list, with links, of transformational on-line resources].

Books Addressing Mass Incarceration

Shaping Hope: Higher Education in Prison by Mary Vandergoot, published July 2026

Learn more about the book and purchase a copy at:
https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/shaping-hope-higher-education-in-prison_mary-vandergoot/59797138/?resultid=61e20f36-2c26-4e08-ba23-e1d732fbd6b3#edition=76247334&idiq=90097984

[See a comprehensive list of books on justice reform, with links, *on pages 37 through 40 below*, including new books on how to address the problems with our systems of incarceration, parole and probation]

Regular Electronic Reports on Justice Relate Issues:

Mass Incarceration and Other Bad Ideas, a New Monthly Substack Newsletter from The Sentencing Project
https://massincarceration.substack.com/p/another-prison-cell-why-our-reentry?emci=73618587-8f44-f111-8ef2-000d3a14b640&emdi=c15d2932-aa44-f111-8ef2-000d3a14b640&ceid=10194244
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: The View From the Ground: *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 29 to 30 below]*

Volunteer Opportunities in Illinois

Voter Registration in the Jail – Join the 2025 relaunch of Cook County Jail Votes
Questions? – email Freddoe@chicagovotes.com
/ Volunteer to get training and to register voters in the jail:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XhDg5BR2G7KeDfBLzYSgaNiev6CLvf5wzOUzWBTRh1k/viewform?emci=cf8d1f86-6171-f011-8dc9-6045bda9d96b&emdi=99e360ae-ed79-f011-b481-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=9503032&edit_requested=true

[Find links to other volunteer opportunities, including Chicago Community Jail Support opportunities and Pen pal opportunities *on pages 8 through 11 below*.]

Resource Guides

2026 Illinois Reentry Guide – 11^{1h} Edition published by the Education Justice Project
Fill out this form to have hard copies sent to you:
https://educationjustice.jotform.com/222332910685050
You can download the Guide for Free at https://reentryillinois.net/

[See a comprehensive list, with links starting *on page 36 to 37 below*

Support for Returning Citizens

[Find information on *pages 73 through 76* about services, information and support for returning citizens.]

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 30 through 34 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 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:

Holding ICE Accountable – Go to *https://reporticenow.com/,* a site created by the ICE Accountability Project, to submit testimony, video, and other digital evidence on a confidential basis of incidents of abuse by ICE, as they occur or as they have occurred in the past year, to help in a systematic effort to confirm, document, and challenge those abuses, and to publicize them systematically in one place, in a manner that can't be censored by the government or by U.S. media giants.

Find more about this initiative by watching Lori Lightfoot's January 9, 2026 launch video here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96McpUqZRzY

Mentoring Our Youth – Celebrate National Mentoring Month by joining in the mentoring work of the Chicago Mentoring Collaborative. Find our more here:
https://www.chicagomentoringcollaborative.com/
Mentoring of our underprivileged youth, in which we can all participate, is a primary way of helping them to thrive and to avoid a life of involvement in the criminal

2025 relaunch of Cook County Jail Votes

Questions? – email Freddoe@chicagovotes.com

Volunteer to get training and to register voters in the jail:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XhDg5BR2G7KeDfBLzYSgaNiev6CLvf5wzOUzWBTRh1k/viewform?emci=cf8d1f86-6171-f011-8dc9-6045bda9d96b&emdi=99e360ae-ed79-f011-b481-6045bdfe8e9c&ceid=9503032&edit_requested=true

Court Watching opportunity – Sign up here to complete a one-hour training virtually to participate in at least two 2-3 hour shifts in May and June in observing and reporting on courtroom proceedings under the Pretrial Fairness Act, working with the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice and Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts You will help to hol judges and other court stakeholders accountable, to demystify the judicial process, and to strengthen Appleseed's research and advocacy.

Click here: *https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/court-watching/* to learn more.

