

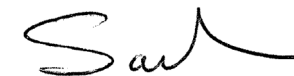
WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear NJJN Community,

NJJN's Forum is a bit like a family reunion for the families and tribes we choose -- a dedicated time to reconnect and bond with people whom you don't get to see enough throughout the year but with whom you carry a shared set of values and a deep commitment to mutual support. Being with one's tribe in this way can be both energizing and restorative -- a much-needed break and recharge from our usual work. But there really hasn't been anything "usual" about this year. The politics of our nation have been tumultuous and terrifying as the most vulnerable members of our community have been under fire and as our government institutions have all lined up to reinforce existing power structures that favor the white and the wealthy.

We are facing moral questions of historic proportions as the discrimination and oppression of our government unfolds before our eyes. The policies fall like dominoes -- attacking Muslims, immigrants, LGBTQI protections, voting rights, a woman's right to choose, worker's rights, and it doesn't stop. In our neck of the woods, they've demonized black and brown youth as gang members, detained immigrant youth, sanctioned police brutality, rescinded guidance on DMC reduction, rescinded federal guidance for protection of youth with disabilities in facilities, rescinded protections for transgender students, resurrected failed drug policies, pushed for state-level transfer laws, and it doesn't stop.

In solidarity,



Sarah Bryer

When is the moment that we can say our society has slid too far into the quicksand of autocracy? When is the moment that our failure to engage daily in protest indicates complicity in the immoral actions taken by our government in our name? Thankfully, we can struggle together with these questions. At this gathering, you will find a community of like-minded advocates who understand that the politics of these times emerge from the deep roots of the founding of this country on stolen land and on the backs of slaves. You will find a community who understands that above all we need action.

This is our NJJN tribe. We are right now continuing our creation of an intentional community that seeks to agitate against complicity in the immoral acts taking place around us. This year, our NJJN tribe collectively agreed to pursue justice transformation with an anti-racist agenda. We are working together to change the way we advocate for justice so that we don't sacrifice our means in the pursuit of our ends. So that as we seek to create a justice system that doesn't oppress, we as individuals and organizations don't reinforce oppressive structures. This is what it means to be an NJJN member.

Thank you NJJN for your commitment to justice, for your collective spirit, and for your belief in the power of our tribe to fight oppression.

National Juvenile Justice Network Annual Forum

July 18, 2018

Duke University School of Law
210 Science Dr., Durham, NC 27708

Public Day Agenda

The National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) leads a movement of state-based youth justice reform organizations and alumni of its Youth Justice Leadership Institute (YJLI) to fight for a fairer youth justice system that's appropriate for youth and their families. NJJN advocates for policies and practices that treat youth in trouble with the law with dignity and humanity and which strengthen them, their families and their communities. NJJN began in 2005 as a small, dedicated group of advocates working to amplify their voices in demanding change both locally and nationally and who recognized the strength in their unity. By connecting with other advocates working to achieve state-level change, the members created a network that offers peer support and a national spotlight. Today, NJJN is composed of 52 organizational members and a strong cadre of graduates of our Leadership Institute across 42 states and the District of Columbia. We achieve our mission through two core strategies: 1) support, knit and elevate state-based advocates to achieve their goals for policy and practice change; and 2) envelope our work with a direct acknowledgement of and action against the structural racism that defines our justice systems. NJJN is the only youth justice membership organization that provides strategic and substantive assistance to state-based change agents to address the full panoply of pressing youth justice reform concerns. By integrating our state-level policy work with an anti-racist agenda, NJJN effectively takes advantage of immediate opportunities for policy reform, while setting the stage for the deeper structural changes that are required for us to achieve a just society.

