

Leaders making change that lasts.



YOUTH JUSTICE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

National Juvenile Justice Network



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Building a Movement

Why the Institute is Needed

Every day, our state-based juvenile justice systems incarcerate children and teens for minor and non-criminal offenses, send youth to prison for life, deny youth in prison access to necessary health care and education, and send youth at great peril into adult prisons. The brunt of these harmful practices is borne by youth of color. We cultivate and support emerging leaders of color to fix this broken system.

How It Works

During a year-long fellowship, a diverse group of 10 emerging advocates and organizers from across the country take part in the Institute. Together, they learn about juvenile justice system structures and reform needs, effective advocacy and organizing techniques, and are paired with mentors in the field. In the course of the year they form peer learning and support groups, and complete an advocacy project in which they apply their skills in practical ways on behalf of youth in trouble with the law.

Accomplishments of Past Fellows

Abdi Ali | Minneapolis, MN

Created and implemented awareness trainings for government employees and program administrators in two Minnesota counties on effective engagement with East African Immigrant Youth and Families.



Nick Allen | Seattle, WA

Coordinated on-going coalition work to bring about positive changes to state laws related to the sentencing of youth as adults.



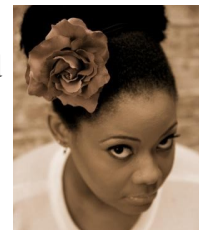
Chaz Arnett | Baltimore, MD

Established a juvenile defense course at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law that includes a placement with community organizations in area. This course fills a commonplace void in law school education.



Natalie Collier | Jackson, MS

For a legislative campaign, created video record of experiences of incarcerated young people and their efforts to reenter the community.



Anthony DiMartino | Long Beach, CA

Created a grant writing and procurement guide for new advocacy organizations. Useful to new fundraisers and development staff, it is meant for community organizations doing youth justice work.



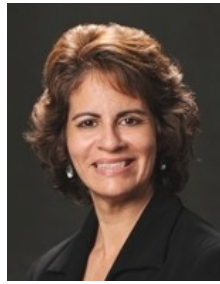
Sarah Jane Forman | Detroit, MI (now in DC)

Established the Youth Justice Clinic at the University of Detroit Mercy Law School to provide legal representation for indigent youth.



Helen Gándara | Scottsdale, AZ

Established a resource and response map of the City of Scottsdale using zip code parameters and police records to identify changes to city juvenile justice policies.

**Kelly Gilbreth | Albuquerque, NM**

Formed an intergenerational working group to facilitate changes to tribal policies related to youth in trouble with the law.

**Rashad Hawkins | Baltimore, MD**

Led a successful coalition campaign to halt the construction of a new jail for youth in the city.

**LaShunda Hill | Washington, DC**

Coordinated broad coalition in Connecticut to establish appropriate responses to the *Miller* ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Ekundayo Igeleke | Columbus, OH**

Crafted a model youth leadership curriculum and structure that places young people at the forefront of youth justice advocacy. The model is intended for replication in urban settings around the country.

**Tanesha Ingram | New York, NY**

Conducted an organizational assessment of the potential for youth leadership.

**Elissa Johnson | Jackson, MS**

Led legislative campaign to establish state standards for conditions of confinement.

**Maheen Kaleem | Washington, D.C.**

Partnering with Rights 4 Girls, created a curriculum for juvenile defenders that emphasizes trauma-informed defense, especially as it relates to girls and young women in the youth justice system.

**Jennifer Kim, Oakland, CA**

Led a legislative campaign that resulted in a change in the age of jurisdiction and prohibits the use of “time adds” in detention facilities in California.

Teresa King | Silver Spring, MD

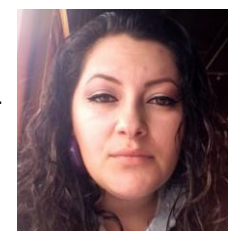
Introduced the Mental Health First Aid protocol in Maryland to impact the school-to-prison pipeline. It is now being touted by public and mental health advocates in the DC metro area.

**Sabrina Leshore | Raeford, NC**

Created family groups in two counties to foster leadership and advocacy of family members.