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.tutormentorexchange.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 i**n 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 August 19, 2026 Community Teach-In on the report: 500 Days Forward . .Ten Years Back: an Evaluation of Eileen O'Neill Burke's First 500 Days As Cook County State's Attorney, issued by Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts

https://www.youtube.com/live/XG-zLMYYxM8

August 10, 2026 NPR Interview with Betsy Clarke, Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Initiative, regarding New Illinois Laws That Reform the Juvenile Justice System by:

- ending the practice of detaining young children under 12 (under 13 next year),
- establishing the Child First Reform Task Force, and
- granting juvenile courts the flexibility to consider restorative justice and community mediation alternatives to traditional sentencing for juvenile delinquency cases,

https://www.northernpublicradio.org/wnij-news/2026-08-10/two-new-illinois-laws-aim-to-reform-the-juvenile-detention-system

The New *Mass Incarceration Trends* Fact Sheet, issued in April 2026 by The Sentencing Project, highlighting the growth in state and federal prison populations since the early 1970s, and its far-reaching impact on individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole

The New *Incarceration and Inequality Project Data Explorer*, issued in April 2026 by Vera Institute of Justice, the first national tool to map how incarceration and economic outcomes are connected across U.S. counties

April 28th webinar of the Uptown People's Law Center on Holding Systems Accountable: Litigation on Behalf of Survivors of Prison Sexual Abuse
https://sidley.rev.vbrick.com/#/videos/4e4936bf-dce9-45c8-9bcf-7c9a4a7c320c

Webinars on Prisoners' Rights Resources - Overview of Resources and Prisoner Medical Claims Training, presented by The Uptown People's Law Center in August and September 2025. Watch on YouTube at:
https://www.uplcchicago.org/resources/prisoners-rights-resources.html

Juvenile Justice Initiative 25th Anniversary Report, July 2025, listen on YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PjEHGv8ESU

Last Week Tonight with John Oliver – Juvenile Justice, Summer 2025 show
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pya-kt5M7uY

Webinar on the Illinois 2025-2029 State Violence Prevention Plan, presented and recorded by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Agency on October 10, 2025
Watch the webinar here

Season Two of "Suave," (released April 15, 2025) – the highly anticipated second season of the Pulitzer Prize Winning Podcast from Futuro Media that follows the life on parole and afterwards of former juvenile lifer David Luis "Suave" Gonzalez, a deeply personal and unflinching look at the complexities of the criminal justice system
https://www.futuromediagroup.org/suave-returns/

Recording of the January 30, 2025 webinar on the Clean Slate Initiative is available at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nwe0SGU7ZaY
discussing 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://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/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/4eoDgnq 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 or Full Freedom: Mass Supervision, Prison Expansion and the Carceral Society
Decarceration: Shared Struggles and Shared Strategies for Socia 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 M*ills*

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 complied 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 2023Locked 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 Visualzation 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=4IlpDxIV7Gk

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 reimaging justice for children in Illinois

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgQU5Iep-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/1KITibbynkkIF7rbemZlTx5prF-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 Landscpae 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.yo utube.com/watch?v=Bm2PxE0HMr4&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 Rauol, 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 folderFinal 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 Price 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 Silvia 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 2020U, 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=kOoOpf4KPiI*

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/1442323575953448 29th:

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=eyJpIjoiTUdFeU5EUm1aRE15TkRCaSIsInQiOiJKYTlOQ2k4dWtkRTBueWFvZE10KzdZWFBuY0NaWXhwMHdrT2VMUVl4T2JhaVlIRWViTXRxelwvWHJwQU9xMjhmUHIrdkxHdUh2ODJwOXBpQ1FiNm1VZTJGWnBsRU1mSndqQXQyRWc3QWxDZXZCQVwvblUzV0FwaDZ6ejBaXC9HY080UCJ9

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=4Y25nw7lEQ8&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

Illinois Department of Corrections

"Oversight panel OKs rule on digitized prison mail in Illinois with new changes." a January 9, 202 article by Maggie Dougherty in Capital News Illinois
https://capitolnewsillinois.com/news/oversight-panel-oks-rule-on-digitized-prison-mail-in-illinois-with-new-changes/?mc_cid=891198041f&mc_eid=b92d12e360

Fee Calling Pilot Program begins November 3 at all correctional facilities in Illinois
https://www.illinois.gov/news/release.20915.html

Litigation against the IDOC – Multiple Lawsuits Filed Regarding Sexual Abuse at Illinois Women's Prison, September 17, 2025
https://mailchi.mp/uplcchicago/logancases?e=f2ab666609

Illinois Prison Dashboard: https://prison-dashboards.loyolaccj.org/prison released in October 2025 by the Center for Criminal Justice of Loyola University Chicago. joining the Illinois Sentencing Dashboard: https://loyolaccj.org/blog/idoc-prison-dashboard that the Center for Criminal Justice also maintains.

