Ali Abid is the Criminal Justice Policy Analyst & Staff Attorney for Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice. Chicago Appleseed is a non-profit research and policy organization focusing on systemic reform of the court system in Cook County with a mission of creating a fairer justice system for vulnerable populations. At Appleseed, Ali Abid provides research and contributes to advocacy on criminal justice reform projects, partnering with government agencies as well as community groups. His major projects have included contributing to Appleseed's project management of a specialty drug treatment court, studying the length of stay in the Cook County Jail, and legislative reforms in partnership with community organizations. He has appeared in the Daily Law Bulletin, the Chicago Reader, WBEZ and PBS. Ali is a graduate of the John Marshall Law School where he was an editor of the John Marshall Law Review. Prior to joining Appleseed, he served as the George N. Leighton Fellow for the study of Prisoners' Rights, teaching and researching on matters related to criminal justice reform and mass incarceration.

Maria Almonte-Weston is the Project Director for Bronx Community Solutions, an operating project of the Center for Court Innovation that launched in 2005. Bronx Community Solutions seeks to reengineer the response to low-level crime in the Bronx. By providing judges with additional sentencing options for non-violent offenders, Bronx Community Solutions reduces the reliance on short-term jail sentences and offers defendants the assistance they need to avoid further criminal conduct. Under her leadership, Bronx Community Solutions has reduced the use of jail sentences for convicted misdemeanor defendants in the Bronx by 13.5% in 2014 (from 23%), while maintaining a case completion rate of 77%. Ms. Weston has been part of the Center for Court Innovation for close to 18 years, where she first started providing direct services to a variety of sexually exploited individuals and adolescents coming through the Midtown Community Court. While at Midtown Community Court, Ms. Almonte-Weston collaborated with the NYPD to offer Street Outreach Services to the homeless population living in the west Midtown area. Ms. Almonte-Weston received her Master’s Degree from Hunter School of Social Work, which has enabled her to integrate those clinical skills within a non-clinical environment like the criminal justice system.
Anita Alvarez is first female and first Hispanic elected to the post of Cook County State’s Attorney. She is also the first career prosecutor to hold this important public safety position. In her capacity as State’s Attorney, Ms. Alvarez leads the second largest prosecutor’s office in the nation, managing an office of more than 1,500 attorneys and administrative employees. Since taking office, Anita has made sweeping changes throughout the office creating bold new public safety initiatives and significantly increasing community-based programming and outreach. She has formed specialized units within the office to enhance the prosecution and investigation of cases involving issues such as gang violence, human trafficking, public corruption, domestic violence, conviction integrity and organized retail theft. Providing effective alternatives to traditional prosecution and incarceration of non-violent offenders has been a top priority for Alvarez, who during the course of her administration has developed and significantly expanded these innovative programs. Under her leadership, the number of alternative prosecution and sentencing courts has grown from eight to more than 30 that are currently operating within the Cook County criminal justice system, proving specialized services for veterans, first time felony offenders and those with mental health needs. Ms. Alvarez also implemented a sweeping new drug policy in Cook County that is keeping nonviolent low level repeat drug offenders out of the criminal justice system and steering them to treatment. A Chicago native, Ms. Alvarez was born and raised in the Pilsen community. She received her undergraduate degree from Loyola University and obtained her Law Degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Kim Ball is the Senior Policy Advisor for Adjudication at the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice where she works with foundations and national, state, and federal partners to ensure the fair administration of justice in state criminal courts. Her newest project is the Right to Counsel (R2C) National Campaign—check it out on Twitter and Facebook! She is working on two of BJA’s Smart programs—Smart Pretrial and Smart Defense—demonstrating integration of research into local site implementation. Kim is dedicated to advancing the idea of procedural justice in the courts and is currently conducting procedural justice assessments in courts across the country, along with supporting implementation of community courts and risk assessment tools. Originally from Arkansas, Kim entered federal service in 1999. Kim has served as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Before moving to Washington, DC, she served as a Special Assistant District Attorney in Little Rock, Arkansas. Kim holds a JD from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville School of Law. She is an avid Arkansas Razorback fan, loves Memphis-style barbecue, and enjoys traveling to new countries and hiking mountains.

Captain Joe Balles is a recently retired, thirty-two year veteran of the Madison Police Department. Captain Balles earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from UW-Platteville (1983) and a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from the La Follette Institute at UW-Madison (1988). Captain Balles is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy (2006). Having served in a variety of “operational” and “support” roles during his years of service to the Madison community, Captain Balles has served as commander of Madison’s South Police District for the past seven years. Other past assignments have included a four year stint in the early 1990’s as the Broadway Simpson Neighborhood Officer, patrol sergeant, and ten years building and managing information management and technology projects for the department. The Madison Police Department for many years has been at the forefront of developing innovative, community based strategies addressing crime, fear and disorder.
In an effort to help the community address racial disparities with respect to arrests, Captain Balles helped establish the Dane County Community Restorative Court (CRC) “pilot” project in South Madison. The Dane County CRC has been operational since June 2015. The CRC seeks to provide a community based, restorative justice alternative for 17-25 years olds who have been arrested by MPD officers for low level, misdemeanor crimes.

Deborah Barrows spent 28 years as a law enforcement officer with the Hartford Connecticut Police Department. Supporting the philosophy of Community Oriented Policing allowed her the opportunity to forge partnerships within the Community. Her passion has always been to support grass-root efforts to promote economic and community development in marginalized communities. Deborah is currently a Program Manager with Community Partners in Action (CPA) (www.cpa-ct.org), a non-profit agency which provides crucial services that help adults and youth live crime-free lives. CPA recognizes that individuals with involvement in the criminal justice system have many challenges to overcome in their quest to change their lives. Despite the perception, many people with a record who have paid their debt to society have a strong desire to improve their lives; and when given the right tools, resources and an opportunity to make a change, people respond very well. Deborah believes the performance of community service can play a vital role in engaging defendants to become reinvested in the community. She uses integrity and principle to employ a style that is purposeful, credible, and focused on supporting individuals in becoming productive members of society. Supporting community-based prevention and intervention initiatives for citizens is a movement toward self-sufficiency in urban communities. She believes that true empowerment is best achieved when individuals have immediate access to services which can address their short and long-term needs.

Tshaka Barrows is a founding member of the Burns Institute (BI). As Deputy Director he works closely with the Executive Director and Senior Management to advance the Burns Institute’s mission to protect and improve the lives of youth of color and poor youth. His work involves strategic planning, organizational development, financial over site, project development and managing relationships with funders, partners, community leaders and system decision makers. Tshaka joined the Burns Institute in 2001 as Regional Manager for the Community Justice Network for Youth (CJNY) after graduating from the University of Wisconsin. Previously, he worked to build the CJNY from 35 active member organizations in 2001 to over 200 nationwide today! He developed several curricula including a comprehensive juvenile justice history curriculum, as well as racial and ethnic disparity taskforces in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Chicago and New Orleans. He is proud to have worked with and supported so many community leaders committed to ‘Stopping the Rail to Jail’. Throughout the development of the CJNY he visited over 140 organizations; held 12 regional conferences and 2 national conferences; and facilitated numerous trainings and workshops. He has participated in several national initiatives including the Youth Justice Learning Group, the Funders Collaborative on Youth Justice and the Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. Tshaka’s work in CJNY bolstered BI’s site-based approach. His community engagement contributions to BI’s site-based strategy lead to a significant increase in meaningful community involvement with detention reform. His work established several community-based interventions that have reduced racial and ethnic disparities and increased positive life outcomes for youth involved in criminal justice systems. Tshaka is an Alumnus of the Rockwood Leadership Institute Fellowship program and currently participates in the Sierra Health Foundation’s Positive Youth Justice Initiative; additionally he serves as an Advisory Council Member for the Campaign for Youth Justice.
Amanda Berman is the Project Director of the Red Hook Community Justice Center, a problem-solving court in Brooklyn, N.Y. A project of the Center for Court Innovation, the Justice Center is the nation's first multi-jurisdictional community court, bringing criminal, housing and family court cases before a single judge to offer more holistic responses to litigants' problems. Ms. Berman oversees all program operations of the Justice Center, including teams of social workers, case managers, and program staff who assess and link defendants with services, monitor compliance, oversee community restitution projects, assist victims, and collaborate with government and community stakeholders to promote principles of procedural justice, community engagement, and problem-solving. Prior to joining the Center for Court Innovation, Ms. Berman served as the Senior Director of Court Advocacy for The Fortune Society, where she oversaw court operations and served as the liaison between Fortune’s alternative-to-incarceration programs and courts throughout New York City. Ms. Berman began her career as a public defender at The Bronx Defenders, a holistic public defender provider in the South Bronx, representing clients from arraignments through trial on cases ranging from misdemeanors to violent felonies and homicides. She went on to serve as a trainer, supervisor and team leader throughout her career there. Ms. Berman holds her J.D. from New York University School of Law and her Bachelor's degree from Brown University.

