



Bail, Pretrial Detention and Racial Equity

Insha Rahman, Vice President, Advocacy & Partnerships, Vera Institute of Justice



Insha is the Vice President of advocacy and partnerships at the Vera Institute. As a member of Vera's leadership team, she helps to incubate new work in the areas of prosecutorial reform, bail, and decarceration, with a focus on developing advocacy-related strategies and accountability. Having practiced as a public defender before coming to Vera, she is a nationally-recognized expert on bail and has developed bail legislation and policies, including recently passed reforms in New York State, and provided technical assistance and training to advocates, judges, defense attorneys, and prosecutors on bail reform, pretrial justice, and reducing jail incarceration. From 2016-2017, Insha served as staff to the Independent Commission on

New York City Criminal Justice & Incarceration Reform, a blue-ribbon commission chaired by former Chief Justice Jonathan Lippman of the New York State Court of Appeals that developed a blueprint to close Rikers Island. She has been quoted as an expert on bail in *The Nation*, *City and State*, *New York Times*, *NPR*, and *PBS*, among other outlets. Prior to Vera, Insha was a public defender at *The Bronx Defenders*. She earned her J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law and her B.A. in Africana Studies from Vassar College. She currently serves on the boards of the New York Civil Liberties Union, Brooklyn Community Bail Fund, and the New York State Appellate Division's Indigent Defense Organization Oversight Committee.

JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**NEW YORK STATE
BAIL REFORM
CONFERENCE
MAY 13, 2022**

The Honorable Phara Souffrant Forrest, New York State Assembly



Assemblymember Phara Souffrant Forrest represents the 57th Assembly District, which consists of the neighborhoods of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill as well as parts of Bed-Stuy, Prospect Heights and Crown Heights.

Prior to her election, Phara worked as a maternal health nurse and organized tenants in the neighborhoods she now represents.

In her first year in office, she passed the parole reform bill Less Is More, and she is now the lead Assembly sponsor of Treatment Not Jail, a bill that would expand access to treatment courts for people with mental illness and substance use disorders.



Stan Germán, Executive Director, New York County Defender Services



Mr. Germán is a 1995 graduate of New York University School of Law who has spent his entire career as a criminal defense attorney. Upon graduation, Mr. Germán went to work as a staff attorney for the Legal Aid Society of New York City in Kings County. Thereafter, he worked as a staff attorney at New York County Defender Services in Manhattan. In 2002, he went into private practice where he litigated criminal cases before the United States District Courts in New York, Washington D.C. and Florida. He is a lifetime member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the American Bar Association and a

member of the New York City Bar Association. He has been honored as one of the Top 100 Lawyers for Criminal Defense by The National Trial Lawyers. In 2015, Mr. Germán left private practice and returned to New York County Defender Services to serve as its Executive Director. He currently serves as co-chair of the Defense Function Committee for the American Bar Association; chair of the American Council of Chief Defenders; and president-elect of the Chief Defenders Association of New York. In 2020, he led a National Task Force on racial equity for NLADA. Mr. Germán has presented on numerous panels related to the criminal legal system as well as lecturing at various continuing legal education classes. He is regularly quoted in newspapers and appears on radio and television focusing on the need to reform the criminal legal system in New York State and throughout the country. Mr. Germán currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Chief Defenders Association of New York, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and New York County Defender Services.



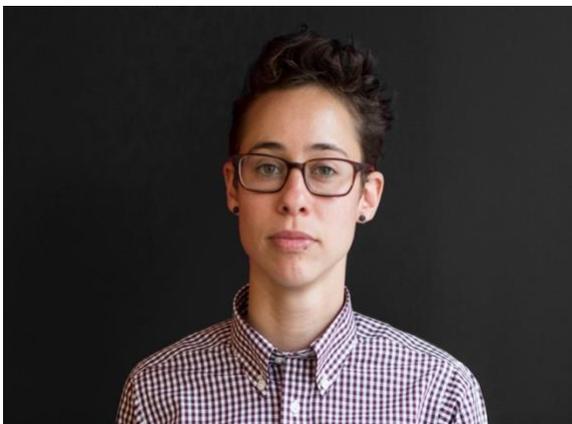
The Honorable Russ Immarigeon, Hillsdale Town Court



The Hon. Russ Immarigeon is a Town Court Justice in Hillsdale, New York.

He has served as President of the Columbia County Magistrates Association and is the editor or co-editor of books on crime desistance, prisoner reentry, and women and girls in the criminal justice system.

Katie Schaffer, Director of Advocacy and Organizing, Center for Community Alternatives



Katie Schaffer is the Director of Organizing and Advocacy at Center for Community Alternatives. Prior to that, she coordinated a statewide campaign for bail reform and pretrial justice.

She has also served as the Director of College Access at the City University of New York, collaborating with incarcerated students to develop and expand college access in New York State prisons, and has worked as an independent consultant, supporting organizations across the state in developing new campaigns and advocacy work.