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

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

Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

The new Monarch Youth Center Opened in Lincoln, Illinois in October 2025
https://idjj.illinois.gov/facilities/monarch-iyc-lincoln.html
https://capitolcitynow.com/news/248842-a-new-approach-to-juvenile-corrections-opens-in-lincoln/

Developments in Cook County

June 24, 2025 launch of the Cook County Criminal Justice Data Dashboard, Developed by the Criminal Law Center of Loyola University of Chicago, in collaboration with local justice agencies and supportedby the John D and Katherine T MacArthur Foundation
launch reported and discussed here:
https://www.cookcountyil.gov/news/cook-county-leaders-announce-new-criminal-justice-dashboard
find the new dashboard here: Cook County Criminal Justice Data Dashboard.
find a discussion of its importance here:

Cook County Clerk's Office 2025 Introduction of a New Data Portal:
https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/circuit-court-public-records-and-data?ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_4_9_2025_16_43_COPY_01)&mc_cidd=a8db3eadc3&mc_eid=9b71449375
See report from Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts on what the new portal provides and on what additional information that the portal should provide:
https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2025/06/09/clerk-releases-new-data-portal-a-crucial-step-in-the-right-direction/

Cook County Restorative Justice Community Courts Earn a 2025 National Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties as strengthening service to residents

https://www.cookcountycourt.org/news/cook-county-restorative-justice-community-courts-earn-national-achievement-award

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

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

City of Chicago

City of Chicago Budget – the City's 2024 budget contains a $4 million allocation for the City's Office of Rentry

Illinois General Assembly 2026 Spring Session – Justice Reform Legislation Passed in the Spring Session includes:

The Funded Advocacy and Independent Representation (FAIR) Act, signed by Governor Pritzker on August 15, advances the most significant reform in the Illinois' public defense system in nearly 80 years, under a new institutional framework being implemented over the next three years

Find full information about the situation that the FAIR Act addresses, the details of the new Illinois approach for strengthening public defense, and answers to FAIR Act Frequently Asked Questions at:

https://fairactil.org/

New Illinois Laws That Reform the Juvenile Justice System by:

- ending the practice of detaining young children under 12 (under 13 next year),
- establishing the Child First Reform Task Force, and
- granting juvenile courts the flexibility to consider restorative justice and community mediation alternatives to traditional sentencing for juvenile delinquency cases,

discussed in an August 10, 2026 NPR Interview with Betsy Clarke, Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Initiative

https://www.northernpublicradio.org/wnij-news/2026-08-10/two-new-illinois-laws-aim-to-reform-the-juvenile-detention-system

Prisoner communications – New legislation *HB 4235* bans the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) and its third-party vendors from making a profit or charging extra fees on communication and mail services for incarcerated individuals.

Illinois General Assembly 2025 Fall Veto Session – Justice Reform Legislation Passed in the Veto Session includes:

Clean Slate Legislation Automating Expungement and Sealing of Criminal Records in Illinois – to eliminate the (often prohibitively complicated) extra procedures that are now required for the individual to obtain implement his or her right under the law to sealing of record of conviction or expungement of a record of arrect

Detention of juveniles – legislation raising the minimum age of detention of juveniles from 10 to 13, and creating a Juvenile Detention Utilization Task Force to shift fiscal incentives away from detention to community alternatives – go here for a *Fact sheet on SB 1784*

Court Access, Safety, and Participation Act (CASPA) *(HB 1312, SB 2730) to protect court access for all individuals, including victims of domestic violence, witnesses, and immigrants, who may be hesitant to attend due to recent arrests. Enforced by a right of civil action for damages

Illinois General Assembly 2025 Spring Session – Justice Reform Legislation passed in the spring session includes:

Solitary confinement in Illinois: Here is link to information about
HB4828, signed into law in March 2025, requiring the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) to collect and publish data on the use of solitary confinement in its facilities.

Improving Public Defense – HB3363: the Funded Advocacy and Independent Representation Act (the FAIR Act), under which Illinois will establish an Office of the State Public Defender and will create a statewide system to ensure consistent, well-funded, and independent public defense services in Illinois
See: https://mailchi.mp/endmoneybond/wedidit?e=26813fbadd

Pretrial Justice Act Implementation – Continued Funding for the Pretrial Success Act grant program, designed to insure success of the Pretrial Fairness Act reforms
See: *https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2025/06/10/victory-pretrial-success-grant-program-preserved-funding-kept-for-critical-pretrial-services/*Youthful Parole – HB 2546, an important revision to the Youthful Parole Act that strengthens the existing Act by ensuring that eligible people can access a parole hearing on the correct timeline and not have to remain incarcerated longer while they wait for their hearing. Fact sheet here: *HB 2546*.

