

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

2019

# REFORM SYMPOSIUM

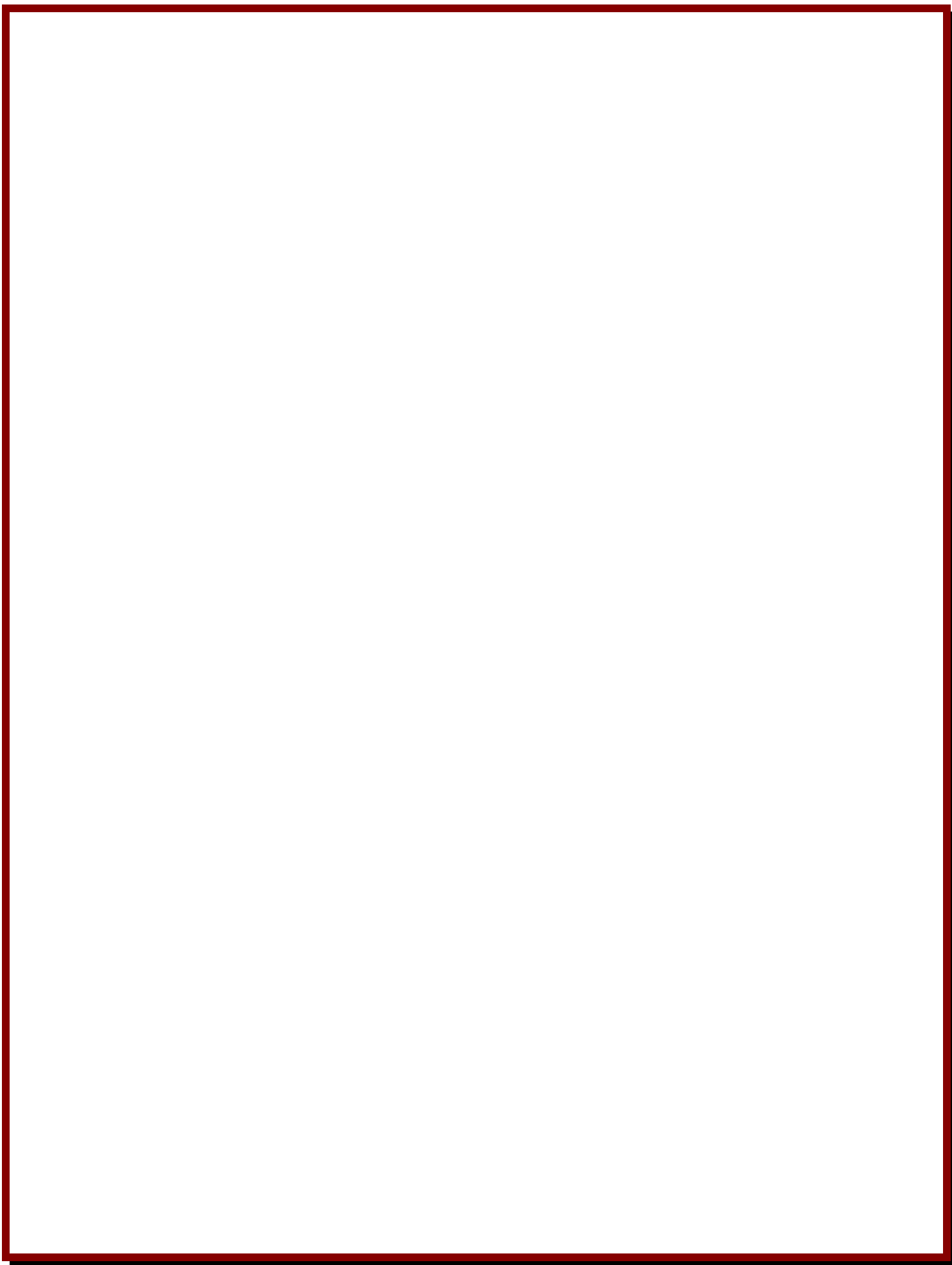


**MCLE 6.0 | Ethics 1.0**

Hosted by Texas Southern University's  
Urban Research and Resource Center and Barbara Jordan Institute in  
partnership with Harris County Racial and Ethnic Disparities  
Committee



Urban Research and Resource Center  
Phone: 713-313-4858  
Visit our website: [urrc.tsu.edu](http://urrc.tsu.edu)



**URBAN RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTER, BARBARA JORDAN INSTITUTE and  
HARRIS COUNTY RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES COMMITTEE**

**present  
Criminal Justice Reform Symposium  
January 17, 2019**

Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:00-8:30

Master of Ceremonies

**Carroll Robinson, URRC Board Member**

Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Hon. Lina Hidalgo, Harris County Judge**

**Panel: Juvenile Justice Reform**

**Moderator: Sarah Guidry**

**9:00-9:55**

**Panelists**

- Brett M. Merfish, Texas Appleseed
- Henry Gonzales, Executive Director, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department
- Noel Pinnock, Bureau Chief-Bureau of Youth & Adolescent Health

Topics will include: the state of juvenile justice in Harris County, juvenile detention, racial disparity and recommended reforms

**Panel: Incarceration Reform**

**Moderator: Professor Ana Otero**

**10:00-10:55**

**Panelists**

- Dr. Marlon Smith, Baker-Ripley
- Anthony Graves, Anthony Graves Foundation
- Nicole Porter, The Sentencing Project

Topics will include: the state of incarceration and sentencing in America, with focus on Harris County and Texas incarceration demographics, incarceration statistics and recommended reforms, the case for independent crime labs and racial/ethnic disparities, racial and ethnic disparities in sentencing, barriers to successful reentry, reducing recidivism and recommended reform policies

**Panel: Bail Reform**

**Moderator: Professor Lydia Johnson**

**11:00-11:55**

**Panelists**

- Judge Michael Fields, former presiding judge County Criminal Court at Law No. 14
- Judge Darrell Jordan, Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 16
- Alec Karakatsanis, Civil Rights Corps

Topics will include: cash bonds vs personal recognizance bonds, disparities in bail in Harris County and collateral impact of debtor prisons

## **Lunch**

### **Panel: Policing Reform**

**Moderator: Hon. Lupe Salinas**

**12:00-12:55**

#### **Panelists**

- Jules Johnson, Harris County District Attorney's Office, Civil Rights Division
- Tarsha Jackson, Right2Justice
- Art Acevedo, Chief, Houston Police Department
- Major Mike Lee, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Mental Health and Jail Diversion Bureau

