PANELIST, PRESENTER, & SPEAKER INFORMATION

REMOVING THE BARS
TAKE ACTION

An Interdisciplinary Conference on Criminal Justice

A COMMUNITY
COLLABORATIVE EVENT

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

MARCH 23 & 24, 2012
Bryonn Bain, Poet, Author, Activist

Bryonn Bain is Brooklyn's own prison activist, spoken word poet, hip hop artist, actor, author and educator. Described by Cornel West as an artist who "...speaks his truth with a power we desperately need to hear," Bain's discussions and debates have aired weekly in 25 million homes worldwide on BET's award-winning talk show My Two Cents. Wrongfully imprisoned during his second year at Harvard Law, Bryonn sued the NYPD, was interviewed by Mike Wallace on "60 Minutes," and wrote the Village Voice cover story - "Walking While Black" - which drew the largest response in the history of the nation's most widely-read progressive newspaper. Bain's grassroots organization, Blackout Arts Collective, which developed the annual Lyric on Lockdown Tour, has reached prisons in 25 states, and spawned a series of university courses using the arts to teach critical literacy in correctional facilities. His book, The Ugly Side of Beautiful: Rethinking Race and Prisons in America, was published in 2011. Bryonn has lectured and performed at over 100 colleges and correctional facilities in the U.S. and worldwide. Named resident artist for the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education in 2006, Bryonn founded the Lyrical Minded project -- which brings hip hop, theater and spoken word to high schools in New York, San Francisco and Boston. A Nuyorican Grand Slam Poetry Champion, Bain ranked #1 in the nation and placed second in the world during the 2000 International Poetry Slam. Bain's one-man multimedia show - LYRICS FROM LOCKDOWN (Official Selection, NYC Hip Hop Theater Festival) - tells the story of his wrongful incarceration through hip hop, theater, spoken word poetry, calypso and classical music, and letters exchanged with a fellow poet and friend, Nanon Williams, sentenced to Death Row at 17 years old. After 18 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit, a federal judge recently ordered Nanon’s release -- one year after the show's New York premiere at The Public Theater.

Removing the Bars Concert Produced by Voza Rivers and Jamal Joseph

Kate Barrow, LMSW, Project Director
Bronx Futures, Center for Court Innovation

Kate Barrow is the project director of Bronx Futures, a juvenile justice/mental health program of the Center for Court Innovation. The project provides supportive services to youth up to 16 years old with open delinquency cases. Prior to this position, she was the youth services coordinator at Midtown Community Court for two years. Before joining the Center, her work focused on creating programs for marginalized youth, including mentally ill adolescents in foster care, homeless LGBT youth, and educationally at-risk teens. She is also a founding organizer of the RISE: Social Work to End Oppression Collective, which organizes events throughout NYC addressing social justice issues. Ms. Barrow has received awards from New York University and the National Association of Social Workers-NYC Chapter for her community organizing work, and spoken around New York about integrating social work and anti-oppressive practices. She received her B.A. in Contemplative Psychology from Naropa University and her M.S.W. from the Silver School of Social Work at New York University.

Workshop: Inside Juvenile Justice: Youth, Jail, & Raising the Age (BLOCK 2)

Barbara "Bobby" Blanchard-Lewis, J.D., Senior Staff Associate
Center for Children and Families at Columbia University School of Nursing

Bobby has been an advocate for incarcerated mothers and their children for the past 17 years of her career. She was Director of The Children's Center at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (BHCF) from 2005 to 2010, and prior to that Nursery Supervisor. Since March of 2010 she has been a Senior Staff Associate at the Center for Children and Families at the Columbia University School of Nursing, assisting Mary Byrne's longitudinal study investigating maternal child outcomes of the prison nursery at Bedford Hills, and developing therapeutic interventions for incarcerated mothers at BHCF and Chittenden County CF, Vermont. Prior to working with the Children's Center, Bobby was Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Division of The Legal Aid Society of Westchester County, and of-counsel to the Appellate Division of the
Rockland County Public Defender’s Office. She is the recipient of the 2010 Providence House “Foundress Award”, and the 2011 Emily Fenichel Award of the New York Zero-to-Three Network.

**Workshop: Maintaining a Relationship with an Incarcerated Loved One (BLOCK 1)**

**Leslie Ann Brody, Supervising Attorney**

**Legal Aid Society, Parole Revocation Defense Unit**

Leslie Brody is a graduate of Cardozo Law School in New York City. She has been practicing law for almost 30 years. She began her career as a prosecutor for the New York City Department of Probation and then became an Assistant District Attorney (DA) with the Manhattan DA’s office assigned to Special Narcotics. After four years at the DA’s office Leslie left to accept a position as the Supervising Attorney of the Criminal Defense Unit at 32 BJ Legal Services where she remained for 14 years. Leslie is now a Supervising Attorney with The Legal Aid Society Parole Revocation Defense Unit. She is a former co-chair of the New York City chapter of the National Lawyers’ Guild, a progressive association of lawyers, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers. She spent 5 years as a regular guest commentator on Court TV.

**Workshop: Parole 101 (BLOCK 1)**

**Toni Bundy**

**Workshop: Restorative Justice (BLOCK 2)**

**Hiawatha Collins, Organizer and Board Member**

VOCAL-NY

**Workshop: Drug Law: Policy and Reform (BLOCK 1)**

**Angela Y. Davis, Activist, Scholar, Writer**

Through her activism and scholarship over the last decades, Angela Davis has been deeply involved in our nation’s quest for social justice. Her work as an educator – both at the university level and in the larger public sphere – has always emphasized the importance of building communities of struggle for economic, racial, and gender justice. Professor Davis’ teaching career has taken her to San Francisco State University, Mills College, and UC Berkeley. She also has taught at UCLA, Vassar, the Claremont Colleges, and Stanford University. She spent the last fifteen years at the University of California Santa Cruz where she is now Distinguished Professor Emerita of History of Consciousness, an interdisciplinary Ph.D program, and of Feminist Studies. Angela Davis is the author of eight books and has lectured throughout the United States as well as in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America. In recent years a persistent theme of her work has been the range of social problems associated with incarceration and the generalized criminalization of those communities that are most affected by poverty and racial discrimination. She draws upon her own experiences in the early seventies as a person who spent eighteen months in jail and on trial, after being placed on the FBI’s “Ten Most Wanted List.” She has also conducted extensive research on numerous issues related to race, gender and imprisonment. Her most recent books are *Abolition Democracy* and *Are Prisons Obsolete?* about the abolition of the prison industrial complex, and a new edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Angela Davis is a founding member Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex. Internationally, she is affiliated with Sisters Inside, an abolitionist organization based in Queensland, Australia that works in solidarity with women in prison. Like many other educators, Professor Davis is especially concerned with the general tendency to devote more resources and attention to the prison system than to educational institutions. Having helped to popularize the notion of a “prison industrial complex,” she now urges her audiences to think seriously about the future possibility of a world without prisons and to help forge a 21st century abolitionist movement.

**Friday Night Kickoff Event**

**Emani Davis, Consultant**

Emani Davis has been advocating on behalf of children with parents in prison for 12 years. She is a 2003 graduate of Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY. Her father has been incarcerated in Virginia since she was six years old. She serves on the advisory board of the Federal Resource Center for Children of Prisoners at the Child Welfare
League of America. In her capacity as a consultant to the Federal Resource Center, she has provided training and technical assistance for programs serving prisoners and children of prisoners. While in college, Emani worked with The Osborne Association as a Family Works Parenting Course Guest Instructor, leading lectures and discussions for incarcerated fathers about the impact of imprisonment on children in Sing Sing, Woodbourne and Shawangunk Correctional Facilities for men in New York State. She also worked supervising the Children's Center in the visiting room at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility. She has organized panels of children of prisoners and made presentations on children with parents in prison, including National Institute of Corrections Videoconference: Children of Prisoners: Children of Promise, A National Satellite and Internet Broadcast, June 18, 2003; and a keynote presentation at the Fathers Matter conference of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation (2004).