Juvenile Parole - Public Act 104-0233 (previously House Bill 2546) clarifies the eligibility timeline for parole hearings in the Youthful Parole Act. This measure strengthens the act by ensuring that eligible people can access parole hearings on the correct timeline and not have to remain incarcerated longer while they wait for their hearings.

Fines & Fees –SB108, making the Cook County Traffic Fee Waiver Program permanent, a significant step toward reducing court debt for Illinois families

Policing -in Schools legislation requiring all public schools and districts in Illinois to stop

issuing fines for disciplinary violations and to report annually to the state and make public how often they involve police in student matters, with data disaggregated by race, gender, and disability
see: https://davisvanguard.org/2025/06/illinois-bans-school-fines/

Civil Asset Forfeiture -- HB 1628, to improve data collection and transparency in Civil Asset Forfeiture – toward reforming the system in Illinois that allows the state to permanently seize someone's property
See: https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2025/05/27/hb1628-a-step-toward-enhancing-data-/collection-and-transparency-in-reporting-civil-asset-forfeiture/

Contraband in Prisons – SB2201, mandating the collection and public reporting of prison contraband data, as in where it is found, and who in the facility (person in custody, staff, vendor, etc.) is in possession of or attempting to procure the contraband – part of the effort to improve the safety of everyone inside IDOC but not be unnecessarily punitive to people in custody.

Crime Data – HB1710: Homicide Data Transparency Act, requiring law enforcement agencies across Illinois to routinely publish detailed data on nonfatal shootings, homicides, and investigations.

Bills that will continue to be considered for passage in the 2026 sessions of the Illinois General Assembly:

Home For Good Legislation – SB2403 and HB3162, to provide for $103 million of investment that would expand housing access and housing support for people with arrest and conviction records

Ending Lifelong Financial Punishment by Abolishing All Fees for All Public Conviction Registries – SB2197 / HB3469, to end lifelong registration fees for those convicted of crime
See this SB2197 / HB3469 fact sheet with information about the importance of this legislation

Post Conviction-Review needing approval in the House, to amend to create fairness and consistency by allowing children and young people sentenced before the monumental U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Miller v. Alabama*, the same opportunity for a constitutional hearing as people sentenced after *Miller*. Fact sheet here: *SB 248*

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

Other Developments in Illinois Justice

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
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.

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.

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 the16 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 Pretrail 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 other people

It reformed he 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 Prerrial 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 justiced 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. Prizker
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, January24,2021 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/grafton-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

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*

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 Durban 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-pressley-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:

NEW: Mass Incarceration and Other Bad Ideas, a New Monthly Substack Newsletter from The Sentencing Project

https://massincarceration.substack.com/p/another-prison-cell-why-our-reentry?emci=73618587-8f44-f111-8ef2-000d3a14b640&emdi=c15d2932-aa44-f111-8ef2-000d3a14b640&ceid=10194244

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://catholicsmobilizing.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*.

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:

Media Organizations in Illinois to Follow and Support-

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

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

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

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

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

Oher Media Organizations to Follow and Support-

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

Media Justice - https://mediajustice.org/

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

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

Truthout - https://truthout.org/

Restorative Justice - Supporting Organizations That Provide Restorative Justice Training, or Operate Restorative Justice Hubs

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/*

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

Mud Theatre Project – *https://www.mudtheatreproject.org/*
ECCSC – Ex-cons for Community and Social Change - *https://www.eccsc.org/*
Learn more from Tyrone Farrakhan Muhammad at tyronemuhammad17@gmail.com
Families and Prisoners United - *https://www.facebook.com/p/Families-Prisoners-United-100080465895704/*
Learn more from Fahmi Jones at (312) 846-0744
Inner City Muslim Action Network ("IMAN") - *https://www.imancentral.org/*
Learn more from Rami Nashashibi at *shamar@imancentral.org*

