Roundtable on the Future of Justice Policy
The Values of the Justice System: Implications for Justice Policy and Practice

Hosted by the Justice Lab at Columbia University
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PARTICIPANT FACEBOOK

Abbey Stamp | Executive Director, Multnomah County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC)

Abbey is the Executive Director of the Multnomah County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council and is responsible for directing inter-agency public safety and criminal justice policy discussions and intergovernmental projects to improve the local criminal legal system.

Abbey’s professional experience includes over 25 years working with a variety of criminal justice, juvenile justice, and child welfare elected officials and executives to create and implement system reform, policy improvements, and trauma-informed approaches. Abbey is a licensed mental health clinician and has provided family and individual therapies to high-risk children and youth in juvenile justice and child welfare systems. She is also a facilitator and teacher, providing training in trauma-informed approaches, collaboration, and systems change for a variety of disciplines.

Abbey received her Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies and Spanish from Mills College in Oakland, California and a Master of Social Work Administration from Portland State University. Her professional values are grounded in racial justice, family resilience, and community safety. She speaks Spanish and has dedicated her career to decreasing the harmful impact of criminal policies on black, indigenous, and communities of color.

Bruce Western | Co-Founder and Co-Director, Justice Lab, Columbia University; Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice, Columbia University

Bruce is the co-founder and co-director of the Justice Lab and the Bryce Professor of sociology and social justice at Columbia University. Before joining Columbia in the fall of 2018, Bruce was the faculty chair of the Program in Criminal Justice Policy at Harvard University.

He is the author of Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison (2018) and Punishment and Inequality in America (2006). In 2014, Bruce was the Vice-Chair on the National Academy of Science panel on high rates of incarceration in the United States, led by Jeremy Travis. From 2014 to 2017, Bruce chaired the Harvard Executive Session on Community Corrections.

Bruce is a Guggenheim Fellow, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
Danielle Allen | James Bryant Conant University Professor and Director, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University

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.

Danielle Sered | Executive Director, Common Justice

Danielle Sered envisioned and directs Common Justice, which develops and advances practical and groundbreaking solutions to violence that advance racial equity, meet the needs of those harmed, and do not rely on incarceration. Before planning the launch of Common Justice, Danielle served as the deputy director of the Vera Institute of Justice’s Adolescent Reentry Initiative, a program for young men returning from incarceration on Rikers Island.

Danielle sits on the Downstate Coalition for Crime Victims and the New York State Governor’s Council on Reentry and Community Reintegration and is an Ashoka Fellow. She is the author of The Other Side of Harm: Addressing Disparities in our Responses to Violence, of Accounting for Violence: How to Increase Safety and Break Our Failed Reliance on Mass Incarceration, and the book Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and a Road to Repair.
DeAnna Hoskins | President, JustLeadershipUSA

DeAnna Hoskins is President of JustLeadershipUSA (JLUSA). A nationally recognized leader and dynamic public speaker, DeAnna has been committed to the movement for justice, working alongside people impacted by incarceration for nearly two decades. DeAnna believes in collective leadership, advocacy for justice reinvestment, and bold systems change.

DeAnna leads with her own life experience having been directly impacted by the system of incarceration and the war on drugs and with her professional experience from the grassroots to federal government. She is inspired to make the world more just with communities across the country, and for her three children—two who have experienced the criminal justice system.

DeAnna has been a part of JLUSA's national alumni network since 2016, as a Leading with Conviction Fellow. She was the Senior Policy Advisor (Corrections/Reentry) for the Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance Division under the Obama Administration. DeAnna managed the Second Chance Act portfolio where she connected people and communities to resources through various partnerships and collaborations and managed cooperative agreements between agencies.

Dona Kim Murphey | Director of Medical Initiatives, Project Lifeline; Board Member, Doctors For America 501(c)3; Co-Founder Doctors In Politics PAC; Board Member, Future Doctors In Politics 501(c)4; Neurologist / Neuroscientist

Dona Kim Murphey serves as the Director of Scientific Affairs for CortiCare, an electroencephalogram (EEG) diagnostics company. She frames all policy as health policy and believes that cultivation of civic consciousness and electoral participation will deliver us from continued harm from structural oppressions. She devotes as much if not more time and energy to connecting the dots of an integrative and collective awareness as she does to reading brain waves.