Voices of Children of Incarcerated Parents Panel

Robert Dennison, Former Chair
New York State Division of Parole
Workshop: Parole 101 (BLOCK 1)

Mika'il DeVeaux, Executive Director
Citizens Against Recidivism

Mika'il DeVeaux (MPS, MA, CAMF) received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Bernard M. Baruch College (CUNY), a Master of Professional Studies degree from the New York Theological Seminary, and a Master of Arts degree from The College at New Paltz (SUNY). He is also a certified anger management facilitator and a current doctoral student in the Social Welfare Program at Hunter College (CUNY). DeVeaux has published papers in several academic journals, presented papers and made presentations at a variety of conferences and his writing have been included in other formats as well. DeVeaux has more than three decades of experience working with men incarcerated in New York State maximum-security prisons and many who have recently been released following periods of confinement. DeVeaux is the Co/founder and Executive Director of Citizens Against Recidivism, Inc., directs Citizens' Muslim Re-entry Initiative and chairs the Commission on Re-entry at the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood (MIB) in Harlem. He is also an Adjunct Lecture at Medgar Ever College's (CUNY) in the Department of Behavior Science, NYC CUNY College of Technology and a principal at DeVeaux Association, a consulting firm that provides evaluation, monitoring and other services for nonprofits.

Friday Night Kickoff Event
Workshop: Society's Perceptions of the Formerly Incarcerated (BLOCK 2)

Brett Dignam, Clinical Professor of Law
Columbia Law School

Professor Brett Dignam joined the Columbia Law School faculty in 2010. She came to Columbia from Yale Law School, where she led the Prison Legal Services, Complex Federal Litigation and Supreme Court Advocacy clinics. An award-winning teacher, Professor Dignam has supervised students in a broad range of litigation matters and has designed and overseen workshops conducted by students for prisoners at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Connecticut on issues including immigration, sexual assault, and exhaustion under the Prison Litigation Reform Act. She has participated in major litigation in over 30 federal and state cases in the area of prisoners’ rights. Before entering the legal academy, Professor Dignam served as a law clerk for the Honorable William H. Orrick, U.S. District Court in San Francisco, California, and then developed a prison litigation practice in both federal and state courts. She also served as an attorney in the Criminal Appeals and Tax Enforcement Policy Section, Tax Division, in the Department of Justice, from 1990-92, where she handled criminal appeals in all federal courts of appeals; the cases involved motor fuel excise tax/organized crime task force, savings and loan task force and sentencing guidelines issues. She also assisted Deputy Assistant Attorney General James Bruton to form the Division Policy on issues ranging from money laundering to RICO. Dignam has both a criminal and civil trial and appellate practice in both federal and state courts. She has participated in major litigation at both levels on behalf of prisoners and on tax matters, among other issues. As an associate professor at Yale Law, Dignam taught and supervised students in Prison Legal Services, Poverty/HIV, Landlord/Tenant and Immigration clinics, guiding students through administrative hearings, state and federal trial and appellate courts on issues ranging from state
habeas claims to violations of the Voting Rights Act. Dignam received her J.D. from the University of Southern California, where she was student director of the USC Prison Law Project and chair of the Hale Moot Court Honors Program. She has a Master of Arts degree in theater from the University of California at Los Angeles. She received her B.A. from Mount Holyoke College.

**Workshop: Supermaxes & Solitary Confinement (BLOCK 1)**

**Lynly S. Egyes, Esquire, Staff Attorney**
**Urban Justice Center, Sex Workers Project**

Lynly S. Egyes, Esq. is a Staff Attorney with the Sex Workers Project. Lynly provides legal advocacy, advice, and information to sex workers and survivors of human trafficking on a variety of issues, including immigration, criminal law, civil consequences of convictions and public benefits. Prior to joining the Sex Workers Project, Lynly’s career has focused on helping people in the margins, with a special emphasis on youth, LGBT and immigrants’ rights. She managed the student leadership program at the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network. While in law school, Lynly interned at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, Peter Cichcino Youth Project, Lawyers for Children and with the Honorable Judge Deborah Batts. In law school she co-authored the report, *Immigration on ICE: A Report on Immigration Home Raids Operations*. Lynly graduated magna cum laude from Ithaca College and earned a JD from Benjamin Cardozo School of Law.

**Workshop: Immigration & Criminal Justice: The Intersection (BLOCK 1)**

**Eddie Ellis, President**
**Center for NuLeadership on Urban Studies**

**Workshop: How Do We DE-carcerate? (BLOCK 1)**

**Soffiyah Elijah, Executive Director**
**The Correctional Association of New York**

**Friday Night Kickoff Event**

**Michelle Fine, Professor of Psychology**
**The Graduate Center, City University of New York**

Dr. Fine is a professor in the Social/Personality Psychology Program, GSUC/CUNY and previously taught for 12 years at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research program surrounds questions of community development with a particular emphasis on urban youth and young adults. She is working on projects funded by the Spencer Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation, both of which focus on the "spaces" created for and by youth in which political, spiritual and/or recuperative work is pursued. She and her colleagues, such as Lois Weis at SUNY-Buffalo, Linda Powell at Teachers College, Columbia University and students from the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York, are interested in understanding life within such spaces; that is, political life of the group and the personal development of the individuals so engaged. The "space" in which we are located includes those designed explicitly to be diverse and democratic (e.g an integrated World Literature classroom, a complex of new, small, community-based public schools, and an arts center in Buffalo, New York); those designed explicitly to be segregated and activist (a Black church; an ethnic immigration center; a youth group for black adolescent males living in public housing; programs designed explicitly for adolescent female activists) and those designed to be richly recuperative and supportive for politically marginalized young men and women and sometimes for elites (lesbian/gay community center; a teen mother’s school-based group). In these spaces, questions are raised about identity, critical consciousness within and beyond the group, the relation of critique and social action and the impact of external surveillance in individual and group life. Beyond these spaces, she is interested in understanding the relations between these corners of social possibility and larger movements for social change.

**Workshop: How Do We DE-carcerate? (BLOCK 1)**
Kassandra Frederique, Policy Coordinator
Drug Policy Alliance
Kassandra Frederique is the New York Policy Associate at the Drug Policy Alliance. Frederique works to build powerful coalitions in communities devastated by drug misuse and the war on drugs. Prior to joining DPA, Frederique completed a year-long internship with DPA's State Organizing and Policy Project, served as a social worker in New York City schools and domestic violence clinics, organized workers in Chicago and New Orleans, and worked as a higher education paraprofessional in Ithaca and New York City. Frederique earned her master's degree in Social Work at Columbia University's School of Social Work, where she specialized in advanced generalist practice, with a focus on contemporary social issues. She previously completed a B.S. in Industrial Labor Relations at Cornell University, with minors in Social Inequalities and Law & Society. While pursuing her undergraduate and graduate degrees, Frederique developed curricula to address social oppression, which were used for more than 4,000 students at both Cornell and Columbia University's student orientations. Her passion for challenging social oppression and inequalities led her to work on ending the drug war – which she believes is the amalgamation of all the issues she has worked on thus far.

Workshop: Drug Law: Policy and Reform (BLOCK 1)

Dr. Robert E. Fullilove, Associate Dean of Community & Minority Affairs
Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
Robert E. Fullilove, EdD is the Associate Dean for Community and Minority Affairs, Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences and the co-director of the Community Research Group. He also co-directors the newly formed degree program in Urbanism and Community Health in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences. Dr. Fullilove has authored numerous articles in the area of minority health. From 1995 to 2001, he served on the Board of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the Institute of Medicine (IOM) at the National Academy of Sciences. Since 1996, he has served on five IOM study committees that have produced reports on a variety of topics including substance abuse and addiction, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and damp indoor spaces and health. In 2003 he was designated a National Associate of the National Academies of Science. In 1998 he was appointed to the Advisory Committee on HIV and STD Prevention (ACHSP) at the Centers for Disease Control, and in July, 2000, he became the committee’s chair. Finally, in 2004, he was appointed to the National Advisory Council for the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health [NIH]. Dr. Fullilove serves on the editorial boards of the journals Sexually Transmitted Diseases and the Journal of Public Health Policy. He has twice been awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award at the Mailman School of Public Health, and in May, 2002, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Bank Street College of Education.

Workshop: Legal Health Rights & HIV/AIDS in Prison (BLOCK 2)

Tracie Gardner, Director of New York State Policy
Coordinator of Women's Initiative to Stop HIV/AIDS of New York (WISH-NY)
Legal Action Center
Tracie M. Gardner joined the Legal Action Center in October of 2000 as Director of New York State Policy. She coordinates the Center's lobbying, grass roots organizing and advocacy work on budget and legislative issues relating to HIV/AIDS and criminal justice and drug and alcohol addiction issues in New York State. Prior to joining the Legal Action Center, Ms. Gardner has worked in various capacities of national and New York HIV/AIDS policy and advocacy since 1987.

