



COURSE SYLLABUS

Pathways to Pretrial Justice

April 25, 2023 | 11am-5pm ET

Course Overview

Welcome to **Pathways to Pretrial Justice**! In this six-hour class, we'll explore the front end of the criminal legal system and how it works, including history, structure, decision points, and current controversies. We'll also discuss what antiracist reform could look like, the roles that you can play in bringing about change, and strategies for moving forward.

This course is ideal for community members, activists, and advocates hoping to influence pretrial practices and policies, and those looking for opportunities to advance equity, support people safely in the community, and close the front door to mass incarceration.

The class meets virtually via Zoom. In addition to the live session with PJI faculty, you will have access to pre-course work, reading materials and resources online.

Learning Objectives

In this class, we will:

- Articulate the goals of the pretrial process;
- Explore the history of pretrial justice through an equity lens;
- Discuss the current state of pretrial justice in America, including demographics of impacted people;
- Review the steps in the pretrial process and the decision makers involved;
- Analyze bail hearings and discuss the role of court watching;
- Examine recent advocacy efforts and current controversies in the field;
- Analyze proven and emerging practices for promoting pretrial success at each decision point; and
- Identify action steps for local advocacy.

Your Learning Experience

This course is designed to meet the needs of diverse people engaged in pretrial justice, but everyone's interests and needs are different. You are encouraged to bring your perspective and needs to the conversation to ensure that this course will be useful and applicable to you and your work. We welcome questions, difficult conversations, and unique perspectives—which all contribute to a robust course experience!

Course Director



Shavonte Keaton, Senior Associate

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Shavonte is a Senior Associate at PJI, where she develops and implements the organization's change work and training curricula. As a former foster youth and child of a formerly incarcerated parent, Shavonte has spent over a decade of her career using her legal expertise and life experiences to support her work in advancing systemic solutions to the distinct challenges and barriers that system-involved youth and families face. Her background includes working as a case manager for homeless youth and families as well as many years serving as a peer and professional advocate for current and former foster youth. Prior to coming to PJI, she served as the Georgia Assistant State Coordinator for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from San Francisco State University and a Juris Doctor degree from Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco.

Course Faculty



Meghan Guevara, Executive Partner

meghan@pretrial.org, 857.928.6068

Meghan Guevara is an Executive Partner with the Pretrial Justice Institute, where she co-leads the organization with Tenille Patterson and oversees PJI's education programs and local system change efforts. Meghan is driven by a passion for building community wellness and dismantling structures of oppression. For nearly 20 years, she has worked on a broad range of national, state and local training and

technical assistance initiatives that critically examine and improve the way public systems function — most recently helping local coalitions and jurisdictions develop antiracist solutions for pretrial policies and practices. Meghan began her career as a health educator working with young people in the youth justice and child welfare systems. She received a Master of Public Health degree in social and behavioral sciences from Boston University.



Tenille Patterson, Executive Partner

tenille@pretrial.org, 513.620.5709

Tenille Patterson is an Executive Partner with the Pretrial Justice Institute, where in partnership with Meghan Guevara, she leads PJI’s strategic visioning, program implementation and organizational management activities. Tenille has spent over 15 years as a nonprofit executive leader supporting mission critical organizations serving communities subject to systemic disinvestment, injustice and neglect. At PJI, Tenille oversees the finance, human resources, operations, and communications portfolios. Tenille has a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Morgan State University and is a certified public accountant.

Accessing the Live Class

The live online class will take place on **April 25, 2023 at 11:00 am ET/10:00 am CT/9:00am MT/8:00am PT**. We encourage you to join by video and audio to talk with the faculty and with each other. We will include breaks over the course of the session, but we welcome you to bring snacks, drinks, or whatever else you need to be comfortable throughout the class. Upon registration, you will receive an email with instructions for logging into the live class via Zoom. If you need any technical assistance prior to or during the class, you can reach out to Bryan Taylor at bryan@pretrial.org.

Pre-Course Work

To participate in the course and access all course materials, you must be a member of the **University of Pretrial**. Prior to the start date of the course, please visit learning.pretrial.org to create a free member account if you have not already done so. To create an account, click the “**Join**” link in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

Prior to the live class, you will be asked to complete some pre-work to help orient you to the content. This should take about **two (2) hours** of your time. You will receive a follow-up email one week before the course begins with more details on how to access the pre-course work.

Course Completion and Evaluation

We ask that you complete a course evaluation by **Friday May 5, 2023**. Your feedback is important to us! After you complete your evaluation, a course completion certificate will be available through your University of Pretrial account. The course has not been certified for continuing education credits. If you wish to seek continuing education credits independently and need additional information for submission to your accrediting body, please contact Shavonte Keaton at shavonte@pretrial.org.

We look forward to having you join us!