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 8 AM—8:50 AM** Registration and Breakfast | Room 3041
- 9 AM—10 AM** Keynote: “The Struggle for a More Perfect Union,” James Williams Jr. | Room 3041
- 10:15 AM—11:45 AM** **Breakouts**
- Fortifying Public Defense | Room 4042
 - Defining Safety: Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline | Room 4047
 - Gang Databases and an Anti-Immigrant Climate—the Perfect Storm and How We Push Back | Room 4045
- 11:45 AM—1:15 PM** **Lunch and Table Talks | Star Commons**
- Continuum of Care
 - Diversion
 - Emerging Adults
 - Expungement
 - Juvenile Bail
- Young Leader Debrief | Room 4042**
- 1:30 AM—3 PM** **Breakouts**
- No Kid Left Behind: Reforming System Responses to Young People Who Commit Violence | Room 4047
 - Restorative Justice | Room 4042
 - Intersectional Justice in Practice | Room 4045
- 3 PM—3:30 PM** Forum Closing | Room 3041

FULL AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 8 AM—8:50 AM** Registration & Breakfast
- 9 AM—10 AM** **Keynote: James Williams Jr. | Room 3041**
- According to the eminent historian John Hope Franklin, "if this house is to be set in order one must begin not with the present but with the past." In his plenary speech, civil rights activist James Williams Jr. challenges us to acknowledge our past, enabling us to march forward.
- 10:15 AM—11:45 AM** **Breakouts**
- Breakout 1: Navigating the Justice System Maze: Fortifying Public Defense | Room 4042**
- The justice system is a complex maze without a playbook. Often, young people are forced to face the system alone without a sense of the process or the potential outcomes that lie ahead. This session will begin with an interactive activity in which participants will journey through a court process without an attorney. Speakers will then identify two meaningful ways that advocates can shore up public defense in their jurisdictions.
- Moderator:** Eric Zogry, Public Defender, North Carolina Office of the Juvenile Defender
- Panelists:** - Christina Gilbert, Senior Staff Attorney and Policy Counsel, National Juvenile Defender Center
- Andrea “Muffin” Hudson, Director of Participatory Defense, All of Us or None
 - Mary Stansell, Juvenile Chief, Wake County Public Defender’s Office
- Breakout 2: Defining Safety: Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline | Room 4047**
- As states seek to respond to recent school shootings, advocates are battling policy shifts focused on ensuring hardware secure schools. But what do students and parents think? When the conversation is framed around “what does safety mean for students,” solutions shift from a focus on metal detectors and armed guards to feeling welcomed and supported in classrooms. This session will explore how to shift the narrative around student safety and state policy efforts to ensure safe and supportive classrooms.
- Moderator:** Peggy Nicholson, Co-Director, Youth Justice Project (NC), NJJN member
- Panelists:** - Tavon Bridges, Organizer, The Youth Organizing Institute
- Letha Muhammad, Executive Director, Education Justice Alliance (NC)
 - Alani Rouse, Youth Leader, Youth Justice Project (NC), NJJN member
 - Jennifer Story, Supervising Attorney, Legal Aid Justice Center (NC)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Breakout 3: Gang Databases and an Anti-Immigrant Climate — the Perfect Storm and How We Push Back | Room 4045

The current Administration’s war on black and brown immigrants means that from walking the streets of their neighborhoods to attending schools, immigrant youth of color face grave risk of justice system involvement and deportation. One of the biggest intersections with the justice system involves the expanded use of gang databases by many state and local law enforcement agencies. These databases have been found to be rife with errors and disproportionately used on youth of color, making them a point of pressing concern for all youth justice advocates. This session will explore gang databases and other attempts to criminalize immigrant youth, tools to fight back, and how to be an ally to local grassroots immigrant rights activists.

Moderator: Melissa Goemann, Senior Policy Counsel, NJJN

- Panelists:**
- Martha Hernandez, El Comité de Acción Popular
 - Kim McGill, Organizer, Youth Justice Coalition (CA), NJJN member
 - Jared O’Brien, Youth Justice Coalition (CA), NJJN member
 - Anthony Robles, Youth Justice Coalition (CA), NJJN member
 - Sejal Zota, Legal Director, National Immigration Project

11:45 PM—1:15 PM

Lunch and Table Talks | Star Commons

Join your colleagues from around the country for table talks around pressing state issues.

