

# November 2019 Newsletter

## District Task Force on Jails & Justice Releases Phase I Report

On November 5, the District Task Force on Jails & Justice unveiled its Phase I Report, “[Jails & Justice – A Framework for Change](#),” at Covington & Burling LLP. CCE developed and established the Task Force as an independent advisory body focused on redefining and reinventing our local approach to corrections, ensuring that our jail is one part of a just and equitable system. It boasts 26 members, including returning citizens, organizations that work to serve currently and formerly incarcerated people, government officials, research and policy experts, and other civic leaders. Over the last six months, CCE and its Task Force partners engaged nearly 2,000 community members in its research for this new report. Of District residents who responded to the Task Force’s survey, 75% believe incarceration is not the best way to handle crime – exposing a citywide desire for comprehensive, equitable reforms.

“Across the board, attitudes toward incarceration have shifted over the last decade,” says **Misty C. Thomas**, Executive Director of the Council for Court Excellence. “We knew it was not enough to look at a jail’s design alone. The Task Force had to carefully consider community investment, decarceration, and local control issues to fully envision a just path forward.” The report synthesizes practitioner expertise, data analysis, and public feedback to make a case for a D.C. justice system that would serve as a national model. It offers 17 specific recommendations for a more humane, rehabilitative approach to criminal justice in Washington, D.C.



*Task Force Chair Shelley Broderick and D.C. DOC Director Quincy Booth were on The Kojo Nnamdi Show on November 5.*

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*Councilmember Charles Allen and Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Kevin Donahue discuss their commitments to the important work of the Task Force.*



*Task Force members take audience questions about their Phase I findings.*



*Task Force leaders Shelley Broderick, Tyrell Holcomb, Jon Bouker, and Linda Harllee Harper discuss their committees' work.*

Moderated by Task Force Chair **Shelley Broderick**, Dean Emerita & Joseph L. Rauh, Jr. Chair of Social Justice at University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, and Ms. Thomas, the November 5 release brought together almost 100 people for a discussion of the Task Force's initial findings and recommendations in Phase I and its goals going forward. During her remarks, Professor Broderick said "this Task Force would not have been possible without the invaluable hard work and expertise of CCE." Phase II of the Task Force's work will involve developing an implementation plan that contemplates both a new secure detention facility and policies to address mass incarceration.



*Chairman and CEO of The National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens, Courtney Stewart, and CCE Deputy Director, Emily Tatro.*

CCE is grateful to our organizational partners, the **Vera Institute of Justice** and the **National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens**. The Task Force report has already received significant media attention, including in [The Washington Post](#), [WAMU](#), [Hill Rag](#), and on The [Kojo Nnamdi Show](#). To get involved with the Task Force or any of CCE's other projects, email [communications@courtexcellence.org](mailto:communications@courtexcellence.org).

## CCE in the News

- [When D.C. Residents Come Home From Prison — And Go To Georgetown](#) (WAMU)
- [‘It’s going to be a crisis’: D.C. may be left without a halfway house for men returning from federal prison](#) (Washington Post)
- [The Future of D.C.’s Halfway House for Men Is In Limbo](#) (DCist)
- [A new jail is only part of the answer, says task force examining incarceration in D.C.](#) (Washington Post)
- [D.C. Jails Report Finds Poor Conditions, Few Resources For Inmates](#) (WAMU)
- [District Task Force Releases Report on D.C. Jails and Justice System](#) (Hill Rag)
- [New Report Highlights Reliance on Incarceration](#) (WAMU)

## Thank You to Our 2019 Scarlet Oak Donors!

CCE is proud to give special recognition to the generous individuals who are members of the Scarlet Oak Circle for 2019. We are incredibly grateful for the ways in which their donations are helping to improve justice in D.C.

Our 2019 Scarlet Oak Circle members are:



*Caryl Bernstein  
Jay A. Brozost  
Peter R. Kolker  
Maryanne R. Lavan  
Julia Matthews  
Patrick McGlone  
Irvin B. Nathan  
Benjamin J. Razi  
Steuart Thomsen*



If you'd like to join this distinguished group of individuals, please consider [donating today](#).



