



Fundamentals of Pretrial Justice

Winter 2022 Course Syllabus
January 19-March 2, 2022

Course Overview

Welcome to the Fundamentals of Pretrial Justice! This six-week online course incorporates self-guided learning and interaction with instructors and classmates. This course will provide an overview of pretrial justice, its legal foundations, the latest research, and policies and practices that maximize liberty, equity, safety, and court appearance. The course integrates systems and community perspectives to evaluate pretrial decision points and identify opportunities for safe, fair and equitable outcomes. You will have the opportunity to critically examine your own pretrial system through interactive exercises, as well as the opportunity to learn from fellow students engaged in pretrial system change efforts.

This course is ideal for those who play a role in pretrial system improvement, including elected officials and their staff, government and nonprofit leaders and staff working in pretrial systems, and organizers and advocates at the local and national level. This course is best suited for those who have an interest or role in influencing pretrial policy.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Describe the legal requirements and foundational research of pretrial justice
- Analyze strategies to maximize pretrial liberty, equity, safety, and court appearance
- Assess a local pretrial system and its alignment with the law and research, including a focus on equitable practices and outcomes
- Identify next steps for pretrial system improvement in your own work.

Course Faculty

John Clark, Senior Associate, Pretrial Justice Institute

john@pretrial.org

202.841.3179

In over thirty years at PJI, John has provided technical assistance to hundreds of jurisdictions around the country, providing guidance on implementing evidence-based pretrial justice practices. He has authored numerous articles relating to pretrial justice in such publications as: the American Bar Association's *The Improvement of the Administration of Justice* series; *The Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*; the *Journal of Court Innovation*; and *Judicature*. He began his career in the pretrial justice field in the 1970s as a pretrial services officer in the District of Columbia. He has a Master's Degree in the Administration of Justice from American University. He is a lifetime member of the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies and is the recipient of the Association's most prestigious honor, the Ennis J. Olgiati Award.

Wendy C. Blackwell Fortune, Senior Associate, Learning Events

blackwell@pretrial.org

443.722.5893

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 the community. 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.

Shavonte Keaton, Associate, Youth Justice Communities

shavonte@pretrial.org

424.835.1280

As a former foster youth and child of a formerly incarcerated parent, Shavonte has spent over a decade of her career using her life experiences to support her work in advancing systemic solutions to the distinct challenges and barriers that system-involved youth and their 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. Most recently 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. While in law school she interned at multiple public interest nonprofits serving low income residents in the San Francisco Bay Area. She continues to use her life experience to mentor and empower young people in her community.

Course Structure and Technology

Fundamentals of Pretrial Justice is a blended learning course that combines self-guided learning activities and live online sessions with faculty. Live sessions meet weekly on Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. ET.

Most course activities can be completed on your schedule, at your own pace. 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.

Course materials are housed in the University of Pretrial Learning Management System.

The course materials will be available beginning on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

To access the course materials:

1. Go to university.pretrial.org
2. Sign in
3. Click on Learning in the menu bar and select Learning (or go directly to learning.pretrial.org/my-dashboard), then Courses
4. Click on Fundamentals of Pretrial Justice — Winter 2022

Each week, you will be able to access that week's course outline, reading materials, e-learning module, and assignment. (These components are described in detail below.)

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.

To join the live weekly forum from your computer or other device:

Participation in the weekly session is an essential part of the course. If you need to miss a session, it can be recorded upon request to the course faculty. To allow participants to speak freely on the live sessions, recordings are password-protected and only available for a limited time. If you have any concerns about the course technology, please contact **Tamara Odom at tamara@pretrial.org**.

Pre-Course Work

To participate in the course, you must be a member of the University of Pretrial. Prior to the start date of the course, please visit university.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.

On **January 19**, the live session will be a Course Orientation, including a technology check. Each participant will have the opportunity to log in to the course materials and the web conferencing technology.