Dona received her B.A. from Harvard College in History and Science and both an M.D. and Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Baylor College of Medicine.
Dr. Wang is a Professor in the Yale School of Medicine and Public Health and directs the new SEICHE Center for Health and Justice. The SEICHE Center is a collaboration between the Yale School of Medicine and Yale Law School working to stimulate community transformation by identifying the legal, policy, and practice levers that can improve the health of individuals and communities impacted by mass incarceration. She leads the Health Justice Lab research program, which receives National Institutes of Health funding to investigate how incarceration influences chronic health conditions, including cardiovascular disease, cancer, and opioid use disorder, and uses a participatory approach to study interventions which mitigate the impacts of incarceration. As an internist, she has cared for thousands of individuals with a history of incarceration and is co-founder of the Transitions Clinic Network, a consortium of 45 community health centers nationwide dedicated to caring for individuals recently released from correctional facilities by employing community health workers with histories of incarceration. Dr. Wang co-chaired the National Academy of Sciences consensus report on Decarcerating Correctional Facilities During COVID-19, the Steering Committee on Improving Collection of Indicators of Criminal Justice System Involvement in Population Health Data Programs, and workshops on Health and Incarceration and Means of Violence. Her work been published in the Lancet, JAMA, American Journal of Public Health, and Health Affairs, and showcased in national outlets such as the New York Times, NPR, and CNN. Dr. Wang has an AB from Harvard University, an MD from Duke University, and a MAS from the University of California, San Francisco.

Eric serves as the Deputy Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety, an office that will aim to coordinate and amplify the city's anti-gun violence initiatives across government, communities and justice partners. Prior to this role, he served as the Executive Director of Community Engagement within the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, tasked with oversight of the NYC Crisis Management System, a joint initiative of the Mayor's Office and the New York City Council with the purpose of reducing gun violence via intervention and prevention services in 17 communities that account for the majority of shooting incidents in the city. He has held posts at the New York City Department of Education and the New York City Housing Authority.

Eric has a lifelong dedication to uplifting, organizing and empowering young people, developing creative violence prevention strategies and improving community cohesion. Eric holds a Master's Degree in Education from NW Missouri State University and a Bachelor of Science from Delaware State University.
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.

Erik willingly strives to serve as bridge, both in a healing approach and shifting of power to the community where it is required. He believes in reparative/restorative justice with liberation as the ultimate horizon, innerstanding (way deeper through a spiritual lens) that we are at the epicenter of pain and we must affirm, support, love one another for OUR survival and unfoldment. Erik is an arduous propeller of indigenous conciencia; he exudes community and culture as medicine. He embraces a fierce but kind and loving philosophy where liberation, building community relations with a unique perspective on how to tap and address power so that it can be redistributed in an equitable manner. He is big on healing practices where folks learn to understand the effects of compounded trauma.

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

Fatimah Loren Dreier, is the Executive Director of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) and a Pozen-Commonwealth Fund Fellow in Health Equity Leadership at the Yale School of Management. The HAVI is a national network of hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs) serving violently injured patients by addressing the social determinants of health. Through innovative community/hospital partnerships, the HAVI has expanded health-based, trauma-informed care by cultivating a powerful national alliance of violence intervention specialists, ER doctors, trauma surgeons, and researchers within communities impacted by violence. She is a psychotherapist by training and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leader.

