

Data Democratization:

Building Strategies to Disrupt and Dismantle the Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline

MARCH 31, 2023
9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

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Speaker Biographies



Keynote Speaker:

Alan Dettlaff, Professor, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work

Alan Dettlaff is a professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, where he also served as dean through 2022. Professor Dettlaff began his career as a social worker in the family policing system, where he worked as a caseworker and administrator. Today, his work focuses on ending the harm that results from this system. In 2020, he helped to create and launch the upEND movement, a collaborative effort dedicated to abolishing the family policing system and building alternatives that focus on healing and liberation.

Professor Dettlaff received his bachelor's degree in social work from Texas Christian University, and master's and PhD in social work from the University of Texas at Arlington. He is author of the forthcoming book, *Racist Intentions: American Child Welfare in the Afterlife of Slavery and the Case for Abolition*, to be published by Oxford University Press in 2023. He is also co-founding editor of *Abolitionist Perspectives in Social Work*, a peer-reviewed scholarly journal dedicated to developing and disseminating an abolitionist praxis in social work.



Sana Fadel, Deputy Director, Citizens for Juvenile Justice

Sana Fadel serves as deputy director of Citizens for Juvenile Justice (CfJJ) and is primarily responsible for CfJJ's legislative advocacy. She is the lead organizer of the statewide [Massachusetts Juvenile Justice Reform Coalition](#). Prior to joining CfJJ, Sana was the director of public policy at Rosie's Place, a sanctuary for poor and homeless women in Boston where she led campaigns on access to substance abuse treatment, strengthening families involved with the child welfare system and improving services for customers applying for and receiving public benefits. She was responsible

for advocating at the state level on issues affecting Rosie's Place guests as well as empowering them through voter mobilization and advocacy trainings. Sana holds a master's in public administration from Columbia University and a bachelor's of fine arts from Augusta State University.



Brianna Harvey, Associate Director, UCLA Bruin Resource Center, and PhD candidate, UCLA School of Education

Brianna Harvey is the associate director for the UCLA Bruin Resource Center, where she oversees programs that serve students from specialized populations such as foster youth, formerly incarcerated students, student parents, students in recovery, undocumented students and those experiencing houselessness. She is also a PhD candidate within UCLA's School of Education whose work utilizes abolitionist praxis to examine and understand the ways that Black youth navigate and become entrapped in carceral systems such as the family policing system. She previously worked in the field of social services for over 16 years supporting youth and families from

communities that have been historically silenced and minoritized.



Andrea James '98, Founder and Executive Director, The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls; Founder, Families for Justice as Healing

Andrea James is an abolitionist community organizer. She is the founder and executive director of The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls; founder of Families for Justice as Healing; and author of *Upper Bunkies Unite: And Other Thoughts on the Politics of Mass Incarceration*. As a former criminal defense attorney and a formerly incarcerated woman, Andrea uses her professional and personal experiences to end the incarceration

of women and girls through reimagining our communities and creating infrastructures to facilitate people led, thriving neighborhoods.



David P. Kelly, Co-Director, Family Justice Group

David P. Kelly, JD, MA, is co-director of the Family Justice Group. For over a decade he served in the United States Children's Bureau, holding positions as special assistant to the associate commissioner, senior policy advisor on courts and justice and overseeing the Children's Bureau's work with the legal and judicial community. Prior to joining the federal government, David was an assistant staff director at the

American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law and served as senior assistant child advocate at the New Jersey Office of the Child Advocate. David began his career as an attorney at the Youth Advocacy Center at Covenant House New Jersey, where he represented homeless, runaway and at-risk youth on a variety of legal issues and led the organization's policy initiatives; he later became director of legal and clinical services



Ghadah Makoshi, Community Advocate, ACLU of Pennsylvania

Ghadah Makoshi is a community advocate with the ACLU of Pennsylvania, focused on school policing reform. She brings over a decade of experience advocating for inclusive, quality education for all students in the Pittsburgh area. In September 2020, Ghadah co-authored a report with other members of the Black Girls Equity Alliance (BGEA), entitled, *Disrupting Pathways to Juvenile Justice for Black Youth in Allegheny County*. And in January 2022, she and Harold Jordan co-authored the ACLU of PA report, *Student Arrests in Allegheny County Schools: The Need for Transparency and Accountability*. She has a bachelor's degree in English literature, an MBA in marketing and a master's in international management.