Workshop: Legal Health Rights & HIV/AIDS in Prison (BLOCK 2)

Elizabeth Gaynes, Executive Director
Osborne Association
Under her leadership over the last 26 years, the Osborne Association has grown from a two-person staff to one of the largest multi-service criminal justice organizations in the country. In 1985, Elizabeth Gaynes spearheaded the creation of FamilyWorks, the longest running comprehensive parenting program in a men's state prison. Working in collaboration with New York State and City criminal justice, child welfare, and health agencies, Osborne operates some of the country's most innovative and effective services for
incarcerated individuals and their children and families. Liz Gaynes is a nationally recognized expert on the impact of incarceration and reentry on children and families. She is the author of “Reentry: Helping Former Prisoners Return to Communities”, a guide published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation (2006). In 2004, together with her daughter, Emani Davis, Liz was the first American ever nominated for the prestigious international World’s Children’s Prize for the Rights of the Child, for their work defending the rights of children with parents in prison. She has a leadership role in the New York Initiative on Children of Incarcerated Parents, a collaborative system reform project committed to meeting the needs and protecting the rights of children of incarcerated parents. Liz is a lawyer who began her legal career as a criminal defense attorney, working at a Buffalo law firm involved in representing people incarcerated at Attica during the 1971 prison rebellion. She later joined Albany Law School Legal Assistance Project, a clinical program that represented men at four state prisons on civil legal matters, a project that became the Albany office of Prisoners Legal Services of New York. Prior to coming to Osborne, she was an Associate at the Pretrial Services Resource Center (now Pretrial Justice Institute) in Washington DC, a national organization dedicated to ensuring informed pretrial decision making for safe communities, including bail reform and diversion from prosecution.

Workshop: Restorative Justice (BLOCK 2)

Philip Genty, Clinical Professor in Professional Responsibility
Columbia Law School

Worked as an attorney at Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York; the New York City Department of Housing, Preservation and Development; and the Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services Corporation. Joined the faculty of Brooklyn Law School in 1987; taught legal writing and a seminar on the rights of prisoners. Joined the Columbia faculty in 1989. Has consulted with clinical legal education programs in Central and Eastern Europe and Israel. Has assisted with legal resource materials for incarcerated parents and works with several organizations that assist women prisoners. Research and teaching interests are in professional responsibility, clinical education, prisoners’ rights, family law, and appellate advocacy. Directs first year Legal Practice Workshop and Law School Moot Court program. Serves on Columbia University Senate, Education Committee. Recipient of 2008 Willis L.M. Reese Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

Workshop: Parole 101 (BLOCK 1)

Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Associate Director of the Center for Place, Culture, and Politics
The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Ruth Wilson Gilmore is Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Associate Director of the Center for Place, Culture, and Politics, at the City University of New York Graduate Center. She received a BA and MFA in Dramatic Literature and Criticism from Yale, and a PhD in Geography from Rutgers. In addition to Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California (University of California Press, 2007), recent publications include “Race, Prisons, and War: Scenes from the History of U.S. Violence” (in Leo Panitch and Colin Leys, eds. Violence Today: Actually existing Barbarism London: Merlin Press, 2008), and “Forgotten Places and the Seeds of Grassroots Planning” (in Charles R. Hale, ed., Engaging Contradictions, University of California Press, 2008). At the University of Southern California as director of the program in American Studies and Ethnicity she saw the unit through to departmentalization, serving as its first chair. A member of the board of the Los Angeles Economic Roundtable, Ruthie is also a founding member of the anti-prison groups California Prison Moratorium Project and Critical Resistance, and a founding member and past-president of the Central California Environmental Justice Network. She has participated in the formation and development of a number of other grassroots organizations over the years and currently serves on the advisory board of Californians United for a Responsible Budget. Awards include an NEA Grant, a Soros Senior Justice Fellowship, the James Blaut Award for Critical Geography, the Ralph Santiago Abascal Award for Economic and Environmental Justice, a Mellon Award for Excellence in Mentoring Graduate Students, and the Lora Romero Best Book Prize.

Workshop: How Do We DE-carcerate? (BLOCK 1)
John Gordon, Associate Vice President of Programs
Osborne Association
Workshop: Role of Education Inside Prison & In Successful Reentry (BLOCK 2)

Chino Hardin, Field Coordinator
Institute for Juvenile Justice Reform and Alternatives
Workshop: Stop and Frisk (BLOCK 2)

Joseph "Jazz" Hayden
Campaign to End the New Jim Crow
Perspectives of the Formerly Incarcerated Panel
Workshop: Stop and Frisk (BLOCK 2)

Lawrence Hayes, Co-Founder
Campaign to End the Death Penalty
Lawrence Ghana Hayes was born and raised in Harlem, and in 1968 Lawrence became a member of the Black Panther Party. In the early 1970s Lawrence was recruited to a combat cell working to eradicate the distribution of heroin in the black community. On August 21, 1971, he was arrested for acting in concert at a murder scene of a policeman, which occurred during one of his cell’s surveillance of a drug drop-spot in Queens, NY. Hayes was convicted and sentenced to death by an all-white jury and was one of the five New York State death row inmates awaiting execution at the time of the United State Supreme Court decision in 1972, in Furman vs. Georgia, which found the death penalty unconstitutional. In 1974, Lawrence’s sentence was commuted to life with parole. While in prison Lawrence maintained his activism by studying and teaching Black History. He was the Chairman of the Green Haven Branch of the NAACP and instructed workshops in Political Science and Legal Redress. Lawrence earned a Master Degree from New York Theological Seminary. Hayes was paroled in 1991 and since then has become a noted spokesman against the death penalty. He has spoken at several colleges and universities and is a member of the international abolition organization, Hands off Cain. Lawrence is the Co-Founder of the nationally recognized, grassroots organization Campaign to End the Death Penalty. Lawrence has dedicated his life to ending the death penalty and feels that, "Life should be held above death: “there is no excuse or reason to kill anyone, anywhere!"
Workshop: Death Penalty – Troy Davis: Continuing the Conversation (BLOCK 2)

Donna Hylton, Advocate
STEPS to End Family Violence
Donna Hylton is a member of the Coalition for Women Prisoners and a survivor of abuse. Donna spent 27 years in prison where she was a key member of the Violence Against Women Committee on the Inside. She currently works as a Service Counselor/Case Manager with the Black Veterans for Social Justice, where she identifies and addresses the needs of clients transitioning home from the military. She is also a domestic violence advocate with the Coalition and with STEPS to End Family Violence, the state’s only Alternative-to-Incarceration program for survivors of violence who get involved with the criminal justice system due to the abuse that they experienced. Donna has a Bachelor of Science degree in Behavioral Science and a Master of Arts degree in English from Mercy College.
Workshop: Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (BLOCK 1)

IMPACT Repertory Theatre
IMPACT’s mission is to use performing arts and the dynamics of leadership training to develop and empower youth. IMPACT believes that theater arts and education play a pivotal role in providing opportunities and transitions for the leaders of tomorrow. IMPACT is rooted in creative self-expression and anchored by a commitment to Safe space, Outstanding effort and Service to the community. (S.O.S.)
Removing the Bars Concert Produced by Voza Rivers and Jamal Joseph
Mary Johnson, Director of the Coming Home Program  
Center for Comprehensive Care, St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital  
Workshop: Legal Health Rights and HIV/AIDS in Prison (BLOCK 2)

Yolanda Johnson Peterkin, Director of Reentry  
Women’s Prison Association  
Perspectives of the Formerly Incarcerated Panel

Angela Jones, Coordinator of the School to Prison Pipeline Project  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
Angela Jones is the coordinator of the School to Prison Pipeline Project for the New York Civil Liberties Union. Her work focuses on improving school safety policies and putting an end to the path that leads students away from schools and toward the juvenile and criminal justice systems. She began as a community organizer and activist in Detroit. She has since worked with New York City youth exploring the links between policing policies and educational opportunities for vulnerable student populations.  
WORKSHOP: Pipelines to Prison (BLOCK 1)

