

Roundtable on the Future of Justice Policy

Examining Justice Reform and the Social Contract in the United States: Implications for Justice Policy and Practice

Hosted by the Justice Lab at Columbia University

Generously supported by the Ford Foundation and Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation

PARTICIPANT FACEBOOK

Aisha McWeay | Executive Director, Still She Rises Tulsa



Aisha McWeay is a career public defender and indigent defense advocate. Prior to taking over the Executive Director role at Still She Rises in February 2019, Aisha received her J.D. from Vanderbilt and joined the Nashville Defenders as an Assistant Public Defender in 2009. She became the General Sessions Division Chief 2014 and in April 2017 was appointed the Deputy Public Defender for Nashville-Davidson County.

Aisha graduated summa cum laude from Clark Atlanta University, where she majored in Mass Communications with a concentration in Public Relations. She has served in a number of training and mentoring capacities to public defense and community service organizations nationally. In recognition of her contributions to the public defense community, in July 2017 she was awarded the Stephen B. Bright award from Gideon's Promise.

Ananya Roy | Professor of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Geography and the Meyer and Renee Luskin Chair in Inequality and Democracy, UCLA



Ananya Roy is Professor of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Geography and the inaugural Director of the Institute on Inequality and Democracy at the University of California, Los Angeles. Ananya's scholarship focuses on dispossession and displacement in the global South and global North as well as on the poor people's movements that forge rebellion and insurgency.

Her current research is concerned with processes of racial banishment in Los Angeles. She leads the Housing Justice in Unequal Cities Network, a National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network and the Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar, Sanctuary Spaces: Rethinking Humanism. Her most recent book is *Encountering Poverty: Thinking and Acting in an Unequal World* (University of California Press).

Aswad Thomas | Managing Director, Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice



On August 24, 2009, Aswad was 26 years old and just three weeks from going to Europe to play professional basketball. As he left a convenience store, he was approached by two men intent on robbing him and he suffered two near-fatal gunshots to his back, ending his basketball career. He went on to become one of Connecticut's most outspoken supporters of additional resources for victims of gun violence and has been a leader in building coalitions across racial lines to advance justice reform and prevent gun violence. Aswad founded Hartford Action, a grassroots organization working to empower communities to change policy and improve the relationship between the Greater Hartford community and the justice system.

Aswad is Managing Director at Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice. He is helping to expand our national network of crime survivors to include those most commonly affected by violence, including young men of color, and help elevate those voices in state and federal policymaking debates. Aswad received a Master's of Social Work, with a concentration in Community Organizing and focused area of study in Urban Issues, from the University of Connecticut, and a B.A. in Business Management from Elms College. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia with his wife.



Bruce Western is a Professor of Sociology and co-director of the Justice Lab at Columbia University. Bruce's research examines trends in American economic inequality and the growth of the US penal population. These topics are joined by an interest in the shifting landscape of American poverty over the last 40 years. Bruce served as Vice-Chair of a consensus panel of the National Academy of Sciences on the causes and consequences of high rates of incarceration in the U.S. He is the author of *Punishment and Inequality in America* (2007) and *Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison* (2018).

Bruce is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Radcliffe Fellow, and an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Science and the National Academies of Science. He received his B.A. from the University of Queensland, Australia, and his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Chas Moore is the founder of Austin Justice Coalition, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and grassroots, activist-led organization aimed at demanding criminal justice reform and building community at both the local, state, and national level.

Before devoting his work full-time to the creation and growth of Austin Justice Coalition, Chas served as a student activist fighting many social issues at The University of Texas at Austin and the rest of the Austin Community.

As Austin Justice Coalition Founder/ Executive Director, Chas has continued to leverage his connections within city government, the police department, the DA's office, community organizations, and a myriad of others in AJC's extensive network to bring positive change. His work in the upcoming year will focus on the Use of Force policy, police association contract, city budget, progressive disciplinary matrix for police misconduct, and mental health response.



