

# Members of the District Task Force on Jails & Justice

*As of August 20, 2019*

- *Chair: Shelley Broderick*, Dean Emerita, UDC David A. Clarke School of Law
- **Hon. Charles Allen**, D.C. Council Member, Chair of Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety
- **Will Avila**, Founder, Clean Decisions and Changing Perceptions
- **David Bailey**
- **Quincy Booth**, Director, Department of Corrections
- **Avis Buchanan**, Director, Public Defender Services
- **Marcus Bullock**, CEO, Flikshop
- **Leslie Cooper**, Director, Pretrial Services Agency
- **Kevin Donahue**, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
- **Rev. Graylan Scott Hagler**, Senior Minister, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
- **Tyrone Hall**
- **Indira Henard**, Executive Director, DC Rape Crisis Center
- **Tyrell Holcomb**, Chairman, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7F
- **Dr. Marc Howard**, Professor, Georgetown University
- **Cpl. Arnold E. Hudson, Sr.**, Vice-Chairman, FOP D.C. Department of Corrections
- **Dr. Diana Lapp**, Deputy Medical Office and VP for Medical Administration, Unity Health Care
- **Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad**, Assistant Professor, Howard University
- **Wendy Pohlhaus**, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for External Affairs, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia
- **Hon. Karl A. Racine**, Attorney General of the District of Columbia
- **Christy Respress**, Executive Director, Pathways to Housing DC
- **Marc Schindler**, Executive Director, Justice Policy Institute
- **Tammy Seltzer**, Director, D.C. Jail and Prison Advocacy Project at Disability Rights D.C.
- **Jonathan Smith**, Executive Director, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
- **Courtney Stewart**, Chairman, National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens
- **Paula Thomspson**, Co-Chair, D.C. Reentry Action Network
- **LaShonia Thompson-El**, Executive Director, The WIRE

**Honorable Charles Allen**  
**D.C. Council Member, Chair of Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety**

Charles Allen lives with his wife Jordi Hutchinson, and their children, Cora Neal and Everett, and their dog, Olive. For over a decade, Charles has worked in Ward 6 neighborhoods, helping improve our public schools, working with small businesses, and building our community.



Charles began his career in the District as a graduate fellow with the federal Department of Health and Human Services to work on expanding community-based health options across the nation and learned that to make true change he needed to return to his roots working at the local and community level. So Charles began his service to the District as policy director for the DC Primary Care Association, where he helped bring about legislative, budget, and policy changes that expanded health care options for almost every DC resident.

Two of his signature efforts – bringing physicians, dentists, nurses and other healthcare providers to medically underserved communities and creating a District-owned captive insurance company to provide free and low-cost medical malpractice insurance to non-profit providers – remain a vital part of the city’s health care safety net more than a decade after he helped create them. At the same time, Charles helped found DC for Democracy and served as Chair of the organization to bring a needed voice for progressive priorities and social justice issues facing the city.

These experiences led Charles to become an elected delegate for the District at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, and later serve as President of the Ward 6 Democrats. Ultimately, he served as chief of staff to Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells, a position he held from 2007 until 2013. Charles was elected Ward 6 Councilmember during the 2014 election cycle and was sworn in on January 2, 2015. He was re-elected to a second four-year term in 2018.

Charles graduated from Washington and Lee University and received a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In addition to managing Wells’ successful Ward 6 campaigns, he has been involved in progressive national campaigns.

Charles is the Chair of the Council's Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety. He cares deeply about public safety and good government issues, and is committed to working to ensure everyone in the District has a safe neighborhood and that we are a fair and just city. He is also a member of the Council's Committees on Education, Transportation and Environment, Business and Economic Development, and Labor and Workforce Development. He is a member and immediate past Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Transportation Planning Board and was named an Early Learning Fellow by the National Conference of State Legislatures. He also serves on the NCSL's standing committees on Education, Natural Resources & Infrastructure, and Law, Criminal Justice, & Public Safety.

**Will Avila**  
**Founder, Clean Decisions and Changing Perceptions**

Will Avila is an ex-offender who was sentenced to an adult prison at the age of 16 and spent 10 years in and out of prison, struggling to transition back into the community. Will, like so many other returning citizens, experienced first-hand the challenges, and rejection, that come with transitioning back into society and the workforce. In 2014, he founded Clean Decisions, a commercial kitchen and cleaning and labor services company with a bigger dream: to help employ returning citizens—people like him—who long for an opportunity to prove to society they are worth investing in.



Clean Decisions has successfully provided full- and part-time employment to over 30 people, and they have a 100% anti-recidivism rate. However, in addition to employment, what the year highlighted was the desperate need for therapeutic and supportive services. Returning citizens not only struggle to find employment, but they also need training and counseling to help them successfully transition back into contributing members of society. Thus emerged Changing Perceptions.