Prior to joining the HAVI, Fatimah was Deputy Director of Equal Justice USA, a national criminal justice reform organization in which she led an award-winning initiative on trauma and police-community relations. She is a psychotherapist by training and a proud Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. Her work has been featured in NY Times, CNN, NBC News, Health Affairs, WHYY (NPR), PBS, The Trace, and The Grio.
Gabriel Salguero | President and Founder, National Latino Evangelical Coalition; Pastor, The Gathering Place

The Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero—is pastor of The Gathering Place, a Latino-led multi-ethnic Assemblies of God congregation in Orlando, Florida. Salguero is also the president and founder of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NALEC), a national coalition of several thousand evangelical congregations in the United States. He was the former Director of the Hispanic Leadership Program (HLP), and the Institute for Faith and Public Life at Princeton Theological Seminary. Salguero is also a powerful voice on issues that affect the close to 9 million Latino evangelicals in the United States. Salguero's leadership through NaLEC, offers an important voice for the growing diversity and changing demographics in our country.

He has written extensively on Latino evangelicalism, immigration, racism, and multicultural congregations. Salguero has been named as one of the nation's most prominent Latino evangelical leaders by the New York Times, Huffington Post, the New York Observer, the Center for American Progress, El Diario, CNN Español, NBC Universal, Univisión, and Jorge Ramos's Al Punto. In addition, his leadership on issues of young male education and criminal justice reform has been featured by the Discovery Channel and the Oprah Winfrey Network. Rev. Salguero has served on the White House Faith-Based Advisory Council, the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), and the National Advisory Council of the My Brother's Keeper Alliance. He is also on the board of La Asociación Evangélica Latina (AEL) the coalition of Latin American evangelicals which is the representative body for all evangelical associations in Latin America. Salguero holds a BA in Spanish and History from Rutgers University, and M.Div (magna cum laude) from New Brunswick Theological Seminary, he pursued a PhD in Christian Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, and holds a Doctorate in Divinity (honoris causa) from Eastern Nazarene College. Rev. Jeanette Salguero lives together with his wife, the Rev. Jeanette Salguero and their two sons in Orlando, Florida.

Jahmal Cole | Founder and CEO, My Block My Hood My City

A champion of social justice, Jahmal Cole's mission is to build a more interconnected Chicago on the pillars of service and education. As the founder and CEO of the city's fastest growing social impact organization, My Block My Hood My City, Jahmal is the creator of an exposure-based education program for teens and a network of volunteer initiatives that serve Chicago communities year-round. Traveling, youth mentorship and community organizing are the subjects of Jahmal's highly acclaimed books and speeches, he has spoken to audiences ranging from high school students to the Mayor of Chicago.

Jahmal is the recipient of the 2019 Champion of Freedom Award from Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the 2018 Chicago Defender Men of Excellence Honoree, and the 2018 Chicago City Council Resolution Award. In 2018, he was also named one of the “20 Most Inspiring Chicagoans” by Streetwise Magazine and a Chicagoan of the Year by Chicago Magazine.
Jeremy Travis | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures; President Emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Jeremy is Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice at Arnold Ventures where he leads a team that is implementing reform strategies focused on policing, pretrial justice, community supervision, prisons, and reintegration.

Jeremy joined Arnold Ventures after serving for 13 years as president of John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Under his leadership, John Jay became a senior liberal arts college, raised graduation rates, and launched several research centers on topics ranging from community safety to prisoner reentry to the role of prosecutors.

Prior to John Jay, Jeremy was a senior fellow with the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute where he launched a national research program on prisoner reentry. He served six years as director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) in the Clinton administration. During his tenure, NIJ quadrupled federal funding for criminal justice research. Jeremy’s career also includes government service as Deputy Commissioner, Legal Matters at the New York City Police Department, Special Advisor to the Mayor of New York, Chief Counsel to the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and law clerk for Ruth Bader Ginsburg when she sat on the Court of Appeals. Prior to law school, Jeremy worked for six years at the Vera Institute of Justice. He began his career as a paralegal at the Legal Aid Society. He has authored or co-edited four books and dozens of articles, book chapters and opinion pieces. He headed up the New York State Task Force on Transforming Juvenile Justice, and chaired the National Academies consensus panel exploring the Causes and Consequences of High Rates of Incarceration in the United States. He earned his JD and MPA from New York University and his BA from Yale College.