An outspoken advocate and change-maker who experienced parental incarceration during childhood, Courtney Robinson is the founder of the Excellence & Advancement Foundation. As an adult she spent 10 years researching the impact of schooling, race and incarceration. Her research led her to engage in the movement to break the school-to-prison pipeline in Texas.

Originally from Dallas, Courtney attended Howard University in Washington D.C. Courtney entered graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin in 2002. In 2008, she became a volunteer for the Texas Youth Commission, helping the agency recover from devastating abuse allegations and implement reforms.

In 2014, she founded the Excellence & Advancement Foundation to address the school-to-prison pipeline in Austin, Texas. Her work is inspired both by her family history, her children and the inspiration she has drawn from the resilience of the young people impacted by the school discipline and criminal justice systems.



Danielle Allen, James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University, and Director of Harvard's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, is a political theorist who has published broadly in democratic theory, political sociology, and the history of political thought.

She is the author of many books including *Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality* (2014), *Education and Equality* (2016), and *Cuz: The Life and Times of Michael A.* (2017). She is the co-editor of the award-winning *Education, Justice, and Democracy* (2013, with Rob Reich) and *From Voice to Influence: Understanding Citizenship in the Digital Age* (2015, with Jennifer Light). She is a former Chair of the Mellon Foundation Board, past Chair of the Pulitzer Prize Board, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society



David Garland is the author of award-winning books such as *Punishment and Modern Society* (1990); *The Culture of Control* (2001); and *Peculiar Institution: America's Death Penalty in an Age of Abolition* (2010). He is a fellow of the British Academy, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In 2012, the American Society of Criminology awarded him the Edwin H. Sutherland Prize for outstanding contributions to theory and research. His current work focuses on comparative explanations of America's distinctive use of punishment and on the genealogy of the idea of the 'welfare state.' His most recent book is *The Welfare State: A Very Short Introduction* (2016).



Deanna Van Buren is the design director and co-founder of Designing Justice + Designing Spaces (DJDS), an architecture and real estate development non-profit working to end mass incarceration by building infrastructure that attacks its root causes: poverty, racism, unequal access to resources, and the criminal justice system itself.

Unlike the traditional adversarial and punitive architecture of justice—courthouses, prisons and jails—the Oakland-based DJDS creates spaces and buildings for restorative justice, rehabilitation and community building. Examples include restorative justice centers, which bring offenders and victims together to repair the relationship breach caused by a crime and build pathways to reconciliation; mobile resource centers, which deliver economic, educational, and social resources to under-resourced communities; and re-entry housing for people coming out of incarceration.

A pioneering activist, Deanna has been recognized internationally for her leadership in using architecture, design, and real estate innovations to address the social inequities behind the mass incarceration crisis. Her 2017 TEDWomen talk on what a world without prisons could look like has been viewed more than one million times, and she is the only architect to have been awarded the Rauschenberg Artist as Activist fellowship.

Dona Kim Murphey | Director of Medical Initiatives, Project Lifeline; Neurologist



Dona Kim Murphey is a neurologist and community advocate from the Houston area. She is the Director of Scientific Affairs for Corticare, a company that provides a robust infrastructure of electroencephalogram (EEG) services and practitioners for the U.S..

Dona serves as a Board Member for Doctors for America, a patient-advocacy organization that promotes the well-being and health of patients before the politicization of health care accessibility. She also co-founded and acts as Director of Medical Initiatives for Project Lifeline, a human rights organization formed to serve victims of the zero tolerance policy.

Dona received her B.A. from Harvard College and both an M.D. and Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Baylor College of Medicine.

Eddie Bocanegra | Senior Director, READI Chicago Heartland Alliance



Eddie Bocanegra joined Heartland Alliance in June 2017 as senior director of READI Chicago. In this role, he oversees the management and implementation of the evidence-based and trauma-informed program to reduce gun violence and promote safety and opportunity in the city.

As a pioneer in the field, Eddie brings years of experience in community-based organizations and programs created to address trauma and build resiliency among those most impacted by violence. Most recently, he served as executive director for the YMCA of Chicago's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention program, where he was responsible for programs that focused on trauma-informed approaches, such as Urban Warriors and Bridging the Divide.