Changing Perceptions provides supportive services and job training to the re-entry community—ex-offenders and formerly incarcerated individuals—in Washington, DC. Our array of therapeutic services and business development training programs are designed to prepare returning citizens for career pathways that will help them advance into the middle class and equip them with life skills that will allow them to be productive members of society. to prepare returning citizens for career pathways that will help them advance into the middle class and equip them with life skills that will allow them to be productive members of society. Our goal is to create a life and career pathway that will break the chronic intergenerational cycle of criminal activity and poverty for those returning home from incarceration.

## David Bailey

David Bailey was born and raised in Washington D.C. His mother and father were heavily addicted to heroin, and Mr. Bailey was also born addicted. Mr. Bailey had a harsh upbringing during the late 80's early 90's in Washington D.C., when D.C. was nicknamed the Murder Capital. Mr. Bailey was in and out of juvenile facilities starting at age 11 or 12 years old until, at 17 years old, he was convicted as an adult under Title 16 for two homicides and was sentenced to 35 years to life. Mr. Bailey has been in over 25 different federal, state, and private institutions. The love he has for his daughter's drove him to work on himself. Mr. Bailey taught himself how to read, then got his GED. He took many psychology classes to learn how to better control his emotions and actions, like anger management, conflict intervention, and victim impact. Mr. Bailey used these classes to learn how to better communicate outside of class and works diligently on his mental state, changing the way he views his life.



Mr. Bailey was one of the first juvenile lifers to be released under D.C.'s Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA). Since his release, he has worked with at-risk youth, young adults, and fellow returning citizens as a mentor and life coach. He also does violence prevention work in Ward 8. Mr. Bailey is a Poet Ambassador for Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop. Mr. Bailey has spoken at George Washington University Law School and at La Salle University, and has testified before D.C. Council about bills impacting people who are incarcerated. Mr. Bailey has also worked with Campaign for the Fair Sentencing for Youth in Philadelphia and D.C.

**Quincy L. Booth**  
**Director, Department of Corrections**

Quincy L. Booth, Director for the D.C. Department of Corrections (DCDOC), is a proven results oriented and organizational development senior manager with over 15 years' experience in D.C. Government operations including leadership/policy development roles in public safety.



Prior to being appointed Director by Mayor Muriel Bowser, Mr. Booth served as Management Support Deputy Director for DCDOC. During his two year tenure in this role, Mr. Booth implemented an organizational realignment for his division and expanded key functions including EEO, Diversity and Policy. Through his strong leadership and employee engagement, he shifted the division's culture to a more customer/client focused operation aimed at prioritizing the needs of the Department's internal and external stakeholders.

As Chief of Staff in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Mr. Booth collaborated with the District's public safety agencies, other District agencies, D.C. Council, and federal justice and interstate partners to provide expertise in strategic planning, government operations, and performance management. He also provided guidance in enhancing business processes and developing critical local and federal initiatives.

In the role of Deputy Director with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), Mr. Booth oversaw day to day operations and ensured effective engagement of the District's criminal justice partners. He was also charged with compliance and monitoring of court involved juveniles designated to the DCDOC.

Throughout his career, Mr. Booth has demonstrated a passion and talent for consensus building and strengthening relationships within organizations and the community. As a Ward 8 resident, he has a deep and abiding dedication to the residents of the District of Columbia and continues mentoring disadvantaged youth and supporting organizations committed to providing services aimed at elevating this population.

Mr. Booth holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a B.S. in Marketing.

**Shelley Broderick**  
**Dean Emerita, UDC Law**

**Chair, District Task Force on Jails & Justice**

Katherine S. Broderick served as Dean of the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law from August 1999 until June 2018, having previously served as Interim Dean, Clinical Director, Associate Dean and faculty member since 1979. In 2011, she was named the Joseph L. Rauh, Jr. Chair of Social Justice.



Professor Broderick began her academic career as a clinical faculty member. She directed the Criminal Defense Clinic at the Antioch School of Law for ten years representing more than 2,000 individuals charged with crimes in the Superior and District Courts of the District of Columbia. She also co-directed the Legislation Clinic for four years, supervising students working primarily on health and safety, environmental justice and criminal justice legislation with the D.C. Council. She has taught Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Professional Responsibility, and a seminar, "Perspectives on Social Justice." She taught in Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop, in the Fall Semester, for many years.