Greg Berman is the director of the Center for Court Innovation. Part of the founding team responsible for creating the Center, he has helped guide the organization from start-up to an annual budget of more than $35 million. He has accepted numerous national and local awards on behalf of the Center, including the Peter F. Drucker Award for Non-profit Innovation. He is the author/co-author of Reducing Crime, Reducing Incarceration: Essays on Criminal Justice Innovation (Quid Pro Books, 2014), Trial & Error in Criminal Justice Reform: Learning from Failure (Urban Institute Press, 2010) and Good Courts: The Case for Problem-Solving Justice (The New Press, 2005). He has contributed to numerous books and periodicals, including The Wall Street Journal, The Judges Journal (guest editor), New Statesman, The Guardian, Huffington Post, National Law Journal, and Chronicle of Philanthropy. Prior to being named director of the Center for Court Innovation in 2002, he served as deputy director of the Center and as the lead planner of the Red Hook Community Justice Center. In the early 1990s, while working for the New York Foundation, he created the New York Common Application, a universal form designed to expedite the foundation grant proposal process for community groups in the New York area. He has also worked in development (New Israel Fund) and as a freelance journalist (Providence Journal). He has served on numerous boards and task forces including: New York City Board of Correction (appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg), New York City Criminal Justice Agency, Wesleyan Center for Prison Education, Coro New York, Centre for Justice Innovation (chair), Sloan Public Service Awards, Poets House, Police Foundation, Mayor Bill de Blasio public safety transition team, and Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance transition team. He is a graduate of Wesleyan University and a former Coro Fellow in Public Affairs.

Phil Bowen has been the Director of the Centre for Justice Innovation since July 2012. Prior to being Director, Phil spent the majority of his career in the British civil service. He worked for the Home Office and Ministry of Justice on community policing, counter terrorism, and probation reform before working at the Prime Minister’s Delivery Unit. During his time in the civil service, he spent 14 months on secondment to the Center for Court Innovation in New York, working at Bronx Community Solutions and helping start the Center's work on failure in criminal justice reform. After leaving the civil service, he worked on improving the Republic of South Sudan's central government operations for Adam Smith International, a consultancy firm.
Phil holds a Masters in History from St. Andrews University and an MBA with Merit from Imperial College London. In his spare time, Phil enjoys cinema, keeping fit, cooking, winning pub quizzes and volunteering at the Brixton People's Kitchen.

Jasmine Bowie is the Youth Reentry Coordinator at the Brownsville Community Justice Center. Ms. Bowie joined the Center for Court Innovation in 2014 as a Youth Justice Social Worker. In her current role, she oversees the coordination of reentry services, individual practice with youth, and gender-specific programming. Ms. Bowie obtained her Masters of Social Work degree from New York University in May of 2014.

James Brodick oversees the operations of the Brooklyn Community Justice Centers, including the Brownsville Community Justice Center and the Red Hook Community Justice Center. Currently in the planning stage, the Brownsville Community Justice Center is the Center for Court Innovation's newest operating program. Mr. Brodick is working with the New York State Office for Court Administration, elected officials, the Kings County District Attorney's Office, the New York Police Department, community organizations, and residents to build support and raise money for the project. Brownsville will be modeled after the award-winning Red Hook Community Justice Center—the nation’s first multi-jurisdictional community court—which Mr. Brodick directed for seven years. Since joining the Center for Court Innovation in 1998, Mr. Brodick has held several positions, including director of NYC Community Clean-up and deputy director and director of Community Programs in Red Hook. Mr. Brodick holds a B.A. from Saint John's University. He is a New York State certified mediator.

Honorable Alex Calabrese is an Acting Supreme Court Justice of the State of New York and the Presiding Judge of the Red Hook Community Justice Center, a one-judge court and one of the most comprehensive community courts in the United States. Red Hook is the first multi-jurisdictional problem-solving court in the country and Judge Calabrese is able to resolve cases using an array of sanctions and services, including substance abuse treatment, trauma counseling, education programs, job training and peacemaking, helping community members get their lives back on track. Everyone entering the Justice Center is treated with respect throughout the judicial process and compliance with services such as drug or mental health treatment is carefully monitored. A recent independent evaluation by the National Center for State Courts and the National Institute of Justice showed that the Justice Center reduced the use of incarceration substantially, while reducing crime and recidivism statistically significantly in comparison with the traditional court. Moreover, this approach saved over 15 million dollars a year in victimization costs. This problem solving approach has received international and national attention, attracting high level government officials, Chief Justices and a steady stream of visitors from around the world. Community courts utilizing principles of procedural justice and problem-solving have opened in Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and throughout the United States. Other jurisdictions are considering this new approach to justice. The Red Hook Community Justice Center has received the 2006 Problem-Solver Award from the American Bar Association, the 2008 NCJA Outstanding Program Award, the 2013 Robin Hood Heroes Award and the 2014 CEI-PEA Education Award. Judge Calabrese lectures nationally and internationally on community justice, problem-solving courts and procedural justice. He was appointed to the bench in 1997 by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. He is an Adjunct Professor at the New York University Graduate School of Social Work and co-authored a treatise entitled, “Criminal Law and Practice,” which is published and revised annually by the New York State Bar Association.
Amy Campanelli is a 23-year veteran of the Cook County Public Defender’s Office, and has spent almost three decades representing the indigent accused. Most recently she served as the Deputy of Suburban Operations for the Law Office, where she managed more than 150 assistant public defenders, supervisors, chiefs, support staff and investigators and oversaw all specialty/therapeutic courts. Campanelli also has experience in all divisions of the Public Defender’s Office, including Juvenile, Felony Trial, Capital and Homicide Cases. She served as the office liaison between all suburban police departments, the Cook County Department of Corrections and the Sex Offender Management Board for the State of Illinois. She is a mental health specialist and has conducted numerous trainings for attorneys. Campanelli received her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and her JD from the Kent College of Law. Campanelli is only the second woman to serve as Public Defender for Cook County.

Dr. Wilson M. Compton, M.D., M.P.E. is Deputy Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) of the National Institutes of Health. NIDA supports most of the world’s research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction related to preventing drug abuse, treating addiction and addressing the serious health consequences of drug abuse, including related HIV/AIDS and other health conditions. In his current role, Dr. Compton’s responsibilities include providing scientific leadership in the development, implementation, and management of NIDA’s research portfolio and working with the Director to support and conduct research. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Compton served as the Director of NIDA’s Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research from 2002 until 2013. Before joining NIDA, Dr. Compton was Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Master in Psychiatric Epidemiology Program at Washington University in Saint Louis as well as Medical Director of Addiction Services at the Barnes-Jewish Hospital in Saint Louis. Dr. Compton received his undergraduate education from Amherst College. He attended medical school and completed his residency training in psychiatry at Washington University. During his career, Dr. Compton has achieved multiple scientific accomplishments: he was selected to serve as a member of the DSM-5 Revision Task Force; is the author of more than 150 articles and chapters including widely-cited papers drawing attention to prescription drug abuse problems in the U.S. Dr. Compton is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Alpha Omega Alpha medical education honor society. Dr. Compton is the recipient of multiple awards and in 2008, he received the Senior Scholar Health Services Research Award from the American Psychiatric Association, in 2010 the Paul Hoch Award from the American Psychopathological Association, and in both 2012 and 2013, he was selected to receive the Leveraging Collaboration Award from the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Compton received the prestigious Health and Human Services Secretary’s Awards for Meritorious Service in 2013 and for Distinguished Service in 2014.

