

**BRENNAN
CENTER**

FOR JUSTICE

The Road to Re-Enfranchisement: Advancing Rights Restoration

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

ABOUT THE BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law is a nonpartisan law and policy institute that seeks to improve our systems of democracy and justice. We work to hold our political institutions and laws accountable to the twin American ideals of democracy and equal justice for all. The center's work ranges from voting rights to campaign finance reform, from ending mass incarceration to preserving constitutional protection in the fight against terrorism. Part think tank, part advocacy group, part cutting-edge communications hub, we start with rigorous research. We craft innovative policies. And we fight for them — in Congress and the states, in the courts, and in the court of public opinion.

ABOUT THE VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTIONS PROGRAM

Voting is the foundation of our democracy. The Brennan Center is at the center of the fight to preserve and expand the right to vote for every eligible citizen. Through practical policy proposals, litigation, advocacy, and communications, the Brennan Center works to ensure that voting is free, fair, and accessible for all Americans. The rights restoration team works nationwide to ease and eliminate restrictions on the voting rights of people with criminal convictions.

ABOUT THE ROAD TO RE-ENFRANCHISEMENT: ADVANCING RIGHTS RESTORATION

Criminal disenfranchisement laws strip voting rights from people with past criminal convictions, excluding millions of Americans from our democratic process. In convening this symposium, the Brennan Center's Voting Rights and Elections Program brings together impacted individuals, lawmakers, advocates, scholars, election officials, and leaders from law enforcement and faith communities from all across the country so that we might learn from each other how best to advance voting rights restoration in states with enduring disenfranchisement policies.

Agenda

9:30 – 9:45 AM

Welcome and Conference Goals

Michael Waldman, Brennan Center President

Myrna Pérez, Brennan Center Voting Rights and Elections Program Director

9:50 – 10:50 AM

Panel 1: How to Bring Everyone Along

Patrick Berry, Brennan Center Fellow, moderator

Anthony Dixon, Director of Community Engagement,
Parole Preparation Project

Holly Harris, President and Executive Director, Justice Action Network

Jim Liske, U.S. Director, Movement.org

Sarah Walker, Founder, Minnesota Second Chance Coalition

10:50 – 11:00 AM

Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:45 AM

Messaging Presentation: What We Learned from Florida Polling

Matt Hogan, Partner, ALG Research

11:45 – 12:55 PM

Lunch

Screening of “Jhody”

Introduction by **Esther de Rothschild**, Founder, The Love Vote

1:00 – 1:30 PM

Keynote

Phil Murphy, Governor of New Jersey

Introduction by **Jim Johnson**, Brennan Center Senior Fellow

1:35 – 2:35 PM

Panel 2: Watch Out for Carve Outs

Eliza Sweren-Becker, Brennan Center Counsel, moderator

Rachel Anderson, General Counsel, Office of the Nevada Attorney General

Dauras Cyprian, Senior Organizer, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children/
All of Us or None

Alexis Harris, Presidential Term Professor, Department of Sociology,
University of Washington

Andrew Warren, 13th Judicial Circuit State Attorney,
Hillsborough County, Florida

2:35 – 3:05 PM

Table Talk: What Works for Your Fight

3:05 – 3:20 PM

Coffee and Snack Break

3:20 – 4:25 PM

Panel 3: Next Generation Fights

Sean Morales-Doyle, Brennan Center Senior Counsel, moderator

Benjamin Cardin, U.S. Senator from Maryland (by video)

Justin Allen, Community Organizer, Millions for Prisoners New Mexico

Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Patty Kuderer, Washington State Senator, 48th Legislative District

Jhody Polk, 2018 Soros Justice Fellow

4:30 – 4:50 PM

Closing Remarks

Jena Marie Griswold, Colorado Secretary of State

5:00 – 5:45 PM

Closed Session for Impacted Persons

Participants



Phil Murphy

Governor of New Jersey

Phil Murphy is the 56th governor of New Jersey. Prior to being elected governor in 2017, he and his wife Tammy founded New State New Jersey as a “think and do” organization to rebuild the state’s economy from the middle class out. Before that, he served as the U.S. ambassador to Germany under President Barack Obama and as finance chair of the Democratic National Committee. Governor Murphy has also proudly served as New Jersey’s sole representative on the board of the NAACP, has helped lead local charities to support troubled teens and domestic abuse survivors, and has led national and state task forces on education and public employee pensions and benefits. As governor, his mission is to make New Jersey more fair and just for all residents. Governor Murphy is committed expanding access to democracy, including by restoring voting rights to individuals on probation or parole.



Justin Allen

Community Organizer, Millions for Prisoners New Mexico

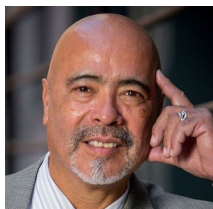
Justin Allen spent approximately 17 years in prison and has been witness to the detrimental effects that the prison industrial complex has on our society. Civic engagement is what allowed him to reintegrate into the community. Justin is currently pursuing his BA in sociology and criminology at the University of New Mexico and is passionate about using his experience to help those directly impacted by mass incarceration.