Jamal Joseph, Co-Founder of IMPACT Repertory Theatre  
Chairman of the Film Division, Columbia University School of the Arts  
Jamal Joseph has written and directed for Black Starz, HBO, Fox TV, New Line Cinema, Warner Bros., and A&E. His produced screenplays include Ali: An American Hero (Fox), New York Undercover (Fox), Knights of the South Bronx (A&E), and The Many Trials of Tammy B. (Nickelodeon). He wrote and directed Drive By: A Love Story, Da Zone, and the docudrama Hughes Dreams Harlem for Black Starz. He recently finished the screenplay Panther Baby for Focus Features, which he will also direct, based on his true-life experiences as one of the youngest members of the Black Panther Party. Joseph is the author of Tupac, Legacy (Simon & Schuster). He has also written the script for a Broadway musical based on the life of Tupac Shakur. He is the founder and artistic director of IMPACT, a Harlem-based youth theatre company, and executive director of New Heritage Films, a not-for-profit organization that provides training and opportunities for minority filmmakers.  
Removing the Bars Concert Produced by Voza Rivers and Jamal Joseph

Alexandra Keeling, Senior Staff Attorney  
Office of the Appellate Defender  
Alexandra Keeling has been a Senior Staff Attorney at Office of the Appellate Defender since 2007. Prior to her work at OAD, she worked as the Law and Justice Program Coordinator at the Venice Community Housing Corporation and as a Legal Intern at the Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Division, South Brooklyn Legal Services Family Law Unit, and the Women’s Prison Association Incarcerated Mothers Law Project. Alex graduated cum laude from Georgetown University with her Bachelor of Arts in 1997 and earned her J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law in 2003.  
Workshop: Know Your Rights and Reentry (BLOCK 1)

Lisa Coleen Kerr, Doctoral Candidate in Law  
New York University  
Lisa Coleen Kerr is a doctoral candidate in law at New York University. She has served as a law clerk for the British Columbia Court of Appeal, and is called to the Bar of British Columbia. Lisa worked for two years in the litigation group of a leading Canadian law firm, before completing an LLM. at NYU in 2009. She then returned to practice in Canada as staff lawyer at Prisoners’ Legal Services, pursuing strategic litigation on human rights issues in prison such as health care, transgender rights, religious access, and the disparate impact of prison on the disabled. She is currently involved in a legal challenge to legislation in Canada that permits the indefinite solitary confinement of prisoners. Lisa also serves on a litigation committee for Pivot Legal Society, in pursuit of
the decriminalization of sex work in Canada, and also for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, analyzing test case litigation on various public law matters including the constitutionality of long-term solitary confinement in Canada. Her doctoral dissertation, supervised by David Garland, will consider how courts regulate the qualitative aspects of contemporary punishment practices in U.S. and Canadian prisons.

**Workshop: Supermaxes & Solitary Confinement (BLOCK 1)**

**Kwame and the Uptown Shakedown**

As diverse and kinetic as the city they call home, Kwame & the Uptown Shakedown have been perfecting their unique blend of soulful rock n’ roll since they formed in 2008. A true product of New York City, their music reflects the passion, the energy and the sounds of the city. They stand out - as a multicultural, multigenerational collective whose influences span soul, blues, classic rock, reggae and R&B. Featuring singer/songwriter Kwame Binea, guitarist/songwriter Justin Wilcox, bassist Art Vanterpool, drummer Medley, and saxophonist Quigley, the group is united by a common goal to make simple, soulful, back-to-basics music. “Our music is organic,” says London-born Ghanaian-raised Kwame, “it’s about life, love and struggle but it’s danceable. We make music that moves you and that makes you move.” After leaving blues/rock band ‘The Kause‘, Kwame met songwriting partner Justin Wilcox at a recording session in Union City, NJ and the duo moved to Harlem to begin writing and playing together. Initially an acoustic act, the band’s line-up grew naturally as Kwame and Justin met and played with other New York/NJ musicians. As the group got bigger – both literally and sonically - their music began making the walls of the apartment where they rehearsed rattle and so the Uptown Shakedown was born. The band has quickly built a following as diverse as its members. Having played regularly at a number of iconic venues including Sullivan Hall, Kenny’s Castaway and Arlene’s Grocery, the band started playing shows across the East Coast this year as they complete work on their debut LP. Lead single ‘Waiting‘ was released earlier this year and has been garnering the band a lot of attention. “I’ve been patient, I’ve been focused, I’ve been waiting for my time to come,” sings Kwame on the track. It seems their time has now arrived.

**Removing the Bars Concert Produced by Voza Rivers and Jamal Joseph**

**Dana M. Lemaster-Schipani, LMSW, Project Associate**

**New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents, Osborne Association**

Dana helps to oversee and coordinate the efforts of the NY Initiative’s partnerships with government agencies and community- and faith-based organizations to achieve policies and practices that meet the needs and respect the rights of children of incarcerated parents. At Osborne, she has developed an expertise in the area of the impact of parental incarceration and criminal justice involvement on children and families. In 2010, she coordinated the first-ever statewide summit—A Call to Action: NY Summit on Children of Incarcerated Parents, which brought together over 240 diverse stakeholders from local and state government, criminal justice system agencies, child welfare professionals, legal experts, educators and individuals directly affected by parental incarceration. Dana holds a B.S. in Legal Studies from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and an M.S. in Social Work from Columbia University School of Social Work.

**Workshop: Maintaining a Relationship with an Incarcerated Loved One (BLOCK 1)**

**Donna Lieberman, Executive Director**

**New York Civil Liberties Union**

Donna Lieberman has been executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union since December 2001. She has also served as the associate director (1988 - 1993) and founder/director of the NYCLU Reproductive Rights Project (1990 - 2000). Under Lieberman’s leadership the NYCLU has expanded the scope and depth of its work, supplementing and strengthening the pursuit of litigation with an aggressive legislative advocacy and a field organizing program that works on behalf of civil liberties and civil rights. As a result, the organization is widely recognized as the state’s leading voice for freedom, justice and equality, advocating for those whose rights and liberties have been denied, especially for those most marginalized by society. Lieberman began her public interest legal career as a criminal defense lawyer in the South Bronx office of the Legal Aid Society, and she later acted as executive director of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, UAW. She served on the faculty of the Urban Legal Studies Program at City College for nearly a decade. She appears regularly in local and national news coverage and on op-ed pages throughout the state. She also speaks frequently...
at local and national events on reproductive rights, police practices, freedom of speech, and other civil liberties and civil rights issues. Lieberman graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1970 and earned her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law in 1973.

**Workshop: Stop and Frisk (BLOCK 2)**

**Felipe Luciano, Activist and journalist**
From the late 1960s, when he was founder and chairman of the Young Lords Party, often described as a Puerto Rican equivalent of the Black Panthers, Felipe Luciano has been on the cutting edge of community empowerment and ethnic pride. Now Luciano frequently serves as an adviser to state and local government leaders as well as to corporations. He is the winner of two Emmys and an ACE award for his television work. He is also a successful print and radio journalist as well as a member of the Original Last Poets and a noted authority on Latin music.

**Removing the Bars Concert Produced by Voza Rivers and Jamal Joseph**

**Glenn E. Martin, Vice President of Development and Public Affairs**
Director of the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy
The Fortune Society
Glenn E. Martin is currently the Vice President of Development and Public Affairs and Director of the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy at The Fortune Society, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to the successful reentry and reintegration of individuals with criminal histories. In these roles, Mr. Martin is responsible for developing and advancing Fortune’s criminal justice policy advocacy agenda and providing leadership over the agency’s Development and Communication Units. Mr. Martin works to create partnerships with other advocates and policymakers to advance criminal justice policy reforms that serve to remove practical and statutory roadblocks facing people who are working to reintegrate into society. After serving six years in a NYS prison, Mr. Martin began his career in 2001 at the Legal Action Center (LAC), eventually working his way up to Co-Director of LAC's National H.I.R.E. Network (HIRE), a national project dedicated to eliminating barriers to employment for jobseekers with criminal records. Mr. Martin is a 2011-2012 Americas Leaders of Change Urban Justice Fellow and a member of the Board of the NY Foundation. He also currently serves on the NYC Council Task Force to End Gun Violence, NYS Executive Work for Success Committee, NYS Executive Reentry Housing Committee, NYS Reentry Task Force, National Network for Safe Communities, the DCJS Service Provider Advisory Committee (SPAC), the Steering Committee of Reentry.net, the Correction Committee of the NYC Bar Association (adjunct), the Policy Committee of Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry and Employment (ICARE), the Employment Working Group of the NYC Discharge Planning Initiative, the Board of Directors of the College and Community Fellowship and a number of other boards and working groups addressing issues related to the reintegration of people with criminal records.