Course Schedule

Course Orientation

January 19, 2022

1. The State of Pretrial Justice

January 26, 2022

- Define pretrial justice and its goals
- Describe how those goals are being met nationally
- Describe the consequences of failing to meet the goals, including the human impact
- Define equity
- Explore the role of race and ethnicity in the current state of pretrial justice

2. Enhancing Early Decision Making

February 2, 2022

- Articulate the elements of an equitable and high functioning pretrial justice system
- Identify opportunities for deflection and diversion from law enforcement encounter through first appearance
- Describe how citation and release strategies can be applied by law enforcement
- Articulate the rationale for review of charges by an experienced prosecutor
- Understand why rigorous defense is crucial to first appearance/bail hearing

3. Legal Foundations & Recent Litigation

February 9, 2022

- Define bail, bond, and key legal terms
- Articulate the genesis of those key terms and concepts
- Analyze the relevance of constitutional provisions, federal statute, and case law to pretrial policy
- Identify the bail laws of your jurisdiction
- Reflect on themes and consequences of emerging litigation

4. Conducting Fair Bail and Detention Hearings

February 16, 2022

- Describe the principles of procedural justice and their contribution to pretrial success
- Further explore participants' legal framework for pretrial release and preventive detention
- Examine the elements of effective bail hearings and preventive detention hearings
- Critique a bail hearing

5. Promoting Pretrial Success

February 23, 2022

- Review the types of supports that promote pretrial success
- Critically examine the use of pretrial risk assessment and supervision strategies
- Develop strategies for meaningful community engagement to achieve pretrial success

6. Assessing and Enhancing Your System

March 2, 2022

- Analyze a local system reform effort through a case study
- Conduct a self-assessment of a pretrial system in which you are invested, its alignment with the law and the research, and a focus on equity.
- Identify opportunities for next steps and the role you can play in system enhancement
- Anticipate potential unintended consequences of system change and opportunities for mitigation

Course Evaluation

March 2, 2022

Closes:

- Course materials will be available to access through **March 2, 2022**
- All participants who have completed the course requirements will be issued a Certificate of Completion the week of **March 2, 2022**.

Course Components

Each session includes the following components.

- **Readings and Materials:** You will be asked to review materials such as white papers, news articles, and videos. In some cases, these are embedded in the e-learning module, and in some cases included separately.
- **E-Learning Module:** Each session includes an interactive, self-guided online lesson that reviews the law, research, best practices, and key questions on the session's topic.
- **Assignments:** Participants will be asked to complete a brief assignment each session that focuses on practical applications of the week's materials. **The assignments for each session are due by 12:00 noon ET the Tuesday before each live session.**
- **The Roadmap:** This session guide provides details about each session's learning objectives, self-guided lesson directions, session materials, important deadlines, and optional extended reading materials.
- **Weekly Forum:** Live online forums with faculty will take place each Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. ET. These sessions will be a fairly informal opportunity for discussion and analysis.

Course Completion Requirements

Fundamentals of Pretrial Justice is a course for professionals, and all participants enter the course with different levels of baseline knowledge and experience, and different goals for the course. As a result, we anticipate that everyone will focus their energy in different places, and will apply the content in different ways. Therefore, the course requirements focus mainly on engagement with the material and with each other each week. To receive a certificate of completion for the course, participants must:

- Access the weekly course materials and e-learning module;
- Complete weekly assignments and submit to course faculty by the due date;
- Participate in weekly live forums; and
- Complete the course evaluation.

Certificates will indicate that the participant completed a 36-hour course. The course has not been certified for continuing education credits. If any participants wish to seek continuing education credits independently, this syllabus should contain the necessary information for submission, but if additional information is needed please contact Wendy Blackwell at blackwell@pretrial.org.

Your Learning Experience

This course is designed to meet the needs of diverse professionals 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. Ask questions, challenge the faculty and your colleagues, and make the most of the course!