Topics will include: community policing, innovations in policing in Houston, Harris County, reducing police shootings, developing sustainable crime-free communities, and police accountability

### **Panel: Bench and Bar Reform**

**Moderator: Hon. Craig A. Washington**

**1:00-1:55**

#### **Panelists**

- Kim Ogg, Harris County District Attorney
- Alex Bunin, Harris County Public Defender
- Dr. Ana Yanez-Correa, Harris County Precinct One

Topics will include: managed assigned defense, competency of counsel, prosecutorial overcharging, terms and conditions of probation, expunging criminal records, sentencing disparities, indigent defense, caseloads, expanding the Public Defender Office, and recommended reforms

### **Panel: Community Engagement, Activism and Reform**

**Moderator: Distinguished Professor James Douglas**

**2:00-2:55**

#### **Panelists**

- Alycia Miles, West Street Recovery
- Brandi Holmes, ImagiNoir/BLMHTX
- Secunda Joseph, ImagiNoir/BLMHTX
- Keith Satterwhite

### **Closing Remarks**

**Larry D. Brown, Jr.**

## Black people are most likely to be killed by police

**3X** more likely to be killed by police than white people.



Police Killings per 1 million population  
■ Black ■ White

**30%** of black victims were **unarmed** in 2015 compared to 21% of white victims.



■ Unarmed (30%) ■ Unknown/Armed (70%)

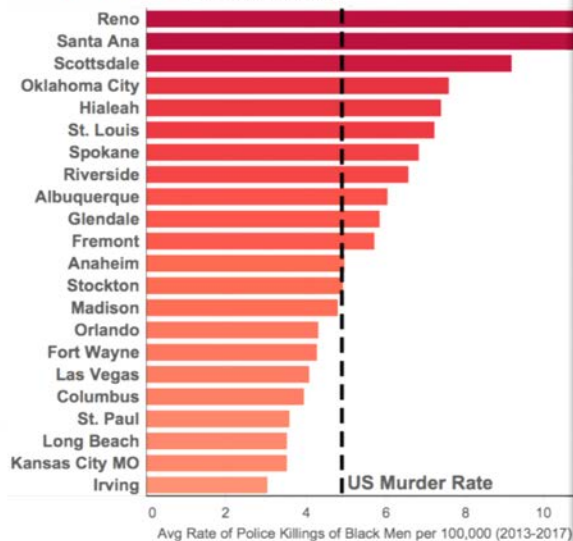
## Where you live matters

**7X** more likely to be killed by police in Oklahoma than Georgia.

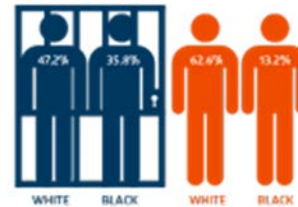
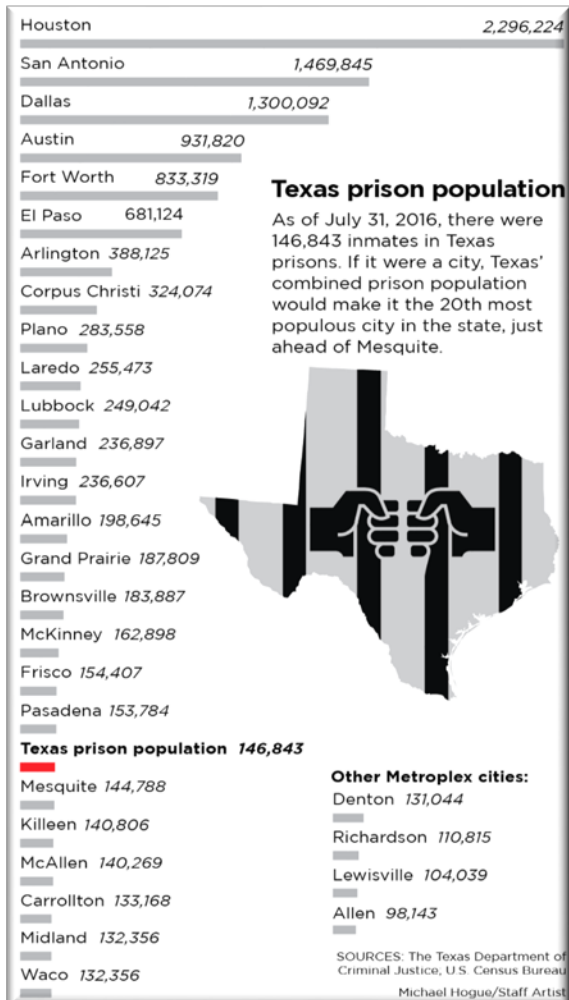


Police Killings of Black People per 1M  
■ Oklahoma ■ Georgia

**13** of the 100 largest U.S. city police departments kill black men at **higher rates** than the U.S. murder rate.



(source: mappingpoliceviolence.org)



Nationally, Black Americans are jailed at almost **4x the rate** of white Americans.

Source: <http://www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org/>

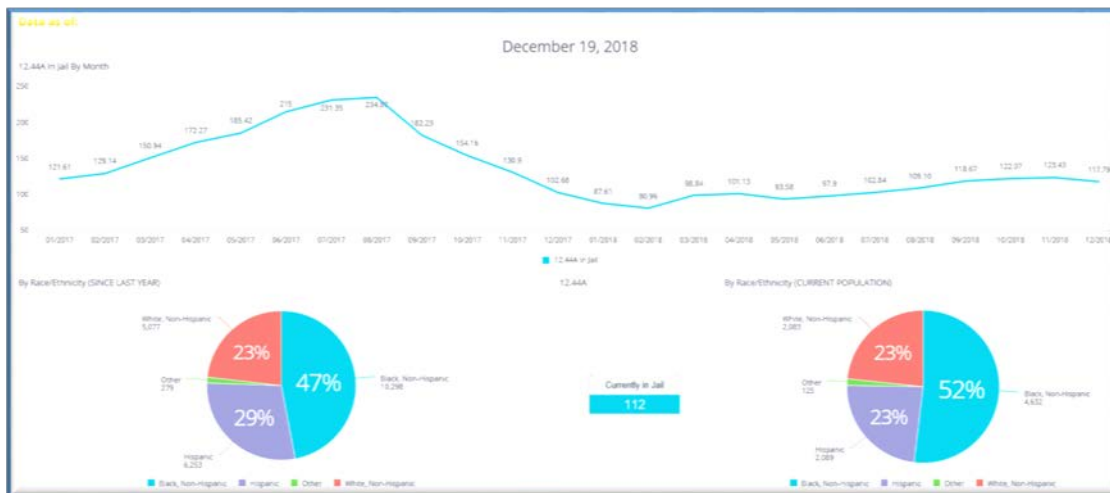
(source: Ragland, James. "If Texas' prison population were a city it would be the state's 20<sup>th</sup> largest". Dallas Morning News. Sept 2016.)