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

Alliance for Reentry and Justice - *https://www.ilarj.org/*
Bard Prison Initiative - *https://bpi.bard.edu/*
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 Community Jail Support – https://chicago-community-jail-support.webnode.com/
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/*
Defy Ventures https://www.defyventures.org/
Education Justice Project – *https://educationjustice.net/*
Equip for Equality – *https://www.equipforequality.org/*
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*
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/
One Parish One Prisoner - *https://undergroundministries.org/opop*
Pathway to Enterprise for Returning Citizens (PERC) –
https://greenwoodarchercapital.org/pathway-to-enterprise-for-returning-citizens-perc
Phalanx Family Services – *https://www.phalanxgrpservices.org/*
Prison and Neighborhood Arts/Education Project - *https://p-nap.org/*
Project H.O.O.D. Reentry - *https://www.projecthood.org/reentry*
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/*
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*
Unitarian Universalist Ministry of Illinois – *http://www.uupmi.org/*
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 Those Formerly Incarcerated

Anti-Recidivism Coalition – *https://antirecidivism.org/*
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/*
Worthy Now Prison Ministry Network of the Church of the Larger Fellowship -
https://worthynow.org/

Illinois- Based Organizations Addressing the Causes of Crime and Poverty

The Tutor/Mentor Institute and the Chicago Mentoring Collaborative
- *https://www.chicagomentoringcollaborative.com/*

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/*
Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights - *https://www.clccrul.org/*
Children and Family Justice Center - *http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/cfjc/*
C Children's Best Interest Project –
write to Gail Smith gail.smith@childrensbestinterestil.org and make a donation here
Clean Slate Campaign https://www.cleanslateillinois.org
Clergy for a New Drug Policy – http://newdrugpolicy.org/
Coalition to Decarcerate IL – *https://www.coalitiontodecarcerateil.com/*
Coalition To End Money Bond - *https://endmoneybond.org/*
Community Renewal Society - *http://www.communityrenewalsociety.org/*
Cook County Justice Advisory Council - *jac.info@cookcountyil.gov*
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)
Injustice Watch – *https://www.injusticewatch.org/*
Institute for Public Good -- *https://www.publicgoodpolicy.org/*
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/*
Project Sound Off - *https://projectsoundoff.org/*
Restore Justice - *https://restorejustice.org/about-us/*
Shriver Center for Poverty Law - *https://www.povertylaw.org/*
Social Change - *https://socialchange.site/*
Social Justice Resource Center - *https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/cause/criminal-justice-%20system*
Southern Poverty Law Center - *https://www.splcenter.org/issues/mass-incarceration*
The Square One Project – Reimagine Justice - *https://www.squareonefoundationchicago.org/*
Transforming Reentry Services – *https://transformingreentry.org/*
University of Chicago Smart Decarceration Project – *https://voices.uchicago.edu/smartdecar/*
Uptown People's Law Center – *https://www.uplcchicago.org/*
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://catholicsmobilizing.org*
Center for the Study of Human Flourishing of King's College in New York City
https://www.tkc.edu/academics/cshf/galsworthy-criminal-justice-reform/
Civil Rights Corps - *http://www.civilrightscorps.org/*
Drug Policy Alliance - *https://engage.drugpolicy.org/secure/donate*
Housing Not Handcuffs – *https://housingnothandcuffs.org/*
Human Rights Watch: 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/*

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 Rodriquez - 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/18RLoSOXTfjp2wtIAqp_Q12FiwAEhqoeCWwZEtKgKX2I/edit*

Resource Guides and Hubs:

Mapping Your Future: a Guide to Successful Reentry in Illinois, published by the Education Justice Project

Fill out this form to have hard copies sent to you:
https://educationjustice.jotform.com/222332910685050
You can download the Guide for Free at https://reentryillinois.net/reentry-guides/

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 2025 guide of the Education Justice Project for people who live in the United States with the threat of deportation/
You can download your guide for free at https://reentryillinois.net/reentry-guides/
New chapters for the 2026 Guide released so far:
Living with the Threat of Deportation
Planning for a Possible Deportation
Deportation to Honduras

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, complied 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

From The Invisible Institute: *https://invisible.institute/*
National Police Index, launched March 3, 2026 - *https://national.cpdp.co* /
View from the Gound Archive – *https://www.viewfromtheground.com/*
https://invisible.institute/latestblog/vftg-issue-52-looking-back-on-25-years-of-view-from-the-ground

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
htt//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

Shaping Hope: Higher Education in Prison by Mary Vandergoot, published July 2026
Learn more about the book and purchase a copy at:
https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/shaping-hope-higher-education-in-prison_mary-vandergoot/59797138/?resultid=61e20f36-2c26-4e08-ba23-e1d732fbd6b3#edition=76247334&idiq=90097984