Amy Crawford is the Deputy Director of the National Network for Safe Communities, an action-research center at John Jay College focusing on working with jurisdictions around the United States and internationally to strengthen communities and enhance public safety. In her role as deputy director, she oversees the implementation and innovations of the National Network strategies to reduce violence, minimize arrest and incarceration, enhance legitimacy, and strengthen relationships between law enforcement and communities. She is also responsible for the organization’s strategic planning, external relations, and overall operations. She is a frequent spokesperson and has presented at numerous conferences and panel discussions on the work of the National Network.
Previously, Ms. Crawford served as the deputy director at the Center for an Urban Future, a public policy organization that focuses on economic and workforce development. She also served as a public defender and as the director of development and pro bono at the Bronx Defenders, an innovative legal services organization located in the South Bronx in New York City. Ms. Crawford holds a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a B.A. from the University of Virginia.

Jack Cutrone is a Senior Policy Advisor of the National Criminal Justice Association and is NCJA’s immediate past president. Formerly, Mr. Cutrone was the Executive Director of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), the SAA for Illinois and home to the state’s national award-winning Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). Under his leadership, in 2009 and again in 2014, ICJIA brought together Illinois criminal justice stakeholders to collaborate in crafting a strategic criminal justice plan for Illinois. Mr. Cutrone also implemented a partnership between ICJIA’s Federal/State Grant Unit and the SAC to let research inform ICJIA grants practice and develop meaningful performance measures. ICJIA’s flagship program, Adult Redeploy Illinois, began during Mr. Cutrone’s tenure. This diversion program provided grant funding to allow local jurisdictions to target populations previously sentenced to the Department of Corrections and to provide community-based services and sanctions to those who otherwise would have been sent to prison. Jack was also instrumental in creating the Illinois Center of Behavioral Health and Justice which provides training and technical assistance to create or expand problem solving courts in Illinois local jurisdictions. Jack also serves as a consultant to the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

Jose Egurbide received his B.A. in Political Science from Yale University in 1987 and his JD from Pepperdine University School of Law in 1995. Jose joined the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office in December 1995, has tried over 40 jury trials and supervised both the Narcotics Enforcement Surveillance Team and the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program before leading several multi-agency neighborhood revitalization projects throughout Los Angeles. In 2006, Jose spearheaded the City Attorney’s Skid Row Safer City Initiative (SCI), working closely with criminologist and LAPD consultant George L. Kelling. Jose initiated an unprecedented collaboration with the Public Defenders’ Office to steer Skid Row’s chronic homeless away from jail and into permanent supportive housing before joining the Complex and Special Litigation section in 2009. From 2009-2014, Jose’s settlement efforts yielded over $7M in civil penalties paid by corporate defendants allegedly engaged in unfair business practices. Jose also prosecuted a massive multi-million dollar Medicare fraud scheme and effectively shut down two unlicensed community care operations recklessly disregarding the safety, care and supervision of dependent adult residents. Jose currently supervises the Neighborhood Justice Program (NJP), a pre-filing alternative prosecution program diverting first-time, non-violent misdemeanor offenders away from the Criminal Justice system.

Judge Timothy C. Evans serves as the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, the largest of the 24 judicial circuits in Illinois and also one of the largest unified court systems in the world. More than 1 million cases are filed annually in the Circuit Court of Cook County, which serves Cook County’s 5.1 million residents. Upon graduation from John Marshall, Chief Judge Evans embarked on a lifelong pursuit of public service. He first entered local city government in 1969 when he joined the City of Chicago’s Law Department as an assistant corporation counsel. He later joined the City of Chicago’s Department of Investigations, rising to deputy commissioner.
In 1973, Chief Judge Evans was elected to the Chicago City Council representing the 4th Ward, a position he held for 18 years while maintaining a private practice. Throughout his career, Chief Judge Evans has been an outspoken voice for equal opportunities for women and minorities. At the court’s executive level, in particular, he has championed excellence and diversity. Women and minorities comprise half of the 17 division and district presiding judges he has appointed. He has been honored with dozens of distinguished service and humanitarian awards and has had academic scholarships established in his name. In 2009, he became the first judge from Illinois to receive the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence from the National Center for State Courts. The award is one of the most prestigious judicial honors in the country and has been presented annually since 1996 by the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Magistrate David Fanning was appointed a magistrate in the Australian State of Victoria in October 2006 and became the founding magistrate at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC) in Collingwood, Melbourne when it opened in early 2007. He has a strong commitment to the success of the NJC and the community justice approach as a way of addressing the underlying causes of criminal behaviour. He was appointed a magistrate by the government of the day as is the practice; however it followed a selection panel that included community members. This was unique in the appointment of any judicial officer in Australia. Like all judicial officers, his appointment is for life and he can only be removed by a resolution of both Houses of Parliament (the legislature). The Neighbourhood Justice Centre Magistrates Court is a division of the Magistrates Court of Victoria and this court hears around 97% of all criminal matters - both state and federal offences, including indictable offences (felonies). The NJC Magistrates Court hears all charges that would otherwise be heard in any Magistrates Court except for serious sexual offences. Immediately prior to this appointment, Magistrate Fanning was the Commissioner for Children for the Australian State of Tasmania, a statutory role that monitors services provided to children and their families and includes a strong advocacy role for children. He completed university degrees in social work, arts, law and postgraduate studies in criminology. He worked for eight years as a social worker in the areas of family support, mental health and child protection. Most of this time was spent working directly with vulnerable families and individuals. He subsequently worked as a solicitor for a short time and then was a member of the Victorian Bar for 16 years. As a barrister, he spent almost every day in court as a trial advocate or engaged in other advocacy work. He worked in the areas of family law, child welfare law, coronial law and administrative law as well as in criminal law. Magistrate Fanning is also the Chair of the State Adult Parole Board.

Mike Feuer has long been one of California’s leading lawyers and lawmakers. Now, as L.A.’s chief lawyer and prosecutor, he has brought an innovative, problem-solving focus to the office that combines tough and effective prosecution with initiatives to improve the quality of life throughout the city. In his first two years as City Attorney, he has nearly tripled the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, launched a broad neighborhood school safety initiative, formed a strike force to combat illegal dumping, taken on wage theft, tackled substandard housing, cracked down on patient dumping, closed more than half the City’s unlawful medical marijuana dispensaries, instituted a program to protect immigrants from fraud, targeted polluters and advanced environmental justice. A leader in preventing gun violence, he created a Gun Violence Prevention Unit in his office and has worked aggressively to keep guns out the hands of criminals and children.
In a groundbreaking national effort, City Attorney Feuer joined with Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr. to co-found and chair Prosecutors Against Gun Violence—an independent, non-partisan coalition devoted to prosecutorial and policy solutions to the public health and safety crisis of gun violence. City Attorney Feuer previously served as the Majority Policy Leader of the California Assembly and Chair of the Assembly’s Judiciary Committee. He was also a member of the Los Angeles City Council where he was Chair of the Council’s Budget and Finance Committee.

Sarah Fritsche is Associate Director of Research and Deputy Director of Research to Practice Strategies with the Center for Court Innovation. She currently co-leads a multi-site, national research and technical assistance effort to reduce the use of jail incarceration funded by the MacArthur foundation. She is also the Principal Investigator of a quasi-experimental study of neighborhood oriented probation in New York City and the Principal Investigator on several federally-funded studies examining the use of evidence-based practices and actuarial risk assessment in justice system settings, including a BJA-funded project to develop and validate a pretrial assessment for misdemeanants, a BJA-funded study of risk and needs among defendants with serious mental illness, and a COPS-funded study to develop and evaluate a risk screening tool to inform police-led diversion. Recently, she was the principal investigator of a BJA-funded evaluation of a violence prevention program utilizing the Chicago Cure Violence model in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, and she continues to act as a lead researcher with ongoing evaluations of the Center’s violence prevention programming in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Ms. Fritsche also provides technical assistance nationally on the use of evidence-based assessments in drug and community courts and evidence-based practices in violence prevention. Ms. Fritsche brings particular expertise in mixed-methods research design, data analysis, and project management. In 2011 she was appointed chair of the Center’s institutional review board and continues as co-chair in this capacity. She is currently a doctoral student in criminal justice at CUNY’s graduate center and an adjunct lecturer with John Jay’s school of Public Administration.

