

## Roundtable on Values and Justice

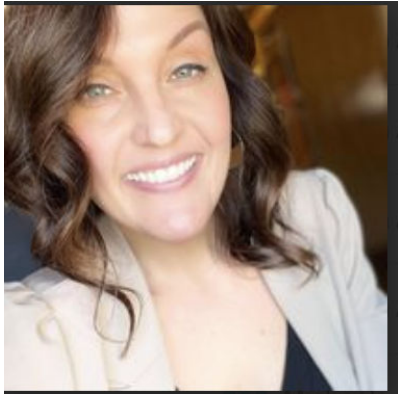
*Catalyzing a new narrative of community safety and reimagining justice in Oklahoma*

Co-hosted by The Education and Employment Ministry and the Justice Lab at Columbia University

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### Roundtable Participants

**Alicja Carter** | Wellness Director, Gateway to Prevention and Recovery



Alicja Carter, MHR, BHWC, has worked in the behavioral health and addiction treatment field for nearly 17 years, the majority of that time with *Gateway to Prevention and Recovery* in Shawnee, OK. Alicja is passionate about nurturing wellness in herself and others, and about fostering connection within her community for the purpose of stimulating positive change and new possibilities. Some of her favorite activities are meeting friends for coffee, dancing with friends at Zumba, and performing at Shawnee Little Theatre.

**Antoinette Jones** | Mentor, Coach, and Social Advocate, Julius Jones Coalition



Antoinette Jones is a mentor, coach, and social advocate. Her lifelong passion for sports has opened doors for her to positively impact the lives of countless youth. She has been a leader in the fight to save her brother, Julius Jones, who has wrongly been on Oklahoma's death row for over 20 years. Antoinette is a rising voice in justice spaces, who loves being a humble servant in her community.



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**aurelius francisco** | Co-founder and Co-Executive Director, Foundation for Liberating Minds



aurelius miles francisco is a community organizer, radical dreamer, and writer with a passion for transformative social change and coalition building. aurelius co-founded and currently serves as the Co-Executive Director for the Foundation for Liberating Minds (FLM), a community organization working to disrupt the root causes of oppression through transformative education. He leads FLM's Free Our People Initiative and its Deconstructing Masculinity Program, and hosts its DreamRadically Podcast. He also coordinates a working group, Against Carceral Feminism OK, seeking to build true safety for survivors of gender-based violence.

aurelius' work in Oklahoma has extended to Tulsa with the Terence Crutcher Foundation where he previously supported research and organizing efforts around community safety, power building, and narrative change. He also serves as a trainer, facilitator, and consultant with the Restorative Justice Institute of Oklahoma. In 2022 aurelius graduated with a Master of Arts degree in the Social Sciences from the University of Chicago. aurelius is a visionary leader who graduated from the University of Oklahoma in the Spring of 2020 with Bachelor's of Arts degrees in African and African American Studies and Political Science as well as minors in International Studies and Women's and Gender Studies. aurelius is an avid reader, hip-hop connoisseur, and staunch believer in the goatness of one Lebron James.

**Cece Jones-Davis** | Founder/Director, Justice for Julius Campaign



Cece Jones-Davis works at the intersections of faith, art and social justice. An Emmy-nominated faith leader, musician, writer, facilitator, public speaker and impact strategist, she points people to the All-Powerful and the least powerful. Bringing fiery passion to her work in such spaces as HIV/AIDS prevention, menstrual equity, racial (re)conciliation and death penalty abolition, Cece is well regarded for her fresh perspectives and bold advocacy on issues that impact vulnerable communities. Her work has been featured on platforms including Essence.com, Vogue, Self Magazine, The Huffington Post, and Yahoo!.com. Cece is an Obama Administration alum and was named among Change.org's 2021 Top 10 Change-Makers of the Year. She was also awarded the Freedom and Justice Award by the Innocence Project for her leadership of the Justice for Julius campaign in Oklahoma.

