Matthew W. Epperson is an Associate Professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Smart Decarceration Initiative. His research centers on developing, implementing, and evaluating interventions to reduce disparities in the criminal justice system. His primary area of focus is understanding and addressing person- and place-level risk factors for criminal justice involvement among persons with mental illnesses. Professor Epperson’s interests also include developing conceptual, evidence-based approaches to effective and sustainable decarceration. His scholarship and teaching aim to build and advance the capacity of the social work profession to address these challenges and opportunities for criminal justice transformation. He is Co-Leader of the Promote Smart Decarceration network, through the Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative. He has over 15 years of clinical and administrative social work experience in behavioral health and criminal justice settings.

Carrie Pettus-Davis is an Assistant Professor in the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, Director of the Institute for Advancing Justice Research and Innovation, and Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Smart Decarceration Initiative. She has an active portfolio of research and direct practice experience centered on criminal justice. Her work in this area has earned her several awards including a prestigious Impact Award for conducting research of high significance. Dr. Pettus-Davis focuses her research on decarceration of American prisons and jails through policy reform and behavioral intervention development. Dr. Pettus-Davis is particularly interested in the ways in which policies can be transformed to reduce racial and economic disparities within the criminal justice system. She concentrates her behavioral intervention research on working with community partners to develop and test interventions to enhance supports and well-being for justice-involved adults and their loved ones.

THE SMART DECARCERATION INITIATIVE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE SDI 2ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM

Sean Blackwell  
Matt Epperson  
Annie Grier  
Julie Jung  
Jarrett Langfitt  
Heidi Nagel

Carrie Pettus-Davis  
Ameenah Rashid  
Leann Sawh  
Khryrah Simpson  
Carmella Snook  
Maureen Stimming  
Paula Tsurutani

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the Smart Decarceration Initiative’s second national conference, Tools & Tactics: Promising Solutions to Advance the Era of Smart Decarceration. Thank you for making the commitment to spend your time here and for your continued efforts to sustain the momentum we have achieved to date in the growing decarceration movement.

The aim of the Smart Decarceration Initiative is to build social capacity to reduce incarceration rates in ways that are effective, sustainable, and socially just. Smart decarceration will be met when three outcomes are achieved: the incarcerated population is substantially reduced; racial, economic, and behavioral health disparities are redressed; and public safety and well-being are enhanced. We pursue these outcomes by partnering with the community to implement and evaluate innovations at the front end of the criminal justice system and by preparing the profession of social work for leadership in smart decarceration strategies.

The goal of this conference is to promote the integration of research, practice, and policy into the building—and sustaining—of smart decarceration approaches. The conference will include a variety of forums in order to engage public and attendee perspectives. To that end, conference activities include public events, keynote addresses, and panels and breakout sessions with national experts, people with lived experience, policy makers, and advocates who are actively engaged in the decarceration movement.

Over the next two days, we challenge you to actively engage with your fellow conference participants and to ask each other questions and to share ideas, reflecting on what is being presented. Next, we challenge you to take these ideas home with you and find ways to put them into practice in your daily work.

Given the current political climate, it is all the more important that the work of the decarceration movement intensifies and builds. Smart decarceration remains not only a possibility, but also a critically important social, financial, and public safety goal. We know this will only be achieved by bringing together inspiring thinkers and leaders like you to engage in research-practice-policy partnerships for reform.