Leah Garabedian is the Senior Program Manager at the Justice Management Institute. Prior to joining JMI, Leah served as Defender Counsel for the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, working to promote the critical importance of public defense and support public defenders in their pursuit of justice for all, through policy advocacy, strategic alliances, and training and technical assistance. As the architect of NLADA’s Smart Defense proposal, which takes a systems approach to justice improvement, Leah worked with the TTA Team to support the five Smart Defense sites across the country to build and implement evidence-based, data-driven solutions to raise the quality of public defense representation. Leah brings a diverse range of experience, having practiced criminal law for six years, first with the Missouri State Public Defender and then in private practice on trial and appellate cases in federal and state court and in municipal courts across the greater St. Louis region. As Senior Associate with the Pew Charitable Trusts, Leah worked on public policy and legislative reform, providing technical assistance under the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Leah has a B.A. in Philosophy from Colgate University and a J.D. from Washington & Lee University School of Law.

Laurie Garduque, Ph.D., is the Director of Justice Reform at the Foundation. Laurie joined the Foundation in 1991 after serving as Director of the National Forum on the Future of Children and Families, a joint project of the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine. From 1984 to 1987, she was the Director of Governmental and Professional Liaison for the American Educational Research Association in Washington, D.C.
This position followed the year Laurie spent, from 1983 to 1984, as a Congressional Science Fellow in the U.S. Senate. From 1980 to 1985, Garduque held a faculty position as an Assistant Professor in Human Development at the Pennsylvania State University. Garduque previously served on the boards of the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy, Grantmakers for Children Youth and Families, the Youth Transition Funders Group Juvenile Justice Working Group, and on the federal Center for Mental Health Services National Advisory Council, under Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. She currently serves on the Federal Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. She received her bachelor’s degree in Psychology and her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles.

**Dianne Gibson** is currently employed as the Community Courts Manager with the City of Dallas in the City Attorney’s Office, overseeing three Community Courts within the City of Dallas. Ms. Gibson has over 25 years of experience working with the community to provide the general public with social services and housing. She is an experienced public relations and media professional who has developed programs throughout the community. Ms. Gibson has been the recipient of numerous awards recognizing her volunteerism and community services including the Women Who Make a Difference Award, National Council of Negro Women, Incorporated Volunteerism Award, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Incorporated Commission on Civil Rights, Education and Legislative Affair Award, the Greater Dallas Urban League 2011 Whitney M. Young Jr. Humanitarian Award, and most recently, the 2015 C.B. Bunkley Community Service Award. Dianne Gibson has served on several boards and commissions such as the South Dallas Fair Park Trust Fund, Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center Advisory Board, St. Philip’s School & Community Center, and the Dallas Branch of the NAACP.

**Jennifer S. Greene** is the Policy Advisor to Cook County State’s Attorney Anita Alvarez. In this capacity, she creates and implements policy for the second largest prosecutor’s office in the country, with particular focus on domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault. Ms. Greene represents the State’s Attorney to the community at large and conducts extensive training in Cook County and around the country. She holds a Bachelor of Science from DePaul University and is an Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professional.

**Felicia Henry**, a Temple University alumna, received her Masters of Social Work degree from the School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. Felicia currently resides back in her hometown and works as a Restorative Justice Social Worker with justice-involved youth at the Brownsville Community Justice Center. She coordinates case management, meeting with youth individually and connecting them to a range of services. In addition, she facilitates two psycho-educational groups, one based out of the Center and the other based out of a local juvenile secure detention facility.

**Medina Henry** is associate director of Training and Technical Assistance at the Center for Court Innovation. In this role, she provides consulting services to jurisdictions around the nation, including assistance provided under the Problem-Solving Justice Initiative of the Bureau of Justice Assistance at the U.S. Department of Justice. The Problem-Solving Justice Initiative seeks to promote the use of problem-solving practices in an effort to reduce crime and incarceration while strengthening public trust in justice.
Medina also spearheads technical assistance for 9 sites funded by the Minority Youth Violence Prevention initiative, a collaboration between the Office of Minority Health at the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office at the US Department of Justice. She began her career at the Center shortly after earning her Master of Public Administration at Baruch College. Medina started as the program coordinator for the Center’s AmeriCorps program and was promoted to planner for the Red Hook Community Justice Center. While in Red Hook, Medina helped the Justice Center to plan and launch the Red Hook Responders, a social service program focused on addressing the community’s needs post-Hurricane Sandy; Red Hook CARES, which provides crisis support and case management to survivors of violence; and a host of other projects.

**Norma Jaeger** is former Director for Problem-solving Courts and Community Sentencing Alternatives with the Idaho Supreme and continues to provide guidance and support to 66 drug and mental health courts in Idaho. Norma received a Master of Science degree in health services administration from Whitworth College in Spokane Washington and has spent over 30 years working in the development and administration of public behavioral health programs in Idaho, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington. She serves as adjunct faculty in the Criminal Justice Department at Boise State University and is a former member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and the National Center for DWI Courts Advisory Committee. She is a consultant for Policy Research Associates and American University and a curriculum developer and trainer for Idaho Certified Peer Support Specialists with the Jannus Corporation. She is currently completing work for a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration at Boise State University.

**Steven Jansen** is the Chief Operating Officer for the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA). The association acts as a global forum for the exchange of ideas, allowing prosecutors to collaborate with all criminal justice partners, and conducts timely and effective training and technical assistance to improve the prosecutorial function. In addition, APA serves as an advocate for prosecutors on emerging issues related to the administration of justice, development of partnerships and implementation of problem-solving strategies.

**Ionna Jimenez** is the Community Initiatives Coordinator where she oversees the operations and strategic planning for several of the place-based initiatives, including: the Marcus Garvey Village Place-Based Initiative, the Belmont Avenue Revitalization Project and The Brownsville Builders. Prior to this, Ionna has worked in the field of community organizing and outreach around housing and financial stability under a NYCHA-funded program. Ionna has also worked for NYC Housing Preservation and Development agency as a housing specialist servicing Section 8 subsidy holders.

**Deron Johnston** is the Associate Director of Community Initiatives at the Brownsville Community Justice Center. In this role, Deron manages partnerships with city agencies and resources, oversees the development and execution of youth programming, and develops strategies to improve public safety through the Brownsville Community Justice Center. Deron also develops and coordinates place based projects that focus on the development, beautification, facade improvement, and maintenance of Brownsville’s business and residential districts. With a background in education, sociology, and business, and a fondness for facilitating change through the arts, Deron uses a multi-disciplinary approach to development and programming to lead initiatives at the Brownsville Community Justice Center.
Mark Kammerer, M.S., LCPC, CCJAP, has been the Supervisor of Alternative Prosecution/Sentencing Unit for the Cook County, Illinois, State’s Attorney’s Office for over 15 years, addressing a large percentage of cases which are disposed of utilizing alternative prosecution/sentencing initiatives, including coordinating the States Attorney’s Office’s role in the County’s six Drug Courts, the County’s Mental Health Court System (eight separate courts), the County’s Veterans Court System (six separate courts), and is the Coordinator of the SAO’s numerous Deferred Prosecution Programs, including the Drug Diversion program for both felony and misdemeanor offenders, the nationally recognized Felony Deferred Prosecution Program, the Misdemeanor Deferred Prosecution Program, and the Prostitution/Human Trafficking Diversion Court. In total, these alternative prosecution and sentencing initiatives include over 3,600 individuals in any given month. He has been involved in the expansion of the Cook County Treatment Court System from a total of three Courts in 2004 to the current total of twenty such Courts countywide. He was a recipient of the 2011 Bishop Sheil Award, awarded by the Illinois State Crime Commission. He has been on the faculty of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals/Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative since 2010 as well as the National Drug Court Planning Initiative. Prior to his current position, Mark served in the behavioral healthcare field his entire career, in direct service provision, as well as supervisory and administrative positions. He served in various positions at Evanston (Illinois) Hospital in the fifteen years immediately prior to his present position, most recently as the clinical coordinator of ambulatory behavioral healthcare. He earned two undergraduate degrees from Loyola University of Chicago and a Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Jessica Kay is the director of Brooklyn Justice Initiatives, the newest project of the Center for Court Innovation. Brooklyn Justice Initiatives operates out of the centralized Brooklyn Criminal Court and seeks to forge a new set of responses to misdemeanor and non-violent felony defendants by providing meaningful pre-trial supervised release and post-conviction sentencing options. Ms. Kay joined Brooklyn Justice Initiatives before its launch and played an instrumental role in the planning and implementation of all daily operations. She joined the Center in 2008, first as a social worker at the Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn, NY, and then as the clinical director, overseeing all daily clinical operations at the nation’s first multi-jurisdictional community court. While in her role as clinical director, Ms. Kay planned and implemented the Adolescent Diversion Part in Brooklyn, NY, as well as many other special initiatives. Ms. Kay also served on Mayor de Blasio’s 2014 Behavioral Health Task Force. Ms. Kay completed her undergraduate studies at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, and received her MSW from the Silver School of Social Work at NYU.