A graduate of Howard University, Yale Divinity School, The Yale Institute of Sacred Music, Worship & the Arts, and Georgetown University, Cece is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

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**Clarence Prevost** | Management/Leadership Development Coordinator, Gordon Cooper Technology Center

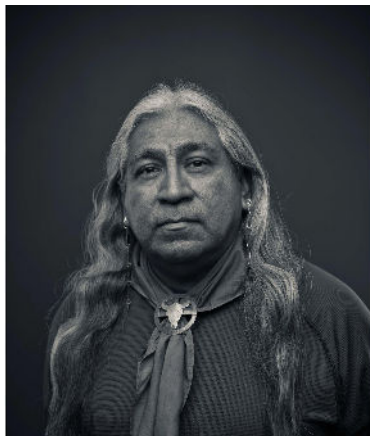


Clarence is presently a Management and Leadership Development Coordinator with Oklahoma Gordon Cooper Technology Center and he has over 35 years of manufacturing experience. He supports dozens of businesses and industries in a six county area, by providing expertise in areas corresponding to training, safety, process and engineering and various other bottom-line enhancing services.

Clarence also has an extensive background and experience in training, in both leadership and personal development. As a retired naval officer, coach, fitness trainer and spiritual counselor, he has articulated his skills of leadership and spiritual development in arenas around the state of Oklahoma and the U.S. His insight and

vast experiences gained from coming into contact with and appreciating various cultures in the United States and globally provide a unique perspective about cultural, social and workforce diversity. He communicates, diversity is a liberty we experience in everything we enjoy on a daily basis, i.e. food, clothing entertainment and relationships. We can also appreciate similar experiences of diversities in our work and personal relationships that can enrich and empower our lives

**Cornel Pewewardy** | Vice-Chair of the Comanche Nation



Dr. Cornel Pewewardy (Comanche-Kiowa) is the Vice-Chair of the Comanche Nation; Professor Emeritus in Indigenous Nations Studies at Portland State University; and Professor-of-Practice in the School of Education at Kansas State University. Dr. Pewewardy explores postcolonial Indigenous research paradigms to understand the lingering impact of colonization. Dr. Pewewardy seeks to advance policy and practice that address persistent racial and socioeconomic inequities within Indigenous education, and that reflect the voices and expertise of historically underserved families and communities. He works to advance the education of Indigenous students and explore university-tribal relationship-based pedagogy.

He continues to serve through professional associations including the City of Lawton Race Relations Commission and as Founder of the Comanche Academy Charter School and Founder of Indigenous Peoples' Day in Lawton (OK), among others.



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**Francie Ekwerekwu** | Assistant Federal Public Defender, Western District of Oklahoma



Frances “Francie” Ekwerekwu, a native of Arlington, Texas, is an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Western District of Oklahoma.

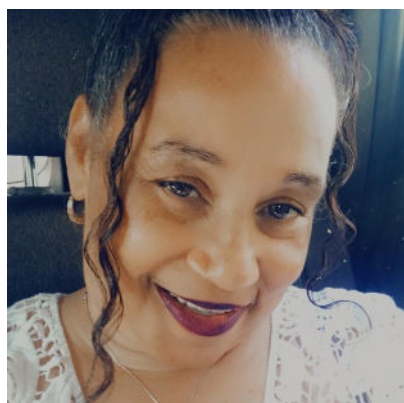
Prior to this role, Francie was the Oklahoma County Pretrial Jail Release Initiative’s Program Director for The Education and Employment Ministry (TEEM). She was also an Oklahoma County Assistant Public Defender, specializing in pre-trial/bond matters. In these positions, Francie provided program management, legal representation, and advocacy to individuals encountering the Oklahoma County criminal legal system.

From 2019 to October 2021, Francie served as a Trustee of the Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority, addressing issues surrounding the Oklahoma County jail and chairing an Action Committee.

She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma where she earned a BS in Arts and Sciences, a MA in Human Relations, and was a varsity volleyball student-athlete. She also holds a juris doctorate degree from DePaul University College of Law. Currently, Francie is an adjunct professor at the University of Oklahoma, instructing undergraduate, graduate and accelerated graduate level students in the Human Relations Department.

A devoted advocate for children of incarcerated parents, Francie served on the Oklahoma Messages Project Board of Directors from 2014 to 2022. She also served as an honorary guest of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth’s Children of Incarcerated Parents Advisory Committee. She is a proud member of Leadership Oklahoma Class 33 and Leadership Oklahoma City Class 36.

**Gina Richie** | Reentry Case Manager at The Education and Employment Ministry (TEEM)



Gina Richie is a Reentry Case Manager at The Education and Employment Ministry (TEEM). She also works as a Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist, using her lived experience to help others navigate the process of rebuilding their life after incarceration. She is on the scholarship committee for the Hope Behind Bars Scholarship initiative through the Sarkeys Foundation at Mable Bassett Correctional Center. She is a former ambassador for Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform and continues to be an advocate for justice-involved people.