**Perspectives of the Formerly Incarcerated Panel (Moderator)**
**Workshop: Society’s Perceptions of the Formerly Incarcerated (BLOCK 2)**

**Bridget Mahoney, LMSW, Forensic Social Worker**
Legal Aid Society, Parole Revocation Defense Unit
Bridget Mahoney, LMSW graduated from the University of Virginia with her BA in Psychology and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with her MSW. She started her social work career as a Therapist and Clinical Social Worker at the National Center for Children and Families’ Innovative Family Connections program in Washington, D.C. She managed a caseload of therapeutic foster care children. After moving to New York City, she began working as a Forensic Social Worker for Legal Aid Society’s Parole Revocation Defense Unit. In this position she advocates for alternatives-to-incarceration for clients charged with violating conditions of parole.

**Workshop: Parole 101 (BLOCK 1)**
Dr. Tina Maschi, LCSW, ACSW, Assistant Professor
Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service
Dr. Tina Maschi is an assistant professor at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service in New York City. She is a 2010 recipient of the competitive Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholars Program Award, which is funded by the Hartford Foundation and the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). She is the principal investigator for the research project, "Trauma, coping resources, and well-being among older adults in prison". She also has received intramural research grants and fellowships for her research. Dr. Maschi also is a 2009 recipient of the Council on Social Work Education’s Faculty Scholar’s Award for the research project for Promising Practices in Social Work Research Education. Dr. Maschi also has over 15 years of clinical social work and research experience in juvenile and criminal justice settings and community mental health settings. She also is a professional musician and integrates the use of creative arts interventions for improving well-being and feelings of community and empowerment among diverse populations, including youth, older adults, women, and professionals in high stress positions. She is currently coordinator of the Human Rights and Social Justice Course Sequence. She teaches research, practice, and the foundation human rights and social justice courses at the Lincoln Center and Westchester Campuses at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service.

Workshop: Aging Behind Bars (BLOCK 1)

Thenjiwe Tameika McHarris, Northeast Field Organizer
Amnesty International
Workshop: Death Penalty – Troy Davis: Continuing the Conversation (BLOCK 2)

Julio Medina, Executive Director, Founder, & CEO
Exodus Transitional Community, Inc.
Under Mr. Medina’s leadership, Exodus Transitional Community (ETC) has served over 3,000 men and women and has become one of the most successful reentry programs throughout the country. Mr. Medina’s work at ETC was highlighted by the President of the U.S. during his State of the Union Speech in 2004 and has worked closely with both the Department of Labor and the Department of Justice in its Prisoner Reentry Faith Based Initiatives. ETC was highlighted at the Mayor’s Conference of Faith Based Initiatives. The work of Julio Medina and ETC has been featured on C-Span, the New York Times, and several other media outlets. While servings his 12 year prison sentence, Mr. Medina’s faith in God and belief in his neighbors forced him to see the layers of pain that existed within each person in prison. He never once heard anyone say they could not wait to come back to prison, rather, he heard many say that they wanted to be good fathers and return to heal some of the damage they caused in their impoverished communities. However, many of the men who left prison with good intentions of remaining free and leaving it in their past returned for a variety of reasons, including lack of employment opportunities, a shortage of housing, and undiagnosed substance abuse issues. Upon his release, Julio pledged to do all in his power to create a safe community and to instill hope in men and women returning home from prison. The creation of ETC is Julio’s fulfillment of his faith and mission. Mr. Medina often returns to various prisons to meet with and listen to the men he left behind, as their faith and encouragement have been the inspiration for ETC and for his own personal transformation. Julio Medina holds a BA from the State University of NY at Albany, a Masters of Divinity from NY Theological Seminary, and is presently a Doctoral candidate in Ministry at NY Theological Seminary; as well as Assistant Director of the Sing Sing Masters of Professional Studies Program. He currently teaches at the NY Theological Seminary at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Auburn, NY.

Perspectives of the Formerly Incarcerated Panel

John Molina, Director of I.M.P.A.C.T.
Exodus Transitional Community
John Molina joined Exodus Transitional Community in February of 2011. Formerly a Senior Counselor at the College Initiative “CI”, a reentry organization that connects ex-offenders with access to post-secondary opportunities, he has an extensive background in public service as a community hath
educator and harm reduction counselor, working primarily with at-risk youth and other vulnerable populations in alternative to incarceration "ATI" programs. Additionally, John volunteers as a counselor at a shelter for homeless LGBTQ youth. Mr. Molina is currently a Masters Degree candidate at NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service and his area of specialization is Non-for-profit Management. John holds a Bachelors degree from Legman College (CUNY) where he majored in Health Services Administration and graduated Summa Cum Laude with presidential Honors.

**Workshop: Role of Education Inside Prison & Successful Reentry (BLOCK 2)**

**Senator Velmantee Montgomery, (D) 18th Senate District**

New York State Senate

Velmanette Montgomery is recognized for her effective leadership and steadfast commitment to her constituents of north and central Brooklyn as well as to New Yorkers statewide. In her role as the Ranking Democrat on the Senate Committee on Children and Families, Senator Montgomery is committed to helping young people achieve positive outcomes through reform of the State's juvenile justice, foster care and adoptive care systems. Senator Montgomery continues to be one of New York's leading proponents of school-based health care as a model system for delivering comprehensive primary and mental health services to children of all ages, in the school setting where youth spend most of their day. The Senator's *Teen Health Agenda* includes legislation that requires, among other things, the teaching of age appropriate, medically accurate sexuality education in kindergarten through 12th grade. Senator Montgomery is the co-sponsor of the law that allows for the certification of nurse practitioners, and she spearheaded the campaign to stem the spread of AIDS among intravenous drug users through legalized needle exchange programs. As a respected advocate for criminal justice reform and a member of the Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction, Senator Montgomery sponsored a law that prevents New Yorkers from being arbitrarily denied a license to barber or practice cosmetology just because they spent time in prison. She also authored a law that prohibits the shackling of a pregnant woman in prison while being transported to the hospital to deliver her baby. Other recent Montgomery laws include a measure that prevent the NYS Office of Children and Families from posting the home address or personal information of day care providers on the Internet; a proposal that provided over $400 million in federal funding for the repair of NYCHA buildings, and a budget initiative that extends the same supportive benefits to grandparents who care for their kin as foster parents receive. She is also the sponsor of the 2010 law that prohibits employers from discriminating in the granting of funeral or bereavement leave to its employees who are in a committed same-sex relationship.

**Voices of Children of Incarcerated Parents Panel**

**Nora Moran, Director**

**Puppies Behind Bars, Dog Tags Program**

Nora Moran served ten years incarcerated at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. She earned a Bachelor's degree through Marymount Manhattan College in 2006, graduating summa cum laude. Nora was released from prison in 2008 and began working as an administrative assistant for Puppies Behind Bars (PBB). Now, four years later, Nora is the Director of PBB's Dog Tags Program that places service dogs with Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. As an instructor for PBB, Nora is also going back into prison twice a week to teach women at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and men at Fishkill Correctional Facility to raise and train their service dog puppies.

**Perspectives of the Formerly Incarcerated Panel**

**Siobhan Morris, LCSW, CASAC, Mitigation Specialist**

**Legal Aid Society, Manhattan Arraignment Diversion Project**

Siobhan Morris has worked with homeless, mentally ill and substance abuse populations since 1996 in a variety of settings ranging from homeless shelter, outpatient psychiatric clinic and city jail: Nativity House homeless shelter (Tacoma, WA), Fountain House (New York City, NY), Rikers Island WINGS Program (East Elmhurst, NY), Coney Island Hospital ACT Team (Brooklyn, NY). Ms. Morris joined the Legal Aid Society (LAS) in March 2005 as a forensic social worker with the Criminal Defense Practice in New York County. In July, 2010, Ms. Morris was promoted to Mitigation Specialist for
the LAS Manhattan Arraignments Diversion Project (MAP). MAP is an innovative, two-year program funded by the Langeloth Foundation. The MAP model teams a social worker with LAS attorney's during the day arraignment shifts. The purpose of MAP is to provide mental health assessments to misdemeanant clients and offer community-based treatment as a solution and in lieu of incarceration. Ms. Morris is a graduate of Hunter College School of Social Work.