Emily Gold LaGratta is the deputy director of Training and Technical Assistance. In this role, she provides consulting services to jurisdictions domestically and internationally, including assistance provided under the Problem-Solving Justice Initiative, a project supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance at the U.S. Department of Justice to promote the wider use of problem-solving practices in an effort to reduce crime and incarceration while strengthening public trust in justice. Emily leads the Center’s technical assistance efforts on the topic of procedural justice and has served as the project manager for the Improving Courtroom Communications project. Before joining the technical assistance team, she was on the planning team for several New York-based initiatives, including the Brownsville Community Justice Center, a new community court to be opened in central Brooklyn. She is a graduate of Pomona College and the University of Wisconsin Law School.
Julius Lang is the director of Training and Technical Assistance at the Center for Court Innovation. Mr. Lang oversees the Center’s consulting services—including workshops, site visits, and in-person consulting—for jurisdictions around the nation and internationally. He currently spearheads national technical assistance efforts for the Problem-Solving Justice Initiative, an effort supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance at the U.S. Department of Justice to promote the wider use of problem-solving practices to reduce crime and incarceration while strengthening public trust in justice. Under this initiative, 10 jurisdictions are receiving funding and technical assistance to launch or enhance community courts. In addition, he oversees the Center’s role as site coordinator and technical assistance provider for the Minority Youth Violence Prevention initiative, a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Minority Health. Previously, Mr. Lang served as the coordinator of the Midtown Community Court—the Center’s first demonstration project—in Manhattan’s Times Square neighborhood. Prior to joining the Midtown Community Court, Mr. Lang was chief of staff to New York City’s Commissioner of Housing Preservation and Development. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Villanova University School of Law.

Mike Lawlor became Under Secretary for Criminal Justice Policy and Planning for Governor Dan Malloy on January 5, 2011. Mike is on a leave of absence as a tenured Associate Professor of Criminal Justice in the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences at the University of New Haven. Prior to his appointment, Mike served twelve terms as a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives representing his hometown of East Haven. He was chairman of the Judiciary Committee from 1995 to 2011. Mike is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in Slavic and Eastern European Studies. Mike received a Master’s Degree in Soviet Area Studies from the University of London and a law degree from the George Washington University. After graduating from law school, Mike was appointed by the Connecticut Criminal Justice Commission to serve as a prosecutor in the State Attorney’s Office in New Haven. He resigned that office in 1986 in order to run for the legislature. Mike is active in the Council of State Governments where he is Chair of the Board of Directors for the CSG Justice Center.

James H. Lewis, Ph.D., Senior Program Officer of the Community Trust, oversees grant-making in human services, workforce development, criminal justice, human relations, organizational development and policy advocacy, and oversees Trust research and evaluation products. He sits on numerous planning bodies of city, county and state government. Dr. Lewis has written numerous academic articles, book chapters and commissioned research and evaluation reports. In 2010 Dr. Lewis was appointed by the Governor to the state Commission on Budgeting for Results and in 2014 to the state Human Service Commission. He provided testimony in federal court in the City of Chicago ward and U.S. Congressional remap litigation of the 1990s, was a member of the Simon-Stratton Illinois Commission on Campaign Finance Reform, was co-chair of the Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago, was a co-principal investigator of the official evaluation of welfare reform in Illinois and is co-chair of the Chicago Workforce Funders Alliance. In recent years, he played principal roles in the development of the university evaluation of the Chicago 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, Illinois Partners for Human Service, and the Back Office Cooperative. Prior to joining the Trust, Lewis was Director of the Institute for Metropolitan Affairs at Roosevelt University and taught urban affairs and research methods. At Roosevelt, he conducted or directed more than 30 evaluation and policy research studies on government, demography and urban affairs. Before Roosevelt, Lewis was Vice President for Research and Planning at the Chicago Urban League for 9 years.
There Dr. Lewis specialized in education finance, legislative redistricting, civil rights and urban economic development. Dr. Lewis holds his Ph.D. from Northwestern University where he was a Hearst Fellow in American History.

Michela Lowry is the senior associate with the Training and Technical Assistance team at the Center for Court Innovation. In this capacity, she provides consulting services to jurisdictions around the country on problem-solving justice efforts, including assistance provided under the Problem-Solving Justice Initiative of the Bureau of Justice Assistance at the U.S. Department of Justice. Prior to joining the Center, Michela worked to design and implement a reentry curriculum for parolees and their families in Los Angeles with the ACLU of Southern California's Jails Project, served as the assistant to the Peacekeeping Adviser at the Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations, and taught as a corps member with Teach For America. She graduated from Occidental College and received her Master's in Education from the Relay Graduate School of Education.

Adam Mansky is director of operations for the Center for Court Innovation, a non-profit that works to create a more effective and humane justice system. The Center seeks to improve public safety and reduce unnecessary incarceration through the use of community-based alternatives to incarceration and pretrial detention, by designing ambitious, cutting-edge operating projects, performing original research, and providing expert assistance. Adam supervises the Center’s community courts and criminal justice programs, including the Red Hook Community Justice Center, Midtown Community Court, Brownsville Community Justice Center, and Newark Community Solutions. He has also led planning and implementation of New York City’s Young Adult Court initiatives, the Project Reset police-prosecutor diversion pilot, and the new supervised release initiative. And Adam supervises the Center’s technology department. Before joining the Center for Court Innovation, Adam practiced law at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and at Weil, Gotshal & Manges. He received a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a J.D., cum laude, from New York University School of Law. A lifelong New Yorker, Adam lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Chloe Wasserman, and their three terrific children.

Judge LeRoy K. Martin, Jr. was admitted to the bar in 1984. From 1985 until 1987 he served as an Assistant Public Defender. After leaving the Public Defender’s office, Judge Martin entered private practice forming the partnership of Martin & Duckworth with Kevin Duckworth. In the course of private practice Judge Martin practiced both criminal and civil law. From 1991 until 2002 he also served as a member of the Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals. In October of 2002 the Illinois Supreme Court appointed Judge Martin to the bench and he was elected in 2004. After serving in the First Municipal Division, Judge Martin was assigned to the Domestic Relations Division in the Sixth Municipal District. In 2007 Judge Martin was assigned to the Chancery Division where he served until he was appointed Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division in September 2015. Judge Martin is married to Denise Martin, a federal Administrative Law judge and is the father of a daughter, Brittany and a son, LeRoy III. Judge Martin has served on the board of the Chicago Bar Foundation and has taught trial practice at Loyola University School of Law. In his spare time he enjoys touring Civil War battlefields, as well as speaking on the role of African American soldiers during the Civil War and World War One.
Karol Mason was nominated to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs by President Barack Obama on February 13, 2013. Her appointment was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 25, 2013. As head of the Office of Justice Programs, she oversees an annual budget of more than $2 billion dedicated to supporting state, local, and tribal criminal justice agencies; an array of juvenile justice programs; a wide range of research, evaluation, and statistical efforts; and comprehensive services for crime victims. Ms. Mason previously served the Department of Justice as Deputy Associate Attorney General. At DOJ her primary responsibilities were to oversee the grant making components: the Office of Justice Programs, the Office on Violence Against Women, and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. In a cross-department initiative to address criminal justice issues in New Orleans, she led a team of representatives from each of the Department’s grant components, as well as the Civil Rights Division, the Office of U.S. Attorneys, the FBI, the DEA and the Community Relations Service. She led Attorney General Holder’s Defending Childhood Initiative, and helped create its Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence, bringing in the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services as partners. Ms. Mason was responsible for the implementation of the Combined Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), which consolidates all of the Justice Department’s tribal grants under a single solicitation. Prior to her federal government service, Ms. Mason practiced law at the Atlanta law firm of Alston & Bird, where she concentrated on public and project finance, once chaired its management committee. Ms. Mason received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, where she was note editor for the University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform. She received her A.B. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She served as a member of the university's board of trustees from 2001 to 2009, and received the university's Distinguished Alumna Award in 2013. Among her many other honors is a Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to the Department of Justice, awarded by Attorney General Eric Holder in 2011.