There are **nearly 11 million** jail admissions annually—equivalent to the populations of New York City and Chicago combined and almost 18 times the annual admissions to state and federal prisons.

Source: <http://www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org/>





(source: Harris County Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee)



An estimated 14.5% of men and 31% of women admitted to jail have a **serious mental illness**—rates that are four to six times higher than in the general population.



Nearly 75% of sentenced offenders and those detained in jail before trial are there for **nonviolent** traffic, property, drug, or public order offenses.

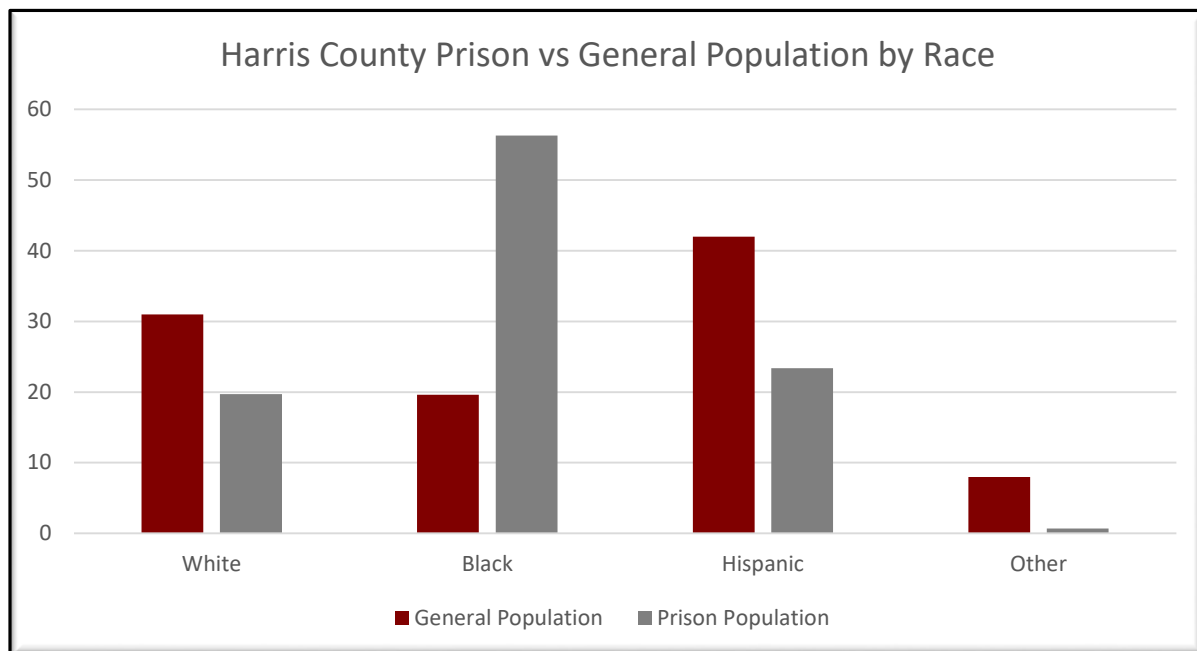


Three out of five people in jail are **legally presumed innocent**, awaiting trial or resolution through plea negotiations.

Source: <http://www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org/>



(source: Harris County Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee)



(source: "Criminal Justice Reform: Incarceration Overview," by Luckett Anthony Johnson)



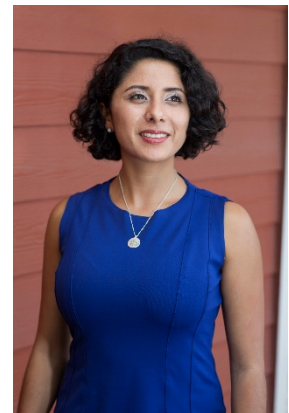


**Carroll G. Robinson, Esq** is an associate professor at the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs and adjunct professor of law at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University (TSU). He is a Co-Principal Investigator of the TSU National Transportation Security Center of Excellence-Petrochemical Transportation Security. He is a former At-Large (elected citywide) member of the Houston (Texas) City Council and represented the City of Houston on the Board of Directors of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Prior to his election to the Houston City Council, Professor Robinson was an associate professor at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University and served as Executive Assistant to two presidents of the University. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the law school's Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy. He has also worked in the Texas Legislature as Chief of Staff and General Counsel to Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis. He

has an impressive list of publications, has presented at numerous presentations and served as a keynote speaker throughout the country. Outside of his academic rigor, he is active and holds life memberships in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He also holds memberships with the National Bar Association, American Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, Houston Lawyers Association and Houston Bar Association. He is a founding board member of TSU's Urban Research and Resource Center.

He graduated from the George Washington University Law Center in Washington D.C.

**Lina Hidalgo** is the County Judge of Harris County. Judge Hidalgo was raised in an immigrant family and knows first-hand the sacrifices hard working Texans make every day to pave a better life for their families. Lina was born in Colombia, when the drug war still raged and everyone knew someone who had been kidnapped. Her parents had two goals: to make sure she had a good education and to get the family to a safer place. Judge Hidalgo grew up in Peru and Mexico, where her parents were offered job opportunities, before emigrating to America in 2005. She is a proud product of Houston-area public schools and, as her parents dreamed, was the first in her family to attend college in the U.S. She graduated from Stanford University with a degree in political science the same year she became a U.S. citizen. Since arriving in Texas, Lina has been committed to giving back.



