



# Fundamentals of Pretrial Justice: A One-Day Overview

March 2021 Course Syllabus

## Course Overview

Welcome to the Fundamentals of Pretrial Justice! This five hour course will cover the legal foundations and best practices in pretrial justice through a racial equity lens. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on their local policies and practices, discuss how the field is evolving through litigation, research, and advocacy efforts, and identify opportunities for system improvement.

This course is ideal for anyone seeking a broad understanding of pretrial justice policy and practice with the goal of contributing to safe, fair, and equitable pretrial justice systems. This includes those who play a role in pretrial system improvement, including elected officials and their staff, government and nonprofit leaders, attorneys, judicial officers and staff working in pretrial systems, and organizers and advocates at the local and national level. If you have an interest in pretrial policy or are currently engaged in local system improvement efforts or advocacy.

In addition to the five hour course, participants will have access to reading materials and resources through the University of Pretrial.

## 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 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 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**

### **Meghan Guevara, Executive Partner**

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857.928.6068

Meghan Guevara is an Executive Partner with the Pretrial Justice Institute, where she serves as a member of the leadership team and oversees PJI's learning communities and technical assistance efforts. She has spent 20 years providing training and technical assistance to criminal justice and human services professionals engaged in systemic justice system reform.

At PJI, she works with elected officials, advocates, policymakers and practitioners in pursuit of safe, fair, and equitable pretrial systems. 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

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513.620.5709

Tenille Patterson is responsible for and oversees the activities and processes that provide core mission support to PJI. Tenille's accounting career began 16 years ago when she worked as an auditor for the global professional services firm PwC. To align her professional aspirations with her spirit of advocacy and social justice, Tenille transitioned into the nonprofit field, working with and for organizations serving the most underserved and disenfranchised.

In her most recent nonprofit leadership experience, Tenille served as chief operating officer of the Center for Urban Families, a human services organization dedicated to supporting fathers and families suffering from the effects of systemic and institutional inequality. Tenille has a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Morgan State University and is a certified public accountant.

### **Course Structure and Technology**

Fundamentals of Pretrial Justice is a blended learning course that combines self-guided learning activities and a live online session with the faculty. The live session will meet on **Tuesday March 9, 2021** at 3 pm EST.

Some course activities will 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 **March 2, 2021**. To access the course materials:**

1. Go to [university.pretrial.org](http://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](http://learning.pretrial.org/my-dashboard)), then Courses
4. Click on Fundamentals of Pretrial Justice — **FUNMAR2021**

You will be able to access 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 forum from your computer or other device.** If you are unfamiliar with the Zoom technology or would like to do a tech check in advance, you are welcome to login up to 30 minutes in advance.

### **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](http://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.

### **Course Evaluation**

**Closes: March 18, 2021.**

- Course materials will be available to access through **March 9, 2021**
- All participants who have completed the course requirements will be issued a Certificate of Completion the week of **March 18, 2021.**

### **Course Components**

Each session includes the following components.

- **Materials:** You will be asked to spend less than an hour preparing for the class.
- **The Live Forum:** The live online forum with faculty **will take place on March 9th from 11:00a.m.- 5:00p.m. Eastern.** This session will be a fairly informal opportunity for discussion and analysis.

### **Course Completion Requirements**

All participants enter this 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. Access the course materials;

- **Complete a brief assignment before the class and engage with participants and faculty for a great learning experience.**
- Complete the course evaluation.

Certificates will indicate that the participant completed a 5-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](mailto: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!