Restorative Justice and Lived Religion by Jason Springs, published in September 2024 by NYU Press
https://nyupress.org/9781479823789/restorative-justice-and-lived-religion/
(see link in articles section below for a review of the book in the Christian Century):

Unforgiving Places: The Unexpected Origins of American Gun Violence by Jens Ludwig (Faculty Director of the University of Chicago Crime Lab, published by the University of Chicago Press
https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/U/bo244203115.htmlCorrection:

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 Caits 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

Comprehensive Master Plan for Illinois Prisons - 2026 Summary by the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council of the May 2023 Facility Master Plan Final Report presented by CGL Companies to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) to help IDOC meet its facility-related goals
https://spac.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/spac/documents/reports/2025-2029/spac_cgl_summary.pdf

Health, Housing, and Household Circumstances Among Women on Parole, an August 2026 report from the Council on Criminal Justice
https://councilоncj.org/health-housing-and-household-circumstances-among-women-on-parole/?utm_source=TMP-Newsletter&utm_campaign=9592c51acb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_09_10_10_39&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5e02cdad9d-9592c51acb-174976893

How we built a database of Illinois jail records — and how you can use it to do your own digging, a September 2026 report of the Illinois Answers Project on their study of events over the years in Illinois Jails
https://illinoisanswers.org/2026/09/15/search-illinois-jail-records-free/

Fighting for Safer and Healthier Communities, a comprehensive September 2026 Newsletter from the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice, including detailed discussion of:

- Provisions of the Illinois Pretrial Justice Act
- The Exploitation Playbook of the opponents of the Act
- Distorting the Facts in attacks on the judges by Aldermen, State officials, the Cook County State's Attorney and Chicago Mayoral candidates,
- Exploitation of Survivors, and
- Data vs. Anecdotes

https://mailchi.mp/fef3ddd3ae7c/happenings-in-pretrial-justice-sept-newsletter-4092611?e=26813fbadd

Changing Landscapes – Community Court-Watchers' Observations of the Second Year of Pretrial Fairness Implementation, 2026 report of the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice, including:

- Recommendations to the Cook County State's Attorney
- Recommendations to the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County
- Recommendation for the Illinois General Assembly

https://endmoneybond.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/changinglandscapes_report_review_5_31_26v2.pdf

500 Days Forward . . Ten Years Back: an Evaluation of Eileen O'Neill Burke's First 500 Days As Cook County State's Attorney, a May 2026 report issued by Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts

https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Burke-500.pdf

August 17, 2026 report on 500 Days Forward . . Ten Year Back in the news:

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- School-to-Prison Pipeline
- Public Defenders

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• During Incarceration
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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 Dominque 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://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc*

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*

Resume Templates:
https://www.resumetemplates.com/
https://www.resumetemplates.com/resume-examples/

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

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.imancentral.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@imancentral.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.phalanxgrpservices.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.

Cook County Budget

Freezing Cook County Law Enforcement Spending to protect essential health and human services, in response to the deficit in the Cook County Budget – Groups need to complete and submit as soon as possible *the form appearing at this link* to join other groups in signing-on to *the letter appearing at this link to members of the Cook County Board*, asking the County Board

- to use the County's limited funds to protect essential health and human services by freezing law enforcement spending, and
- to reject the proposals that it has received to put essential health and human services at risk by continuing to increase the budgets of the Cook County Sheriff and the Cook County State's Attorney.

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

Justice Reform in the Illinois General Assembly – Spring 2026 session

Legislation proposed in the spring session of the legislature included –:

- Restricting Solitary Confinement - File SB 65/HB 1428 –the Nelson Mandela Act, which would restrict use of solitary confinement in Illinois, using data gathered under legislation passed in an last session of the General Assembly
  You can find more information on this bill here.

- Affordable communications with incarcerated at IDOC –HB 4235/SB 3386 - a new bill to keep families connected during incarceration through affordable communications – for discussion of the importance of this bill, see:
  https://www.restorejustice.org/bill/hb-4235/?mc_cid=c137e6a249&mc_eid=b92d12e360

- Cannabis Probable Cause –HB 4782, seeking to prevent law enforcement officers from stopping, searching, or detaining a driver solely based on the odor of burnt or raw cannabis, by removing the odor-proof container rule from the cannabis law.