Judge Hidalgo has dedicated hundreds of hours to our County's most vulnerable communities—from her time at the Texas Civil Rights Project to serving as a Spanish-English medical interpreter at the Texas Medical Center and supporting immigrants in search of lost loved ones. Over the past few years and while pursuing a joint degree in law and public policy at NYU and Harvard, Judge Hidalgo conducted research on criminal justice policies and coordinated with advocacy groups and governments to push for criminal justice reform. Before that, she worked throughout Southeast Asia to promote transparency and accountability by supporting journalists, bloggers and artists. She helped create and fund a program to bring Stanford students to public policy positions and has served the immigrant and incarcerated communities at any opportunity and in various states. Judge Hidalgo was elected on November the 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and sworn in as our Harris County Judge on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

## Juvenile Justice Reform Panel



### Moderator

**Sarah R. Guidry**, serves as Executive Director of the Earl Carl Institute at Texas Southern University. Ms. Guidry has worked in the public interest arena most of her career. She has served as an adjunct professor in Trial Simulation and Appellate Litigation. She was previously the East Texas Regional Managing Attorney for Disability Rights Texas where she represented disabled persons in various discrimination matters. In her position there she also provided representation to persons denied health care in the Harris County Jail, TYC facilities, and other facilities housing persons with mental disabilities. Ms. Guidry previously held positions with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). At DFPS,

Ms. Guidry was the supervising attorney of the statewide Special Litigation Unit which handled the most complex cases in the agency, both in jury trials and on appeal. She was also a Special Projects Attorney and in that role created statewide standardized training and best practice materials for social workers, prosecutors and judges, as well as providing legislative analysis to bills that would potentially impact agency litigation. Ms. Guidry began her work in the public interest arena as a legal aid staff attorney and subsequently Supervising Attorney at Coastal Bend Legal Services. She has authored numerous CLE articles as well as several chapters for State Bar of Texas Family Law Expert Witness Manual.

Ms. Guidry is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law.

**Henry Gonzales** has been with Harris County for more than 30 years. He started his career with Pre-Trial Services and began his tenure with Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (HCJPD) as a diversion officer in the intake division. He eventually moved to the field services division of the department as a field officer, gang liaison and resource-training officer. As administrator in this division, he managed a specialized unit that included enhanced supervision programs such as a community-based Special Needs/Mental Health Diversionary Program, aftercare and gang and sex offender supervision units. Henry is engaged in the communities he works in and has served on various boards and advisory committees, including the school board of a local charter school. Henry used this experience in his role as the Deputy Director of the department's Education Services Division, which is responsible for the department's Excel Academy Charter School campuses and the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program. In 2010, Henry became the Assistant Executive Director of HCJPD. He was appointed Executive Director in 2018.



**Brett M. Merfish** is the Texas Appleseed Director of Youth Justice, which focuses on juvenile justice and youth experiencing homelessness. Brett joined Texas Appleseed in 2012 working on foster care and fair financial services. She also has experience working as a legislative aide on Capitol Hill, as an associate at Patton Boggs LLP, and as the Political Director for a worker center.

Brett received a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia Law School, where she was a member of the Virginia Law Review editorial board and founded the Feminist Legal Forum. She received a Master of Public Policy from the Sanford School at Duke University and her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College.

**Noel Pinnock** is a published author and recognized expert with over 27 years of experience in transforming under-performing companies into positions of prosperity and optimum value. He specializes in strategic, operational, and tactical services. As a nationally certified public manager, he has been responsible for overseeing many large-scale organizational transformations. He served the scholars, families and communities in the Houston Independent School District for over 18 years before beginning his new journey with the City of Houston, where he was the first-ever African American and the youngest Chief Executive Learning Officer, overseeing the learning and development stock of over 22K employees. In 2014, Noel was tapped to lead former President Barack Obama's national initiative, My Brother's Keeper, which quickly became a local movement in the City of Houston. Under his leadership, MBK Houston has grown to be one of the most functional and comprehensive models across the country in a crowd of 200 active MBK jurisdictions purposed to create and expand ladders of opportunities for youth, families, and communities. Noel is known for his creativity, energy, deep-rooted spirituality, motivational speaking, and servant-leadership.



Noel earned his Master of Public Administration from Texas Southern University in one of the first cohorts in the School of Public Affairs.

### Incarceration Reform Panel



#### Moderator

**Professor Ana M. Otero** is an associate professor at Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, an instructor at the Center for Advanced Legal Studies and an instructor at the Municipal Courts Education Center. As an associate professor at Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Professor Otero has taught Texas Practice, Evidence and Civil Procedure. Over the years Professor Otero has worked as a financial analyst at Rosario Resources, a senior attorney at Blackwell & Walker PA., an instructor in the criminal justice department at the University of Houston and a deputy assistant director/staff attorney at the City of Houston Municipal Courts.

Professor Otero received her juris doctorate from Rutgers University School of Law in 1985, a Master of Business Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Master of International Affairs and Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University.

**Dr. Marlon A. Smith** is a scholar-activist who has over 20 years' of experience working with community and faith-based organizations in the area of community development and outreach. He is the founder of Black Greeks Speak Social Justice and Human Rights Council (BGS), an education and policy studies organization. BGS brings together academic and activist culture for the development of policy and social justice projects. He is also the Senior Manager of Policy and Engagement for Baker Ripley (formerly Neighborhood Centers Houston). He is the author of two books: *Black Lives Houston: Voices of our Generations* and *Reshaping Beloved Community: The Experiences of Black Male Felons and Their Impact on Black Radical Traditions*. Dr. Smith continues to work with local, national, and international organizations to bridge academic, religious, and activist life for the develop of concrete institutions and partnerships.



Dr. Smith attended Texas Tech University and the University of Houston, earning a Bachelors' Degree in Journalism/Public Relations with a minor in African American Studies. He went on to earn his master's degree in Theological Studies from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. He later earned his



Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies, majoring in Humanities and Culture with a specialization in Martin Luther King, Jr. Studies, from Union Institute & University.



**Anthony Charles Graves** (born August 29, 1965) is the 138th exonerated death row inmate in America. With no record of violence, he was arrested at 26 years old, wrongfully convicted, and incarcerated for 18 years before finally being exonerated and released. He was awarded \$1.4 million for the time he spent imprisoned, and the prosecutor who put him in prison was ultimately disbarred for concealing exculpatory evidence and using false testimony in the case. Today Graves works in Texas, and travels around

the country and the world enlightening politicians, criminal justice reform organizations, law students, and the general public about the injustices of our system and our need for comprehensive criminal justice reform. He is the founder of the Anthony Graves Foundation, which is committed to bringing meaningful criminal justice reform across the nation. The Humane Investigation Project (HIP) stands at the forefront of the Anthony Graves Foundation's fight, with a concerted effort by attorneys and investigators to work through the justice system to free the wrongfully convicted. He is the author of *Infinite Hope*.