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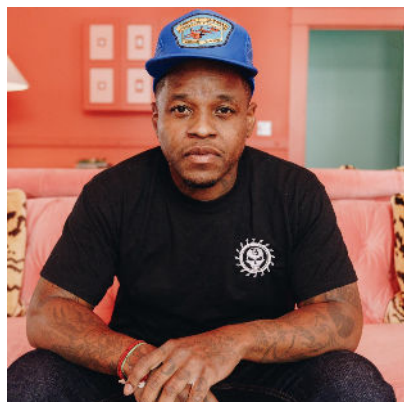
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**Jabee Williams** | CEO, LiveFreeOKC



Jabee is an Oklahoma City-based community organizer, educator, entrepreneur, and artist who is dedicated to the well-being and liberation of Black people. One of six children, Jabee grew up in a single-parent family on the East side of Oklahoma City. Experiencing homelessness and the hardships of poverty as a child, Jabee turned to music to cope with difficult experiences, including the shooting death of his little brother, Junie. Music grew from an outlet of expression into a passion and then career for Jabee.

A highly respected recording artist embraced by the rap and hip-hop industry as a creative trendsetter within the genre, since 2008, Jabee has released several critically acclaimed music albums and performed before audiences in a variety of musical venues. The latest album, “This World Is So Fragile and Cruel I’m glad I got” debuted #3 on iTunes music charts and stayed in the top 10 for over a month. In 2021 Jabee started a nonprofit with the OK Mural Syndicate called “With Love” that advocates and creates public art on the Eastside of OKC. In 2022 and 2023, Jabee and partners opened Eastside Pizza House and Scrambl’d, respectively. Both restaurants are located in the heart of OKC’s Black community, a food apartheid. The restaurants are Black-owned and staffed by people from the Black community. The restaurants also provide critical community gathering spaces, frequently hosting community conversations and celebrations.

In the spring of 2022, Jabee partnered with Pastor Mike McBride to co-found LiveFree OKC, and successfully launched Oklahoma’s first violence intervention program, serving Oklahoma City’s Black community. Jabee continues today as the Executive Director of LiveFree OKC pursuing a mission of peace and reduced violence in Oklahoma City.

**Jon Middendorf** | Senior Pastor, OKC First Church



Jon Middendorf has been on the ministry team at OKC First since 1990, serving as Lead Pastor since August of 2007. In recent years Jon has helped to launch two non-profit organizations designed to address chronic poverty in Oklahoma City and in Zambia, Africa. Jon moonlights with the ONE campaign, lobbying elected officials to support efforts to alleviate and eliminate poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. Jon and his wife Kelly are busy enjoying life with their kids, Taylor and Drew.



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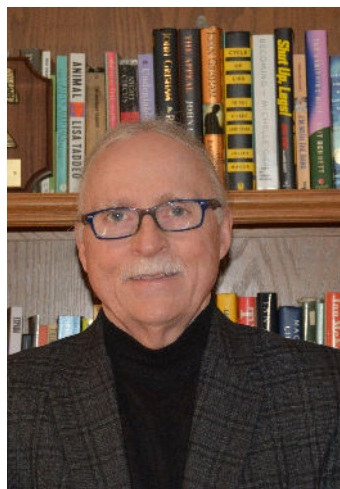
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**Justin Jones** | Former Director of the Tulsa County Family Center for Juvenile Justice



Justin Jones was the Director of the Tulsa County Family Center for Juvenile Justice (Juvenile Bureau) from 2015 to 2020. He worked for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections beginning in September 1977, serving in numerous capacities before being appointed Director from 2005 to 2013. Justin launched his Criminal Justice Consulting LLC in 2013, focusing on Eighth Amendment violations in prisons, jails, and detention facilities.

Justin has served or served as Reentry Committee Chair for the Association of Correctional Administrators; Board of Directors for Council of State Governments Justice Center; Board of Directors for Oklahoma's Credit Union; Board of Directors for Military Thunderbird Youth Academy; Co-Chair of the Governor's Mental Health Transformation Board, and Commissioner Chair for Correctional Accreditation for the American Correctional Association. He served on the state board of Big Brothers Big Sisters and as board chair for a nonprofit school for children of incarcerated parents. He also created a foundation to support students at the Phoenix Rising Alternative School in

Tulsa.