Eddie holds both a master's and bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Chicago and Northeastern Illinois University, respectively. Previously he served on Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Commission for a Safer Chicago, and most recently he co-chaired Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Public Safety and Accountability Commission for a Safer Chicago.

Elizabeth Hinton | Associate Professor of History and of African and African American Studies, Harvard University



Elizabeth Hinton is the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of Social Sciences in the Department of History and the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University and the author of *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America* (Harvard University Press, 2016). Her work focuses on the rise of the American carceral state and the transformation of domestic social programs after the Civil Rights Movement.

Known as a leading expert in the history of criminalization and mass incarceration, Elizabeth has worked with the National Network for Safe Communities, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and the Vera Institute of Justice, among others. Her writing can be found in the *Journal of American History*, the *Journal of Urban History*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Boston Review*, *The Nation*, and *Time*.

Emily Wang | Associate Professor of Medicine, Yale School of Medicine; Director, Health Justice Lab; Co-Founder, Transitions Clinic Network



Emily Wang, MD, MAS, is an Associate Professor in the Yale School of Medicine where she directs the Health Justice Lab and the brand-new SEICHE Center for Health and Justice, a collaboration between the School of Medicine and the Yale Law School. The Health Justice Lab is an interdisciplinary team focused on improving the health of individuals and communities who have been affected by mass incarceration. The Lab has studied the epidemiology of incarceration and cardiovascular health to mitigating the community impact of gun violence using a participatory approach and assets based framework.

The SEICHE Center will focus on identifying and applying strategies to improve the health of individuals and communities impacted by incarceration in Connecticut, nationally, and globally. At the core of this coalition will be Yale faculty, students, and staff who have been personally impacted by mass incarceration.

Emily is also Co-Founder of the Transitions Clinic Network (TCN), a growing consortium of 40 community health centers nationwide dedicated to caring for individuals recently released from correctional facilities by employing individuals with a history of incarceration as community health workers.

Erik Bringswhite | Co-Founder and Executive Director, I. Am. Legacy Center



Erik Bringswhite is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the I. Am. Legacy Center, an innovative space that offers mental health, substance abuse, and social support programming to community members in Pennington County, South Dakota. Erik is a long-time foster parent and juvenile justice worker and a role model to many on the Pine Ridge Reservation and in the state of South Dakota, working to develop the next generation of Native people to be healthy and happy.

He believes that courageous, confident Native leaders are vital for finding culturally appropriate, lasting solutions for their people, and as such has been a fellow for the Bush Foundation and a local community partner and “Champion of Change” for the MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge.

Fatimah Loren Dreier | Executive Director, Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI)



Fatimah Muhammad leads the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) as its first Executive Director. Through innovative community/hospital partnerships, HAVI has expanded health-based, trauma informed care by cultivating a powerful national alliance of ER doctors, trauma surgeons, researchers, violence prevention professionals, crime survivors, and communities impacted by violence. Fatimah’s vision for social change has been shaped by a rich heritage of resilience in the wake of harm: from her father’s incarceration to her family’s experiences with homelessness. She believes that it is the expansion of healing support and relationships, the elevation of community voice, and the mobilization of community power that catalyzes those impacted to be authors of their own transformation. Fatimah is fighting for a system that centers racial equity, preventative public health strategies, and trauma-informed support to break intergenerational cycles of harm.

Prior to joining HAVI, she was Deputy Director of Equal Justice USA, a national criminal justice reform organization. Fatimah narrowly lost a bid for the PA state legislature at the age of 27, and has received numerous honors and distinctions including most recently the 2018 Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Leaders Fellowship. She is a psychotherapist by training and a proud Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.



Gabriel Salguero is the founder of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NaLEC) and pastors at Calvario City Church in Orlando, Florida. He has ministered extensively in Europe, Latin America, and Africa and his life's work is to bring an ethical framework to public policy and empowering mature leadership. Gabriel has worked on issues of leadership development, evangelicals and public policy, as well as racial reconciliation. Gabriel has been named as one of the most influential Latino evangelical leaders by the Huffington Post, CNN Español, El Diario, and Jorge Ramos' Al Punto. Moreover, he previously served on the White House Faith-Based Advisory Council. Gabriel is also a board member of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary.