Professor Broderick is a founder and ardent participant in the D.C. Consortium of Legal Services Providers, an organization committed to increasing the quantity, improving the quality, and coordinating the delivery of legal services to low-income D.C. residents. She was appointed by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals to serve on the District of Columbia's Access to Justice Commission for 2008 and is now serving a fourth term. She also serves on the Board of D.C. Applesseed. Professor Broderick was named to the Norton Federal Law Enforcement Nominating Commission in 2009 and continues to serve. She also hosts Sound Advice, a UDC cable television show available in 200,000 D.C. households, providing information about legal issues affecting the District's most vulnerable residents, including predatory lending, domestic violence, AIDS and the District's abuse and neglect system. A committed civil libertarian, Professor Broderick is a past president and served on the Board of the American Civil Liberties Union of the Nation's Capital for many years. She continues to serve on the Litigation Screening Committee and on the Nominations Committee.

Professor Broderick received the 2018 "Potter Stewart Award" from the Council for Court Excellence, the 2017 "Heman Sweatt Award" from the National Bar Association, the 2015 "Effective Force in Service of the People Award" from the D.C. Chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild in recognition of outstanding leadership, the 2010 Champion of Justice Award from the Trial Lawyers Association of Washington for her successful efforts to establish and develop the School of Law, and the 2009 Deborah L. Rhode Award from the Association of American Law Schools in recognition of her work to increase pro bono and public service opportunities in law schools. She was named "Hero in the Law" by the Olender Foundation for 2007 and one of the 100 most powerful women in Washington by the Washingtonian Magazine in 2006. She was honored with the Servant of Justice Award by the Legal Aid Society in 2005. Professor Broderick was named a Fellow of the American Bar Association in 2000.

**Avis E. Buchanan**  
**Director, Public Defender Service**

As the director of PDS, Avis E. Buchanan provides defense and related legal and non-legal services to people charged with crimes in the local District of Columbia courts who cannot afford to hire an attorney.

After graduating from Michigan State University and Harvard Law School, Ms. Buchanan worked as a law clerk for the late Honorable Theodore J. McMillian of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. In 1982, Ms. Buchanan joined PDS as a staff attorney, doing criminal defense work for six and a half years. For the next 13 years, Ms. Buchanan served as staff attorney, director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Project, and then director of Litigation at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, where she was primarily responsible for litigating individual and class action employment and public accommodations cases in various federal and local courts. Ms. Buchanan rejoined PDS in 2002 as its deputy director, and was selected to serve as PDS's director in 2004.



**Marcus Bullock**  
**CEO, Flikshop**

Marcus Bullock is a justice reform advocate, public speaker, and entrepreneur. Following his 2004 release from prison, he launched a painting company and is now CEO of Perspectives Premier Contractors, which employs other returning citizens. Bullock is founder and CEO of Flikshop, a free app that enables incarcerated people to receive mail and postcards, and the Flikshop School of Business, a program that teaches incarcerated youth life skills and entrepreneurship. He is a member of the Justice Policy Institute's board of directors and a re-entry coordinator for Free Minds Book Club and Writer's Workshop. Married with two children, Bullock's story has received coverage from CNN and the *Washington Business Journal*.



**Leslie Cooper**  
**Director, Pretrial Services Agency**

Over the last six years, Ms. Cooper has been at the forefront of moving PSA towards being an evidence-based and data driven agency, as demonstrated in her previous roles as Associate Director and Deputy Director for PSA.

Ms. Cooper began her federal career as a Program Analyst with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) in 1998. From there, she moved into progressively responsible positions, including Program Manager and Deputy Associate Director for Community Justice Programs. During her time with CSOSA, she established the Treatment Management Team and was a key leader in the activation and opening of the Re-Entry and Sanctions Center (RSC). She also was responsible for a host of other programs and services, including substance use disorder treatment; community relations; educational and vocational support; violence reduction programming; community service; mentoring; and victim services.



In 2008, Ms. Cooper accepted a senior leadership position with the US Department of Labor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, where she handled a diverse portfolio of regulatory and programmatic policy, and completed work on a number of the initial regulations to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“Obama Care”). This work, in addition to her previous experience, added a significant component to the solid foundation she brought to PSA when she joined us in 2011 as the Associate Director for Operations.

Leslie received her Bachelor of Science degree from Howard University and her Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. She is a member of the bar associations of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

In her new position as PSA Director, she will continue to lead in a direction not only to enhance our reputation as the premier pretrial justice organization in the country, but also to ensure that the services the Agency provides to our criminal justice stakeholders and client population are of the highest quality.

**Kevin Donahue**  
**Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice**

Appointed by then Mayor-elect Muriel Bowser in December 2014, Kevin Donahue serves as the Deputy City Administrator and the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. In both roles, he brings an analytical approach that utilizes data to deliver tangible results to the residents of the District of Columbia.



