



A CONSORTIUM OF THINKERS
ADVANCING EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

THE INSTITUTE *for* PEOPLE *with* CRIMINAL RECORDS

A Consortium of Thinkers Advancing Equal Justice Under Law

Michael Sweig, JD, Founder
msweig@thepcrinstitute.org

An Illinois non-profit and 501(c)(3)
in formation

The California Wellness Foundation Violence Prevention Conference October 20, 2010 ~ Los Angeles, Ca.

Workshop: *Safe and Successful Reentry Strategies*

11:00 a.m.

Focus: When the prison doors open, and incarcerated young people return to their homes and communities, are we ready to provide alternatives to a violence-based lifestyle? Panelists will discuss promising reentry strategies, share lessons learned and propose ways for communities to work together to address this issue.



Moderator: Michael Sweig, JD.

Founder, The Institute for People with Criminal Records.

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The Chicago Tribune recently published "From Practicing Law to Changing It," which describes Michael Sweig's recovery from his 1999 felony conviction and present work as a full-time advocate for people with criminal records. He is Founder of the newly formed Institute for People with Criminal Records: A Consortium of Thinkers Advancing Equal Justice Under Law, which will conduct voter registration and civics education for people with felonies or their families, provide academic support for social justice legislative agendas, and train people with criminal records in social justice careers, including grant writing, lobbying and advocacy.

The Illinois Senate recently appointed Mr. Sweig to the Task Force on Inventorying Employment Barriers, which will report to the Governor and General Assembly.

Mr. Sweig was the principal lobbyist, co-author and liaison to Governor Pat Quinn's policy staff for Illinois Senate Bill 1050, which Governor Quinn called "noble legislation." Effective January 1, 2010, the new law vastly empowers thousands of people with criminal records petition the court that convicted them for a Certificate of Rehabilitation, to use in obtaining occupational licensing and substantive employment requiring good moral character.

Mr. Sweig was formerly the Public Policy Liaison for the Safer Foundation in Chicago, and a legal studies professor for a decade, primarily at Roosevelt University, where he remains on the Advisory Board of the RU Institute for Metropolitan Affairs. He publishes regularly and is an editor and reviewer for several peer reviewed law journals.



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Panelists



Dawn L. Brown

Executive Director, Girls and Gangs Contacts

Dawn L. Brown joined the Girls and Gangs team in March 2009 as the Executive Director.

A native of Washington, DC and a true East Coaster at heart, Dawn has over eleven years of nonprofit management experience with eight years working specifically in the juvenile justice system in New York and California. Dawn has worked as a Director at the YMCA of Greater New York, Center for Court Innovation's Red Hook Community Justice Center, Youth Service California, and the McClymonds Youth and Family Center.

For nine years, Dawn has also served as a Management Consultant and National Facilitator on issues related to arts education, youth empowerment, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder amongst young women and women working in the sex industry. She has been recognized by California State Superintendent, Jack O'Connell, and the California Department of Education for her expertise in training educators to provide quality services to at-risk and high-risk youth.

As an Actor and Teaching Artist, Dawn has developed educational theater curriculum for New York City public and private schools and been an Acting Instructor at the renowned Atlantic Theatre Company. Dawn received her BFA in Acting from New York University's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts and a MA in Drama Therapy from New York University's School of Education.



Barry Krisberg, Ph.D.

Distinguished Senior Fellow and Lecturer in Residence at the Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice.

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Prior to joining BCCJ, Dr. Krisberg was the President of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency from 1983 to 2009. He is known nationally for his research and expertise on juvenile justice issues and is called upon as a resource for professionals, foundations, and the media.



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Dr. Krisberg has held several educational posts. He was a faculty member in the School of Criminology at the University of California at Berkeley. He was also an adjunct professor with the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Hawaii.

Dr. Krisberg was appointed by the legislature to serve on the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Inmate Population Management. He is past president and fellow of the Western Society of Criminology and is the Chair of the California Attorney General's Research Advisory Committee. In 1993 he was the recipient of the August Vollmer Award, the American Society of Criminology's most prestigious award. The Jessie Ball duPont Fund named him the 1999 Grantee of the Year for his outstanding commitment and expertise in the area of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. Dr. Krisberg was appointed to chair an Expert Panel to investigate the conditions in the California youth prisons. He has recently been named in a consent decree to help develop remedial plans and to monitor many of the mandated reforms in the California Division of Juvenile Justice. He has also assisted the Special Litigation Branch of the USDOJ on CRIPA investigations.