**Workshop: Criminalization of People with Mental Illness (BLOCK 2)**

**Reverend Vivian Nixon, Executive Director**
**College and Community Fellowship**

Vivian Nixon is an ordained minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Her current work includes fighting for the removal of barriers to reentry for formerly incarcerated people in the U.S. and advocating for the inclusion of higher education in prison and in reentry. In 2004, she received the “Lifting as We Climb Advocacy Award” from the Correctional Association of NY. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services Administration from the State University of New York, Empire College and is in the process of completing a Master of Liberal Studies, at the same institution. Rev. Nixon is the Director and an alumna of the College and Community Fellowship (CCF). CCF is unique in that it uses higher education and leadership development as primary strategies to help formerly incarcerated women develop economic security for themselves and their families. As a recipient of a Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowship awarded by the Open Society Institute in 2005, she founded ReEnterGrace – a project that employs the talent of formerly incarcerated women & men to reach out to African American faith-based communities and educate them about the disparate impact of U.S. criminal justice policies on people of color, to encourage them to help individuals resettle in the community, and to help them advocate for the elimination of systemic barriers to reentry. Rev. Nixon serves on the advisory boards of the Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College, the Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry and Employment (ICARE), and Reentry Net. Rev. Nixon recently published an essay titled “A Christian Response to Mass Incarceration: Unbind them!” in the Beacon Press anthology “Getting on Message: Challenging the Christian Right from the Heart of the Gospel”.

**Workshop: Role of Education Inside Prison & In Successful Reentry (BLOCK 2)**

**Diana Ortiz, Associate Director**
**Exodus Transitional Community**

Diana Ortiz is Associate Director of Exodus Transitional Community and she is primarily responsible for overseeing the daily operations which includes monitoring budgets and contracts. She also handles community relations for the organization working with elected officials and community leaders as well as other non-profit organizations to spread the word about the important work of reentry. Diana spent almost twenty-three years in prison. While incarcerated, she worked with mothers to help them remain connected to their children and with women in the mental health units. After her release, she worked in entry-level positions and was rapidly promoted to Director of three social service programs for children with parents in prison. In her advocacy work she was effective in changing Executive Law 259i, which now allows people with life on their sentences to apply for discharge from parole. Her passionate engagement and advocacy efforts in the criminal justice system afforded her the opportunity to apply for early parole supervision, which she was granted in 2009. Diana strongly believes that there needs to be a strong face and a presence to help create positive change for men and women in and outside of prison. Thus, she has dedicated herself to being a powerful voice in the battle for successful re-integration from prison. Through her work, she helps create awareness and possibilities for second chances and describes it as her most fulfilling life experience. Diana received an award for her efforts in changing Executive Law 259j from the organization Citizens against Recidivism in 2008. While in prison, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts and a Master's Degree in English Literature.

**Workshop: Parole 101 (BLOCK 1)**

**Lawrence Parham, Upstate Campaigns Manager**
**Citizen Action New York**

**Workshop: Parole 101 (BLOCK 1)**
Jennifer J. Parish, Director of Criminal Justice Advocacy
Mental Health Project, Urban Justice Center
Jennifer J. Parish advocates for discharge planning for people with psychiatric disabilities released from jails and prisons, elimination of the practice of placing people with mental illness in solitary confinement in correctional facilities, and the creation of more alternatives to incarceration for people with psychiatric disabilities involved in the criminal justice system. Jennifer’s work includes systemic litigation, legislative advocacy, and community education. She co-counsels Brad H. v. City of New York, a landmark case which requires New York City to provide discharge planning to people receiving mental health treatment in the City jails. She also organizes a coalition fighting to end the placement of people with mental illness in solitary confinement in state prisons and city jails. In addition, Jennifer co-counsels Clark v. Astrue and Martinez v. Astrue, litigation to combat the Social Security Administration’s policy of depriving disability benefits to people with outstanding warrants. Prior to joining the Urban Justice Center in 2004, Jennifer worked as a public defender with the Legal Aid Society of New York and as a visiting associate clinical professor teaching the Criminal Law Clinic at Cardozo Law School. As a New York City Teaching Fellow, Jennifer taught second grade in a public school in the Bronx. Jennifer received her B.A. from Austin College with a degree in Communication Arts and her J.D. from New York University School of Law.

Workshop: Criminalization of People with Mental Illness (BLOCK 2)

Dr. Divine Pryor, Executive Director
Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions

Workshop: Drug Law: Policy and Reform (BLOCK 1)

Tracy Pugh, Policy Associate
Division of Health Policy, The New York Academy of Medicine
Tracy Pugh joined The New York Academy of Medicine’s Division of Health Policy as a Policy Associate in July 2008. Since coming to NYAM, she leads the successful Health Reentry Project, a statewide taskforce of agencies, advocates and providers working to improve the health of individuals returning home from prison. She is also a key player in NYAM’s efforts to promote a public health and safety approach to drug policy and was instrumental in the design and implementation of the widely attended New Directions for New York drug policy conference and participated actively in efforts to reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws. She continues her work in drug policy at NYAM and in partnership with the Drug Policy Alliance by contributing to the development of a Blueprint to a Public Health and Safety Approach to Drug Policy for New York – a blueprint informed by evidence and community input that will offer recommendations on how to implement a comprehensive, coordinated and balanced approach to drug policy that aligns policy with the needs of communities to improve their health and safety. Ms. Pugh graduated from Cornell University in 2007 with a B.A. in Sociology and has also received her Master of Health Science degree in Health Policy from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in May 2009. Her broad areas of interest have been at the intersection of improving the health of vulnerable populations, health disparities and social justice. Prior to NYAM, Tracy has worked for the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy, as well as, the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation where she interned.

Workshop: Drug Law: Policy and Reform (BLOCK 1)

Markus Redding, Adjunct Professor
Columbia University School of Social Work
Professor Redding teaches a variety of courses at Columbia University and lectures at various institutions on topics related to criminal justice including therapeutic jurisprudence, alternative dispute resolution, problem-solving courts and the critical role of social workers in the judicial system. He has worked as a government and public interest attorney/social worker combining his social policy and legal skills. He has served as a NYS Attorney for the New York State Deputy Chief Administrative Judge and was a Criminal Court Attorney for the NYC Criminal Court Administrative Judge where he concentrated on the design and development of specialized court parts including community, drug, mental health and domestic violence courts. He continues to work in collaboration with the Courts and other organizations to
increase the role of social workers in the court system.

**Workshop: How Do We DE-carcerate? (BLOCK 1)**

**Tina Reynolds, Co-Founder and Chair**  
**Women on the Rise Telling HerStory (WORTH)**  
WORTH is an association of formerly and currently incarcerated women who have been empowered by their own experiences while involved in the criminal justice system and beyond. Through mutual support, leadership development, organizing and telling our stories, WORTH transforms the lives of women who have been directly impacted by incarceration and changes public perception and policy. Reynolds has received a Master in Social Work from Hunter College. She is currently an adjunct professor at York, CUNY in the Psychology Department teaching the "Impact of Incarceration on Families, Communities and Children". She has published pieces on the abolition of prisons, the impact of incarceration on women and children, formerly incarcerated women and policy change and is an editor of an anthology "Interrupted Life: Experiences of Incarcerated Women in the United States".