Mr. Donahue’s use of data as a tool to improve core city functions began in 2008 when he served as Director of CapStat under Mayor Adrian Fenty. CapStat, a data-based accountability system, involves bringing together leadership across government agencies for a clear, issue-specific discussion that focuses on the effectiveness of strategies and choices. “The role of data is to give decisions a factual basis. This way decisions can be made and performance can be evaluated,” said Mr. Donahue. “And what’s equally important is there is relentless follow up to be sure work is being done.”

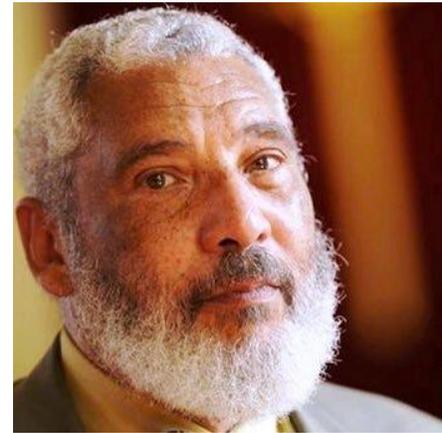
Case in point, Mr. Donahue oversaw a thorough review of the corrective action plan for the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS). The agency halted all DNA testing as a result of an audit by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB). With new leadership at DFS, Mr. Donahue worked side by side to identify issues and challenges and began the rebuilding process in order to regain the trust of government partners who rely on DNA testing to solve crimes and provide closure to families.

Prior to joining the Bowser Administration, Mr. Donahue served as the Executive Director of the Federal government’s Performance Improvement Council. In this role, he continued his data-driven approach to create accountability in order to streamline government functions. Mr. Donahue also led the successful development of a reform agenda for the US General Services Administration following a damaging conference-spending scandal. Previously, Mr. Donahue worked at the US Department of the Treasury, serving as the Director for Strategic & Planning and Performance Improvement and a Senior Advisor to its Assistant Secretary for Management and CFO.

Originally from Miami, Mr. Donahue moved to the DC area in 1990 to earn his bachelor’s degree in government at Georgetown University. He also holds a master’s degree in Public Policy from Harvard University. Mr. Donahue has lived in Washington, DC for the past 14 years with his wife, Amy. He has two children, Owen and Dylan, who both attend the Inspired Teaching Public Charter School.

**Reverend Graylan Scott Hagler**  
**Senior Minister, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ**

Graylan Scott Hagler began his career as an activist fighting to hold the forces of corporate America accountable for the socio-economic impact of their actions. For three decades he has been a powerful voice for disenfranchised black and Latino communities fighting irresponsible or racist corporate decisions which exploit those communities.



As minister at the Third Unitarian Church on Chicago’s West Side in the 1970s, Graylan began looking for ways to bring the black and Latino communities to face injustices by which they were both affected. He founded Black and Latinos In Action, the first black and Latino coalition in the city, which was instrumental in the election of Harold Washington as mayor of Chicago.

In 1981, Graylan moved to Boston, attracted to the challenge of “combating racism and sexism, and attempting political empowerment in a city like Boston.” There he took over a run-down, city-owned building near Dudley Station in Roxbury to start the Church of the United Community and started a small weekly drug program, which grew in attendance and success until it was offering daily meetings to accommodate hundreds of people a week.

Graylan was also involved in addressing issues of racial justice in the Boston area in his church. He was an outspoken critic of the Boston Police Department’s unjust and racially-motivated gang control tactics and became Vice President of the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union, a National Consultant to the Disciples of Christ Actions for Safe and Just Communities, and a member of the Racial Justice Working Group of the National Council of Churches.

In 1993, Graylan brought his socio-political awareness from Boston to Washington, D.C. where he now works in the Fort Totten neighborhood, which he describes as a “community ripe for exploitation and withdrawal of capital.” As minister of the Plymouth Congregational United Church, he has been instrumental in helping his neighborhood control which businesses are allowed to operate.

Last year, Graylan became the Chair of Initiative 51, a group fighting to pass Proposition 51-a referendum in the District of Columbia to allow the public examination of corporate property tax records. Proposition 51 passed with 80 percent of the vote, allowing citizens to identify those large corporations that do not contribute their fair share to their communities because of tax breaks.

Graylan Scott Hagler is an outspoken critic of the U.S. Congress’s imposition of the District of Columbia Control Board, which he sees as epitomizing the dangers of anti-democratic power. He is also wary of the power of minority “status quo” politicians and emphasizes the importance of understanding that “our power comes from within ourselves—no politician or leader is going to save us if we don’t try to save ourselves.”

## **Tyrone Hall**

Tyrone Hall, the youngest member on the District Task Force on Jails & Justice, grew up in Ward 1's Shaw Howard community. Tyrone has experienced extensive stays in and out of the prison system since he was a teenager. Not being able to attend his mother's funeral last year was the breaking point, which Tyrone now looks at as a blessing. After recently reentering the community in December 2018, Tyrone has dedicated his time and positive energy into advocating for criminal justice reform and returning citizens like himself. He hopes to one day start a non-profit to help at-risk youth transition into adulthood.