**Kris Steele** | Executive Director, The Education and Employment Ministry



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.

Kris currently serves as a member of the Pardon and Parole Board and as a Trustee of the Sarkeys Foundation. He also serves as the Chair of Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform, a coalition 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.

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**Kym Cravatt** | General Counsel, Department of Health, Chickasaw Nation



Kymerly D. Cravatt served as the Assistant Director for Prosecution in the Office of Tribal Justice Administration for the Chickasaw Nation. Her primary assignment was to oversee the implementation of the Nation's expanded prosecution duties following the United States Supreme Court's historic *McGirt v. Oklahoma* decision and the *Bosse v. Oklahoma* decision from the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals. Recently, Ms. Cravatt became the first General Counsel for the Chickasaw Nation's Department of Health.

Ms. Cravatt is a graduate of the Oklahoma City University School of Law (OCU) where she earned a Juris Doctorate and a Certificate in Federal Indian Law. Ms. Cravatt also holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health and has more than two decades of experience working for tribal health programs.

Ms. Cravatt is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation Supreme Court, the Seminole Nation Supreme Court, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court as well as the Eastern District of Oklahoma. Ms. Cravatt is a former Chairperson of the Chickasaw Bar Association and serves as a Director for Oklahoma Indian Legal Services (OILS) and currently serves the Board of Directors as Secretary.

**Leslie Osborn** | Oklahoma Labor Commissioner



In 2022, Leslie Osborn was elected to a second four-year term as State Labor Commissioner. Prior to that, she served ten years in the OK House of Representatives for District 47, where she was the first woman to chair the House Judiciary committee, and the first Republican woman chair of the House Appropriations and Budget Committee. She authored landmark workers compensation reform and passed into law the first Pay for Success contract in Oklahoma, a public-private partnership with the Department of Corrections and the Kaiser Foundation to move women from incarceration to the Women in Recovery Program.

Osborn received a B.S. in business administration from Oklahoma State University and resides in Mustang, Oklahoma. Leslie owned and operated her own business for 22 years selling heavy duty truck parts, Osborn Pick-Up Accessories, and is the mother of two children.

Osborn serves on the advisory board of *OK Small Business Development Centers*, *Youth & Family Services of Canadian County* and the *Oklahoma Academy*. She is the President of the Board of *Honestly to Prevent Teen Pregnancy*, and the *Canadian Valley Technology Center Foundation*.

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**Luke Cantrell** | Junior, USAO College



Luke Cantrell is a junior majoring in economics and psychology at USAO college in Chickasha, Oklahoma. Luke grew up in Shawnee, Oklahoma his entire life and hopes to work for a nonprofit organization or in any field that genuinely helps people. Criminal justice reform is a big part of what led Luke to politics and social movements, and he looks forward to this event.

**Melvin Battiest** | Founder, Native Wings Like an Eagle



Melvin Battiest is an enrolled member of the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the organization Native Wings Like An Eagle Inc. This organization was established to partner and collaborate with all 39 tribal nations in Oklahoma to provide reintegration services to enrolled tribal members who choose not to return to the reservation upon their release from incarceration. Reintegration services are so vital for the individual who has served time and seeking to be an asset to their community upon their release. Within the Native approach to reintegration, cultural programs are essential for a successful return of tribal members and such programs are not available off the reservation. Native Wings was created to help fill this gap for tribal members who need a new beginning in a whole different environment. After serving 38 years of incarceration,

Melvin found that reintegration services from his tribe were not available due to living off the reservation. This was unexpected and Melvin did not want to see other Native men and women experience what he did. Melvin's passion is helping Native men and women post incarceration to receive their much needed help.



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**Mimi Tarrasch** | Chief Program Officer for Family and Children's Services



Mimi Tarrasch has been Chief Program Officer for Family & Children's Services Women's Justice Programs for 14 years. She is committed to providing alternatives to incarceration, supportive services, and advocacy for women entangled in the criminal legal system. She works closely with the criminal legal system and community agencies to provide comprehensive women's services including substance use and mental health treatment, education and workforce training, health and wellness services, housing, intensive case management, and parent-child reunification.

