



# Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

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**2019 Janet Reno Forum**

***Building the Ideal Juvenile Justice System—Guiding Principles and Strategies for Reform***

**July 16, 2019**

**Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center  
Washington, DC**

**8:30-9:15 am**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

- Maria Cancian, Dean, McCourt School of Public Policy
- Shay Bilchik, Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
- Jeff Fleischer, CEO, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.
- Tim Decker, Former Director, Missouri Department of Social Services' Division of Youth Services and Children's Division

**9:15-10:45 am**

## **Achieving Equitable Treatment and Fairness**

*Description: At the heart of our nation's democratic ideals is the notion that all individuals are entitled to equal protection under the law. In the context of juvenile justice policy and practice, this commitment to equity and fairness derives not only from constitutional and moral imperatives but also serves as an essential strategy for achieving positive outcomes for youth, families and communities. This panel will explore what a fair and just juvenile justice system looks like—one that ensures that youth and families are treated equitably regardless of race, ethnicity, gender and other characteristics. Panelists will discuss how attorneys, law enforcement officers, juvenile justice agency staff, and judges can advance this fundamental guiding principle, including efforts designed to address individuals' biases and eliminate disparities faced by youth of color.*

- Moderator: Shay Bilchik, Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
- Diana Becton, District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California
- Kevin Bethel, Founder and Executive Director, Law Enforcement Juvenile Justice Initiative
- Ana Bermudez, Commissioner, New York City Department of Probation
- Hon. Louis Trosch, District Court Judge, 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

**10:45-11:00 am**

## **Break**

**11:00am-12:00 pm**

## **Promoting Developmental Approaches**

*Description: A growing body of research teaches us that juvenile justice systems must fully embrace developmental approaches—that is, services, programs, policies and practices that acknowledge the distinct differences between adults and youth and that are tailored to support youth's transition to adulthood in a strength-based manner. As highlighted by the National Research Council in its seminal piece six years ago, "Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach," embodying a developmental framework can help systems achieve the goals of holding youth accountable for their*

*actions, preventing recidivism, and treating youth fairly. This panel will discuss key dimensions of a positive youth development approach, including how to establish strength-based relationships between staff and youth, and how to account for and respond to the impact of trauma on the developing child.*

- Moderator: David Muhammad, Executive Director, National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform
- Shaena Fazal, Chief of Policy, Advocacy and External Communications, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.
- Clinton Lacey, Director, District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
- Dr. Monique Marrow, Founder, Youth Trauma and Justice Solutions

**12:00-1:00 pm**

**Lunch**

**1:00-2:00 pm**

**Janet Reno Women's Leadership Award Presentation**

*Description: The Janet Reno Endowment Women's Leadership Award honors a woman leader who has demonstrated a commitment and ability to effect change in her community or organization to benefit youth, particular those at risk of entering the juvenile justice or child welfare systems. The 2019 recipient of the award is Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO of the National Women's Law Center.*

- Moderator: Shay Bilchik, Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
- Maria Cancian, Dean, McCourt School of Public Policy
- Maggy Hurchalla (invited), Sister of Attorney General Janet Reno
- 2019 Women's Leadership Award Recipient: Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO, National Women's Law Center

**2:00-3:00 pm**

**Engaging and Empowering Youth and Families**

*Description: Partnering with youth and families is a proven and essential strategy for achieving enhanced outcomes for system-involved individuals and communities. Elevating the voices of system consumers not only leads to increased youth and family engagement and trust with system staff and approaches, but also provides officials with key insight to drive system improvement efforts. This panel will examine how juvenile justice staff and partners can meaningfully engage and empower youth and families at the case practice and systems levels.*

- Moderator: Macon Stewart, Deputy Director for Multi-System Operations, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
- Jeannette Bocanegra, Director of Family Partnership, Justice for Families
- Ja'Vaune Jackson, Youth Justice Advocate; Member, Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission
- Dr. Ryan Shanahan, Research Director, Center on Youth Justice, Vera Institute of Justice

**3:00-3:15 pm**

**Break**

**3:15-4:15 pm**

**Collaborating with System Partners**

*Description: In most jurisdictions, youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system simultaneously touch other systems, including education, child welfare, and behavioral health. In order to maximize resources and lessen burdens on youth and families, it is therefore essential that juvenile justice staff work with their system counterparts to operate coordinated, cross-system practices and approaches. This*

*panel will explore how juvenile justice staff can work with partners in education, child welfare, and behavioral health to break down silos, increase information sharing, and collaborate to provide seamlessly integrated services and supports to youth and families.*

- Moderator: Michael Umpierre, Deputy Director for Juvenile Justice System Improvement and Communications, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
- David Domenici, Executive Director, Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings
- Karli Keator, Director, National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice, and Vice President, Policy Research Associates, Inc.
- Linda Spears, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Children and Families

**4:15-4:30 pm**

**Closing Remarks**

- Shay Bilchik, Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
- Jeff Fleischer, CEO, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.

**4:30-5:30 pm**

**Networking Reception (Location TBD)**

***CJJR expresses our sincere gratitude to Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. for their generous support of the 2019 Janet Reno Forum***