**Indira Henard**  
**Executive Director, DC Rape Crisis Center**

Indira Henard is the Executive Director of DCRCC. Indira has been involved in the violence against women movement for 20 years. Indira’s expertise in gender based violence is rooted in an anti-oppression, feminist theory and survivor centered model. Indira’s direct service experience in various gender based violence programs has helped to inform her policy analysis that has led to coordinating public policy initiatives, organizing and planning space for survivor led advocacy and educating local and International communities around civic participation within the violence against women movement.



Indira received her Masters of Social Work degree from the National Catholic School of Social Service at Catholic University of America. Additionally, Indira has deep ties within the policy sector having served as a Ralph Bunche Institute Fellow at Duke University, a Congressional Truman Fellow on Capitol Hill, and a Charles Hamilton Houston Fellow at Georgetown Law Center.

Prior to joining the DC Rape Crisis Center, Indira served as a Senate Aide for Senator Barack Obama D-IL on Capitol Hill, as well as Special Assistant on his Presidential Campaign. Indira was most recently awarded the national “Victim Impact Award” from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

**Tyrell Holcomb**  
**Chairman, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7F**

Commissioner Tyrell M. Holcomb, was first elected in 2016 with 43% of the vote and re-elected in 2018 (unopposed) carrying 95% of all ballots casted. In 2018 his colleagues elected him Chairman of the 7F Commission. A fourth generation Washingtonian, Holcomb's legacy of service began at an early age. As a participant of the Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute, he'd go on to serve as Youth Mayor of the District of Columbia and Chairman of the DC Youth Advisory Council.



Defying the odds of a broken home, poverty, and an absentee father, Holcomb learned the value of mentorship, service, and being a change-maker. Over the years he's worked on multiple political campaigns, served on various local boards, and mentored numerous young men, all while serving as Lead Minister to Youth at his home church.

Holcomb has quickly established himself as a progressive voice advocating for jobs, economic development, responsive government, equitable health care, eliminating Ward 7's food desert, and issues effecting youth and seniors. Keeping his campaign commitment to be a Commissioner who's present and accessible; he established monthly community walkthroughs, a monthly community newsletter and quarterly district meetings. Holcomb's unwavering commitment to public service is evident through his current work in non-profit management.

Additionally, Holcomb serves as a Board Member of the Marshall Heights Community Development Organization where he is charged with overseeing juvenile justice issues. In his spare time when not fighting to end food injustice or working for his constituents; Holcomb enjoys a good run in his neighborhood, and rooting on his hometown sports teams.

**Dr. Marc Howard**  
**Professor, Georgetown University**

Marc M. Howard is Professor of Government and Law, and the founding Director of the Prisons and Justice Initiative, at Georgetown University. He is one of the country's leading voices and advocates for criminal justice and prison reform. His academic research addresses the deep challenges of contemporary democracy and the tragedy of criminal justice and prisons in America. The author of three books and dozens of scholarly articles, his work has received numerous awards, including from the American Political Science Association and the International Studies Association. His most recent book is *Unusually Cruel: Prisons, Punishment, and the Real American Exceptionalism*.



He is also a prize-winning teacher, and his "Prisons and Punishment" course has become one of the most sought-after courses at Georgetown. The students in his "Making an Exoneree" course—co-taught with his childhood friend, Marty Tankleff, who was himself wrongfully imprisoned for almost 18 years—re-investigate likely wrongful conviction cases and create documentaries that suggest innocence. Their project has already resulted in the exoneration of Valentino Dixon, who had served 27 years in prison. Under Howard's leadership, PJI recently launched the Pivot Program, for formerly incarcerated women and men to become entrepreneurs and business leaders, as well as the Scholars Program, which offers both credit-bearing and non-credit courses to incarcerated students at the DC Jail.

**Dr. Diana Lapp**  
**Deputy Chief Medical Office and VP for Medical Administration, Unity Health Care**

Dr. Diana Lapp has an undergraduate degree in Sociology/Anthropology. She went into the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone. Through travels, she took a change of course in her life from social services to medicine. She is a Howard University College of Medicine graduate and went into Family Medicine. She did her residency just outside of Chicago then returned to the east coast. After a brief time in Virginia, she came to Unity Health Care and has been with Unity for the last seventeen years. She is currently the Deputy CMO working with Unity's 30 sites in areas of Medical Administration including serving as the Medical Director at the DC Jail. Within this context, Dr. Lapp has been able to help with the implementation of the community oriented correctional health center model at the District of Columbia Department of Corrections. This model specializes in the transition of the “temporary displaced” DC residents back to the D.C. community.



**Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad**  
**Assistant Professor, Howard University**

Bahiyyah M. Muhammad received her B.S. in Administration of Justice from Rutgers University- New Brunswick Campus with a minor in Psychology and a Criminology Certificate. As an undergraduate, she became a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and a Minority Academic Career Program (MAC) - Undergraduate Research Fellow. She also spent a semester as a research intern at the University of Natal, located in Pietermaritzberg, South Africa where she interviewed natives on their attitudes toward the criminal justice system. Dr. Muhammad went on to receive her M.S. in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice- New York City. As a graduate, she presented research findings at numerous professional conferences such as those held by the Academy of Criminal Justice Science (ACJS), American Society of Criminology (ASC), Sisters of the Academy (SOA), and the American Correction Association (ACA).



Dr. Muhammad received her Ph.D. from Rutgers University's School of Criminal Justice, where she specialized in families and communities affected by mass incarceration. Her particular area of expertise rests in the lived experiences of children of incarcerated parents. Dr. Muhammad has spent the last decade of her criminal justice career conducting ethnographic work about children ages 7 – 18, living in urban communities throughout New Jersey, who have experienced the loss of one or both of their parents to the prison system. She is currently founding a non-profit organization to address the dynamic concerns faced by children of the incarcerated.

Dr. Muhammad has taught numerous undergraduate courses at the Rutgers University, West Chester University, and The New School in New York City. She has also taught classes in numerous prisons, including at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women (EMCF) in Clinton, NJ, and Northern State Prison, Newark, NJ. Dr. Muhammad also served as director of the College Bound Consortium, a prisoner education program facilitated at EMCF through a partnership between Drew University and Raritan Valley Community College.

Currently, Dr. Muhammad is Assistant Professor of Criminology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Howard University. This spring she is teaching Corrections and Criminology. Dr. Muhammad recently signed a publishing contract for children's books and parenting resources for families affected by incarceration.

## **Wendy Pohlhaus**

### **Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for External Affairs, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia**

Wendy Pohlhaus is the Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for External Affairs at the U.S Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia (USAODC). Mrs. Pohlhaus was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in Spanish from the University of the District of Columbia in 1987, and her law degree from the University of Miami, School of Law in 1990. After law school, she served as a public defender with the Dade County Public Defender's Office and the Southern District of Florida Federal Public Defender's Office, providing both trial and appellate representation to indigent defendants. In November 1998, she joined the Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Section (NDDS), and was detailed to Puerto Rico during her first two years with NDDS. While at NDDS, she prosecuted large international drug trafficking organizations. In August 2003, Ms. Pohlhaus joined the United States Attorney Office for the District of Columbia as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. While in the United States Attorney Office, she served with distinction in the Grand Jury Section, General Felony Section, Felony Major Crimes, and the Criminal Division and as the Sixth District Community Prosecutor.



For the past ten years, Mrs. Pohlhaus has served as the Executive Assistant United States Attorney for External Affairs in which she oversees the Community Prosecution Section. This Section connects with community stakeholders to understand the needs and gaps in services within local communities. The community prosecutors and community outreach specialists, who are assigned to this section, work directly with residents, local business, nonprofit organizations, and other community stakeholders to develop a comprehensive approach to fighting crime and protecting the rights and interest of city residents. They focus on building bonds of trust between USAODC and the community, enhancing public safety through education, and encouraging community participation in the criminal justice system. These goals are implemented through community outreach programs, youth engagement, and reentry initiatives.

**Corporal Arnold E. Hudson, Sr.**  
**Vice-Chairman, FOP D. C. Department of Corrections**

Corporal Arnold Edward Hudson, Sr. is a native Washingtonian and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Fraternal Order of the Police for the District of Columbia Department of Corrections.

As a young man, Cpl. Hudson witnessed the problems that were attacking his community. He had a vision to give back to his community by coaching Little League Football. Through the game, he sought to teach his players how to work as a team, make good decisions, and learn the lessons of responsibility and dependability. He hoped these skills would transfer into their daily lives, leading them to become productive citizens and good fathers.



Cpl. Hudson currently resides in Ward 5. Over the years, Cpl. Hudson has touched the lives of thousands of young men in the city through coaching and working with the Order of the Knights of Pythagoras. He is a leader in his home, community, church, and Masonic organizations. He personally teaches young men the importance of being a good father, active positive member of their community, church and a faithful friend.