We look forward to an engaging and productive conference with you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Epperson  
Carrie Pettus-Davis

sdi@ssa.uchicago.edu  
smartdecarceration.org  
@SmartDecar

#SmartDecar17
AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

6:00 - 8:00 pm KICKOFF EVENT – “A Conversation with Susan Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women”

6:00 - 6:30 pm Opening Reception

6:30 - 7:30 pm Presentation
Susan Burton, Author of “Becoming Ms. Burton” and Founder & Executive Director, A New Way of Life Re-entry Project
Reuben Jonathan Miller, Assistant Professor, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

7:30 - 8:00 pm Closing Reception

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

8:30 am Registration and Breakfast

8:30 - 8:40 am Welcoming Remarks
Deborah Gorman-Smith, Emily Klein Gidwitz Professor and interim Dean, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

8:40 - 9:05 am Conference Opening Address
Matthew Epperson, Associate Professor, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and Co-Founder & Co-Director, Smart Decarceration Initiative
Carrie Pettus-Davis, Assistant Professor, Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis and Co-Founder & Co-Director, Smart Decarceration Initiative

9:05 - 9:50 am Morning Keynote Presentation
Karol V. Mason, President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Former United States Assistant Attorney General

9:50 - 10:00 am BREAK

10:00 - 10:30 am Special Address to the Smart Decarceration Conference
Richard J. Durbin, Senior U.S. Senator from Illinois

10:30am - 12:00 pm Panel 1: Implementing Decarceration-focused Policy Innovations
Katie Hill, Director of Policy, Research, and Development, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office
Marc Levin, Director, Center for Effective Justice & Right on Crime, Texas Public Policy Foundation
Kristy Pierce Danford, Project Director, Charleston County (South Carolina) Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Charles E. Lewis, Jr. (moderator), President, Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy

12:00 - 1:20 pm Lunch and Breakout Sessions (Room assignments will be posted. See page 7 and 8 for a list of breakout sessions)

1:30 - 3:00 pm Panel 2: Addressing Violence and Criminal Justice Reform in Chicago
Toni Preckwinkle, Board President, Cook County, Illinois
Daniel Cooper, Executive Director, Center for Equitable Cities, Adler University
Curtis Toler, Community Change Leader, Chicago CRED
Paula Wolff (moderator), Director, Illinois Justice Project

3:00 - 3:15 pm BREAK

3:15 - 4:00 pm Afternoon Keynote Presentation
Marc Mauer, Executive Director, The Sentencing Project

4.00 - 5:30 pm Panel 3: Driving Change: People Most Impacted by Incarceration
Alec Karakatsanis, Founder & Executive Director, Civil Rights Corps
Aqeela Sherrills, National Training Director, Alliance for Safety and Justice
Khalil Cumberbatch, Associate Vice President of Policy, The Fortune Society
Azadeh Zohrabi (moderator), Director of Development, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children/All of Us or None

5.30 - 6:15 pm Reception
Shuttles will depart from School of Social Service Administration building to Rockefeller Chapel for the Shaun King event

7:00 - 8:15 pm An Evening with Shaun King: How to Fight for Justice and Win
Rockefeller Memorial Chapel (5850 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637)
### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:00 am</td>
<td>BREAKFAST</td>
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| 9:00 - 10:30 am | Panel 4: Reducing Behavioral Health Inequities in the Criminal Justice System  
\hspace{1cm} Nancy Wolff, Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University  
\hspace{1cm} Amy Blank Wilson, Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina School of Social Work  
\hspace{1cm} Jason Jones, Police Officer & Coordinator, Crisis Intervention Team, Portland (Oregon) Police Bureau  
\hspace{1cm} Pam Rodriguez (moderator), President & CEO, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) |
| 10:30am - 12:00 pm | Panel 5: Organizing for Decarceration  
\hspace{1cm} Janos Marton, Director of Policy & Campaigns, JustLeadershipUSA  
\hspace{1cm} Stephen Tripodi, Doctoral Program Director & Associate Professor, Florida State University College of Social Work  
\hspace{1cm} Gina Fedock, Assistant Professor, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration  
\hspace{1cm} Jo-Ann Wallace, President & CEO, National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
\hspace{1cm} Michael Sherraden (moderator), George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor and Founder & Director of the Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis |
| 12:00 - 1:15 pm | Keynote Presentation (Lunch served before presentation)  
\hspace{1cm} Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr., Clinical Professor of Law & Director, Criminal Justice Institute  
\hspace{1cm} Harvard Law School |
| 1:15 - 1:30 pm | Closing Remarks  
\hspace{1cm} Matt Epperson and Carrie Pettus-Davis |