Jonathan Simon | Lance Robbins Professor of Criminal Justice Law, University of California, Berkeley

Jonathan joined the Berkeley Law faculty in 2003 and teaches criminal law, an advanced criminal law seminar on mass incarceration, sociology of law, and several classes in the undergraduate legal studies program (foundations of legal studies; prisons; punishment, culture and society).


Jonathan has served as the editor-in-chief of the journal, Punishment and Society, and is a reviewer for numerous law and society and criminology journals.
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 17 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.

Keith Wattley | Founder and Executive Director, UnCommon Law

Keith Wattley, Founder and Executive Director of UnCommon Law, received his B.A. in Psychology from Indiana University and his J.D. from Santa Clara University School of Law. He has been advocating for the rights of people in prison and on parole for more than 20 years. Prior to launching UnCommon Law in 2006, Keith was a staff attorney at the Prison Law Office, a nonprofit law firm in Berkeley. At UnCommon Law, he has focused on helping people transform their lives and demonstrate to the parole board that they can safely be released from their life sentences. He has also engaged in impact litigation and individual cases involving unlawful prison and parole conditions, and he has trained hundreds of lawyers, law students and others in advocating for the rights of incarcerated people.

In 2018, Keith was selected as one of the Obama Foundation's inaugural Fellows, in recognition of his unique legal model and vision. In 2020, he was awarded the James Irvine Foundation's Leadership Award. Keith has been active on several boards of directors, and is co-chair of the Institutional Review Board (human subjects committee) for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. He was also a member of the Founding Board of Directors for the Prison University Project (San Quentin's College Program) and a member of the Board of Directors for Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. Keith currently teaches a course titled "California Prisons and Discretionary Parole" at UC Berkeley School of Law where he also supervises the Post-Conviction Advocacy Project.
Kris Steele | Executive Director, Teem

Kris Steele is Executive Director of TEEM (The Education and Employment Ministry), a nonprofit dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty and incarceration in Oklahoma. TEEM offers educational opportunities, character development courses, job training and employment placement assistance to individuals reentering the community.

Kris currently serves as a member of the Pardon and Parole Board and a Trustee of the Sarkeys Foundation. He also serves as the Chair of Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform, a coalition composed of community groups, business leaders, health professionals and faith leaders dedicated to advancing effective approaches to public safety by increasing access to treatment and programs designed to address root causes of crime.

Prior to joining TEEM, Kris served as State Representative from 2000-2012, and Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives for the 53rd Legislature. During his tenure in office, he led the charge on a number of reforms in the areas of health care, human services and criminal justice.

Kris earned a BA in Religion from Oklahoma Baptist University, and a MA in Education from East Central University.

Leah Wright Rigueur | Harry S. Truman Associate Professor of American History, Brandeis University

Leah Wright Rigueur is the Harry S. Truman Associate Professor of American History at Brandeis University. A historian by training, she received her B.A. in History from Dartmouth College and her M.A. and Ph.D. in History from Princeton University. Before joining the Kennedy School faculty, Leah was a professor at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Leah’s research interests include 20th Century United States political and social history, and modern African American history. Her work emphasizes race, civil rights, political ideology, the American two-party system and the presidency. At the Kennedy School, she teaches courses on race, riot and backlash in the United States, and the Civil Rights Movement, race and policy in Modern America.


Marcia Rincon-Gallardo MSW | Executive Director, Alianza for Youth Justice; Principal, NOXTIN

Marcia Rincon-Gallardo MSW is Executive Director of the Alianza for Youth Justice, Principal of NOXTIN: Equal Justice for All, Adjunct MSW Policy Professor, and author. At the Alianza, she directs the coalition's efforts to amplify visibility and advocacy of Chicanx/Latinx to transform youth injustice systems with long term solutions rooted in cultura, comunidad and healing. At NOXTIN, she provides training, technical assistance, and consultation nationally with local communities and youth justice system efforts to increase equity for Chicanx/Latinx and Indigenous youth by decreasing to end the use of incarceration. Ms. Rincon-Gallardo has partnered with the CA Endowment, National Girls Initiative, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Burns Institute, to implement proven effective strategies to successfully end use of incarceration downsizing the nation’s youth justice systems utilizing locally based healing informed, community centered approaches. Ms. Rincon-Gallardo, recognized as a leader and author in the field, co-wrote Adapting JDAI to Tribal Lands: Lessons Learned, 2019, Latinx Youth Data Gap in the Youth Justice System, 2020 and Chicanx/Latinx Girls in the Youth Justice System, Fall 2021. She presents nationally and implements her Ollin Youth co-written curriculum locally with directly impacted youth to expand their knowledge and leadership skills. Ms. Rincon-Gallardo is Chicana, Mexicana, Indigena.