**Honorable Karl A. Racine**  
**Attorney General of the District of Columbia**

Karl A. Racine was sworn in as the District of Columbia’s first elected Attorney General in 2015 and was reelected to a second term in 2018. Attorney General Racine is honored to serve again and will use the next four years to expand work on priorities, including preserving affordable housing, employing evidence-based juvenile justice reforms, cracking down on slumlords, holding unscrupulous employers accountable for wage theft, and protecting consumers from scams and abusive business practices. He is also committed to making investments in new efforts to protect seniors and other vulnerable residents, interrupt violence in the District, address childhood trauma, and more.



Through his work as vice president of the bi-partisan National Association of Attorneys General and as co-chair of the Democratic Attorneys General Association, Attorney General Racine also speaks out for D.C. autonomy at the national level and pushes back against federal government policies that harm District residents.

Attorney General Racine draws on over 25 years of legal and leadership experience in his work on behalf of District residents. Over the course of his career, he has worked at the D.C. Public Defender Service, where he represented District residents who could not afford a lawyer, served as Associate White House Counsel to President Bill Clinton, and worked on criminal cases and complex civil litigation at private firms. While in private practice, he was elected managing partner of his firm, Venable LLP, and became the first African-American managing partner of a top-100 American law firm.

Born in Haiti, Attorney General Racine came to the District at the age of three. He attended D.C. public schools, including Murch Elementary, Deal Junior High, and Wilson High, and graduated from St. John’s College High School. He earned a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was captain of the basketball team, and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he volunteered in a legal clinic supporting the rights of migrant farm workers. His commitment to equal justice was inspired by his parents, who fled authoritarian rule in Haiti to start a better life in the United States, and by the lawyers of the Civil Rights Movement, who used the law to make positive social change.

Outside of his official role, Attorney General Racine remains involved with a variety of causes, including youth literacy and mentoring. He lives in Ward 1.

**Christy Respress**  
**Executive Director, Pathways to Housing DC**

Christy Respress has more than 20 years of experience working with individuals who are experiencing homelessness and living with complex behavioral health challenges. She has worked with Pathways to Housing for 17 years, and has been in the role of Executive Director of Pathways to Housing DC since January 2011. She has extensive knowledge of Housing First and has provided technical assistance to agencies and communities around the country to implement this innovative model. She is also the President of the Board of Directors of the DC Behavioral Health Association. Christy received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from The Catholic University of America and her Masters in Social Work from Howard University.



**Marc Schindler**  
**Executive Director, Justice Policy Institute**

As JPI's executive director, Marc Schindler is a dedicated justice system reformer, while serving in a variety of roles. Most recently, he was a partner at a DC-based nonprofit philanthropic investment organization, Venture Philanthropy Partners. He served in a variety of leadership roles at DC's juvenile justice agency, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) including Chief of Staff and Interim Director. Schindler also served as Staff Attorney with the Youth Law Center, advocating for the rights of young people in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. He is also a former Baltimore City public defender. Schindler is a recognized expert in the field, providing commentary in the national media, including on CNN and NPR, and is also the author of numerous articles and book chapters.



**Tammy Seltzer**  
**Director, D.C. Jail and Prison Advocacy Project at Disability Rights D.C.**

Tammy Seltzer is the Director of the DC Jail and Prison Advocacy Project at Disability Rights DC (DRDC). DRDC founded the DC Jail and Prison Advocacy Project in 2007 to assist DC residents with serious and persistent mental illness returning to the community from jail and prison, removing obstacles to reentry and linking individuals to services and supports. The DC Jail and Prison Advocacy Project is the only DC legal services provider to assist individuals with disabilities to apply for SSI and SSDI prior to their release from incarceration.



Tammy has worked for over 20 years vindicating the civil rights of people with mental illness in various arenas including the justice system. Tammy spent two years as the Director of State Policy at the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, the national association for community mental health and substance abuse treatment providers. As part of her work with the National Council, Tammy provided technical assistance on a variety of policy issues involving mental health and substance use disorders, such as funding for home- and community-based services and healthcare reform. Tammy also spent 10 years as an attorney with the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, where she focused on children and criminal justice issues, including an SSI benefits project to assist children of Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

In 2016, Tammy received the Council for Court Excellence's 2016 Justice Potter Stewart Award for her work with people with disabilities. Tammy graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Public Policy and received her law degree from the David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia.

**Jonathan M. Smith**  
**Executive Director, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs**

Jonathan M. Smith was appointed executive director of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs on July 1, 2016. Immediately prior to joining the Committee, Mr. Smith was the Associate Dean of Experiential and Clinical Programs at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.



Mr. Smith was the Chief of the Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice from 2010 to 2015. The Section was responsible for pattern or practice investigations of civil rights violations by law enforcement, correctional, juvenile justice, and mental health and developmental disability agencies. Under his leadership, the Section conducted the civil investigation of the Ferguson, Missouri Police Department following the death of Michael Brown.