Mimi has a proven history of organizational leadership during her 29 years at Family & Children's Services (F&CS). Prior to addressing the state of Oklahoma's high rate of female incarceration, she dedicated over a decade to enhancing early childhood education in Tulsa and developed the F&CS Early Childhood Education division.

**Ololade Yerokun** | Freshman, Langston University



Ololade Yerokun is a freshman, but classified as a junior, at Langston University in Oklahoma, where she is majoring in General Studies, Criminal Justice, B.S. in Corrections and B.A. in Sociology. Ololade graduated high school with an Associate degree in Arts of Multidisciplinary Studies. Ololade hopes to attend law school and possibly pursue a masters' degree, with the hope of becoming a prosecutor. Ololade's hobbies are sewing, cooking, reading, and watching anime.

**Reggie Cotton** | Deputy Chief, Muskogee Police Department



Deputy Chief Cotton was born and raised in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He has worked with the city of Muskogee for more than 30 years, and is currently the commanding officer for the Administrative Division. He has served as a police administrator for the department since 2004.

Cotton graduated from C.L.E.E.T. in 1990 while serving as a patrolman



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for Central State University in Edmond, currently the University of Central Oklahoma. Cotton's commitment to service is demonstrated by his work in numerous department activities including public information officer, Special Investigations Unit officer, peak shift officer, and other assigned duties by the Chief of Police. R.C. Cotton holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Oklahoma and a master's degree from Northeastern State University, and he is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Deputy Chief Cotton has taught at the college level for over 20 years, and is working on his Doctorate in Organizational Leadership at Grand Canyon University.

R.C. is married to his college sweetheart, Toni L. Cotton, and the couple have three children, and one grandchild. He serves as a deacon at Rayfield Baptist Church, and is very active in several community outreach programs.

**Reginald Hines** | President, RDH Correctional Consulting Services



Reginald "Reggie" Hines retired from the Oklahoma Department of Corrections after thirty-eight years. During his tenure, he served in numerous positions, including Warden at the Jess Dunn and Lexington Correctional Facility and Deputy Director over the Division of Community Corrections. There, he supervised the operations of Probation and Parole, Halfway Houses, Community Corrections Facilities, Interstate Compact and Reintegration Services. After retiring, he worked with Juveniles as a Facility Administer supervising Detention Centers in Cleveland and Oklahoma County. He serves as President of The Oklahoma Chapter of The National Association Of Blacks In Criminal Justice, President of the Board for the Working Together For Change Prison Ministry,

Vice President of Programs Plight for Society Jazz and STARR Foundation. He is also past President and Board Member for the National Alliance For Mental Illness (NAMI). Mr. Hines is a certified Auditor for the American Corrections Association and a graduate of the Leadership Oklahoma, class of XXVIII (28).

**Susan Sharp** | Emerita David Ross Boyd Professor at the University of Oklahoma (photo unavailable)

Susan F. Sharp is the Emerita David Ross Boyd Professor and L.J. Semrod Presidential Professor of Sociology at the University of Oklahoma, retiring December 2016. Her research focused on the incarceration of women and the impact of corrections policies on families of people impacted by the criminal legal system. Her research was conducted in partnership with the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth and the Children of Incarcerated Parents Advisory Group, which she co-chaired for over five years. She has also been involved with the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty as well as national groups working on these issues. She is a former board member of the American Society of Criminology (ASC) and former chair of the Division



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on Women and Crime of the ASC. Her work has been recognized by numerous awards at the university and national level.

She is the author of *Hidden Victims: The Effects of the Death Penalty on Families of the Accused* (Rutgers University Press, 2005) and *Mean Lives, Mean Laws: Oklahoma's Women Prisoners* (Rutgers University Press, 2014) and numerous academic articles and reports.

**T. Sheri Amore Dickerson** | Founder, Black Lives Matter OKC Chapter (*photo and bio coming soon*)

**Tina Brown** | Project Manager, Arnall Family Foundation



As a project manager, Tina Brown leads the strategic planning and implementation of projects that align with the Arnall Family Foundation's focus areas. Her unique expertise working for a non-profit, and on both sides of the criminal legal system, supports her work with partners to find data-driven solutions necessary for systemic change. Prior to joining the Foundation, Tina worked as a criminal defense trial attorney handling criminal misdemeanors and felonies. She then served as a domestic violence staff attorney embedded at Palomar. Tina's most recent role was as an Assistant Municipal Counselor for the City of Oklahoma City, where she prosecuted violations of City ordinances, and was assigned to the newly created Community Court Program. Tina holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Southern University Law Center, a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Texas Southern University, and an associate's degree in Sign Language Interpreter. Tina loves spending time with family and friends, supporting the Deaf community through events and interpreter development opportunities, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