### Lunch Breakout Sessions (Friday, November 3)

Breakout sessions take place at 12:00 noon on Friday, November 3, and will be approximately 80 minutes in length. Grab a boxed lunch and head to the session of your choice. Room assignments will be posted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakout 1</th>
<th>Reinvesting Resources To Achieve Decarceration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|            | Lindsey LaPointe  
\hspace{1cm} Senior Project Manager for Justice Reform Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) |
|            | Sharlyn Grace  
\hspace{1cm} Senior Criminal Justice Policy Analyst and Staff Attorney  
\hspace{1cm} Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice |
|            | Ryan K. Priester  
\hspace{1cm} Director, Community Programs  
\hspace{1cm} Office of Civic Engagement  
\hspace{1cm} The University of Chicago |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakout 2</th>
<th>Court-Based Innovations For Reform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|            | McAngel Cody  
\hspace{1cm} Founder & Director  
\hspace{1cm} The Decarceration Collective |
|            | Peter Coleson  
\hspace{1cm} Court Administrator, Criminal Division  
\hspace{1cm} George N. Leighton Criminal Courthouse  
\hspace{1cm} Circuit Court of Cook County |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakout 3</th>
<th>Advocating For Those Who Have Been Incarcerated</th>
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</table>
|            | W. Kendric Berry  
\hspace{1cm} Senior Paralegal  
\hspace{1cm} Winston & Strawn LLP |
|            | Augie M. Torres  
\hspace{1cm} Business Development  
\hspace{1cm} Edovo: Unlock Potential |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakout 4</th>
<th>Conducting Research On Decarceration-Focused Criminal Justice Interventions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|            | Sophia P. Sarantakos  
\hspace{1cm} PhD Student  
\hspace{1cm} The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration |
|            | Julian Thompson  
\hspace{1cm} PhD Candidate  
\hspace{1cm} The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration |
Susan Burton
Founder and Executive Director, A New Way of Life Re-entry Project

Susan Burton is widely recognized as a leader in the national criminal justice reform movement. After her five-year-old son was accidentally hit and killed by a car, she numbed her grief through alcohol and drugs. As a result, she became ensnared in the criminal justice system for nearly two decades before finding freedom and sobriety in 1997. Drawing on her personal experiences, she founded A New Way of Life Re-entry Project in 1998, dedicating her life to helping others break the cycle of incarceration. A New Way of Life provides housing, case management, employment, legal services, leadership development, and community organizing on behalf of, and with, people who struggle to rebuild their lives after incarceration.

A past Soros Justice Fellow, Women’s Policy Institute Fellow, and Community Fellow under the California Wellness Foundation’s Violence Prevention Initiative, Burton has served on California’s Little Hoover Commission and the Gender Responsive Strategies Task Force. In recognition of her leadership, she was appointed by Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas as a member of the Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections. In this role she is authorized to inspect Los Angeles County correctional facilities and advocate for the health and well-being of people housed in the facilities.

Burton is a co-founder of All of Us or None and the Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted People’s Movement (FICPM), both national grassroots civil rights movements composed of formerly incarcerated individuals, their families, and community allies. With UCLA’s Critical Race Studies Program, she launched the Employment Rights Re-Entry Legal Clinic which has grown to be the largest of its kind in Southern California. In 2010, she was named a CNN Top Ten Hero and received the prestigious Citizen Activist Award from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She received both the Encore Purpose Prize (2012) and a James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award (2014). In 2015, on the 50th Anniversary of Selma and the Voting Rights Act, Burton was named by the Los Angeles Times as one of 18 New Civil Rights Leaders in the nation. A New Way of Life was recently honored with a Ford Freedom Unsung Award that salutes “organizations that have positively impacted communities with achievements that inform and inspire others.”