Erica Mateo is the Director of Community-Based Initiatives at the Brownsville Community Justice Center, a demonstration project of the Center for Court Innovation. She is in charge of overseeing the launch and development of the Belmont Revitalization Project, the Brownsville Stronger Together Campaign, all interest-based and employment readiness programming for at-risk youth 16-24 years old, and the Justice Center’s place-making and place-based work. Prior to assuming this role, Erica launched the Brownsville Anti-Violence Project and an intensive case management program for court-involved youth for the Center. Erica has also worked with Community Solutions in Brownsville, Brooklyn, creating systems, managing partnerships, designing communications and developing a mentor program for court-involved youth. She spent time working in the Bronx with the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center serving families experiencing crime-related debt, specifically those families dealing with the sexual assault of a child under 18, and in New Orleans finding ways to rebuild community through the tools of ethnography, narrative and oral history.

Ashley McLain is the Youth Justice Social Worker at the Brownsville Community Justice Center. Ms. McLain joined the Center for Court Innovation in July 2015. In her current role, in addition to case management, she facilitates youth leadership groups at the Center. Ms. McLain obtained her Masters of Social Work degree from Fordham University in May of 2015.

Kelly Mulligan-Brown is the project director at Newark Community Solutions, New Jersey’s first community court program. Ms. Brown oversees all program operations for Newark Community Solutions, the Newark Youth Court, and the Newark United Against Violence initiative.
Ms. Brown has been with Newark Community Solutions since its inception, serving as the project’s first resource coordinator. Before joining Newark Community Solutions, Ms. Brown worked as a state-certified psychiatric screener with The Psychiatric Emergency Screening Program at Bergen Regional Medical Center in Paramus, NJ. Ms. Brown also worked in case management and jail diversion for the Integrated Case Management Services unit of Care Plus NJ. Ms. Brown graduated from Lafayette College and John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a Master’s degree in Forensic Psychology.

Tom O’Brien is a Senior Assistant State’s Attorney and has worked in various positions within the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice since June 1987. For the past five years he has been the sole prosecutor assigned to the Community Court in Hartford, Connecticut. A strong proponent of procedural justice, he has worked to make the prosecutor’s office more accessible and transparent to both the community and the offenders that are served by the Hartford court. He is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts and the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Denise E. O’Donnell was sworn in as the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) on June 6, 2011, after being nominated for the post by President Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate. BJA is a national leader in the development and implementation of data-driven, research-based criminal justice policy and sound grant administration. BJA currently oversees a portfolio of over 4,000 open grants in excess of $2 billion dollars. In 1985, Director O'Donnell joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of New York and worked as a career federal prosecutor for more than a decade. She was appointed United States Attorney by President Clinton in 1997 and served as the top federal prosecutor in western New York from 1997-2001. Director O'Donnell served as Vice Chair of the U.S. Attorney General’s Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C., where she was a member of the Investigations & Intelligence, Northern Border, and Civil Rights subcommittees. Prior to joining BJA, Director O'Donnell served as the Deputy Secretary for Public Safety in New York State, overseeing 11 homeland security and criminal justice agencies, and as Commissioner of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the state administrative agency for BJA funds. Director O'Donnell served as Chair of the New York State Commission on Forensic Science from 2009-2011 and as Chair of the New York State Commission on Sentencing Reform from 2010-2011. She was a member of the Conviction Integrity Advisory Panel for the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office and of the Chief Judge’s Wrongful Convictions Task Force in New York. Director O'Donnell obtained a Master's Degree in Social Work from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and graduated summa cum laude from the University at Buffalo Law School.

Melba Pearson, a New York native, has called Miami home for close to 20 years. After receiving her undergraduate degree at New York University, she completed her studies at Hofstra University School of Law. Ms. Pearson has been an Assistant State Attorney in Miami-Dade County for 14 years. After prosecuting a variety of crimes, she was selected to join the Domestic Crimes Unit, focusing on serious domestic violence crimes as well as homicides for close to four years. In her next assignment, Ms. Pearson was integral to the re-launch of the Community Prosecution Unit, whose goal is partnering with the community to find creative solutions to prevent crime and provide outreach. Presently she is the Assistant Chief in the Career Criminal/Robbery Unit. In addition to prosecuting violent crimes, she is a frequent guest lecturer on a wide array of law enforcement concerns. Ms. Pearson also lectures nationwide to prosecutors on behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA).
Ms. Pearson serves as adjunct faculty for the University of Phoenix and Bryant and Stratton College, teaching law to undergraduate as well as master’s students. Ms. Pearson is also a contributing writer to several publications, and has been a guest on national media regarding legal trends. Ms. Pearson has been extensively involved in various community groups, and has taken every opportunity to spread the messages of the dangers of domestic violence, as well as the importance of self-empowerment. She has taken on a leadership/mentoring role in several charity organizations. Ms. Pearson is the President of the National Black Prosecutors Association, as well as the Vice President of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association in South Florida.

Chris Pleasanton has been the Program Manager of the Community Court in Hartford since December 1999. Mr. Pleasanton works closely with the court’s Presiding Judge to develop new court protocols and collaborative working relationships with independent service providers. He also works directly with the court staff on a daily basis to coordinate activities to meet the court’s goals and serves as the court’s representative to the community. Since 2012, Mr. Pleasanton has also provided oversight of Connecticut three Drug (Court) Intervention Programs in Danielson and New Haven. Mr. Pleasanton served on the Criminal Justice Advisory Panels at Westfield (MA) State College and the Northwestern Connecticut Community College. Prior to working at the Community Court in Hartford, Mr. Pleasanton served on the staff of the Connecticut General Assembly for five years. He is a graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University.

Judge Joe Perez, a graduate of UCLA, earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the Southwestern University School of Law. He served as a deputy public defender from 1995 until he was appointed a Commissioner of the Orange County (CA) Superior Court in 2007. He was elevated to Judge in 2010 by appointment from the Governor. Judge Perez presides over a variety of calendars at Orange County’s Community Court -- including Drug Court, Veterans Treatment Court, DUI Court, four mental health courts, and Homeless Outreach Court.

Judge Victoria F. Pratt is the Chief Judge of the Newark Municipal Court in Newark, New Jersey. She has gained international acclaim for her work to reform the criminal justice system and has been called a pioneer in procedural justice. She presides over New Jersey’s first Community Court, Newark Community Solutions, and provides alternatives to jail to low-level offenders through community service, social service mandates, and often assigns essays. She has appeared on MSNBC’s Melissa Perry Harris show and MSNBC’s The Docket. A sought after national and international speaker, Judge Pratt has served as a panelist for the Better Courts Conference in London, England, La Conferencia de Mujeres in the Dominican Republic, the American Judges Association Annual Conference and the International Community Court Conferences, to name a few. She has also served as faculty for the New Jersey Judicial College, and a judicial trainer for the Superior Court of Washington, D.C. She earned her Juris Doctor from Rutgers Law School-Newark and her Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, is licensed to practice law in both New Jersey and New York, and was recently admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Michael Rempel is research director at the Center for Court Innovation, ultimately overseeing all research conducted at the agency. He is currently directing a statewide evaluation of specialized drug courts in New York; a randomized trial of evidence-based assessment tools; a national study of the commercial sexual exploitation of children; and a multi-site formative study of
initiatives to address children’s exposure to violence. He is also co-principal investigator on a multi-site evaluation of specialized reentry courts and a study of the Red Hook (Brooklyn) community court. In the past, he has published extensively on research related to drug courts (including the National Institute of Justice’s Multi-Site Adult Drug Court Evaluation) and criminal justice interventions in cases of intimate partner violence. Recent publications also concern specialized domestic violence courts; the commercial sexual exploitation of children; research methodology; and the potential to apply problem-solving techniques more broadly in traditional court settings. His work has recently appeared in research journals such as the Journal of Experimental Criminology, Justice Quarterly, Criminology and Public Policy, and Violence Against Women; as well as practitioner-oriented journals such as the Justice System Journal, Judicature, Drug Court Review, and Criminal Justice Magazine. He is co-editor of Documenting Results: Research on Problem-Solving Justice (2007). Previously, he published articles on contemporary social theory and the political sociology of advanced industrial societies and co-edited Citizen Politics in Post-Industrial Societies (1997).

