



Exploring Pretrial Justice: Community Workshop

April 6, 2021

Course Overview

Welcome to Exploring Pretrial Justice! This five hour class will take a look at the front end of the criminal legal system, including its history, structure, decision points and current controversies. This is ideal for organizers, volunteers, advocates and interested community members looking for a better understanding of how the pretrial system works. In addition to the five hour live class, participants will have access to reading materials and resources through the University of Pretrial.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the class, you will:

- Explore the history of pretrial justice through racial lens;
- Investigate and explain the roles and power of system stakeholders;
- Articulate and illustrate history's influence on present day practices and policies;
- Analyze current controversies in pretrial decision making; and
- Identify next steps for pretrial system improvement in your own work.

Course Agenda

- Welcome/Introductions/Course Overview
- Pretrial Justice Then and Now
 - Define pretrial justice and its goals
 - Define bail, bond, and key legal terms
 - Describe the history and evolution of the pretrial justice system, including its historical ties to slavery and mass incarceration
 - Explore the people and the structures that play a role in the system

- Pretrial Decision Points
 - Articulate the pretrial decision points
 - Discuss the connection between pretrial practices and jail utilization
 - Critique a bail hearing
- Current Controversies
 - Discuss alternatives to contact with the system and alternatives to custodial arrest
 - Critique mechanisms for pretrial release or detention, including release on recognizance, money bond, pretrial risk assessment, and over-supervision.
 - Discuss options for community supports
- Next Steps
 - Identify opportunities for next steps in your own community

Course materials will also be available through March 9th--feel free to explore the resources available online!

Course Director



Wendy Camilla Blackwell, Senior Associate, Learning Events
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Wendy leads PJI's portfolio of interactive learning events. Prior to joining PJI, Wendy was the Director of the Practitioner's Leadership Institute at the Center for Urban Families (CFUF), where she developed capacity-building relationships and collaborations with individuals and community members. Previously, Wendy served as the Executive Director of the National Children's Museum, where she began as the Director of Education. During her decade of service, she grew the education and programs departments, developed education initiatives, and shaped the Center for Learning and Innovation. Wendy championed community collaborations that produced replication-model child and caregiver learning together programs.

Wendy is the lead point of contact for any information related to this course.

Course Faculty



Cherise Fanno Burdeen

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Cherise Fanno Burdeen has spent more than 20 years working to improve public safety policies and practices across the country. After earning a bachelor's in public administration from Miami University (Ohio) and a master's in criminal justice from Indiana University, she began her career with the DOJ's National Institute of Justice. After fieldwork that included time with the Safer Foundation in Chicago and post-9/11 federal service with the Department of Homeland Security, Cherise joined PJI.

Since 2006, Cherise has developed innovative strategies to raise awareness of pretrial justice issues, amassed a broad constituency of criminal justice stakeholder groups, provided technical assistance and training on policy reforms, and engaged in communications and media efforts. She has extensive experience with strategic planning, initiative management, and change efforts across the criminal justice system. She serves as an issue expert for legal and correctional professionals, national and community advocates, the media, influencers, and artists.



Dr. Zaria Davis

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Dr. Zaria Davis began her career in social work over 20 years ago with experience in mental health and social services in various settings. She has also worked in K-12, higher education, and out-of-school time settings. Zaria served as Executive Director for a local nonprofit in Lincoln Heights, OH for two years, working to move families towards self-sufficiency. In addition, Zaria has worked with various initiatives to support higher education access for those currently and formerly incarcerated. She is passionate in her community advocacy in the areas of pre- and post-incarceration reform.

A graduate of Wilberforce University, Zaria holds a bachelor of the arts in sociology. She obtained her master of social work degree from the University of Cincinnati and doctor of social work degree from Capella University. Zaria is a participatory action researcher and believes that those who are an active part of the community are the voices that lead to change. She is a 2019 Leading with Conviction Fellow with JustLeadershipUSA, and a board member of Dress for Success Cincinnati and the Robert O'Neal Multicultural Art Center (ROMAC). Zaria continues to support reentry efforts for women returning home from incarceration and children impacted by mass incarceration.

Course Structure and Technology

The live session of the class will meet on Tuesday April 6, 2021 at 11 a.m EST. Full participation in the course will require access to a computer with high-speed internet, a webcam, and either computer speakers and a microphone or a phone line. After you register, you will receive an email with details on how to log in to the course.

Online forums with faculty use Zoom web conferencing technology. This is our virtual classroom, so we encourage everyone to join by video and audio to talk with the faculty and with each other. The Zoom link will be available on the course web page.

Pre-Course Work

To participate in the course, you must have a free account in the University of Pretrial. If you don't have an account already, please visit learning.pretrial.org and click the “Join” link in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

If you have any questions about the course technology, please reach out to Tamara Odom, Technology Associate, at tamara@pretrial.org. **You can also log on 30 minutes before the course starts if you would like to do a tech check.**

Course Completion

You will receive a certificate of completion for a five-hour course. We also ask that you complete a course evaluation; your feedback is important to us!

Your Learning Experience

This course is designed to meet the needs of people engaged in pretrial justice advocacy, 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. Ask questions, challenge the faculty and your colleagues, and make the most of the course!