

March 2021 Newsletter



District Task Force on Jails & Justice Releases Report to Transform D.C.'s Justice System

On February 11, 2021, the **District Task Force on Jails & Justice** published its final report, [Jails & Justice: Our Transformation Starts Today](#) which includes 80 recommendations to improve the criminal justice system in D.C. and to lower incarceration rates by half. Based on research and drafting support from CCE, the new report provides District leaders with a roadmap for implementing a range of changes to laws, policies, and public investments. The recommendations are designed to reduce D.C.'s incarcerated population and enhance community safety, with a specific focus on ending the justice system's disproportionate negative impacts on Black residents. CCE facilitated a [virtual launch event](#) where Task Force members, including Chair **Shelley Broderick**, discussed their recommendations and how D.C. can change the criminal justice system with some immediate changes, and others over the

course of 10 years.

Since its release last month, there has been significant community interest in the Task Force's data and recommendations for reform. CCE has facilitated 12 educational briefings on the Task Force's report, reaching more than 1,000 D.C. residents and community stakeholders in the last month. Several more briefings are scheduled for April and May. If you are part of an organization or group that would like to schedule a briefing to learn more about the Task Force's recommendations, please [email Emily Tatro](#).

Hosting the School Jury Education Program in a Virtual World

Despite the many challenges of virtual learning amid the pandemic, CCE is proud to have been able to facilitate our first three online sessions of the School Jury Education Program (SJEP) in March. More than 40 D.C. high school students were able to participate in mock jury deliberations and have conversations with local judges. We look forward to learning from these first "trial runs" with our newly-adapted virtual SJEP curriculum and hosting additional class sessions in May 2021. We are especially grateful to the judges who volunteered and worked patiently with CCE and our partner, Street Law, as we navigated the challenges of hosting SJEP virtually for the first time.

CCE Welcomes Policy Counsel Sosseh Prom

CCE is thrilled to welcome **Sosseh Prom** as our new Policy Counsel. Previously a Staff Attorney at Bread for the City focused on family law, Ms. Prom will be supporting CCE's Civil Justice and Youth Justice Committees. Before becoming a lawyer, Ms. Prom conducted research on human rights issues and collaborated with working groups to issue policy reports while a Program Coordinator at the International Bar Association. When she's not working, Ms. Prom enjoys cooking and is currently working her way through a few cookbooks. She also enjoys pottery and even created a little studio in her own home. Both Ms. Prom's experience and her passion for lifting up the experiences and needs of D.C.'s low income litigants will make her an excellent addition to the CCE team. Please email [Ms. Prom](#) if you are interested in joining either CCE's Civil or Youth Justice Committees.



Donate Today!

Join CCE for Our Annual Justice Potter Stewart Award Gala

CCE will host its 24th [Annual Justice Potter Stewart Award Gala](#) virtually on May 20, 2021, with entertainment starting at 5:00 pm and the program and awards presentation from 5:30-6:30 pm. This year, we are delighted to recognize our distinguished honorees, **Patty Mullahy Fugere** of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, **Kojo Nnamdi** of the The Kojo Nnamdi Show, WAMU/NPR, and **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP** and **Wiley Rein LLP** who have been leaders with the D.C. Compassionate Release Project.

[Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available.](#) You can find more details about sponsorships [here](#), or you may [email Faith Hudson](#) or call 202-785-5917.



CCE Educates D.C. Lawmakers on Our Research and Policy Opportunities

During D.C. Council's recent agency performance oversight hearings, CCE leaders and staff testified before D.C. Council eight times. We provided educational testimony regarding a range of issues facing D.C.'s justice system agencies, including: pre-arrest diversion, juvenile justice due process, our substance use disorder audit findings, and the District's Clemency Board, among

others. Additionally, CCE staff updated the Council and the public on the recent recommendations from the District Task Force on Jail & Justice's recent report. A special thank you to Board President **Patrick McGlone** and Board Director **Paul Lee** (pictured above) for lending their time and expertise while testifying.

We're Hiring!

CCE is currently looking to hire a new Director of Development or Development Manager to join our dynamic, passionate team. We are looking for an experienced development professional to lead CCE's fundraising and development activities. We'd love your help in spreading the word to great candidates! Click [here](#) for details about the role and how to apply.

Coming Soon

- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Our SJEP partner, Georgetown Street Law, is seeking volunteers for its **Annual Mock Trial Tournament** on March 31 and April 5 from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Over 200 high school students from ten D.C. public schools will become lawyers and witnesses in the mock trial case. [Sign up today!](#)
- Slated to be released in April, CCE's newest publication, ***D.C.'s Justice System Overview 2020***, will provide a summary of the major criminal justice-related developments and challenges in the District over the last year, including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This report is the second in an annualized series that CCE is producing in partnership with the **Public Welfare Foundation**.
- Later this spring, our Estate Administration Working Group – a collaborative initiative between CCE and the D.C. Access to Justice Commission – will issue its recommendations to improve the operations of D.C.'s complicated probate system and to help *pro se* litigants better navigate probate court.

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