**Panel: Perspectives of the Formerly Incarcerated (PANEL 1)**

**Kyung Ji “KJ” Rhee, Director**  
**Institute for Juvenile Justice Reform and Alternatives**  
**Workshop: Inside Juvenile Justice: Youth, Jail, & Raising the Age (BLOCK 2)**

**Voza Rivers, Co-Founder/Executive Producer**  
**IMPACT Repertory Theatre**  
Voza Rivers is a leading African-American theater, music, and events producer as well as an award winning documentary filmmaker. Presently, Rivers is Chairman/CEO VOZ Entertainment Group; Executive Producer/Founding Member, New Heritage Theatre Group (f/k/a/ Roger Furman Theatre, New York City’s oldest Black not-for-profit theater); Co-Founder/Executive Producer, IMPACT Repertory Theatre; Executive Producer, Harlem Week and the Harlem Jazz & Music Festival; Co-Chairman, Community Works an arts and education program servicing 250,000 New York City students and adults annually and Chairman of the Harlem Arts Alliance, a cultural service organization of 400 members, including not-for-profit and for-profit cultural institutions, performing and visual artists, filmmakers, directors, playwrights, choreographers, technicians, designers, colleges, churches, museums, taverns and other creative persons and organizations who create cultural events for Harlemites, tourists and tri-state residents that attracts an audience in excess of 2 million. As Executive Producer, Rivers produces all of the major events for Harlem Week, the Harlem Jazz & Music Festival and the National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame Annual Gala. As a skilled entertainment professional, He has produced and co-produced numerous theatre, music and television projects, film festivals; music tributes.

**Removing the Bars Concert Produced by Voza Rivers and Jamal Joseph**

**Sharon Richardson, Reentry Specialist**  
**STEPS to End Family Violence**  
Sharon Richardson is a member of the Coalition for Women Prisoners and a domestic violence survivor. Sharon spent 20 years in prison for a domestic violence-related case, and is now a domestic violence advocate and re-entry specialist at STEPS to End Family Violence, the state’s only Alternative-to-Incarceration program for survivors of violence who get involved with the criminal justice system due to the abuse that they experienced. Sharon has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Marymount Manhattan College, and has completed four units of clinical pastoral education. Sharon currently owns her own business, travels around the state as a motivational speaker, and is working on a book about her life experiences. One of her long-term goals is to obtain a Master Degree in Divinity Studies.

**Workshop: Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (BLOCK 1)**
Nicole Rochat, LMSW, Director of Social Work/Reentry  
Office of the Appellate Defender
Nicole Rochat has been the Director of Social Work/Reentry at Office of the Appellate Defender since 2011. Prior to her work at OAD, she has worked in a variety of capacities, including Adjunct Professor at Hunter College School of Social Work, Forensic Social Worker at the Legal Aid Society Criminal Practice, Clinical Therapist at St. Vincent's Services, Social Work Supervisor at Harlem Children’s Zone, Case Management Supervisor at Citizen’s Advice Bureau, and Youth Employment Specialist and Director of Mentoring at The Children’s Aid Society. Nicole earned her Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Appalachian State University in 1996 and her Masters of Social Work from Hunter College in 2004.

Workshop: Know Your Rights and Reentry (BLOCK 1)

Sheila Rule, Co-Founder  
Think Outside the Cell Foundation
Sheila Rule is co-founder of the Think Outside the Cell Foundation, which seeks to end the stigma of incarceration and help those who’ve been in prison and their families through programs focusing on literacy, education and personal development. The foundation and its publishing arm, Resilience Multimedia, have received grants from the Ford Foundation for two projects: the Think Outside the Cell Series, anthologies that feature real-life stories by the incarcerated, the formerly incarcerated and their families, and a 2011 national symposium on issues affecting this population. Resilience’s first book was the well-received Think Outside the Cell: An Entrepreneur’s Guide for the Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated, by Joseph Robinson, Sheila’s husband, who co-founded the Think Outside the Cell Foundation with her. Sheila’s journey to her current work began when she volunteered with the Riverside Church Prison Ministry and was asked to correspond with people in prison. Although typically viewed as frightening stereotypes, the people she came to know through letters had extraordinary potential. Inspired by their humanity, Sheila started Resilience Multimedia in order to present a fairer image of this population. Her foundation grew out of the publishing efforts. Sheila was a journalist at The New York Times for more than 30 years, seven of them as a foreign correspondent in Africa and Europe; she was a senior editor when she retired in 2008. She continues to volunteer with Riverside’s Prison Ministry, and she is a longtime board member of Good Shepherd Services, a leading NYC social services agency serving vulnerable children and families.

Workshop: Maintaining a Relationship with an Incarcerated Loved One (BLOCK 1)

Annie Salsich, Director of Center on Youth Justice  
Vera Institute of Justice
Annie Salsich is the Director of Vera Institute’s Center on Youth Justice. The Center promotes the well-being and safety of youth, families, and communities by working with government to make juvenile justice systems equitable and humane in policy and practice. Annie has provided technical assistance and support to numerous jurisdictions across the United States. She has specifically focused her work in three areas: (1) helping localities divert status offenders from court; (2) assisting jurisdictions to design and implement reforms that reduce reliance on pre-adjudication detention, decrease local and state expenditures, and provide more substantively sound outcomes for young people and their families through community-based detention alternatives; and (3) provide strategic planning support to officials interested in improving their juvenile placement (or post-dispositional) systems by keeping youth at home and in their communities when public safety permits. Annie is co-author of Widening the Lens: A Panoramic View of Juvenile Justice in New York State and Juvenile Detention Reform in New York City: Measuring Risk through Research, among other reports. Annie received a BA from Vassar College and a MSW from Hunter College.

Workshop: Inside Juvenile Justice: Youth, Jail, & Raising the Age (BLOCK 2)

Jesenia A. Santana, MIA, Supervisor of Client Advocacy Services  
Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families
Jesenia A. Santana is the Supervisor of Client Advocacy Services and Senior Policy Advisor at STEPS to End Family Violence. As supervisor, she oversees
the advocacy needs of clients in the non-residential program by assessing safety, housing, benefits, civil/criminal court involvement, economic empowerment and other critical needs of clients. Additionally, she analyzes current policies that affects survivors at the margins and STEPS positioning on the specific policy issue. For two years prior to this position, Jesenia served Legal Services Coordinator for STEPS’ Alternatives to Incarceration Program, New York’s only alternative-to-incarceration program designed specifically for domestic violence survivors. As Coordinator, Jesenia supervised legal and social work interns in the provision of trauma-informed advocacy for clients and maintained STEPS’ legal resource database. For five years prior to coordinating legal services, Jesenia served as Senior Court Advocate/Counselor at STEPS where she facilitated therapy groups for trauma survivors, held individual counseling sessions with clients and consulted with attorneys on theories of criminal cases including the effects of battering on survivors of abuse. Jesenia is the Co-Chair of the Violence Against Women Committee of the Coalition for Women Prisoners. She holds a Master of International Affairs with a Concentration in Human Rights from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and received her bachelor’s degree from Wesleyan University (dual major: Latin American Studies and Political Theory).

**Workshop: Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (BLOCK 1)**

**Gabriel Sayegh, State Director**  
**New York Drug Policy Action**

Gabriel Sayegh joined DPA in 2003 and has directed the New York state office since 2005. Prior to joining DPA, Sayegh was staff in the Washington State Senate and worked as an organizer focused on global trade agreements and reforming the U.S. prison system.

**Workshop: Drug Policy: Policy & Reform (BLOCK 1)**

**Silky Shah, Field Director**  
**Detention Watch Network**

**Workshop: How Do We DE-carcerate? (BLOCK 1)**

**Susan Sturm, Director of the Center for Institutional and Social Change**  
**Professor of Law and Social Responsibility, Columbia Law School**

Susan Sturm is the George M. Jaffin Professor of Law and Social Responsibility and the founding director of the Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia Law School. She has published numerous articles, case studies and books on “the architecture of inclusion,” institutional change, transformative leadership, workplace equality, legal education, and inclusion and diversity in higher education. Her recent publications include: Scaling Up (2010); Negotiating Workplace Equality (2008); Conflict Resolution and Systemic Change (with Howard Gadlin, 2007); The Architecture of Inclusion: Advancing Workplace Equity in Higher Education (2006); Law’s Role in Addressing Complex Discrimination (2005); Equality and the Forms of Justice (2004); Lawyers and the Practice of Workplace Equity (2002); Second Generation Employment Discrimination: A Structural Approach, (2001); and Who’s Qualified? (with Lani Guinier, 2001). “The Architecture of Inclusion” was the focus of a symposium issue published in the June 2007 issue of the Harvard Journal of Law and Gender. Sturm is the principal investigator for a Ford Foundation grant awarded to develop the architecture of inclusion in higher education. She has worked with numerous research and educational organizations and networks seeking to build the knowledge and capacity needed to advance full participation and exercise leadership in addressing important problems. She is currently co-chairing a working group on Transformative Leadership, as part of a Ford Foundation funded project on Building Knowledge for Social Justice. Her research on strategies for facilitating constructive multi-racial interaction in police training is featured on the Racetalks website, www.racetalks.org. Professor Sturm was one of the architects of the national conference on The Future of Diversity and Opportunity in Higher Education. In 2007, she received the Presidential Teaching Award for Outstanding Teaching at Columbia.