Prior to his government services, Mr. Smith was the executive director of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, the Public Justice Center in Baltimore, Maryland, and the D.C. Prisoners' Legal Services Project. In each of these positions, in addition to providing program leadership, he has handled individual, class action and impact litigation, engaged in legislative advocacy and in institutional reform efforts. He started his career as an associate to Virginia civil rights lawyer Victor Glasberg.

**Courtney Stewart**  
**Chairman, National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens**

Executive Director Courtney Stewart has been involved in criminal justice reform, restorative initiatives, and addiction prevention since 1989. After returning from prison, he began mentoring formerly incarcerated individuals and realized the need for a coordinated effort for political, economic, and social empowerment. Founded on this call to action in 2010, the National Reentry Network has consistently participated in direct outreach with impacted community members. Their efforts have included voter registration, hosting candidate forums on reentry, linking returning citizens with employment opportunities and skills development, and mobilization and engagement on community issues and civic rights. The Network has built trusted relationships among returning citizens and their families through direct engagement and consistent follow-through, giving us greater access to disaffected groups. They are uniquely positioned to meaningfully reach this population and serve as a conduit for these voices to be elevated to action.



**Paula Thompson**  
**Co-Chair, D.C. Reentry Action Network**

Paula Thompson serves as co-chair of the D.C. Reentry Action Network (RAN). RAN is a coalition of community-based nonprofit organizations providing direct reentry-specific services to justice-involved District residents. RAN strives to ensure that all justice-involved people in D.C. have access to high quality reentry services to support their successful reintegration and promotes community-based alternatives to end D.C.'s over-reliance on the criminal justice system.



Ms. Thompson brings more than 20 years of experience to this role, including her current position as Executive Director of Voices for a Second Chance (VSC), an organization with 50 years of service to the community that bridges the gap for individuals from incarceration to community and serves over 4,000 individuals a year. Ms. Thompson is a passionate, proven leader, champion and advocate for incarcerated and returning citizens and her commitment to this population is evidenced through her visionary leadership that has resulted in the implementation of gender-specific trauma informed focused groups individual pre-and-post release counseling, expanded reentry, family centered/reunification services and children of incarcerated parents focused programming and special projects to respond to their growing complex needs while “doing time” at home when a parent/loved one is incarcerated.

In addition to her passion for this work, as Executive Director, Ms. Thompson successfully manages the administrative, financial and programmatic operations as well as tactical decision making for the organization. As an expert in the field of social justice, human rights and equity for marginalized populations, Ms. Thompson continues to elevate the discussion to influence policy makers and stakeholders to give returning citizens real access to second chances with the tools and resources necessary to integrate effectively into the community. To achieve this end, Ms. Thompson continues to advance advocacy around policy and funding through public private partnerships while also serving as a Council for Court Excellence Board Director, appointed Commissioner by Mayor Bowser to the Returning Citizens Affairs Commission, and other community and civic affiliations. In 2017, Ms. Thompson was the recipient of the DC Mayor’s Office on Returning Citizen Affairs Excellence in Reentry Leadership Award.

Before embarking on a career in nonprofit senior management, Ms. Thompson was a successful federal lobbyist having secured over \$35 million in federal and private funding; created development plans for nonprofits; and designed and implemented public policy and advocacy agendas for not-for and for-profit organizations. Ms. Thompson holds a BS degree in Public Affairs-Political Science from The Lincoln University of Pennsylvania.

**LaShonia Thompson-El**  
**Executive Director, The WIRE**

Lashonia Thompson-El is the author of *Through the WIRE: My Search for Redemption*. It is a timely book about youth violence, trauma and incarceration from the eyes of a girl born and raised in SE, DC. At the age of 19, Lashonia went to prison where she would remain for 18.5 years. She set out to rehabilitate herself and atone for her past mistakes to the best of her ability. She received her GED, began to pursue a college degree, and she helped develop and facilitate many classes for other incarcerated women.



In December 2011 Lashonia was released on parole. In 2013 she was hired as the Female Reentry Coordinator for the Mayor’s Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA). As an advocate for gender responsive reentry strategies and criminal justice reform in the District of Columbia, Lashonia has had the opportunity to speak publicly about the impact of mass incarceration on women and children. She speaks candidly about the consequences of youth violence and the challenges women face during the reintegration process as well as the importance of family reunification. Lashonia currently works for the DC Office of Attorney General (OAG), where she serves as a Restorative Justice Facilitator.

In May of 2016, Lashonia completed her undergraduate degree in Human Relations at Trinity Washington University. She is currently pursuing her Master’s Degree in Science Administration with a concentration in Organizational Management.

Lashonia is one of the founding members of The WIRE. She is also a member of the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. Her passion is gender-responsive criminal justice reform and providing wrap around support services to children with incarcerated mothers.