Michael McBride | National Director of Urban Strategies, LIVE FREE Campaign

Pastor Michael McBride (known as “Pastor Mike”) is a native of the Bay Area and has been active in ministry for over 20 years. Throughout the years, his commitment to holistic ministry can be seen through his leadership roles in both the church and community organizations. In March 2012, he became the National Director for Urban Strategies/LIVE FREE Campaign with the Faith in Action Network, a campaign led by hundreds of faith congregations throughout the United States committed to addressing gun violence and mass incarceration of young people of color. A graduate of Duke University’s Divinity School, with an emphasis in Ethics and Public Policy, Pastor Mike planted The Way Christian Center in West Berkeley, California, where he presently serves as the Lead Pastor.

Monica Bell | Associate Professor of Law, Yale Law School

Monica Bell is an Associate Professor of Law at Yale University and a trained sociologist. Her areas of research include criminal justice, poverty, welfare law, constitutional law, housing, and race and the law. Some of her recent scholarship has been published in The Yale Law Journal, Law & Society Review, Social Service Review, and the Annual Review of Law & Social Science. She has also published work in popular outlets such as the Los Angeles Review of Books and the Washington Post.

Before entering the academy, Bell served as a fellow at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, where she worked on matters related to cash assistance to families and disabled adults, child support, unemployment insurance, homeless services, healthcare, and other legal and policy issues affecting low-income women and families. Bell clerked for the Honorable Cameron McGowan Currie of the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, and before that worked several campaign cycles as a political operative on state and local races.
Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve | Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Brown University

Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve, Ph.D., is writer, sociologist and legal scholar whose research examines how the criminal justice system reproduces racism despite due process protections. She is the author of the acclaimed book, Crook County: Racism and Injustice in America's Largest Criminal Court, which is the winner of 11 awards or finalist distinctions for its contribution to the areas of sociology, law, criminal justice, and media. She is the winner of her discipline's highest book honor, The American Sociological Association's Distinguished Book Prize as well as an NAACP Image Award Finalist in the category of “Outstanding Literary Work - Debut Author.” Her new book, The Waiting Room, is part of the series The Southside from Amazon Original Stories and is a collaboration with the Pulitzer Prize–winning team at The Marshall Project.

Gonzalez Van Cleve’s written commentary has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic, NBC News, Crain’s Chicago Business, and CNN. Her legal commentary has been featured on NPR, NBC News, CNN, and MSNBC’s The Rachel Maddow Show.

Currently, Dr. Gonzalez Van Cleve is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Brown University and an affiliated scholar with the American Bar Foundation in Chicago, IL. She is a native-Chicagoan, a first generation college graduate, and a proud-alumni of Northwestern University (BA., MA., Ph.D.).

Nneka Jones Tapia | Managing Director of Justice Initiatives, Chicago Beyond

Nneka, the Managing Director of Justice Initiatives at Chicago Beyond, is an experienced psychologist who is passionate about mental wellness, criminal justice reform, and supporting young people who have experienced trauma.

In 2018, Dr. Jones Tapia was named Chicago Beyond's first-ever Leader in Residence through its Leadership Venture, a fellowship designed to drive systemic change by giving local leaders the platform and resources to leverage their expertise and skills to tackle significant challenges facing Chicago’s youth. Chicago Beyond’s Leadership Venture gives visionary individuals the runway and support they need to make their concepts a reality with no pre-determined plan.