**Nicole D. Porter** manages The Sentencing Project's state and local advocacy efforts on sentencing reform, voting rights, and eliminating racial disparities in the criminal justice system. Her advocacy has supported criminal justice reforms in several states including Kentucky, Missouri, and California. Porter was named a "New Civil Rights Leader" by *Essence Magazine* in November 2014 for her work to eliminate mass incarceration. Since joining The Sentencing Project in 2009, Porter's work has been cited in several major media outlets including the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. She has given a number of talks on state sentencing policy, collateral consequences, and racial disparity to various audiences. Porter is the former director of the Texas ACLU's Prison & Jail Accountability Project (PJAP). Porter advocated in the Texas legislature to promote felony enfranchisement reforms, to eliminate prison rape, and improve prison medical care.



Porter received her undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin. Her master's thesis addressed exploring self-employment among formerly incarcerated African Americans. She also studied African Politics at the University of Ghana, West Africa.

### Bail Reform Panel



#### Moderator

**Professor Lydia Johnson** is a tenured Professor, Clinical Legal Studies Program at Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Lydia is the Treasurer and member of the Board of the Mindfulness in Law Society, and Director of the Criminal Defense Clinic at Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas. She teaches 3L Students to try criminal misdemeanor offenses and she also teaches mindfulness to students at the law school. Her goal is to increase awareness of the benefits of mindfulness to law students, especially HBCU law schools. Since coming to Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 2000 Professor Johnson has held the positions of Clinical Instructor of the Criminal Law Clinic, Director of the Criminal Law Clinic and Associate Professor of Clinical Legal Studies Program.

Professor Johnson has taught criminal trial practice, criminal externship, criminal law clinic, and judicial externship. Before becoming a part of the Thurgood family Professor Johnson

worked as an Assistant District Attorney with the Harris County District Attorney's Office for eight years and then became an Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of Houston.

Professor Lydia Johnson received her bachelors from Texas A&M University in College Station in 1984 and her juris doctorate from South Texas College of Law in 1987.

**Michael Fields** joined the Harris County District Attorney's office where he served as an Assistant District Attorney. From there, he worked for the Texas Attorney General's Office in the Prosecutor Assistance Division before starting a private Law practice. Michael then ran for Judge of County Criminal Court 14 in Harris County, won the primary, and took the bench in 1999. Mr. Fields has served as the Chairman of the Harris County Bail Bond Board, on the Board of Trustees of the Lone Star Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Board of Directors for Hope for Families, and on the Advisory Counsel of the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs.



Judge Fields received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Texas State University and a Law Degree from St. Mary's University School of Law.



**Judge Darrell W. Jordan, Jr.** is the judge of Harris County Criminal Court 16. In January 2018 he was elected by his peers to serve as the Presiding Judge of the Harris County Misdemeanor court system. He is also a Major in the Texas Army National Guard assigned to the 36th Sustainment Brigade as the Command Judge Advocate. Judge Jordan has an extensive legal background. Early in his career, he served in the Texas Senate as legal counsel for former State Senator Rodney Ellis and in the Texas House of Representatives for State Representative Hubert Vo. In the years prior to his judgeship, he operated a criminal defense practice and was appointed as a special prosecutor in death of Sandra Bland.

Judge Jordan earned a J.D. from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University and a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Alec Karakatsanis** is the Founder and Executive Director of Civil Rights Corps, a non-profit organization dedicated to groundbreaking systemic litigation and advocacy challenging pervasive injustices in the American criminal legal system. Alec is the author, among other things, 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).



Alec is interested in ending human caging, surveillance, the death penalty, immigration laws, war, and inequality. His work at Civil Rights Corps challenging the constitutionality of the money bail system in California was recently honored with the 2018 Champion of Public Defense Award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Alec was also awarded the 2016 Trial Lawyer of the Year by Public Justice for his role in bringing constitutional civil rights cases around the country challenging the money bail system and the 2016 Stephen B. Bright Award for contributions to indigent defense in the South by Gideon's Promise. His work to end modern debtors' prisons was recently profiled in Harvard Magazine.

Alec graduated from Yale College in 2005 with a degree in Ethics, Politics, & Economics and Harvard Law School in 2008, where he was a Supreme Court Chair of the Harvard Law Review.

## Police Reform Panel



### Moderator

**The Honorable Lupe S. Salinas**, retired judge of the 351<sup>st</sup> Criminal District Court of Harris County, Texas, is Professor of Law at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston. In his book, *U.S. Latinos and Criminal Injustice* (MSU Press 2015), Judge Salinas addresses issues involving federal and state police use of excessive force and other areas, such as racial profiling and interpreter needs, where the system victimizes the Latino community. Salinas began his career in 1972 with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). He then served as a state prosecutor and later commenced his duties as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Houston in October 1977. Shortly after beginning his duties, the U.S. Attorney obtained a conviction in a police conspiracy to deprive Jose Campos Torres

of his liberty interests by pushing Torres into the bayou and drowning him. Salinas followed with perjury and police conspiracy to obstruct justice convictions in the throwdown cover-up in the fatal shooting of Randy Webster, an Anglo teenager. A movie entitled *The Killing of Randy Webster* resulted in 1981. Based on this successful prosecution, U.S. Attorney Tony Canales recommended him for assignment as Special Assistant to U.S. Attorney General Ben Civiletti in DC to advise him on civil rights and immigration policy matters. He returned in late 1980 to the Houston US Attorney's Office to assume the post of Chief of the Civil Rights Division.

**Jules Johnson**, a native Houstonian, has practiced law in both the state and federal systems. Jules began his career as a prosecutor in the Brazoria County District Attorney's Office. From there he went on to operate his own law firm which focused primarily on criminal defense. When the Harris County Public Defender's Office opened Jules was selected as one of the inaugural members of the felony trial division. He left that office to join the Federal Public Defender Office for the Southern District of Texas and ultimately was selected to for his current position with the Civil Rights Division within the Harris County District Attorney's Office where prosecutes cases of excessive force by police officers.