Shaun King
Writer and Activist

Shaun King is one of many voices—though an increasingly prominent voice—within the Black Lives Matter movement. By using social media to highlight, amplify, and discuss news of police brutality, racial discrimination, and other civil rights issues, King has become an indispensable source for extending crucial conversations about social justice and equality.

Shaun King has written extensively about the Black Lives Matter movement, covering discrimination, police brutality, the prison industrial complex, and social justice in the wake of violence in New York, Baltimore, Cleveland, Ferguson, Missouri, Charleston, South Carolina, and other cities. He is now the Writer-in-Residence at Harvard Law School’s Fair Punishment Project as well as a columnist at The Intercept. In his position as Senior Justice Writer at The New York Daily News, King wrote over 530 columns. He is a regular political commentator for The Young Turks and on the Tom Joyner Morning Show, and was formerly the Justice Writer for Daily Kos. Widely known for using Twitter and Facebook to tell micro-stories of injustice, King’s social media updates have influenced how the world knows about those most affected by racism and police brutality. A strong advocate for families, Shaun has become an extremely visible fundraiser for victims of injustice. As a social entrepreneur, King worked as the CEO and founder of both TwitChange (which won the Mashable Award for the Most Creative Social Good Campaign) and HopeVolo, whose social media footprint grew to become one of the 10 largest of any charity. King is the author of The Power of 1001.
Marc Mauer
Executive Director, The Sentencing Project
Marc Mauer is one of the country’s leading experts on sentencing policy, race, and the criminal justice system. He serves as Executive Director of The Sentencing Project, a national nonprofit organization engaged in research and advocacy on criminal justice policy. Mauer has written extensively and testified before Congress and other legislative bodies. His critically acclaimed book, Race to Incarcerate, and other legislative bodies. His critically acclaimed book, Race to Incarcerate, was named a semifinalist for the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, and he is the co-editor of Invisible Punishment, a collection of essays that examine the social costs of incarceration. Mauer frequently lectures before a broad range of national and international audiences, appears regularly on television and radio networks, and has served as an adjunct faculty member at George Washington University and Payne Theological Seminary.

Ronald S. Sullivan, Jr.
Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Criminal Justice Institute, Harvard Law School
Ronald Sullivan is a leading theorist in the areas of criminal law, criminal procedure, trial practice and techniques, legal ethics, and race theory. He is the faculty director of the Harvard Criminal Justice Institute and the Harvard Trial Advocacy Workshop. Professor Sullivan also serves as Faculty Dean of Winthrop House at Harvard College, the first African American ever appointed Faculty Dean in Harvard’s history, and is a founding member and Senior Fellow of the Jamestown Project.

In 2014, Professor Sullivan was tasked to design and implement a Conviction Review Unit (“CRU”) for the newly elected Brooklyn District Attorney. The CRU, designed to identify and exonerate wrongfully convicted persons, quickly became regarded as the model conviction integrity program in the nation. In its first year of operation, Professor Sullivan discovered over ten wrongful convictions, which the DA ultimately vacated. Some of the exonerated citizens had served more than 30 years in prison before they were released.

He has served as Chair of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee for then-Senator Barack Obama’s presidential campaign, as a member of the National Legal Advisory Group for the Barack Obama Presidential Campaign, and as Advisor to the Department of Justice Presidential Transition Team. Following Hurricane Katrina, Professor Sullivan was asked to create a system to solve a criminal justice crisis created when over 6,000 citizens were incarcerated in and around New Orleans without representation and with all official records destroyed. In response, Professor Sullivan designed an indigent defense delivery system that resulted in the release of nearly all the inmates.