Gabriel is a graduate of Rutgers University with a B.A. in History and Spanish and an M.Div. (magna cum laude) from New Brunswick Theological Seminary and did Ph.D. work in Christian Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Gabriel also received a Doctor in Divinity (honoris causa) from Eastern Nazarene College in Massachusetts.



Heather Rice-Minus serves as Vice President of Government Affairs and Church Mobilization at Prison Fellowship, the nation's largest Christian nonprofit serving prisoners, former prisoners, and their families. Heather directs a team of grassroots and federal policy staff to advance campaigns on pivotal criminal justice issues. She spearheads Prison Fellowship's efforts to strengthen Prison Fellowship's relationships with national Christian organizations and denominations and deepen church partnerships.

Heather has contributed to stories about criminal justice reform in outlets including Christianity Today, Slate, CBN News, the Marshall Project, PBS' Religion & Ethics Newsweekly, and WORLD Magazine. A valued shaper of the criminal justice reform debate because of her wide-ranging policy expertise, Heather maintains a vested interest in justice reform as someone who has both been a victim of crime and walked alongside a family member during his incarceration.

She is a graduate of Colorado State University and George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School. She is a member of the Virginia State Bar and a Colson Fellow.



Hedwig (Hedy) Lee is a Professor of Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis and holds a courtesy joint appointment at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. She is also the associate director of the University's new Center on the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity. Prior to joining Washington University, she was a Professor at the University of Washington Department of Sociology in Seattle. She is broadly interested in the social determinants and consequences of population health and health disparities in the U.S.

As an interdisciplinary scholar, Hedy has written articles spanning a range of topics and disciplines including, demography, medicine, political science, public health, social work, and sociology. Her recent work examines the impact of mass incarceration on health and health disparities. She serves on the board of the Population Association of America and the research advisory board for the Vera Institute for Justice. She is a member of the General Social Survey Board of Overseers and a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Committee on Population.



Imara Jones is a co-creator and senior advisor to the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative's New Social Contract project. Her work has won Emmy and Peabody Awards and she is the founder and creator of TranLash, a journalism and narrative media project which tells trans stories to save trans lives. Imara's work as a host, on-air news analyst, and writer focuses on the full range of social justice and equity issues.

Imara has held economic policy posts in the Clinton White House and communications positions at Viacom. Imara holds degrees from the London School of Economics and Columbia. Imara is a transwoman and goes by the pronouns she/her/they/them. She is currently a Soros Equality Fellow and was named by Elle Magazine as one of twenty women to watch in 2020.

Jeremy Travis | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures; President Emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

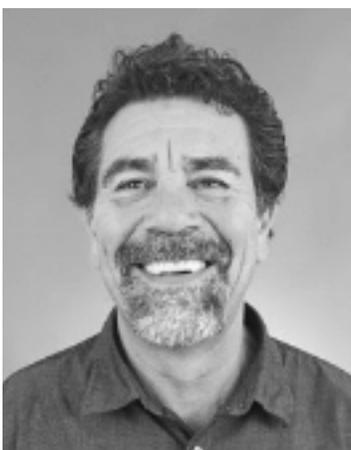


Jeremy Travis is Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice at Arnold Ventures where he is overseeing the development of the Foundation's cross-cutting strategy focused on policing, pretrial justice, community supervision, prisons, and reintegration. Jeremy served for 13 years as president of John Jay College of Criminal Justice where he developed nationally-recognized programs that enhanced student success and created research centers on topics such as violence prevention, prisoner reentry, juvenile justice, policing, prosecutors and racial justice.

Prior to John Jay, Jeremy was a senior fellow with the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute. There, he notably launched a national research program focused on prisoner reentry into society. Before that, Jeremy directed the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

Jeremy is author of *But They All Come Back: Facing the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005), and co-editor of three books, including *The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences* (National Academies Press, 2014). He earned his J.D. and M.P.A. from New York University and his B.A. from Yale College.