During her residency, Dr. Jones Tapia’s work centered on transforming systems to become more trauma-informed for young people in Chicago. Her efforts led to a partnership with Chicago Public Schools that supported the school district in developing its healing-centered framework to address trauma holistically. Dr. Jones Tapia also led a partnership with the Cook County Sheriff’s Office to reimagine justice-involved family engagement and reduce the stigma and trauma that surrounds young people impacted by parental incarceration. The initiative has the potential to impact more than 80,000 children annually whose parents are experiencing incarceration in the Cook County Jail.

Dr. Jones Tapia was previously the warden of Cook County Jail and is known as one of the first psychologists in the nation to lead a correctional facility. During her tenure, Dr. Jones Tapia directed several bold strategies to promote wellness and reduce recidivism in the jail, which is often categorized as “the largest mental hospital in the country” with 2,000+ incarcerated men and women diagnosed with mental illness on any given day. As warden, and in partnership with other Cook County criminal justice system stakeholders, the jail’s population was reduced by approximately 20 percent.

Nneka earned her BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her MA from East Carolina University, and her PsyD from the Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology.
Susan Glisson | Co-founder and partner of Sustainable Equity, LLC

Dr. Susan M. Glisson is the co-founder and partner of Sustainable Equity, LLC, a consulting firm that cultivates healing and fosters fairness related to racism and difference. She is a trained historian of social movements, a skilled educator, and an accomplished facilitator with a gifted capacity for community engagement and youth mentorship.

As the founding executive director of the Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, an internationally recognized civil rights and social justice non-profit based in Mississippi, Susan created an innovative framework for the transformation of biased mindsets and inequitable systems that weds building community trust to advocacy and equitable policy development called The Welcome Table, which makes use of the power of stories to illuminate complex issues and liberate the human spirit. Using that approach, Susan facilitated community-driven dialogue and informed action in sites in Mississippi with the most notorious histories of racial violence.

Together, Susan and the communities she serves created profound community change including the first state conviction in the infamous “Mississippi Burning” case in 2005 and the first public apology for the miscarriage of justice in the Emmett Till case in 2007. That approach has now become a model for mediating between law enforcement and marginalized community members, part of her firm’s current work. Last year, Susan’s decades of community-based work in Mississippi helped lead to the removal of Mississippi’s racist state flag.

As an organizer with deep community building roots, Susan has been able to amplify voices far too often ignored by decision-makers. Her depth of experience in healing and equity in the U.S. South in particular and in the U.S. at large is enhanced by her connections to scholars and reconciliation practitioners in international sites of conflict.

A native of Evans, GA, Susan holds bachelor’s degrees in religion and in history, a master’s degree in Southern Studies, and a Ph.D. in American Studies from the College of William and Mary. She has numerous publications and is often called upon by journalists and academics as a public intellectual in matters of race and reconciliation. She has been widely recognized for her leadership, including being named a “Hero of the New South” by Southern Living in 2013, a “Boundbreaker: People Who Make a Difference” by NPR and a Champion of Justice by the Mississippi Center for Justice as one of “The Courageous Thirteen,” who challenged Mississippi’s discriminatory HB1523 bill against the LGBTQIA community in Barber v. Bryant in 2016.

Vivian D. Nixon | Executive Director, College & Community Fellowship

Reverend Vivian D. Nixon is the Executive Director of College & Community Fellowship (CCF), an organization that helps women whose lives have been impacted by criminal and corrections systems to access and complete college. She spent eleven years yoked to corrections systems before joining CCF to complete her theological education, a B.A. at Empire College, and an M.F.A. at Columbia School of the Arts. Inquiry into the function of knowledge as power is a consistent theme in Vivian’s work. She imagines justice as a demand that equity, inclusion, capacity, and visibility exist for all people across all systems. The John Jay Medal for Justice and fellowships at Aspen Institute Ascend, Open Society Foundations, and Pen America are distinctions she appreciates deeply. Vivian is writing a memoir and other projects that expand the narrative of performing Black Girl Magic amid structural oppression.