Professor Sullivan continues to maintain an appellate and trial practice, representing such clients as the family of Michael Brown, former New England Patriot Aaron Hernandez, and the family of Usamaah Rahim. He has provided legal commentary for all the major networks, been quoted in the nation’s leading newspapers and periodicals, and has testified before the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on numerous occasions. Professor Sullivan is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College and the Harvard Law School, where he served as President of the Harvard Black Law Students Association and as General Editor of the Harvard BlackLetter Law Journal.
Daniel Cooper
Executive Director, Center for Equitable Cities, Adler University

Daniel Cooper, PhD, is the Executive Director of Adler University’s Center for Equitable Cities, which conducts applied research on the intersecting forms of inequality across urban space. For the past 15 years, he has worked with community-based organizations on issues such as violence prevention, community and economic development, justice system reform, civic engagement, prisoner reentry, health equity, affordable housing, and program development and evaluation. He received his PhD from Vanderbilt University in Community Research and Action. He also holds a Master of Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Khalil Cumberbatch
Associate Vice President of Policy, The Fortune Society

Khalil Cumberbatch is the Associate Vice President of Policy at the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy where he leads The Fortune Society’s advocacy, policy, research, and community education efforts. Cumberbatch is a formerly incarcerated national advocate for social justice issues. He graduated from CUNY Herbert H. Lehman College in 2014, where he was awarded the Urban Justice Award for his work with underserved and marginalized communities that have ineffective access to social “safety nets.” Cumberbatch previously served as Manager of Training at JustleadershipUSA, advancing campaigns to reduce mass incarceration. Cumberbatch also serves as a lecturer at Columbia University School of Social Work.

Kristy Pierce Danford
Project Director, Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Kristy Pierce Danford facilitates collaborative efforts among local justice system leaders and community representatives working to improve Charleston County’s criminal justice system. As a result of her dedication to improving public safety and the administration of justice through evidence-based and cost-effective means, she has served in a variety of jurisdictions. She has served as a probation and parole agent in South Carolina, a court administrator in Connecticut, and nationally as a Senior Associate with the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI), a nonprofit, nonpartisan dedicated to improving public safety and justice. Her work focuses on state and local policy reform as well as guiding transformational changes within justice organizations seeking improved outcomes. She holds a MPA degree with a concentration in Urban Affairs from the College of Charleston, a graduate certificate in Public and Nonprofit Administration from the University of Connecticut, and a BS degree from Charleston Southern University.

Gina Fedock
Assistant Professor, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

Gina Fedock, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. Her work focuses on improving women’s mental health and spans the boundaries of public health, criminal justice, law, and social work. Her research includes implementing, testing, and evaluating interventions that are designed to improve the quality of women’s mental health within correctional settings and investigating racial disparities within women’s prisons. In addition, her work expands a trauma-informed framework of understanding and addressing women’s mental health needs. She integrates women’s experiences of gender-based violence, such as staff sexual misconduct and intimate partner violence, into her research. Through a human rights framework, her work incorporates advocacy for addressing social injustices in order to improve women’s health and well-being.

Deborah Gorman-Smith
Interim Dean and Emily Gidwitz Professor
University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

Deborah Gorman-Smith, PhD, is the Emily Klein Gidwitz Professor and interim Dean of the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. She is the Principal Investigator and director of the Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention, one of six national Academic Centers of Excellence funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her program of research, grounded in a public health perspective, is focused on advancing knowledge about development, risk, and prevention of aggression and violence, with specific focus on minority youth living in high-burden urban communities. Gorman-Smith is the past President for the Society for Prevention Research and has served on other national and state committees, including the Board of Scientific Counselors and the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control. She received her PhD in Clinical Developmental Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Katie Hill
Director of Policy, Research, and Development, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office

Katie Hill is responsible for the development and implementation of major policy initiatives in the country’s second-largest prosecutor’s office, including efforts around bond reform, increasing community-based treatment, and addressing wrongful convictions. Prior to joining the State’s Attorney, she served as Senior Advisor and Counsel in the Chicago Mayor’s Office, working on issues relating to violence prevention, juvenile justice, and police reform. A former public defender, she has spent her legal career in Chicago working on issues related to the justice system.