**Aurora Lopez | Oakland, CA**

Created the Barrio Unity leadership program for young male community members centered around “Growing Our Roots, Reclaiming Our



Fruitvale” a community event planned by Barrio Unity members.

Rukia Lumumba | New York, NY

Formed a leadership group to empower families and caregivers of youth in the justice system to advocate for reform.



Usha Maharajh | Stuart, FL

Engaged with state actors in altering direct file practices in one of the state’s largest counties.



Donna McHenry | Phoenix, AZ

Instituted cross-system changes to domestic violence law enforcement responses that had previously led to the removal of children and youth from the parental/caregiver home and placement in the juvenile justice system, even when youth was not the aggressor.



Delores Moody | Brooklyn, NY

Improved capacity to assist her organization to provide community-based alternatives for youth in trouble with the law.



Jody Owens | Jackson, MS

Led a legislative campaign to allow expungement of juvenile records for adult petitioners.



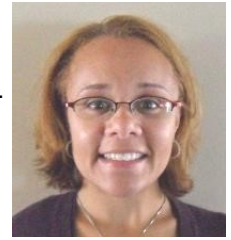
Carmen Perez | New York, NY

Created and implemented a model of in-house programs for detained youth with the goals of youth development and positive staff engagement.



Madelyn Roman-Scott | Harrisburg, PA

Created, produced, and distributed a family member handbook for those with children incarcerated in the state.



Christy Sampson-Kelly | Bowie, MD

Successfully engaged with secure facilities in several jurisdictions to understand the need and mandate to provide general and special education services to detained and incarcerated children and youth. This led to the creation of a model to replicate around the country.



Theo Shaw | New Orleans, LA

Took a lead role in the constitutional challenge to a Louisiana law that allows the arrest of children and youth in school for disciplinary reasons. This a direct challenge to and disruption of the school-to-prison pipeline.



Nadiyah Shereff | San Francisco, CA

Produced a report related to gaps in services for incarcerated teen parents in the city.



Jason Smith | Skokie, IL (now in Ann Arbor)

Conducted data analysis of City of Skokie’s youth diversion program that was used to encourage other jurisdictions to use the model.



**Rodolfo “Rudy” Soto |
Portland, OR (now in DC)**

Built leadership skills in an effort to unify local partners on juvenile justice reform. Subsequently served as legislative assistant to Congressman Kurt Schrader on Native American issues.



**Erika Stallworth | Michigan
City, IN**

Established a statewide child welfare organization focusing on system policies and laws.



**daNaE Tapia | Los Angeles,
CA (now Inglewood)**

Successfully led campaign aimed at diverting a small but meaningful portion county funds from law enforcement toward youth services.



**Alicia Virani | Long Beach,
CA**

Established a city-wide coalition for youth advocacy and juvenile justice reform with a focus on restorative justice.



Elijah Wheeler |

North Bethesda, MD

Created and found funding for a social worker in the county's youth intake office to quickly di-



vert children and youth away from the justice system by connecting them with appropriate services.

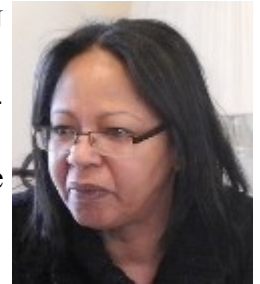
**Darnell T. Williams | Bedford,
MA**

Partnered with higher education institutions to create a comprehensive reentry program for youth in the state's juvenile justice system. The program provides a comprehensive mix of services and resources that are meant to ensure success for each returning youth.



Kathy Wright | Wharton, NJ

Collected, analyzed, and published data related to the incarceration of minor youth in adult facilities in her state. The data was collected directly from the youth and created enduring relationships with them that no other group in the state has.



Lynn Wu | Berkeley, CA

Created a series of fact sheets for youth related to rights they have in regard to suspensions, expulsions, and special education.



About the National Juvenile Justice Network

The only organization of its kind, the National Juvenile Justice Network leads a national movement of state-based juvenile justice coalitions and organizations to secure state, local and federal laws, policies and practices that are fair, equitable and developmentally appropriate for all children, youth and families involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the justice system.

