

Alameda County Reimagining Juvenile Justice Forum

Friday, October 23, 2020

Panel Speakers

Vision for Reform - National Perspective Panel

Tshaka Barrows, Chief Executive Officer, W. Haywood Burns Institute

Mr. Barrows is a founding member of the W. Haywood Burns Institute working to advance their mission to protect and improve the lives of communities of color and poor people. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin in 2002, he joined the Burns Institute as Regional Manager for the Community Justice Network for Youth where he grew the network to over 200 members nationwide and developed several curricula including a comprehensive juvenile justice history curriculum, as well as racial and ethnic disparity taskforces in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Chicago and New Orleans.

Elizabeth Calvin, Senior Advocate, Children's Rights Division, Human Rights Watch

Elizabeth Calvin is the senior advocate in the Children's Rights Division and an attorney with experience in youth justice, foster care, and education rights. At Human Rights Watch she focuses on children, youth, and emerging adults in conflict with the law. Her work includes research and writing on human rights violations against children, policy and legal advocacy, and building partnerships with community and national groups.

Vincent Schiraldi - Senior Research Scientist, Columbia School of Social Work

Mr. Schiraldi received a MSW from New York University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Binghamton University. In his public life he founded the policy think tank, Justice Policy Institute, before moving to government as director of the juvenile corrections in Washington DC, and then as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation where he pioneered efforts at community-based alternatives to incarceration. Prior to joining the Columbia School of Social Work he served as Senior Advisor to the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice.

Hon. Lateefa Simon, President, Akonadi Foundation

Hon. Simon is a nationally recognized advocate for civil rights and racial justice in the Bay Area. In 2016 she was elected to the Bay Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors; currently serving as President of the Board. She is also a member of California State University's Board of Trustees, where state officials often turn to her for strategic advice on policy matters related to racial justice. Hon. Simon received the MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Award in 2003—making her at the time the youngest woman to receive the award—in recognition of her work as Executive Director of the Young Women's Freedom Center.

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Reimagining Services - Youth Panel

Xochitl Larios, Youth Justice Program Associate, Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice

Ms. Larios is a 20-year-old full-time college student and 2018 recipient of the California Endowment 2018 Youth Award as a Community Champion. She served as the youngest Fellow of the Peer-to-Peer Initiative through the Community Justice Network for Youth Program of the Burns Institute. She is also a vital youth commissioner on the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission. She is an accomplished and relentless community activist and leader working in the trenches of local grassroots mobilizing, the laboratory of regional program development and execution, and the progressive planning of national restorative justice reform.

Kardale Tanner, Youth Leader, Urban Peace Movement

Mr. Tanner is a youth entrepreneur who runs a small catering business and is a youth leader in Urban Peace Movement's Determination Young Black Men's Group. Having graduated from Camp Sweeney earlier this year, he has overcome challenges as a teenager and has dedicated himself to mentoring his peers that have had similar experiences. He hopes through his business and mentorship, he is able to create opportunities for other young people in his community. He is 17 and currently attends Lincoln Academy in San Leandro.

Katie Dixon (KD), Fair Chance Community Rights Organizer, Legal Aid At Work

Katie Dixon's work for Legal Aid At Work, includes assisting low-income, working families, throughout the state of California, with free employment-related legal services through clinics and advocacy work to enforce and strengthen workers rights. Since graduating from the Delancey Street Foundation in 2014, Katie has been active in supporting communities throughout the Bay Area. Katie recently completed a Policy Fellowship, with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, designed for Formerly Incarcerated people to develop skills necessary to pursue a career in public policy.

Justice Impacted Young Adults

Recent graduates of Probation programs. Names not listed to protect privacy.

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Reimagining Juvenile Justice - Justice Partners Panel

Hon. Ursula Jones Dickson, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, Alameda County Superior Court

Judge Jones Dickson was appointed to the Alameda County Superior Court by Gov. Edmund G. Brown in 2013. She earned her B.A. in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1990 and her J.D. from the University of San Francisco in 1998. She spent most of her legal career as a Deputy District Attorney for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. While at the District Attorney's Office, she spent 6 years in the Juvenile Justice Division working on policy issues effecting juveniles in the state, including commercially sexually exploited children. She currently supervises operations of both juvenile justice and dependency cases handled at the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center. During her tenure on the court, she has been actively involved in multiple collaborative courts in criminal, juvenile justice, and family drug courts through the dependency courts.

Alphonso Mance, Assistant Public Defender, Alameda County Public Defender's Office

Mr. Mance is a graduate of Oberlin College and the University of Michigan Law School. Mr. Mance is an assistant Public Defender who currently serves as the supervising attorney for the juvenile division of the Alameda County Public Defender's office. Mr. Mance joined the public defender's office in 2003. Prior to working in the Public Defender's Office, Mance served as a staff attorney for the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Wendy Still, MAS, Chief Probation Officer, Alameda County Probation Department

Chief Still joined Alameda County in 2016 having retired as Chief Adult Probation Officer of the City & County of San Francisco. She is also retired from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; with over 40 years' experience in California local and State Government, specializing in prison administration, Adult and Juvenile Community Corrections and reentry systems. She is a criminologist and possesses a Master's degree in Law, Criminology & Society from the UC Irvine, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Behavior from the University of San Francisco. Chief Still is a true reformer of correctional and justice policies and has won numerous awards for her work to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism for California's reentry populations.

Terry Wiley, Assistant District Attorney, Alameda County District Attorney's Office

Mr. Wiley is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and the University of San Diego School of Law. He has served in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office since 1989. In that time he has had the following assignments: Head of the Felony Trial Team, Director of Recruitment and Development and presently serves as Assistant District Attorney in Charge of the Juvenile Division.

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Clarence Ford, Policy Research Associate, W. Haywood Burns Institute

Mr. Ford brings lived experience to the justice reform movement. After being released from incarceration, he became a community organizer/policy advocate in Richmond, CA focusing on the removal of barriers in the reintegration of formerly incarcerated peoples. It was through his organizing experience with the SafeReturnTeam that he became politicized and learned how to use his juvenile hall and prison experience as a catalyst for change in social justice. He received his BA from the University of California, Berkeley and his Master of Public Policy from Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy.

Lynn Gardner, MBA, MS, Counseling - Youth & Family Services Program Manager, Horizon Family Services

Ms. Gardner serves as the Co-Chair for the Delinquency Prevention Network (DPN) for Alameda County Juvenile Services Division. She graduated from California State University, Hayward in 2004 with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy and a certificate in Child & Adolescent Therapy. Prior to her work in the Livermore area, she worked with individuals and families in crisis as well as children and adolescents dealing with truancy, anger management and substance abuse issues for both the cities of Hayward and Fremont.

Krea Gomez, Education Director, Young Women's Freedom Center

Ms Gomez was introduced to justice work as a 16-year old street outreach worker at YWFC and it changed her life. Since then, she has spent years learning how to support her community and her people as an organizer, assisted parents in delivering babies as a doula, had her own children and was a teacher and Dean of Students at a social justice and arts-focused school. She recently returned to the Center in 2017.

Vamsey Palagummi, Chair, Alameda County Juvenile Justice And Delinquency Prevention Commission

Mr. Palagummi serves as Interim Associate Director for Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice. He earned his JD from Santa Clara University School of Law and is a member of the California Bar Association. While in law school, he provided free legal services to indigent parents facing dependency proceedings, and worked at the Northern California Innocence Project for the wrongfully convicted. His deep commitment to serving underserved populations comes from his experience as a youth, where he spent time in juvenile hall and was placed on probation.