## Bench-Bar-Media Panel on Journalism and Justice in the #MeToo Era

On November 19, CCE hosted a Bench-Bar-Media panel, “Journalism Isn’t Justice – Examining Both Roles in the Era of #MeToo.” Panelists discussed the unique challenges that journalists face when writing a story including corroboration and non-disclosure agreements, what happens when a lawyer learns their client is the accused in a news story, and whether the courts are seeing more defamation cases today than in prior years. Moderated by Board Director **Laura Handman** of Davis Wright Tremaine, panelists **Tom Clare** of Clare Locke LLP, **Kalea Clark** of The Washington Post, **Hon. Royce Lamberth** of the U.S. District Court for D.C., **Dahlia Lithwick** of Slate, **Emily Martin** of the National Women’s Law Center, and **Jane Mayer** of The New Yorker, engaged in a fascinating discussion of what the justice system can and cannot realistically achieve, the role of the press in evaluating accusations, and the validity and effectiveness of libel claims in the #MeToo era.



## See Our Community Guides at Work



Church hosted a gathering where attendees heard from CCE Board Member **Jim Tuite** and drafting committee member **Morgan Whitlatch**. We want to give a special thank you to new Board Director **Michelle Bradford** and CCE Policy Counsel **Tracy Nutall** for helping organize these events.

In March, CCE published [\*When Adults Need Help Making Decisions and Managing Daily Affairs\*](#), a guide that explains in non-technical language the resources that are available to people in the D.C. area who, because of illness, physical or intellectual disabilities, aging, injury, or dementia, may need extra help when making important life decisions, handling their finances, or dealing with similar responsibilities of everyday life. This fall, CCE hosted two events to get our new guide in the hands of community members and help educate people on the tools found in the guide. At the Alfred Street Baptist Church event on October 19, attendees heard from **Professor Robert Dinerstein**, who served on the drafting committee for the guide. On November 21, New Bethel Baptist

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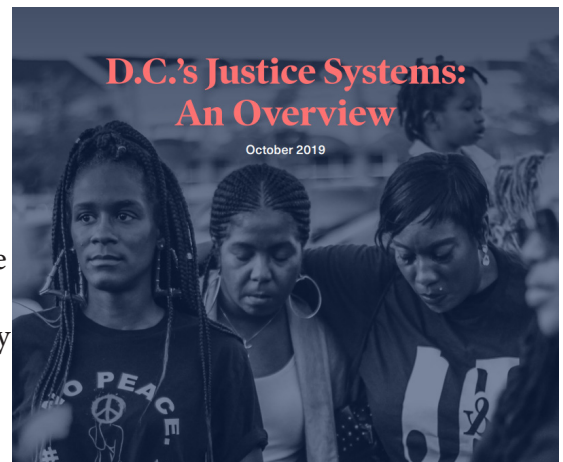
## CCE Says Farewell and Thank You to Jeff Capley

It is with gratitude for all he has contributed over his 15 years that CCE announces that **Jeff Capley**, our Office Administrator, will be leaving the organization in December. Jeff has served as an organizational pillar: teaching new staff about the history of CCE, performing administrative functions, and executing our biggest events, including our annual Justice Potter Stewart Award Dinner. Former Executive Director and current Board Director **June Kress** said, “Jeff was the go-to person at CCE in our nearly 14 years of working closely together. His ability to develop relationships with Board members, his vast storehouse of institutional memory, and his great sense of humor were appreciated by all of us, past and present.” We will miss Jeff as part of the CCE team and wish him all the best on his new endeavors!



## Evaluating D.C.'s Criminal Justice Landscape in 2019

Over the last year, CCE partnered with the Juvenile Justice Institute at Georgetown University Law Center to conduct a landscape review of the criminal and juvenile justice systems in D.C. for the **Public Welfare Foundation**. This October, Public Welfare released a summary of our research, “[D.C.'s Justice Systems: An Overview](#).” This report is intended to serve as an introduction to our local criminal and juvenile justice systems for those who may be unfamiliar with the major issues impacting this city. It also hopes to help those beyond our local community, including other foundations and national policy organizations, to understand the reforms that are underway and are possible in the District.



## Read Our Latest Testimony

- [July 11, 2019](#): CCE's Executive Committee member **Victor Long** testified in support of the “Special Education Rights for Youth Defendants Amendment Act of 2019,” which would establish a panel of special education attorneys to represent students with identified special education needs who are in the criminal justice system.
- [October 10, 2019](#): CCE Board President **Pat McGlone** testified in support of the “Restore the Vote Amendment Act of 2019,” which would expand voting rights to District citizens incarcerated for felony convictions.
- [October 17, 2019](#): **Adam Bernbaum**, CCE Policy Analyst, testified before the D.C. Council on B23-0291, the “Detained Youth Access to the Juvenile Services Program Amendment Act of 2019.” The bill would codify a Memorandum of Agreement that allows the Public Defender Service to maintain an office at D.C. youth detention facilities where they can most effectively educate incarcerated children on legal issues and advocate for their rights.