Mr. Johnson is a graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law.



**Tarsha Jackson** is the Harris County Director with Texas Organizing Project (TOP) in Houston TX, where she leads the effort to improve the lives of low and moderate income families through direct action organizing, grassroots lobbying and electoral organizing led by working families in Texas. Before joining TOP, Jackson was the Co-Director of Texas Families of Incarcerated Youth, where she spearheaded an effort to ensure that directly affected youth and their families play a meaningful role in the efforts to reform policies and reduce racial and ethnic disparities within juvenile incarceration. Her work also involved advocating on behalf

of affordable housing, education reform and the Texas Reconciliation Project to unite Latino and African-American communities in promoting social and economic equity and justice. Jackson is a 2011 Soros Justice Fellow and is currently a 2014 American Leadership Criminal Justice Fellow. Amongst many recognitions, Jackson has received the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Natalie S. Bimel Award and the Bill of Rights Defense Commission Patriot Award as affirmation of her years-long campaign to raise the prominence of families' voices in advancing juvenile justice reforms and social change.





**Art Acevedo** was sworn-in as Chief of the Houston Police Department (HPD) on November 30, 2016. Chief Acevedo leads a department of 5,200 sworn law enforcement officers and 1,200 civilian support personnel with an annual general fund budget of \$825 million in the fourth largest city in the United States. Chief Acevedo believes good communication is vital for a successful community and steadily works to strengthen the bond between the community and its police department. A proponent of community policing, Chief Acevedo refers to the proven practice as “Relational Policing,” an opportunity to forge a relationship with each citizen an officer comes in contact with. The first Hispanic to lead the HPD, Acevedo brings a unique understanding to the concerns of the diverse communities in the City of Houston. Chief Acevedo holds various leadership positions with the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

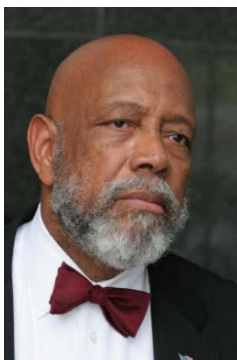
Acevedo earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne in California. Acevedo began his law enforcement career in 1986 as field patrol officer in East Los Angeles with the California Highway Patrol. He rose through the ranks and was named Chief of the California Highway Patrol in 2005. Acevedo most recently served nine years as Chief of the Austin Police Department.

**Major Mike Lee** joined the Houston Police Department in 1989 and served honorably for 26 years, attaining the rank of Captain of Police. He was one of the original members of the Crisis Intervention Team when it began in 1999 and was a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team for over 10 years. During his career, he has received 46 commendations, including four Chief of Police commendations, and was named the 2009 Houston Police Department Mid-manager of the year. From 2006-2013, Major Lee oversaw the development of the nation’s first Mental Health Division in a law enforcement agency and created law enforcement crisis response and jail diversion programs that have won national and international policing awards. He is considered one of the foremost experts in the area of law enforcement response to persons in crisis and has been featured in numerous newspapers, magazine articles, and television reports. Major Lee conducted the research and drafted the proposal for the highly successful Houston Recovery Center. He serves on the Technical Advisory Board for the Recovery Center and is a Board Member for Mental Health America of Greater Houston. Major Lee drafted a bill that were successfully passed in the 2013 Texas Legislature that created was the first ever process for removing firearms from persons who are being detained for a severe mental health crisis.



He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Government and History and a Master of Arts degree in Psychology and Sociology.

## Bench and Bar Reform Panel



### Moderator

**Craig Anthony Washington** lawyer and politician from Texas who served in the Texas House of Representatives (District 86; 1973-1982), the Texas State Senate (District 13; 1983-1989) and the United States House of Representatives (District 18; 1989-1995). Since leaving Congress, Washington has practiced law in Houston and Bastrop, Texas. *Texas Monthly* selected him one of the Ten Best Legislators three times: in 1973, 1979 and 1981. The August 1979 issue of *Texas Business* cited him as “being proficient in passing or defeating legislation,” the May 1980 issue of *Texas Business* referred to him as smart, well liked, and respected. *Houston City* called him Houston’s best legislator in its July 1981 issue and praised him in a feature story in the December 1981 issue. In 1985, the State Bar



of Texas recognized him as Outstanding Criminal Defense Lawyer of the Year. In 2005, Hon. Ted Poe honored Washington on the floor of the United States Congress. He was inducted into the State Bar of Texas Legal Legends in 2012.

Washington graduated from Prairie View A&M University in 1966 and earned his Juris Doctorate Degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law where he graduated number one in his class in 1969.

**Kim K. Ogg** was sworn in as the Harris County District Attorney on January 1, 2017. During her 31-year legal career, Kim Ogg has served as a prosecutor, defense attorney, Houston's first Anti-Gang Task Force Director, and the Executive Director of Crime Stoppers. A nationally recognized victims' rights advocate and native Houstonian, Kim now brings her history of public service to the job of Houston's top criminal justice official. DA Ogg believes that we must identify and separate violent offenders who pose the largest danger to the public from low level offenders suffering from addiction and mental illness. She believes that by handling these offenders through alternatives to jail and incarceration, we can re-integrate many people back into the workforce, making our community safer and saving valuable and limited resources for investigation and prosecution of serious crimes against people. She has received lifetime criminal justice service awards from the NAACP, the Dept. of Justice, and Parents of Murdered Children, and credits her success to the loving support of her family and the skilled professionals of the Harris County District Attorney's Office.



Kim Ogg received her undergraduate degree in Journalism from the University of Texas and her JD from South Texas School of Law.



**Alex Bunin** is the Chief Public Defender for Harris County, Texas. Previously, he was the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of New York, the District of Vermont and the Southern District of Alabama. He earned Board Certification in Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate Law from the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. In over 33 years as a criminal defense lawyer, he has tried many cases, including federal capital murder and complex white collar fraud. He received the Champion of Public Defense Award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Thurgood Marshall Award for capital litigation from the New York City Bar

Association and the Torch of Liberty Award from the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association. He was an Adjunct Professor at Albany Law School of Union University. He sits on the Advisory Board of *The Champion* magazine and the *CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAGAZINE* of the American Bar Association. He was appointed by the Governor as a member of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. As well as having written law review articles on federal sentencing and the death penalty, he is co-author of O'Connor's Federal Criminal Rules & Codes (Thomson Reuters 2018).

