



Courts and Communities – Implementation of Bail Reform

Krystal Rodriguez, Policy Director, Data Collaborative for Justice at John Jay College



Krystal is the Policy Director of the Data Collaborative of Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Focusing on the criminal legal system and the overuse of jails, she develops policy recommendations to support evidence-based criminal justice reforms and provides legal analysis and interpretation to inform DCJ’s research. She received her Juris Doctorate from the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law.

Ms. Rodriguez previously served as the Director of Law and Justice Policy, Jail Reform at the Center for Court Innovation, where she focused on the harms caused by the jails in New York City. Her work included planning and piloting initiatives to reduce jail populations and divert individuals away from pretrial detention, including supporting the expansion of NYC’s supervised release program. She also offered training and technical assistance to municipalities throughout the country seeking to institute reforms.

Krystal draws on her years as a public defender with Brooklyn Defender Services, where she represented clients charged with misdemeanor and felony matters, from arraignment to disposition. During law school, she represented non-citizen clients in deportation proceedings, and advised on law enforcement interactions as a part of Main Street Legal Services and CLEAR Project. She also served on the Law Review Editorial Board.

Krystal offers expertise on bail reform efforts, the criminal legal system, and court practices and policies.

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The Honorable David Soares, Albany County District Attorney



David Soares has served the people of Albany County for 20 years and is currently serving his fifth term as District Attorney.

A graduate of Albany Law School and Cornell University, Soares employs an effective combination of creative prevention strategies, tough and focused prosecutions of violent offenders, and pathways providing hope to those involved in the criminal justice system.

The uniform standard of justice applied by his office has also been used to hold elected officials and law enforcement accountable, as well as others who have violated laws they swore to uphold.

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Martha Bailey, Executive Director, Wayne County Pretrial Services



Martha Bailey is the Executive Director at Wayne Pre-Trial Services, Inc. and has been in this role since 2019. Martha assists individuals placed in the Pre-Trial Release program with their varied conditions of Release as well as counseling individuals within the Pre-Trial Diversion program. Prior to Martha's current role, she was a victim advocate for thirteen years, helping individuals as well as families that have been affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, teen dating violence, stalking and bullying. Martha received a Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology/Audiology from Nazareth College of Rochester, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from SUNY Brockport.

Martha is currently serving on the School Safety Committee, Wayne County Partnership, Wayne Area Network, and Steady Work Advisory Board. Martha is also a member of the Wayne County Public Safety Committee and the Criminal Justice Counsel.

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***Yung-Mi Lee, Legal Director, Criminal Defense Practice, Brooklyn
Defender Services***



Yung-Mi Lee is the Legal Director of the Criminal Practice. As a trial attorney and supervising attorney at Brooklyn Defenders, Ms. Lee has worked on complex cases and trained attorneys to represent clients charged with a crime. Prior to joining BDS, Ms. Lee was an attorney at Neighborhood Defender Services, an associate at the Law Offices of Brian J. Neary and a law secretary to the Honorable Ellen L. Koblitz of the Superior Court of New Jersey.

In her current role, Ms. Lee does advocacy work on behalf of Brooklyn Defender Services on criminal justice reform issues, trains and updates attorneys about legal issues and developments in the law and works directly on impactful litigation, including special legal proceedings to get people out of Rikers Island during Covid. Yung-Mi earned her B.A. from the University of Chicago and her J.D. from Boston University School of Law.

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Awinna Martinez, Former Project Director of the Staten Island Justice Center, Center for Court Innovation



Awinna Martinez has spent the majority of her career focused on criminal justice reform with the lens of bringing a human-centered approach to the work. Awinna was most recently the Project Director of the Staten Island Justice Center, which offers an array of programming for both youth and adults in Staten Island, focusing on engaging those with current or past justice involvement.

Awinna also held positions at the Midtown Community Court and Newark Community Solutions. Awinna also served as the Community Law and Policy Fellow at the Center for Collaborative Change in Newark, where she was the Research Lead for the 2012 Newark Needs and Impact Assessment.

Awinna holds a B.A. from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and a J.D. from Rutgers School of Law-Newark.

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Sarita Daftary, Co-Director, Freedom Agenda



Sarita is an organizer with over fifteen years of experience supporting people and communities to exercise self-determination.

Her experience includes previous roles as a Senior Community Organizer with JLUSA, as the director of the Green Light District at El Puente in Williamsburg, and the East New York Farms! (ENYF) Project Director at United Community Centers.

Sarita graduated from Georgetown University, and is also a graduate of the Coro Leadership New York Fellowship.