**Workshop: Role of Education Inside Prison & In Successful Reentry (BLOCK 2)**
Gabriel Torres-Rivera, J.D., Director of New York Reentry Roundtable
Community Service Society

Gabriel Torres Rivera first joined CSS in 2000 to head the nonpartisan voter registration campaign. Since 2005, he has directed the CSS Reentry Initiative, chairing monthly Reentry Roundtable meetings to determine what policies and resources are necessary to facilitate the successful reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals back into their communities. On May 22, 2007, Torres Rivera led more than 100 advocates of prisoner reentry to Albany to discuss Reentry Roundtable legislative proposals affecting the formerly incarcerated with legislators and staff of key committees overseeing correctional issues. Prior to joining CSS, Gabe worked with the Center for Constitutional Rights as coordinator of the Movement Support Resource Network focusing on issues surrounding police brutality in New York and nationally. Lastly, he served as a spokesperson for Amnesty International, speaking at 19 colleges and universities throughout Europe including Oxford, Cambridge and the University of Dublin. Mr. Torres Rivera has a Bachelor of Science in Education from City College and a Juris Doctor from the City University of New York Law School at Queens College.

Workshop: Supermaxes and Solitary Confinement (BLOCK 1)

Justin Tullius, Senior Program Associate
Vera Institute of Justice

Justin Tullius is a Senior Program Associate at the Vera Institute of Justice. From 2008 to 2011, Justin was an immigration defense attorney at the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) in San Antonio, Texas, where he represented detained people in asylum cases, cancellation of removal, and other defenses before the immigration court and provided legal rights orientations at county jails and immigration detention facilities. Justin was a founding staff attorney in the RAICES Unaccompanied Immigrant Children Legal Access Program, providing legal screenings to immigrant minors in counties throughout South Texas while recruiting, training, and mentoring pro bono attorneys to represent them in their immigration cases. Previously, Justin represented workers in the construction, cleaning and other service industries in federal and state wage claims as an employment litigation attorney at the Equal Justice Center in Austin, Texas. He is licensed to practice in Texas and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the San Antonio Bar Association. Justin studied law in Mexico City and Austin, where he received his JD from the University of Texas School of Law.

Workshop: Immigration & Criminal Justice: The Intersection (BLOCK 1)

Jaya Vasandani, Acting Director
Women Prison Project, The Correctional Association

Jaya Vasandani is the Associate Director of the Women in Prison Project at the Correctional Association of NY (CA), where she helps to spearhead the Project’s policy advocacy and prison monitoring program. Prior coming to the CA, Jaya worked in the field of federal and state policy advocacy on women’s rights issues, as a Policy Associate at the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (now Legal Momentum), and the Center for Women Policy Studies, in Washington, DC. In 2010, Jaya received her J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law while litigating against the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) and represented individuals facing deportation for criminal convictions. Jaya received her Bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service in 2001.

Workshop: Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (BLOCK 1)

Marie Verzulli, Vice President
Capital District Coalition for Crime Victims Rights

Marie Verzulli is the victim/survivor advocate for New Yorkers for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. Because the needs of victims and survivors are many, Marie’s work focuses on filling the gaps in services and on empowering victims to advocate for programs that address the root causes of crime and violence. Marie currently serves on the Restorative Justice Commission of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese, Murder Victims’ Families For Human Rights Executive Board Member, Center for Community Justice Board Member, CURE NY Board Member and is on the advisory committee of the downstate parole reform and prison re-entry project. Marie is the founder and director...
of Family and Friends of Homicide Victims. In January ’08, Marie and her mother participated in a victim-offender dialogue with her sister Cathy’s killer. Marie, who dedicates her work to Cathy’s memory, believes that ethical, non-violent solutions represent our best hope of reducing violent crime.

**Workshop: Restorative Justice (BLOCK 2)**

**Chia-Chia Wang, Civic Participation Coordinator**  
American Friends Service Committee Immigrant Rights Program

**Workshop: Immigration & Criminal Justice: The Intersection (BLOCK 1)**

**Elise White, Deputy Project Director**  
Midtown Community Court, Center for Court Innovation

Elise White is the Deputy Project Director at the Midtown Community Court, the country’s first problem-solving court and a project of the Center for Court Innovation. In this capacity, Ms. White directs the court’s clinical and workforce development operations, as well as its research and planning projects. Prior to joining the MCC team, Ms. White was the Director of Youth and Community Justice at the Red Hook Community Justice Center, where she oversaw court operations and programming for youth 21 and under, as well as planning projects and new initiatives for young people and the community at large. She received her B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis and is a doctoral candidate in American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Workshop: How Do We DE-carcerate? (BLOCK 1)**

**Larry White, Community Advocate and Policy Liaison**  
David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy, Fortune Society

Larry White has worked to hold leaders of the Correctional system accountable, requiring that they are more responsive to the communities and the people that are most impacted by the criminal justice system. Furthermore, Mr. White works constantly to impact the lives of formerly incarcerated people by assisting in the development and advancement of Fortune’s criminal justice policy advocacy agenda. He is also active in creating various opportunities for staff, clients, and constituents to engage policy-makers to impact criminal justice policy reform. Prior to this position, during his 32 years of imprisonment, Mr. White served as a founder and chairman of a number of reform organizations whose missions were to assist individuals within the custody of the New York State Department of Correctional Services (NYDOCS) in rehabilitation efforts. As a program developer and facilitator with NYSDOCS, Mr. White developed correctional empowerment programs designed to address the problems of prison adjustment from a cultural perspective. Mr. White was also a primary advocate for prison college education; he sponsored study groups for both the elderly and the general community, and contributed to the creation of programs that included the Alternative to Violence Program. The expanded number of organizations and study groups found in maximum security state prisons are a direct result of Mr. White’s dedicated efforts. He also worked to organize the first lifer organization and collaborated in the founding of the first prison chapter of the NAACP in New York State at Auburn Prison in 1970. Mr. White played a key role in the success of the Annual Family Empowerment events hosted by the Prison Action Network (for which Mr. White serves as Primary Advocate), which work to mobilize the families and supporters of those incarcerated in New York state prisons. Organized around the burning issue of parole, the Fourth Annual Family Empowerment Day at Columbia University culminated in the founding of the Coalition for Fair Criminal Justice Policies, a community-based organization composed of the families and supporters who seek input in the development of state parole and correctional policies. Through the Doing Justice Coalition, he motivates interfaith groups to get involved in political action in order to minister more concretely to those in prison. Mr. White serves as Advisor to the Religious Society of Friends Prison Committee and is the Director of Hope Lives for Lifers Project, a start-up program that provides guidance and direction to incarcerated individuals serving life, long-term and life-without-parole sentences, as well as for those who require special orientation programs and adjustment services that encourage them to live purposeful and productive lives while in prison.

**Workshop: Aging Behind Bars (BLOCK 1)**
Judy Yu, Associate Director LGBTQ Issues
Juvenile Justice Project, The Correctional Association

Judy Yu is currently the Associate Director of LGBTQ Youth Issues at the Juvenile Justice Project (JJP) of the Correctional Association of New York. In this position she advocates for the rights and safety of court involved and incarcerated LGBTQ youth, including the development and management of a groundbreaking initiative to evaluate the safety of incarcerated LGBTQ young people. She also serves as co-chair of the LGBTQ Working Group of the Juvenile Justice Coalition, a statewide youth justice advocacy organization coordinated by the JJP. Previously, Judy served as Director of Programs at APEX, an organization serving low-income predominantly immigrant Asian American youth in New York City. She spent six years at the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) Program of the NYC Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, where she helped design and oversee health education and arts programming for LGBTQ youth. While at YES she also managed a program that provided professional development training, student workshops, and technical assistance to New York City public schools on LGBTQ issues. Judy has also worked as an advocate for domestic violence survivors and their children at The Safe Homes Project in Brooklyn. She holds an MPH and an MFA, and is a writer who has taught writing workshops at community and after school programs.

Workshop: LGBTQ in Prison (BLOCK 2)