Jorge Renaud | Regional Director of Policy and Advocacy for the Southwest, LatinoJustice PRLDEF; Senior Policy Analyst, Prison Policy Initiative



Born in New Mexico but raised in Texas, Jorge Renaud is the son of a farmer of Louisiana descent, whose family moved to South Texas over 150 years ago, and a mother who waded the Rio Bravo at 15. He is an Army veteran, has a M.S.S.W. from the University of Texas at Austin, and is the proud father of Catarina Amelia Renaud. As a Policy Analyst at the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, Jorge authored dozens of bills in 2013 and 2015 that addressed Texas prison conditions and parole supervision.

As a Senior Policy Analyst at the Prison Policy Initiative he authored numerous studies examining ways to alleviate this country's obsession with incarceration and disproportionate sentences. Jorge has published poetry and essays across the country. He was also previously incarcerated for over 27 years. Jorge has been an integral part of Reenvision Justicia's network of Latinx organizers, lawyers and policy analysts for years and a regular and popular speaker at LatinoJustice annual convenings of Latinxs and the Criminal Justice system.

Katharine Huffman | Executive Director, Square One Project, Justice Lab, Columbia University; Founding Principal, The Raben Group, LLC



Katharine Huffman serves as the Executive Director of the Square One Project. She is a Founding Principal at The Raben Group, a national advocacy, strategy, and communications firm based in Washington, D.C. For more than 14 years, her work at Raben has focused primarily on criminal justice reform, civil and human rights advocacy, and evidence-based policymaking. Katharine's portfolio comprises multi-faceted projects that draw on political strategy, legal analysis, strategic communications, and creative outreach to a variety of people, communities, and stakeholders.

Prior to joining Raben, Katharine was the Director of State Affairs at the Drug Policy Alliance, where she also opened the organization's first state-based office in New Mexico. She began practicing law at the Southern Center for Human Rights as a Soros Justice Fellow where she represented incarcerated people in southeastern prisons.

Katharine received her B.A. from Emory University, where she was a Robert W. Woodruff Scholar, and her J.D. from Yale Law School.

Kimá Joy Taylor | Founder and Managing Principal, Anka Consulting LLC



Kimá Joy Taylor is the founder of Anka Consulting LLC, a healthcare consulting company. A pediatrician, Kimá has served in a myriad of national and local roles including patient care provider, legislative assistant for Senator Sarbanes, and Deputy Health Commissioner of Baltimore City, always capitalizing on strategic opportunities to not only expand access to care, but to mobilize diverse stakeholders and populations to achieve this goal. Her most recent role was as the National Drug Addiction Treatment and Harm Reduction Program Officer for the Open Society Foundations.

Currently, Kimá is a Non-Resident Fellow at the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center, a board member for Children's International Summer Villages, and a member of the Board of Directors for Community Catalyst. Kimá received her B.A. in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies and M.D. from Brown University and her M.P.H. in Health Policy from Harvard University.

Kristian Caballero | Community Outreach Coordinator, Texas Appleseed



Kristian Caballero is the Community Outreach Coordinator of Texas Appleseed, a public interest justice center that works to change unjust laws and policies in Texas through partnership with pro bono collaborators. Kristian is an expert in community engagement, diversity outreach, grassroots organizing, advocacy, and campaign strategy, and in her role at Texas Appleseed she develops partnerships and coordinates efforts on a variety of projects. Before joining Texas Appleseed, Kristian worked for Travis County as a Planner in their Justice Planning Department.

Kristian volunteers her time as Vice Chair on the Human Rights Commission and the Mayor's Task Force to address Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequities at the City of Austin. She sat on the board of Measure Austin and East of Cameron, and still collaborates with a variety of organizations on community efforts. She continues to focus on community organizing, with the intention of activating social awareness and initiatives.