**Dr. Ana Yáñez-Correa** served as the Executive Director of Texas Criminal Justice Coalition in 2005, where she successfully fostered relationships among a wide range of coalition partners, criminal justice practitioners, law enforcement groups, civil rights organizations, and other community members, allowing TCJC to promote policies and practices that serve our entire society. Among other things, these strategies include state-level sentencing reform, comprehensive drug treatment options, full investments in community supervision, and pre-booking diversion programs at the county level, all of which seek to effectively and humanely decrease the state's over-reliance on incarceration. Ana joined the Public Welfare Foundation in 2015 to direct its Criminal Justice Program. In 2018, she became the Director of Community Engagement for Harris County Precinct One in Harris County (Houston), Texas, under the leadership of Commissioner Rodney Ellis.



She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. She holds a Ph.D. in Policy and Planning in Education Administration from the University of Texas, focusing her dissertation on the school-to-prison pipeline.

### Community Engagement, Activism and Reform



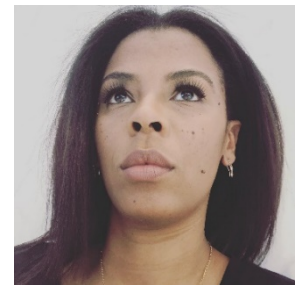
#### Moderator

Distinguished Professor of Law of Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL). **James Matthew Douglas** is a co-founder and board member of the URRRC. Douglas joined the TMSL faculty in 1971, leaving in 1972 to teach at Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He served as associate dean at Syracuse University College of Law from 1975 to 1980. He later served as professor of law at Northeastern University School of Law before returning to the TMSL as dean where he served from July 1981 to July 1995. Douglas has served TSU in various other capacities over his illustrious career

including TSU President and Provost.

Douglas earned his BA degree in mathematics from TSU and the Juris Doctor (JD) degree from the TMSL, magna cum laude. He also earned a J.S.M. degree in computer law from Stanford University.

Born and raised in Houston's South Park neighborhood, when **Alycia Miles** witnessed Hurricane Harvey ravish her neighborhood, she responded by coordinating the rescue of 75 families and their animals, resulting in the founding of West Street Recovery. WSR is a Hurricane Harvey Recovery non-profit organization, of which Alycia is the Director of Operations. When she's not recording and performing with local hip-hop group, The Hue, Alycia advocates for the marginalized peoples of Houston through prison programming and mentoring children in the foster care system. Her activism has been recognized by Atlantic Magazine, the National Black United Front as well as All Real Radio, among other media outlets where she always reminds her community that "Our greatest help will always be ourselves, we just have to be reminded that we already have everything we need!"



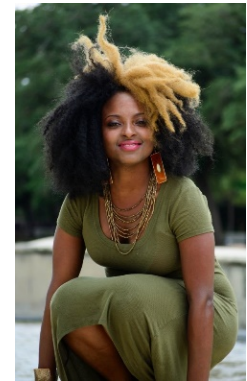


**Brandi Holmes** is a Community Organizer and Strategist for ImagiNoir/BLMHTX. She describes herself as a Black girl storyteller living free while currently in hot pursuit of joy and justice. Brandi received her Bachelor of Business Administration with a focus on Marketing from the University of North Texas.

**Secunda Joseph's** primary role is to be of service to her community. With BLMHTX/ImagiNoir she serves as organizer and activist around criminal justice reform and other advocacy work.

With Project Curate she serves by directing service projects, develops curricula, trains and consults with a range of folk on how to build effective coalitions for social movement work.

A native Houstonian (with strong southern Louisiana roots), Secunda is a seasoned social activist, community organizer, and digital PR expert who creatively and strategically engineers social media campaigns for use in her advocacy work. She previously ran Grass Is Greener, a tech-savvy public relations firm which she also founded. There she would assist her clients with digital, print, and social media strategies for connecting more effectively with focused audiences within the black community.



**Keith Satterwhite** has over 10 years experience in the Criminal Justice field as a paralegal with the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Mr. Satterwhite has presented at numerous academic CJ conferences on a variety of criminal justice research issues. His focus is on offenders with mental illness.

Mr. Satterwhite earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in Criminal Justice from the University of Houston – Downtown. He is currently pursuing a masters of education in Instructional Systems Design Technology (ISDT) from Sam Houston State University (SHSU), and plans to pursue a doctorate of education in ISDT from SHSU.

**Larry D. Brown, Jr.** is the first-ever Racial Disparity & Fairness Administrator (RDFA) in Harris County. In this capacity, Larry focuses on issues and data related to racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile and criminal justice system, as well as other equity and inclusion matters in the County. He previously served as the Supervisor of the Justice of the Peace Court Wraparound Program at Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS). Larry was Cultural and Linguistic Competence Coordinator for Harris County Systems of Hope, and was actively involved in the development and implementation of initiatives and trainings in the area of cultural competence at the local level, and nationally with the former Cultural



Competence Action Team (CCAT). Larry has more 15 years of experience and expertise cultural competence (including addressing disparities and disproportionality in youth serving systems), process improvement, organization development/change, and urban affairs. His forthcoming peer-review article, “I Love Working with ‘At-Risk Youth’”: Paradox, Problem, and Possibility in a Community Embedded Government Organization, is anticipated later this year. He is the co-author of “A Blueprint for Using Data to Reduce Disparities/ Disproportionalities in Human Services and Behavioral Health Care”, and the second edition of *The Elevator is Broken: Youth Leadership and Decision-Making Workbook*.

Larry is a doctoral student in the department of Educational Policy Studies at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Larry holds a Master of Public Administration from California State University-Long Beach, and an undergraduate degree in Africana Studies/Social Work from San Diego State University.

## Sponsorships

This event is supported with funding from the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge, the Harris County Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Committee, Texas Southern University and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.**

The Safety and Justice Challenge is providing support to local leaders from across the country who are determined to tackle one of the greatest drivers of over-incarceration in America—the misuse and overuse of jails.

These leaders—representing different cities, counties, and states with unique issues and situations—understand that this crisis took years to create and that only forward-thinking, smart solutions developed and implemented from the ground up will end it.