Rachel J. Anderson

General Counsel, Office of the Nevada Attorney General

Rachel J. Anderson is a professor at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She earned her JD from U.C. Berkeley School of Law and her MA in international policy studies from Stanford University. She hosted the Youth Voting Rights Project, in collaboration with Dr. Zachary Robbins, with the goal of helping educate Nevadan high school and middle school students on the topic of election law.



Juan Cartagena

President & General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Juan Cartagena is the president & general counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF, a national civil rights public interest law office where he litigates, advocates and researches how Latinos are uniquely harmed by racial profiling, excessive policing, prison gerrymandering, disfranchisement, outdated drug policies, the private prison complex, employment discrimination, and crimmigration.



Dauras Cyprian

Senior Organizer, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children/All of Us or None

Dauras Cyprian was formerly incarcerated and is currently on parole in California. The goal of All of Us or None is to unite and strengthen the voices, visibility, and leadership of those formerly incarcerated. Cyprian is currently working to restore voting rights for people on parole. He holds a BS in social science and is pursuing his masters in nonprofit administration.



Anthony Dixon

Director of Community Engagement, Parole Preparation Project

Anthony Dixon advocates on behalf of and provides direct support to currently and formerly incarcerated people serving long and life sentences in New York State. While incarcerated, he received commendations for developing anti-violence and therapeutic anti-drug programs. Dixon is a National Lawyers Guild distinguished scholar and recipient of the RISE Award and Freedom Fighter Award.



Jena Marie Griswold

Secretary of State, Colorado

Jena Marie Griswold grew up in a working-class family in rural Colorado and knows first-hand how important it is for every vote to count and for every Coloradan's voice to be heard, no matter their background or income. Griswold holds a BA in politics and Spanish literature from Whitman College and a JD from University of Pennsylvania Law School.



Alexis Harris

**University of Washington Presidential Term Professor,
Department of Sociology**

Dr. Alexis Harris was recently awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award (2018) at the University of Washington. Her book *A Pound of Flesh: Monetary Sanctions as a Punishment for the Poor* (2016), details how fines and fees place an undue burden on disadvantaged populations. Dr. Harris earned her BA at the University of Washington and her PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Holly Harris

**President and Executive Director, Justice
Action Network**

Holly Harris has led campaigns to pass significant criminal justice reforms across the country and at the federal level. She is also a veteran litigator, conservative communicator, and campaign strategist who has also served in senior leadership roles for elected officials in Kentucky. Harris graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law.



Matt Hogan

Partner, ALG Research

Matt Hogan has more than 15 years of experience as a pollster for Democratic candidates and progressive causes. He has conducted polling for President Barack Obama, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and on issues such as tax fairness, education equity, criminal justice reform, and immigration reform.



Jim Johnson

Senior Fellow, Brennan Center for Justice

Jim Johnson is a senior fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice. He is the lead author of *Atlantic City: Building A Foundation for Shared Prosperity* (2018), a report produced for New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. Jim is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, and clerked for Federal District Judge Robert E. Keeton before beginning his practice in 1987.



Patty Kuderer

State Senator, Washington State Senate, 48th Legislative District

Sen. Patty Kuderer represents Washington State's 48th Legislative District, which includes Bellevue, Redmond, and Kirkland. In the state Senate, Kuderer serves as majority assistant floor leader, as chair of the Housing Stability & Affordability Committee, and as vice-chair of the State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections Committee. She has served four sessions in the Legislature.



Jim Liske

U.S. Director, Movement.org

Pastor Jim Liske was lead pastor at Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan. He also served as president and CEO of Prison Fellowship Ministries and was on the Colson Congressional Task Force for Federal Prison Reform. Before leading Prison Fellowship Ministries, he also served churches in Canada. Pastor Liske is chairman of the board of Crossroads Prison Ministries.



Jhody Devon Polk

2018 Soros Justice Fellow

Jhody Polk is a 2018 Soros Justice Fellow. In 2018, she established the Jailhouse Lawyers Initiative. She is also the founder of the Florida Council for Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, and of the Legal Empowerment & Advocacy Hub- L.E.A.H, the first participatory defense hub in the state of Florida.



Esther de Rothschild

Founder, The Love Vote

Esther de Rothschild is a high school teacher, a filmmaker, and the founder of The Love Vote.



Sarah Walker

**Founder, Minnesota Second Chance Coalition;
Co-Founder, Restore the Vote Minnesota**

Sarah Walker is the founder of the Minnesota Second Chance Coalition and co-founder of the Restore the Vote Minnesota coalition. She recently completed a tenure as deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Walker previously worked in public relations and government affairs, focusing on issues in public safety, corrections, and the judiciary.



Andrew Warren

**State Attorney, Florida's 13th Judicial Circuit,
Hillsborough County**

Andrew Warren is the elected state attorney for Florida's 13th Judicial Circuit. Since taking office in 2017, he has created successful diversion programs to hold low-level offenders accountable while steering clear of the system's downward spiral. Warren studied at Brandeis University before receiving his law degree from Columbia University.

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