Joy Repella is an Assistant State’s Attorney for Cook County. She supervises four Community Justice Centers. These offices prosecute cases, conduct prevention programs, and solve problems. With over twenty five years of experience, Ms. Repella has litigated numerous motions, benches and jury trials. She has served in multiple divisions in the office, including the Felony Trial Division, Juvenile Justice Bureau and Felony Review. Prior to joining the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office, Ms. Repella worked at the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse at the National District Attorneys Association. She provided technical assistance and training to prosecutors, wrote articles and newsletters, and assisted in drafting federal legislation. Throughout Ms. Repella’s career, she has appeared on national and local television, radio, and in numerous newspapers across the country. She has been an invited speaker at training sessions in Chicago and elsewhere, and has presented via webinar. She has received many awards for her service, including the Chicago Crime Commission, Anti-Defamation League and the United States Department of Justice. In 2013, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and Target presented her with the Innovations in Community Engagement (I.C.E.) Award which recognizes outstanding leaders in community prosecutions. She received her JD from the American University’s Washington College of Law.

Natalie Reyes is associate director of Training and Technical Assistance at the Center for Court Innovation. In this role, she provides consulting services to jurisdictions domestically and internationally, including assistance provided under the Problem-Solving Justice Initiative of the Bureau of Justice Assistance at the U.S. Department of Justice. The Problem-Solving Justice Initiative seeks to promote the use of problem-solving practices in an effort to reduce crime and incarceration while strengthening public trust in justice. Ms. Reyes also works on the High Performance Prosecution technical assistance initiative, in collaboration with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. Prior to joining the Center, Ms. Reyes spent four years at the Organization of American States’ Justice Studies Center of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, where she provided technical assistance on legal and public policy reforms for criminal and civil justice systems in Latin America. She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Fordham University and a J.D. from New York University School of Law.

Sally Sanchez is the project director of Queens Engagement Strategies for Teens (QUEST), a community-based project offering alternative-to-detention and youth development programs for teens.
QUEST’s programs include an after-school and community supervision program for youths arrested on delinquency charges; a youth court, in which local teenagers serve as jurors, judges, and attorneys in actual cases involving peers; and QUEST Futures, which provides assessments, case management, and family support for justice-involved youths with mental health problems. As project director, Ms. Sanchez is responsible for day-to-day operations and program development. Ms. Sanchez previously served as the associate director of youth development at the Harlem Community Justice Center. Prior to joining the Center for Court Innovation in 2005, she worked as a domestic violence advocate with Safe Horizon’s Domestic Violence Police Program. Ms. Sanchez received her B.A. in Government from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and her M.S. in Nonprofit Management from Milano, The New School for Management and Urban Policy.

Erika Sasson is the director of restorative practices at the Center of Court Innovation, overseeing the Center’s restorative practice initiatives across a broad range of demonstration projects. Ms. Sasson oversaw the planning and implementation of the Red Hook peacemaking program, the first program of its kind in a state court system. Ms. Sasson is currently a site coordinator for the Center’s work on the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge. In this capacity, she provides technical assistance to justice system and community stakeholders addressing the overuse and misuse of jail. Ms. Sasson continues to work with the Center’s Tribal Justice Exchange, providing planning and technical assistance to tribal communities across the United States. Originally from Montreal, Canada, Ms. Sasson received her bachelor’s degree in peace and conflict studies from the University of Toronto and her civil and common law degrees from McGill University. Prior to joining the Center, she worked in Toronto as a federal prosecutor, where she handled drug, gun, and gang cases. Ms. Sasson completed fellowships on monitoring and preventing torture for the National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, on criminal justice and civil rights for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, and on the penal system of the indigenous Awá nation for a non-profit in Ecuador. Ms. Sasson moved to New York in 2009 to attend New York University School of Law, where she received an L.L.M. in criminal justice.

Vincent Schiraldi is a Senior Research Fellow directing the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management (PCJ) at Harvard Kennedy School (HKS), which is located within the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy. He also directs the Project for Justice in a New Century, a policy reform and research effort provisionally supported by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. Schiraldi arrived at HKS with long experience in public life, first coming to prominence as founder of the policy think tank the Justice Policy Institute, then moving to government as director of the juvenile corrections in Washington, DC, and then as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation. Most recently, Schiraldi served as Senior Advisor to the New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice. In Washington and New York Schiraldi gained a national reputation as a fearless reformer who emphasized the humane and decent treatment of the men, women, and children under his correctional supervision. For Schiraldi, making communities safer and reducing crime necessarily means improving fairness in the system and developing opportunities in the poor communities where the crime problem is most serious. He pioneered efforts at community-based alternatives to incarceration with the YouthLink initiative in Washington, DC, and in New York City with the NeON network and the Close to Home program. Schiraldi has a Masters in Social Work from New York University, and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Social Psychology from Binghamton University.
Richard Schwermer has been a court administrator since 1990. Originally the administrator for Utah’s 140 justice courts, he became Assistant State Court Administrator in 1995. As part of his responsibilities he is the legislative liaison for the state courts, and through that role has become involved in a number of statewide policy issues, including alternative dispute resolution and problem solving courts. He was involved in starting the Salt Lake Felony Drug Court in 1996, and he now has statewide coordination responsibilities for Utah’s 50 drug courts and other problem solving courts. He is also co-chair of the national association of State Drug Court Coordinators. A 1983 graduate of Colby College, he earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah College of Law in 1986.

Dipal Shah is Director of the Midtown Community Court, which provides an array of services to tens of thousands of individuals every year through its comprehensive onsite social services clinic, fatherhood and workforce development program, community restitution program, and more. As director, Mr. Shah leads a staff dedicated to expanding Midtown Community Court’s use of meaningful alternatives to incarceration, enhancing public trust in justice, promoting public safety, and advancing community interests. Mr. Shah also chairs the Center for Court Innovation’s LGBTQ working group, whose focus is to respond to issues stemming from the justice-involved LGBTQ population. An admitted attorney, Mr. Shah was previously director of policy development and programming at the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, where he worked with legal scholars, policy leaders, and the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government on progressive legal policy issues. Mr. Shah also practiced law at several nationally recognized law firms. Mr. Shah is a cum laude graduate of the American University, Washington College of Law, where we was editor of the Administrative Law Review. He is a graduate, with honors, of Northwestern University, where he received his B.A. in political science and international studies. Mr. Shah has spoken on issues relating to criminal justice, access to justice, constitutional rights, labor, and employment. He is a participant in Coro Leadership NY XXVII and was selected as one of the “Best 40 Lawyers under 40” by the National LGBT Bar Association in 2013. His writing has appeared in the Advocate online and in various journals.

Paul W. Shapiro has been the Collaborative Courts Officer of the Orange County Superior Court since January 2007. In this capacity, he oversees all of the County’s specialized court programs which offer therapeutic treatment as an alternative to incarceration – including adult and juvenile Drug Courts, DUI Court, Veterans Treatment Court, various mental health courts, and Homeless Outreach Court. Mr. Shapiro was educated at Reed College, received a BA from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, and a JD from the University of Utah College of Law. Prior to his employment with the Court, he practiced law for fifteen years and worked in nonprofit, creating onsite learning and resource centers in low-income housing projects.

Judge Herman L. Sloan was appointed to the Atlanta Municipal Court bench in January 2002 and has been successfully re-elected for three (3) additional terms. Judge Sloan presides over the Atlanta Municipal Court’s Community Court Division. The Community Court Division administers the Court’s various alternative sentencing and treatment programs. Judge Sloan administers the Court’s Teens Learning Control Program, an alternative sentencing program designed to improve the driving habits and decision making processes for drivers under the age of 21. He also administers the Restorative Board Program, an alternative sentencing option for youthful offenders under the age of 25 who do not have prior felony convictions.
Judge Sloan also presides over cases regardless of age or offense for offenders sentenced to drug and/or mental health treatment. Most recently, Judge Sloan was instrumental in establishing the Court’s Talented Tenth Leadership Program, an intensive 16-week mentor-based program. Judge Sloan served as the Court’s Chief Judge from 2013-2015. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Sloan began his legal career as a staff attorney with Georgia Legal Services. In 1983, Judge Sloan was appointed as an Assistant City Solicitor for the Atlanta Municipal Court. Judge Sloan has served as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, as an Assistant District Attorney for Fulton County, and as the Chief Assistant Solicitor General for the State Court of Fulton County. Judge Sloan is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, the Gate City Bar Association, Atlanta Bar Association and the National Bar Association. Judge Sloan served on the Governor’s Commission on Certainty in Sentencing, the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society and is a member of Leadership Atlanta. Judge Sloan has served as a mock trial and mentor to students at Banneker High School, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Anthony’s, Paul L. Dunbar, Perkerson and East Lake elementary schools.