**Tiffany Crutcher** | Founder and Executive Director, Terence Crutcher Foundation



Dr. Tiffany T. Crutcher is a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Founder and Executive Director of the Terence Crutcher Foundation. She was thrust into the national spotlight following the death of her twin brother, Terence Crutcher, who was shot by a police officer in Tulsa, Oklahoma, while holding his hands in the air. The murder of her brother compelled Tiffany to choose to turn her personal tragedy into an opportunity to help transform a justice system that has long perpetuated injustice dating back to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

The Terence Crutcher Foundation's mission is to strengthen communities, advance policy, and honor the legacy of our ancestors. She is truly an agent of change and has an authentic ability to inspire the

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masses into action. Dr. Tiffany Crutcher is now known as “America’s Sister” and lives by the scripture, Galatians 6:9: “Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.”

**Tonnia Anderson** | University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma



Dr. Tonnia Anderson is the Associate Professor of History and American Studies for the Division of Arts and Humanities and the Director of the Dr. Ada Lois Fisher Center for Social Justice and Racial Healing at USAO.

She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Northern Illinois University. She has also earned a M.A. in American Studies, a M.A. in African American Studies, a M.Phil. in American Studies, and a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale.

She has received several awards in teaching, as well as numerous grants as a scholar. She has previously lectured at the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University.

**Tyler Fisher** | Pretrial Release Case Manager, The Education and Employment Ministry



Tyler Fisher works for TEEM as a Pretrial Release Case Manager where he helps connect young adults navigating the legal system to resources such as substance treatment, education, employment, and other valuable life skills. He began working for TEEM shortly after receiving a Bachelors of Art in Criminal Justice and Bachelors of Science in Forensic Science from the University of Central Oklahoma. He is a board member for 1024 C.A.K.E a 501 C 3 non-profit community in Oklahoma City offering a safe, confidential, and supportive drop-in recovery wellness center to justice-involved young men aged 18-30 needing mentorship, re-entry & diversion

support, and guidance on their road to recovery and stability. Tyler Fisher is a proud Oklahoman who is passionate about meeting community needs and helping all Oklahomans have the means to contribute to their society.





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**Yvita Crider** | Square One Consultant and Project Co-Lead



Yvita Fox Crider is an Independent Consultant with the Fox Crider Consulting Group and co-chair of the Oklahoma Square One Project. Her previous work in Oklahoma included serving as the Director of Statewide Engagement for Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform as well as leading a task force of educators to research Oklahoma's juvenile justice system and propose recommendations for its improvement and population reduction. Before transitioning to the reform sector she was an educator and served as the Director of Leadership Development and Policy for the Oklahoma City region of Teach For America. Her work involved advocating for the equitable access of marginalized communities to high-quality education and training educators to more effectively address harmful systems and policies affecting their classrooms and the communities in which they serve. Yvita transitioned to the justice reform arena when she

led a task force of educators to research Oklahoma's juvenile justice system, propose recommendations for its improvement, and reduce its population. Since then, Yvita has been active in justice reform work in her community and is an appointed member of the 2021 Citizens Advisory Board for the Oklahoma County Jail.

**Zana Williams** | Founder, Mindful Resolutions



Zana Williams is a forward-thinking Oklahoma native, a Maryland licensed attorney, the US Embassy's Pledge for Parity keynote speaker, and a social impact entrepreneur with a focus on reducing juvenile and adult incarceration and recidivism. Zana is committed to partnering with like-minded individuals to effect change in the criminal legal system. Since 2005, Zana has worked with the Oklahoma Supreme Court, District Attorney's Office, two Criminal Docket District Judges, and multiple Criminal Defense Attorneys. Her extensive experience extends beyond adult criminal law, with over 15 years dedicated to working with at-risk youth and those who have been adjudicated delinquent.

In 2018, Zana founded Mindful Resolutions, an organization built on the belief that "Relationships Reduce Recidivism." Mindful Resolutions employs mindfulness-based negotiation, mediation, and restorative justice practices to teach healthy communication, relationship building, and life skills to at-risk populations.