With a five-year, \$148 million investment by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, jurisdictions selected through a competitive process receive financial and technical support in their efforts to rethink justice systems and implement data-driven strategies to safely reduce jail populations.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge recognizes that there are better, fairer, and more effective alternatives to excessive jail incarceration. Key to beginning and sustaining reform efforts is an understanding of how jail use has changed, and what impacts this growth has had on individuals, communities, and the economy.

For local leaders involved in the Challenge, this means a commitment to identifying the drivers of over-incarceration within their cities, counties, and states; engaging a diverse set of community stakeholders to determine ways to address local drivers of over-incarceration and improve the system as a whole; and building infrastructure to track the right data and measure performance over time.

Jurisdictions participating in the Challenge will develop and model effective ways to keep people out of jail who don't belong there, more effectively reintegrate those who must be confined into the community upon release, and help them stay out of jail thereafter. In doing so, they will demonstrate alternatives to incarceration as usual, creating models for reducing unnecessary jail use to make communities healthier, fairer, and safer.

---

**The Harris County Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Committee.** The Harris County Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee, a standing committee of the Harris County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, exists to identify, address, and improve racial and ethnic disparities across the criminal justice system, and to communicate with and engage the community on these issues.

In support of the MacArthur Foundation's Safety + Justice Challenge efforts (overall jail population reduction and reduction of racial/ethnic disparities), the Racial & Ethnic Disparities Committee is conducting an analysis and producing individualized and comprehensive reports of outcomes across eight (8) decision points in Criminal Justice System in Harris County. Those decision points are: 1) pre-arrest/pre-charge; 2) arrest; 3) charge; 4) assignment of counsel; 5) pre-trial release; 6) case processing; 7) disposition/sentencing; and 8) post-conviction process/supervision. Reports will equip stakeholders with information to make a more informed decision.

The RED Committee endeavors to engage individuals and groups throughout Harris County in authentic and purposeful encounters towards improving transparency, communication, and relationships between the community and justice stakeholders.

---



## **Texas Southern University**

Texas Southern University (“TSU”) is one of the nation’s largest HBCUs and an anchor institution in Houston’s historic Third Ward. TSU is the city’s only Historically Black College and University (HBCU), and was designated by the Texas Legislature as a special purpose institution for the identifying and solving of urban problems. TSU is a student-centered comprehensive doctoral university committed to ensuring equality, offering innovative programs responsive to its urban setting in Houston’s Third Ward, and transforming diverse students into lifelong learners, engaged citizens, and creative leaders in their local, national, and global communities. For generations, it has served as a cradle of African-American excellence, gateway to the middle-class, and an incubator of community and political leadership.

TSU has identified five institutional priorities: student success, academic quality, culture, funding, and partnerships, and is committed to the “communiversity” model for institutions of higher education, a philosophy that supports TSU’s integration with community partners in service to its five institutional priorities and historic legacy.

---

## **Thurgood Marshall School of Law**

Thurgood Marshall School of Law is a mission-driven institution dedicated to expanding opportunities for the underserved in the legal profession, preparing a diverse group of students for leadership roles in the legal profession, business, and government, and offering leadership in teaching, research, and service. For over 70 years, the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University has been a catalyst for initiating courageous conversations and a progenitor of equality, diversity, and opportunity in keeping with the values and ideals of our namesake, Justice Thurgood Marshall.

As a community of change agents, the law school has empowered the disenfranchised and underserved by preparing lawyers to practice law and to shape social and public policy. The law school’s diverse faculty is a community of prolific and cutting-edge teachers and scholars who emphasize teaching excellence and who produce legal scholarship that enriches, embraces, and celebrates an array of legal issues and perspectives.

## **Acknowledgements:**

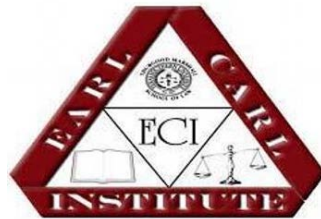
The URRC and the Barbara Jordan Institute acknowledge the efforts, support and hard work of everyone who made this possible including our speakers, moderators, panelists and audience and we offer our special thanks to:

TSU President, Austin Lane  
TSU Provost, Dr. Kendall T. Harris  
Commissioner Rodney Ellis  
Acting TMSL Dean Mr. Gary Bledsoe  
Mr. Derrick Wilson (TMSL)  
Dr. Demetria Johnson-Weeks, Title III Director  
Bernard Lanceslin, Title III Business Administrator  
Sherrell Yarbrough, Title III Coordinator  
Interim SOPA Dean, Dr. Theophilus Herrington  
Dr. Michael O. Adams, URRC Board President  
Dr. Anthony Rodriguez, IGS Support  
Andreience Fields, URRC  
Brandon Dudley, Harris County Precinct 1

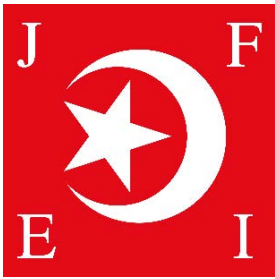
Alan Walker, URRC  
L. Anthony Johnson, Barbara Jordan Institute  
Susan Thomas, TMSL  
Prudence Smith, TMSL  
Jo Alridge, TMSL  
The C.A.T.C.H. Foundation  
The Oriska Foundation  
Harris County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
Dion Friends, ACLU-TX  
Lauren Nguyen, ACLU-TX  
Blair Wallace, ACLU-TX  
Brannon Nealy, The Digital Broadcasting Network

# 2019: The Year of Criminal Justice Reform

Collaborators (as of date of printing)







**Rev. James Nash**  
**St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church**  
8309 Brandon St  
Houston, TX 77051  
Phone: 713.738.2997

**Rev. Dayle Perry**  
**Greater Zion Baptist Church**  
3201 Trulley St  
Houston, TX 77004  
Phone: 281.447.2711

# *Support “2019: The Year of Criminal Justice Reform”*

The Urban Research and Resource Center  
Located in the School of Public Affairs, Suite 205  
3100 Cleburne Street  
Houston, TX 77004  
Phone: (713) 313-4858  
Email: [urrc@tsu.edu](mailto:urrc@tsu.edu)

To donate to Criminal Justice Reform and other URRC projects,  
please visit our website at [urrc.tsu.edu/donate](http://urrc.tsu.edu/donate)

The URRC is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation funded in part by Texas Southern University, but relies on program funding from individuals, corporations, and others interested in supporting the mission and vision of the URRC. Please donate today.