Jason Jones
Police Officer/Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator, Portland Police Bureau

Jason Jones is the Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator for the Portland (Oregon) Police Bureau and has served as a police officer since 1999. He has devoted his career to crisis intervention, community policing, youth delinquency prevention programs, homeless outreach and empowering domestic violence survivors. Prior to police service, he worked in community corrections as a probation officer, specializing in collaborative-based programs. Jones currently serves as an adjunct instructor at area community colleges and two universities where he has developed curriculum for over 25 courses. He also assists as an instructor with the Portland Police Bureau’s Training Division and the State of Oregon’s Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. In his spare time, Jones works as a consultant on international development projects, focusing on social crime prevention, justice, and public safety initiatives. He holds an MA in Behavioral Science from California State University at Dominguez Hills.
Janos Marton is the Director of Policy and Campaigns at JustLeadershipUSA, where he manages the campaign to #CLOSERikers and other initiatives focused on ending mass incarceration. Before joining JustLeadershipUSA, Marton worked on police accountability in New York City government and served as special counsel to the Moreland Commission, which investigated corruption in New York State government. Marton began his career as an attorney, working on civil rights cases for Siegel, Teitelbaum & Evans. A New York City native, Marton graduated from Yale College with a degree in Ethics, Politics, & Economics and Harvard Law School, where he was a Supreme Court Chair of the Harvard Law Review.

Marc Levin
Director, Center for Effective Justice & Right on Crime, Texas Public Policy Foundation
Marc Levin is director of the Center for Effective Justice & Right on Crime at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Levin is an attorney and an accomplished author on legal and public policy issues. He served as a law clerk to Judge Will Garwood on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Staff Attorney at the Texas Supreme Court. Levin graduated with honors from the University of Texas with a BA in Plan II Honors and Government, and received his JD with honors from the University of Texas School of Law. He was a Charles G. Koch Summer Fellow in 1996. As part of that program, he interned at Reason magazine and had two articles published, one on juvenile justice and one on airport privatization. Levin was number 25 of Politico’s 50 in 2014.

Charles E. Lewis, Jr.
President, Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy
Dr. Charles E. Lewis, Jr. is the founder and president of the Congressional Research Institute for Social Work and Policy (CRISP), a nonprofit organization that works to engage social workers with the U.S. Congress. He is an adjunct professor at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and a member of the 12 Grand Challenges for Social Work Executive Committee. He is also coauthor of the edited volume, Ministry with Prisoners & Families: The Way Forward, with W. Wilson Goode, former mayor of Philadelphia and Harold Dean Triable. Dr. Lewis was Deputy Chief of Staff and Communications Director for former Congressman Ed Towns and a member of the faculty of Howard University School of Social Work from 2002 until 2010. He earned his MSW degree in clinical counseling from Clark Atlanta University and PhD in policy, planning, and policy analysis from Columbia University.

Alec Karakatsanis
Founder & Executive Director, Civil Rights Corps
Alec Karakatsanis is the founder and Executive Director of Civil Rights Corps, an organization dedicated to groundbreaking systemic litigation and advocacy challenging injustices in the American criminal legal system. He is the author of Policing, Mass Imprisonment, and the Failure of American Lawyers, 128 Harv. L. Rev. F. 253 (2015), and The Human Lawyer, 34 N.Y.U. Rev. L. & Soc. Change 563 (2010). Karakatsanis was recently awarded the 2016 Trail Lawyer of the Year by Public Justice for his role in bringing constitutional civil rights challenges to the American money bail system and the 2016 Stephen B. Bright Award for contributions to indigent defense in the South by Glidean’s Promise. Karakatsanis graduated from Yale College with a degree in Ethics, Politics, & Economics and Harvard Law School, where he was a Supreme Court Chair of the Harvard Law Review.

Reuben Jonathan Miller
Assistant Professor, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration
Reuben Jonathan Miller’s research examines life at the intersections of race, poverty, crime control, and social welfare policy. He is completing a book, titled Halfway Home, based on 15 years of research and practice with currently and formerly incarcerated men, women, their families, partners, and friends. Prior to joining the University of Chicago, Miller was an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan and a Member in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. A native son of Chicago’s Southside, Miller received his PhD from Loyola University Chicago, an AM from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, and a BA from Chicago State University.

Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Board President
Toni Preckwinkle is Cook County Board President. Since taking office in December 2010, President Preckwinkle has rebuilt the credibility of county government, solving for over $1.8 billion in budget deficits and cutting $657 million in expenditures. President Preckwinkle has developed a broad policy agenda – focusing on critical public safety reform, working to strengthen the county’s health care system, and increasing the capacity and capability of our economic development efforts. Before being elected Cook County Board President, Preckwinkle served 19 years as Alderman of the 4th Ward. Her independent and progressive leadership earned her the 2013 Chicago Magazine Best Alderman Award six times as well as two Leon Despres Awards. Prior to holding elected office, President Preckwinkle taught high school history for ten years. She holds a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from the University of Chicago.

Pam Rodriguez
President & CEO, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC)
Pamela F. Rodriguez is president of Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC), Inc. of Illinois, a statewide, nonprofit treatment and case management agency that serves adults and youth with substance use and mental health disorders. TASC’s work encompasses national consulting, public policy, research, and service delivery to nearly 25,000 individuals each year who are referred to TASC by Illinois courts, corrections, and child welfare systems. She was appointed in 2007 to serve as a practitioner member of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice Leadership Council, the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependency Advisory Council, Governor Rauner’s Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform Commission, and an advisory board member of the IL Center of Excellence in Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice. Rodriguez earned her AM from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration.

Michael Sherraden
George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor and Founding Director, Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis
Michael Sherraden, PhD, is George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor and Founding Director of the Center for Social Development (CSD) at Washington University in St. Louis. CSD supports bodies of work in asset building, civic engagement, smart decarceration, inclusive housing, environmental justice, and other areas. Sherraden’s research has influenced policy in the U.S. and many other countries. Among other honors, he was listed by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.
Stephen Tripodi  
**Doctoral Program Director & Associate Professor, The Florida State University College of Social Work**  
Stephen Tripodi, PhD, is the Doctoral Program Director and an Associate Professor at The Florida State University College of Social Work. Tripodi’s primary research interests include incarceration, trauma, and prisoner reentry. His most recent projects include analyzing the influence of childhood victimization on adult mental health and substance abuse for incarcerated women, and analyzing the effectiveness of an in-prison, trauma-focused treatment group. Specifically, Tripodi and his research team studied the predictive ability of childhood victimization (type, frequency, and severity) on recidivism for women prisons while assessing trauma-focused treatment group. Specifically, Tripodi and his research team studied the predictive ability of childhood victimization on improving symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Currently, Tripodi is conducting an alternative treatment design study comparing the effects of two different trauma-focused interventions for women in prison.  

Jo-Ann Wallace  
**President & CEO, National Legal Aid & Defender Association**  
Jo-Ann Wallace is President & CEO of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association. She was previously NLADA’s Senior Vice President for Programs, responsible for oversight of the Civil Legal Aid and Indigent Defense Program agendas. From 1994 – 2000, Wallace served as Director of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. She has also served as Deputy Chief of the Appellate Division, Coordinator of the Juvenile Services Program; and as Staff Attorney in trial and appellate litigation. Wallace is a founder of the American Council of Chief Defenders, a leadership council of top defenders across the United States, and the District of Columbia Appellate Practice Institute. Her lecturing experience includes serving as a member of the visiting faculty for the Trial Advocacy Workshop at Harvard Law School. The White House has recognized her as a “Champion of Change.” Wallace is a graduate of New York University School of Law.  