Joyce McMillan, Founder and Executive Director, JMACForFamilies

Joyce McMillan is a thought leader, advocate, activist, community organizer, educator and the founder and executive director of JMACforFamilies (Just Making a Change). Her mission is to remove systemic barriers in communities of color by bringing awareness to the racial disparities in systems where people of color are disproportionately affected. Joyce believes the conversation about systemic oppression must happen on all levels consistently before meaningful change can occur. Joyce's ultimate goal is to abolish systems of harm – especially the family policing/regulation/destruction system (also known as the child welfare system) while creating concrete community resources.



Daniel Medwed, Northeastern University School of Law Distinguished Professor of Law and Criminal Justice

Daniel Medwed, a leading authority on criminal law, focuses his research and pro bono activities around the topic of wrongful convictions. His book, *Barred: Why the Innocent Can't Get Out of Prison* (Hachette/Basic Books, 2022), explores the range of procedural barriers that so often prevent innocent prisoners from obtaining exoneration. He also co-authored the seventh edition of

Criminal Procedure: Principles, Policies, and Perspectives (West Academic, 2020) and the second edition of *Criminal Law: Problems, Statutes, and Cases* (Carolina Academic Press, 2021) .

Professor Medwed is a founding member of the board of directors of the Innocence Network, a consortium of innocence projects throughout the world, and a former president of the board of directors of the Rocky Mountain Innocence Center. He currently serves on the board of the New England Innocence Project. He is also the legal analyst for GBH News, Boston's local NPR and PBS affiliate..

Prior to joining Northeastern in 2012, Professor Medwed was professor of law at the University of Utah. He previously served as an instructor at Brooklyn Law School and helped oversee the school's Second Look Program, where he worked with students to investigate and litigate innocence claims by New York state prisoners. He has also worked in private practice and as an associate appellate counsel at the Legal Aid Society, Criminal Appeals Bureau, of New York City.



Sarah Nawab '20, Attorney, Prisoners' Legal Services

Sarah Nawab (she/her) joined Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts (PLS) in October 2020 as an attorney and [Equal Justice Works Fellow](#), returning after having completed her second Northeastern Law co-op at PLS in 2019. Through the fellowship, she founded the Women's Incarceration Conditions and Reentry Project (Women's Project) to focus exclusively on the needs of incarcerated women, provide trauma-informed advocacy and create rights education materials. As part of this project, she interviewed currently and formerly incarcerated women regarding their experiences with trauma, mental illness and discrimination, culminating in a [report](#) about their experiences and policy recommendations to address their unique needs. After completing the fellowship, she became the permanent director of the Women's Project at PLS, where she

continues to provide legal services to incarcerated women and pursues systemic advocacy to improve the conditions they face while confined. Sarah is a proud abolitionist and ally of grassroots organizations like [Families for Justice as Healing](#) and [New Beginnings Reentry Services](#), who serve currently and formerly incarcerated women.



Maya Pendleton, Co-founding Member, upEND Movement

Maya Pendleton was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. She currently lives in Washington, DC. Maya has been a part of the upEND movement since its inception. She currently works as researcher and writer for the upEND movement, focusing on how we abolish the family policing system, the harms of the current system to children, families and communities, and the world we will build post family policing.