His recent publications include "The Politics of the War Against the Young" in Frampton, Lopez, and Simon (Eds.), *After the War on Crime: Race, Democracy, and a New Reconstruction*, New York: New York University Press (2008), *Continuing the Struggle for Justice: 100 Years of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency* (2007), "Juvenile Offending" (with Angela Wolf), in Heilbrun, Sevin, Goldstein, and Redding (Eds.), *Juvenile Delinquency*, New York: Oxford University Press (2005).

Dr. Krisberg received his master's degree in criminology and a doctorate in sociology, both from the University of Pennsylvania.



Daniel Macallair, M.P.A

Executive Director, Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

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Daniel Macallair is the Executive Director and a co-founder of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. His expertise is in the development and analysis of youth and adult correctional policy. He has implemented model community corrections programs and incarceration alternatives throughout the country. In 1993, Mr. Macallair established the Detention Diversion Advocacy Program (DDAP) for serious and chronic youth offenders in



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San Francisco 's juvenile justice system. This program was cited as an exemplary model by the United States Department of Justice and Harvard University 's Innovations in American Government program.

In 1994, Mr. Macallair received a leadership award from the State of Hawaii for his efforts in reforming that state's juvenile corrections system and developing model community-based reentry programs. Mr. Macallair is presently involved in efforts to reform California's juvenile justice system by providing technical assistance to state and local policy makers and juvenile justice officials. Mr. Macallair is also involved in efforts to reform California's adult sentencing and parole practices and serves as an advisor to the State's prestigious Little Hoover Commission.

Mr. Macallair' research and publications have appeared in such journals as the Stanford Law and Policy Review, Journal of Crime and Delinquency, Youth and Society, Journal of Juvenile Law, and the Western Criminology Review. His studies and commentary are often cited in national and international news outlets including the BBC, CBS Evening News, ABC Nightly News, NBC Evening News, CNN, FOX News, the Today Show, National Public Radio, New York Times, Washington Post, Christian Science Monitor, and Los Angeles Times. He is also the coeditor with Randall Shelden in the upcoming book *Juvenile Justice in America: Problems and Prospects* and with Vincent Schiraldi in *Reforming Juvenile Corrections; Reasons and Strategies for the 21st Century*. He teaches in the Department of Criminal Justice Studies at San Francisco State University and is an invited speaker and trainer at conferences and seminars throughout the country.



Lateefah Simon

Executive Director, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

MacArthur Fellow Lateefah Simon is part of a new wave of African-American civil rights and community leaders.

Born and raised in San Francisco 's Western Addition neighborhood, Ms. Simon has advocated tirelessly on behalf of communities of color, youth and women since her teenage years. At age 15, she joined the Center for Young Women's Development (CYWD), first as a volunteer and then as a staff member, working to provide homeless, low-income and incarcerated young women with the tools they needed to transform and rebuild their lives.

At 19, Ms. Simon was appointed Executive Director of CYWD, becoming one of the youngest



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leaders of a social service agency in the country. During her 11-year tenure, CYWD grew into an organization with a \$1.2 million budget, serving approximately

3,500 women per year and hiring more than 250 women. CYWD also worked to impact public policy at the state and local levels, expanding its violence prevention work to

include rights education for California juvenile offenders and advocating for firearm policy reform in San Francisco. Ms. Simon soon became a nationally recognized advocate for juvenile and criminal justice reform, and also focused her organizing efforts around poverty, reproductive and immigrant rights and GLBT issues.

Prior to being appointed Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee, Ms. Simon led the Reentry Services division of a new initiative at the Office of San Francisco District Attorney Kamala D. Harris. The program created a citywide public/private partnership with numerous agencies and implemented new ways to prevent former offenders from

returning to a life of crime. Ms. Simon helped launch and oversaw successful programs such as Changing the Odds and Back on Track, which combine close supervision for offenders with educational and employment opportunities. Now a national model for similar programs in local prosecutors' offices, Back on Track has reduced the recidivism rate for the population it serves to less than 10 percent.

In addition to the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, Ms. Simon has received numerous awards, including the Jefferson Award for extraordinary public service in 2007. She was named "California Woman of the Year" by the California State Assembly in 2005, and also has been recognized by the Ford Foundation, the National Organization for Women, the Women's Foundation of California and Girls, Inc. She has spoken at the United Nations, before the United States Senate, and at countless trainings and conferences around the country.

Ms. Simon is a member of the board of directors of the ACLU of Northern California and the Women's Foundation of California.