Aqeela Sherrills  
**National Training Director, Alliance for Safety and Justice**  
Aqeela Sherrills is the National Training Director for The Alliance for Safety and Justice Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice Initiative—a national campaign to center the healing of victim/survivors of violence and violent crime in public safety strategy and criminal justice reform. Sherrills began his activism as one of the key organizers of the historic 1992 “Peace Treaty” between the Crips and Bloods in Los Angeles. As a direct result of their efforts, Los Angeles had a decade of decreases in homicides and murders, removing the city from the top 15 most violent cities list. Sherrills has traveled nationally and internationally brokering cease-fires in some ten cities throughout the U.S. and has consulted with dignitaries in other areas. Recently, Sherrills co-founded the Amer-I-Can Program, Inc. with Hall of Fame great Jim Brown, and serves on the board of several organizations, including LA U.R.A, The Center for Transformative Change, and Father of Watts.  

Curtis Toler  
**Community Change Leader, Chicago CRED**  
Curtis Toler is one of the leading advocates for peace and non-violence in the City of Chicago. As director of community relations for the Chicago CRED Program, Toler is committed to impacting the culture of violence in Chicago by linking at-risk young men with a chance to reset their lives through job training and permanent employment opportunities. Toler, a native of Chicago and a former leader of one of the city’s most notorious street gangs, focuses on leading current gang members from setting their disagreements on the streets, into a new future – reconnected to jobs and community restoration. His central passion is linking neighborhoods suffering from poverty and violence to corporations and community-based organizations that are poised to provide both an economic and social pathway to peace and stability. He also is passionate about educating others about becoming bridge builders in their own communities.  

Amy Blank Wilson  
**Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina School of Social Work**  
Amy Blank Wilson, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned her PhD in Social Welfare from the University of Pennsylvania and completed an NIMH postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research at Rutgers University. Blank Wilson is trained as a mental health services researcher with expertise in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Since completing her PhD, Blank Wilson has been a PI or Co-PI on over ten funded studies in the mental health and criminal justice systems. She is currently a PI or Co-PI on three federally funded research projects focused on developing and testing interventions for people with serious mental illness involved in the justice system.  

Paula Wolff  
**Director, Illinois Justice Project**  
Paula Wolff is Director of the Illinois Justice Project, a civic organization developing and implementing policy initiatives and programs designed to improve the criminal justice system by reducing youth trauma and youth and adult violence, crime, and incarceration. Her previous experience includes serving as Director of Policy and Planning for Governor James R. Thompson, and as President of Governors State University.  

Nancy Wolff  
**Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University**  
Nancy Wolff, PhD, an economist and distinguished professor, is the director of the Bloustein Center for Survey Research and former director of the Center for Behavioral Health Services & Criminal Justice Research at Rutgers University. Her research explores the need for behavioral health services among justice-involved individuals, treatment interventions that are responsive to those needs, and the role of environmental conditions and training in improving the effectiveness of treatment interventions provided in correctional settings. As part of her practice initiative, she opened two peer-run Community Centers at a prison for women from 2004 to 2016, and spends two days a week at a Pennsylvania prison leading groups and working with residents to build coping skills.  

Paula Wolff  
**Director, Illinois Justice Project**  
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Azadeh Zohrabi is the Director of Development at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. As the daughter of two formerly incarcerated parents, Zohrabi is intimately familiar with the intergenerational impacts of imprisonment. She also brings over ten years of advocacy, research, policy, and organizing experience to her role. Her work has been cited by courts, attorneys, and scholars and has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The Guardian*, *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Ebony*, *Mother Jones*, and *Al Jazeera*. Zohrabi previously worked at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights where she led the organization’s national work and co-authored the report, *Who Pays: The True Cost of Incarceration on Families*. She previously worked at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children as a Soros Justice Fellow, playing a leadership role in the movement to end solitary confinement in California. She is a graduate of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

**Smart Decarceration: Achieving Criminal Justice Transformation in the 21st Century**
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Through this Grand Challenge, the Smart Decarceration Initiative involves more than 100 individuals who are actively preparing the social work profession to lead the field of decarceration. This effort involves generating evidence on promising practices, implementing practice innovations, advancing policy recommendations, and developing new curriculum and continuing education programs.
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