She has a B.A. in Political Science and Legal Reasoning from the University of Texas at El Paso. She received formal trainings from: Camp Wellstone, Emily's List, Annie's List, The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, and Pacific Educational Group.



Lynda Zeller is a Senior Fellow of Behavioral Health at the Michigan Endowment Fund. Previously she served eight years as the deputy director for the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, functioning as the state authority for behavioral health and developmental disabilities policy and service systems.

Immediately prior, Lynda served as the Health Services administrator for the Michigan Department of Corrections, which included all health, behavioral health, and dental services for the state's prison system. Lynda has spent her career working within and crossing boundaries of behavioral health, indigent health care, justice and managed care systems. She has served in executive positions with various health care and non-profit agencies and relevant national boards such as National Association for State Mental Health Program Directors, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the National Research Institute.



Marcia Rincon-Gallardo MSW is Principal of NOXTIN: Equal Justice for All, and Executive Director of the Alianza for Youth Justice. At NOXTIN, she provides training, technical assistance, and consultation nationally with local communities and systems on decolonizing, reclaiming, re-indigenizing with an increase of equity for Chicana/Latinx and Indigenous youth to decrease and end use of incarceration. At the Alianza, she directs the coalition of national organizations efforts to amplify visibility and advocacy of Latinx in the youth justice reform and abolishment movements.

Marcia has partnered with the C.A. Endowment, National Girls Initiative, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Burns Institute, to implement proven effective strategies to successfully reform to end use of incarceration and the nation's youth justice systems utilizing healing informed, community and system centered approaches. Marcia, recognized as a leader and author in the field, co-wrote "*Adapting JDAI to Tribal Lands: Lessons Learned*" released in 2019, and two other publications to be released in 2020. She presents nationally and implements her *Ollin Girls* curriculum locally with returning citizens to build the bench of leaders. Marcia is Chicana, Mexicana, Indigena and is the mother of Tonantzin, Ilhuicamina and grandmother to Nevaeh.



Vesla Mae Weaver is the Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor of Political Science and Sociology at Johns Hopkins University and a 2016-17 Andrew Carnegie Fellow. She has contributed to scholarly debates around the persistence of racial inequality, colorism in the U.S., the causes and consequences of the dramatic rise in prisons, and the consequences of rising economic polarization.

Vesla authored the first article in nearly two decades on the topic of punishment to be published in her discipline's top journal. She went on to co-author *Arresting Citizenship: The Democratic Consequences of American Crime Control* with Amy Lerman and *Creating a New Racial Order: How Immigration, Multiracialism, Genomics, and the Young Can Remake Race in America* with J. Hochschild and T. Burch.

Her new project will map patterns of citizenship and governance across cities and neighborhoods called the Faces of American Democracy using an innovative technology that creates digital 'wormholes' called Portals (<https://www.portalspolicingproject.com>).



Vivian Nixon is Executive Director of College & Community Fellowship. As a formerly incarcerated woman and CCF program graduate, Vivian is uniquely positioned to lead the movement to ensure that justice-involved women and their families have a better future. During 3 ½ years in prison, Vivian gained clarity about the correlation between access to education and incarceration. Upon release in 2001, Vivian finished her college degree as a client of CCF, and began applying her perspective to the emerging discourse about criminal justice reform.

Vivian earned her B.S. with CCF's help and was appointed its Executive Director in 2006. She is a Columbia University Community Scholar and a recipient of the John Jay Medal for Justice, the Ascend Fellowship at the Aspen Institute, the Soros Justice Fellowship, and the Petra Foundation Fellowship, is a 2017 honoree of the New York Women's Foundation & Tribeca Disruptive Innovator Awards, and appeared on New York Nonprofit Media's 2018 50 Over 50 list. She is the Board Chair of JustLeadershipUSA, a nonprofit that empowers those most affected by incarceration to drive policy reform. Currently, Vivian serves on the Close Rikers design team.

Vivian holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York Empire State College, and is currently an M.F.A. candidate in creative nonfiction at Columbia University. She will also be a Columbia Teaching Fellow in the M.F.A. program for the school year 2019-20.