Expungement Strategies—Whitley Carpenter, Criminal Justice Staff Attorney, Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Juvenile Bail—Josh Spickler, Executive Director, JustCity (TN), NJJN member

Continuum of Care—Valerie Slater, Executive Director, Rise for Youth (VA), YJLI alum, NJJN member

Emerging Adults—Garien Gatewood, Director of Policy Advocacy, Juvenile Justice Initiative (IL), YJLI alum, NJJN member
- Hannah Legerton, Emerging Adult Justice Project Coordinator, Citizens for Juvenile Justice (MA), NJJN member

Diversion Models—Lee Nave, Community Engagement Coordinator, Citizens for Juvenile Justice (MA), YJLI alum, NJJN member

Emcee: Alyson Clements, Director of Advocacy and Membership, NJJN

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

11:45 PM—1:15 PM

Youth Leader Breakout | Room 4042

1:30 PM—3 PM

Breakouts

Breakout 1: No Kid Left Behind: Reforming System Responses to Young People Who Commit Violence | Room 4047

As states successfully expand diversion and close youth prisons, many young people are closer to home. And yet, young people who commit violence are often excluded from these reforms and sometimes are even pushed deeper into the system through expansion of transfer. This session will explore policy reforms aimed to ensure young people who commit violence are not left behind. It will look at successful efforts to reform mandatory minimums (DE), service young people in their communities (NY), and change the narrative that surrounds violence (IL).

Moderator: Susan Dunn, Legal Director, ACLU of SC, NJJN member

- Panelists:**
- Khadijah Benson, Youth Organizer, Communities United, NJJN member
 - Kirstin Cornell, Director of Operations, Delaware Center For Justice, NJJN member
 - Doshawa Irving, Youth Leader, Communities United, NJJN member
 - Tiffany Williams, Dept. of Probations Agency Coordinator, Credible Messenger Justice Center, YJLI alum, NJJN member

Breakout 2: Restorative Justice | Room 4042

From New Zealand to the United States, more communities, schools, and justice systems are utilizing restorative justice practices as an alternative way of handling youth in contact with the law. This session will explore different approaches to using these practices, benefits and challenges, and the importance of community engagement for sound restorative practice.

Moderator: Melissa Goemann, Senior Policy Counsel, NJJN

- Panelists:**
- Annette Love, Faith Community Advocate, Restorative Justice Durham
 - Jon Powell, Director, Juvenile Justice Mediation Project, Campbell Law School
 - Kacey Reynolds Schedler, Coordinator, Restorative Justice Durham

Breakout 3: Intersectional Justice in Practice | Room 4045

What does it mean to center the most marginalized in your policy advocacy? How can all boats rise when the needs of our most vulnerable youth are addressed? Recent data has shown that by their percentage in the population, LGBTQ youth of color are the most likely to enter the justice system. Yet, rarely do we check our policies to ensure that they incorporate and address the needs of these youth. What are best policy practices for LGBTQ youth in the justice system? And how can supporting these youth be more centered in our advocacy?

- Presenters:**
- Currey Cook, Counsel and Youth In-and Out of Home Care Project Director, Lambda Legal
 - Ames Simmons, Director of Transgender Policy, Equality NC
 - Loan Tran, Director of Special Projects, Southern Vision Alliance

3 PM—3:30 PM

Forum Closing — Next Steps for NC | Room 3041

Thanks to our members and partners who helped NJJN thrive this year!

2018 Forum Planning Committee	
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NJJN thanks our event sponsor, Duke University School of Law,
for graciously donating their space.



Special thanks to Mark Trustin and Parizade for their gracious help with the Awards Reception.