- Credit for Change Act – which would allow everyone not serving life to be awarded sentence credits for good behavior.

- Day-for-Day Good Conduct Credit Act –which would give additional supervision credit for those on mandatory supervised release. Here is a one-pager with more details about the bill.

- Reintegration and Civic Empowerment (RACE) Act –which would expand civics education in Illinois prisons and restore voting rights to people who are currently incarcerated. More information about the act here: *Reintegration and Civic Empowerment (RACE) Act*
- SB 248 to give people sentenced to life without parole as children the chance to file a second post-conviction petition for reconsideration
- Expanding the Pretrial Success Grant Program –to address underlying challenges that have brought people into contact with the criminal legal system in the first place, by improving community safety and ensuring that people have the resources they need to succeed both during the court process and after their case concludes.

Justice Reform in the Illinois General Assembly – Spring 2025 session

The Following Bills Were Among Those Passed by the General Assembly and Sent to Governor Pritzker for his Signature – several relate to collection of data critical to future reform efforts:

Improving Public Defense – HB3363: the Funded Advocacy and Independent Representation Act (the FAIR Act), under which Illinois will establish an Office of the State Public Defender and will create a statewide system to ensure consistent, well-funded, and independent public defense services in Illinois

See: https://mailchi.mp/endmoneybond/wedidit?e=26813fbadd

Continued Funding for the Pretrial Success Act grant program, designed to insure success of the Pretrial Fairness Act reforms

See: https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2025/06/10/victory-pretrial-success-grant-program-preserved-funding-kept-for-critical-pretrial-servic es/

Youthful Parole – HB 2546, an important revision to the Youthful Parole Act that strengthens the existing Act by ensuring that eligible people can access a parole hearing on the correct timeline and not have to remain incarcerated longer while they wait for their hearing.

Fines & Fees –SB108, making the Cook County Traffic Fee Waiver Program permanent, a significant step toward reducing court debt for Illinois families

Policing -in Schools legislation requiring all public schools and districts in Illinois to stop issuing fines for disciplinary violations and to report annually to the state and make public how often they involve police in student matters, with data disaggregated by race, gender, and disability

see: https://davisvanguard.org/2025/06/illinois-bans-school-fines/

Civil Asset Forfeiture -- HB 1628, to improve data collection and transparency in Civil Asset Forfeiture – toward reforming the system in Illinois that allows the state to permanently seize someone's property

See: https://www.chicagoappleseed.org/2025/05/27/hb1628-a-step-toward-enhancing-data-collection-and-transparency-in-reporting-civil-asset-forfeiture/

Contraband in Prisons – SB2201, mandating the collection and public reporting of prison contraband data, as in where it is found, and who in the facility (person in custody, staff, vendor, etc.) is in possession of or attempting to procure the contraband – part of the effort to improve the safety of everyone inside IDOC but not be unnecessarily punitive to people in custody.

Crime Data – HB1710: Homicide Data Transparency Act, requiring law enforcement agencies across Illinois to routinely publish detailed data on nonfatal shootings, homicides, and investigations.

Work will continue in the fall veto session of the General Assembly to pass the following bills:

Home For Good Legislation – SB2403 and HB3162, to provide for $103 million of investment that would expand housing access and housing support for people with arrest and conviction records

Detention for juveniles – to obtain Houe approval of SB1784, which would raise the minimum age of detention of juveniles from 10 to 13 and SB2156, which would create a Juvenile Detention Utilization Task Force to shift fiscal incentives away from detention to community alternatives

Go to this link for a: *Fact sheet on SB 1784*

Automating Expungement and Sealing of Criminal Records in Illinois – 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 is entitled under the law.

Ending Lifelong Financial Punishment by Abolishing All Fees for All Public Conviction Registries – SB2197 / HB3469, to end lifelong registration fees for those convicted of crime

See this SB2197 / HB3469 fact sheet with information about the importance of this legislation

Post Conviction-Review SB 248, needing approval in the House, to amend to create fairness and consistency by allowing children and young people sentenced before the monumental U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Miller v. Alabama*, the same opportunity for a constitutional hearing as people sentenced after *Miller*.

Requests for Advocacy from 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 is 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 Priorites 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 Devender 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 minimizes 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 lkjjustice@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 W*ork 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=IwAR2sD1OlM5NHYUIXz0W0VgNLDu-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: jji@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.imancentral.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/