**Brett Taylor** is director of operations for the Center’s Tribal Justice Exchange program. He formerly was the Center’s deputy director of national technical assistance. Before joining the Center in 2007, Mr. Taylor served as the senior defense attorney for six years at the Red Hook Community Justice Center in Brooklyn, New York. Prior to that, he was a trial attorney for the Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn for over 10 years. Mr. Taylor has worked with numerous tribes on creating justice system strategic plans and needs assessments. He has presented at numerous national conferences on tribal courts, community courts, community prosecution, and other community justice topics. He was the attendance court hearing officer in P.S. 27, a Brooklyn elementary school from 2007-2010. He has also been a trainer for the Red Hook Youth Court since 1998 and has been organizing and coaching in the Red Hook Youth Baseball League since 2000. Mr. Taylor holds a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

**Julie Taylor** is the Clinical Director at the Brownsville Community Justice Center, where she oversees youth programming and social work services. Before joining the Center for Court Innovation, Ms. Taylor worked with youth in community based, educational, and residential settings. Ms. Taylor obtained her Masters of Social Work degree from Hunter College’s Silberman School of Social Work.

Kerry Walker is the inaugural Director of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre in Melbourne, which is a unique program in Australia developing the community justice model. Kerry has led the Centre into the realms of creative crime prevention, digital design and angel funding to add value to the local community. Kerry has previously been a keen innovator in the fields of Child Protection, Youth Justice and Restorative Justice and general social welfare.

**Christopher Watler** is project director of the Harlem Community Justice Center, the community court in Harlem focusing on housing, youth crime, and offender reentry. As director, he oversees day-to-day operations and program development. Mr. Watler previously served as the Deputy Director of National Technical Assistance where he provided information and assistance on community justice initiatives to a broad audience by leading site visits to the Center’s demonstration projects, conducting training, providing hands-on assistance to jurisdictions developing community court and prosecution programs, assisting in the development of
community justice curricula, and coordinating partnerships with model community justice programs. Mr. Walter has also served as part of the original planning teams for the Red Hook Community Justice Center and the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center. Before coming to the Center, Mr. Walter worked as the Operations and Training Manager at the City Volunteer Corps and as a Community Center Director for the Union Settlement Association, where he supervised programs involving youth and seniors. He holds a Masters of Public Administration from John Jay College of the City University of New York.

**Allyson West** has more than 15 years of experience working in criminal justice. She is the coordinator of the San Francisco Community Justice Center and in 2013 participated in forming the San Francisco Veterans Justice Court, which she also coordinates. She also served as the coordinator for the San Francisco Parole Reentry Court. Allyson has been working and volunteering at San Quentin State Prison since 2000 in educational and reentry programs. In 2003, she founded the California Reentry Program, a nonprofit organization specifically designed to provide pre-release parole planning and service referrals to state prisoners. She is currently the executive director of that organization, which operates at present at San Quentin Prison for its mainline population. Ms. West has her Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from UC San Diego, and did graduate work studying South Asia at UC Berkeley, including three stints living in India and Pakistan studying Hindi and Urdu. Her work history includes commercial banking, public health, nonprofit work, and consulting. Her current hobby is herding feral cats to spay/neuter clinics.

**Judge Cheryl Williams** is a drum major for justice. She has dedicated her career to educating communities of color and the disenfranchised about their civil/civic rights. As a municipal judge since 1999, Judge Williams serves as a magistrate for the five counties within the City of Dallas boundaries, issuing arrest and search warrants for law enforcement personnel from over 30 different jurisdictions for criminal offenses. One of the Judge’s most rewarding career accomplishments is the opportunity to preside over the South Dallas Community Court, a nationally recognized Department of Justice diversion court providing second chances to drug offenders, prostitutes and juveniles with case management and social services. Cheryl Williams earned her doctor of jurisprudence from the University of Missouri School of Law located in Columbia, Missouri and received her bachelor’s degree from Sam Houston State University. Judge Williams is an engaged civic leader, dedicating several hours per week to the advancement of non-profit boards and speaking engagements focused on the empowerment of women and children. The numerous awards and accomplishments for this social justice champion include: the Boy Scouts of America distinguished Whitney M. Young Award and the Silver Beaver Award and recognition by her peers with the J.L. Turner Legal Association’s Distinguished Jurist Award.

**Justice of the Peace Bita Yeager** was appointed to the Las Vegas Justice Court Bench in February 2015, becoming the first Asian-American to be appointed to the Las Vegas Justice Court. Judge Yeager, a native New Yorker, earned her undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University and her Juris Doctorate from the J. Reuben Clark School of Law. While in law school, Judge Yeager clerked for the Utah County Guardian Ad Litem, investigating child abuse cases, and volunteered as a Rape Crisis Team Member, counseling and assisting rape victims at the Center for Women and Children in Crisis in Utah County. After graduating law school in 1994, Judge Yeager made Las Vegas her home. She served as a law clerk to three Eighth Judicial District Court judges: Judge Lee Gates, Judge Addeliar D. Guy, and Judge Stephen Huffaker.
In 1996, Judge Yeager accepted a job at the Clark County Public Defender’s Office, where she specialized in indigent criminal defense for over 18 years. While working as a Team Chief at the Public Defender’s office, Judge Yeager spearheaded the creation of the North Las Vegas Community Court, a diversionary court providing counseling and employment training to young non-violent offenders, in an effort to prevent recidivism. This Court has been nominated by the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the Innovations in Criminal Justice award. Judge Yeager established a partnership between the Clark County Public Defender’s Office, Legal Aid of Southern Nevada, and UNLV’s Boyd School of Law to create a pro bono record-sealing project called “Clean Slate.” With an eye towards informing justice-involved individuals of the collateral consequences of their convictions, Judge Yeager also created a partnership with the Immigration Clinic at UNLV’s Boyd School of Law to help the attorneys in her office better advise non-citizen clients of the immigration consequences of their cases. For a number of years in the Public Defender’s office, Judge Yeager handled the specialty courts dealing with the mentally ill. She has taught classes regarding the mentally ill in the justice system to both attorneys and Metro Officers (as part of their Crisis Intervention Team training). In 2014, as a result of her efforts, Judge Yeager was awarded the Pro Bono Project Award of Excellence from Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, and the President’s Award from the Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice. Judge Yeager is admitted to practice law in Nevada, Utah, and California.

Justice Kathryn E. Zenoff received her J.D. degree from Columbia University Law School. She practiced in the private sector in New York City and Chicago and served as an Assistant State’s Attorney in Cook and Winnebago counties. Justice Zenoff became an Associate Judge in the 17th Circuit in 1995, was appointed a Circuit Judge by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1998, and won election and was retained in 2004 and 2010. She served as Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division and the Mental Health (Therapeutic Intervention Program) Court in the 17th Circuit, and chaired the community wide task force that created the problem solving court. In 2003, she was elected Chief Judge and served until her assignment to the Appellate Court in May, 2007. She served as Presiding Justice of the Second Appellate District from August, 2008 to December, 2010. Justice Zenoff chaired the Specialty Courts Committee of the Illinois Conference of Chief Judges, which issued a comprehensive report on mental health courts and drug courts in Illinois. She was named National Co-Chair of the Judges’ Leadership Initiative for Criminal Justice and Mental Health Issues in 2007 and has contributed to the Chief Justice Initiative and the Judges’ Guide to Mental Health Jargon. Justice Zenoff has also participated in the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Transformation Initiative project convened by the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health. She currently serves as Chairman of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning and Chair of the Advisory Board for the Illinois Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health and Justice. Justice Zenoff has testified in Washington, D.C. before the United States Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law at a hearing entitled, “Human Rights at Home: Mental Illness in our Jails and Prisons.”