David Rangaviz, Assistant Attorney General, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, Civil Rights Division

David Rangaviz is an assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. Before joining the Civil Rights Division, he worked as an appellate staff attorney at the Committee for Public Counsel Services and a trial attorney in the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. He also briefly worked in private practice and clerked at three levels of the state and federal judiciary. He currently serves as an adjunct professor at Boston College Law School, the co-chair of the Boston

Bar Association's Criminal Law Section and a participant in the Harvard Kennedy School's Roundtable on Racial Disparities in Massachusetts Courts. He is a graduate of Brown University and Harvard Law School.



Zakiya Sankara-Jabar, Director of Education Policy, Wayfinder Foundation, and Co-Executive Director, Racial Justice NOW

Zakiya Sankara-Jabar is the director of education policy at Wayfinder Foundation. She is the co-founder and co-executive Director of Racial Justice NOW! and most recently served as the National Field Organizer at Dignity in Schools Campaign.

Zakiya came to organizing, advocacy and policy work organically as a parent pushing back on harmful school discipline policies that disproportionately target and impact Black children and their families. Zakiya's organizing and advocacy acumen has led to significant policy changes at the local and state level in the state of Ohio. Since then, Zakiya has worked in communities all across the country sharing tools, strategies and skills with Black parents to shift education policy and practice.

Zakiya has been named to the inaugural #Power50 leadership fellowship for women of color with Community Change. Zakiya is a preeminent thought leader in racial and education justice and has received numerous awards. In her free time, Zakiya enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband and two children.



Leon Smith, Executive Director, Citizens for Juvenile Justice

Leon Smith is the executive director of Citizens for Juvenile Justice, a statewide, nonprofit organization that worked to reform and reimagine the juvenile justice system since 1994. A 1995 graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, and a 1999 graduate of New England School of Law in Boston, Leon has worked as an attorney and advocate for young people since 2001. He started his career as a juvenile court

public defender, before starting his own law practice devoted to juvenile and criminal court advocacy in the Massachusetts Juvenile, District and Superior courts. He has advocated on youth justice issues nationally at the Vera Institute of Justice and on the state and municipal level in both Massachusetts and Connecticut, successfully advocating for legislative and policy changes that hold youth serving systems more accountable, reduce the harm of system involvement and prevent young people from unnecessarily entering the legal system.



Stephen Snekvik, Boston University student and Youth Apprentice, Bikes Not Bombs

Stephen “Steve” Snekvik is a freshman undergraduate student at Boston University, studying mechanical engineering. Born and raised in Boston, he graduated from Boston Latin School in May 2022, making him a Boston Public School (BPS) alumnus after 13 years in the BPS system. Shortly after graduating from high school, and before going to college, he returned to work as a Youth Apprentice at Bikes Not Bombs (BNB), a Jamaica Plain-based nonprofit whose mission is “using the bicycle as a vehicle for social change” by combining bike mechanics and social justice education. At BNB, Steve’s capstone research project, motivated by his lived experience in BPS schools, explored the educational disparities both within the system and, comparatively, between BPS and surrounding school

districts. Through the lens of his experience and research, it became clear to Steve that the school system, at every level, fails to adequately meet the needs of students of color, students with disabilities and lower-income students. Further motivated by his desire to understand complex mechanical and societal systems, Steve recognizes that in order to work towards meaningful and lasting solutions, data democracy and open-source information are of utmost importance. He is excited to learn from experts in the field and contribute to the conversation as a youth voice, recent graduate of BPS, and aspiring researcher.



Erin Stewart ’21, Skadden Fellow, School to Prison Pipeline Project, Citizens for Juvenile Justice

Erin Stewart joined Citizens for Juvenile Justice in October 2021 as a Skadden Fellow, working on a project in the School to Prison Pipeline Project. Erin explores systemic remedies on school discipline and school based arrest issues, including drafting amicus briefs, advocating legislative reform and pursuing systemic complaints at the state and federal level. Erin is a recent graduate of Northeastern University School of Law. While in school, Erin co-authored a study on the cradle-to-prison pipeline undertaken by jails and prisons across Massachusetts. Erin spent several years working in a public middle school in Seattle while earning her undergraduate degree in economics.