



2017 Quest for Democracy - Sacramento, CA

## LONGEVITY, EXPERIENCE ALLOWS LSPC TO AFFECT REAL LEGISLATIVE CHANGE

BY DORSEY NUNN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THIS SUMMER has been a busy one for our Policy Advocacy work: drafting language and advocating for a slate of bills we're co-sponsoring, organizing our annual Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day in May, and rolling out petitions, hearing testimonies, and call-in campaigns to support our legislation at key committee voting deadlines. WE ALSO transitioned Policy Directors—bidding farewell to Endria Richardson, who gave so much to the Movement, and welcoming Marcus McKinney, who now spends most of the week in the Capitol shepherding, defending, and championing our bills through the legislative process. SOMETIMES YOU get to do work that has long-term impact. If the Governor signs AB 1008, our Ban the Box / Fair Chance Hiring bill, we will have accomplished changing the employment landscape for hundreds of thousands of folks in California. Banning the Box in the private sector is a tremendous victory for all who worked on it, particularly AOUON, who initiated the campaign back in 2003. IN RECENT years we've worked on legislation and campaigns that have a profound impact on many people, with some victories, but it hasn't always been that way. To see the pendulum swing towards Justice instead of Revenge—to be present and have the staff involved—that's meaningful to me. I was proud to see every summer Intern stand up, line up, and testify for AB 1008 (Ban the Box) and for SB 10 (Bail Reform)—contributing

extremely conscious comments of how the policy work affected our families and communities. IT IS very exciting to see our new Policy Fellows Sandra and Joseph stepping up to the plate, testifying at hearings, talking with legislators, and doing impressive work. To see Sandra so passionate about her work she can't speak without getting emotional. To see Staff Attorney Brittany Stonesifer invest mind and talents into Fines and Fees work that has resulted in people not getting their drivers' licenses suspended for failure to pay traffic fines. To see our people work in coalitions to pass SB 180 (the RISE Act) and fight against the sentencing enhancements of a failed War on Drugs. I'M GLAD I've lived long enough to see those of us who are directly impacted able to not only just rise up in protest, but to have the infrastructure, resources, and organizing ability to push a multi-year policy campaign through the legislature. Many of my homies and comrades, who fought equally hard hoping that this change would come, didn't live long enough to see it start to happen. JUST THINK about it: this May we were able to transport and engage over 300 people in Sacramento for our 5th annual Quest for Democra-

cy. That day we had to walk into a Capitol occupied by police for the Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony, and so were surrounded by hundreds who were not supportive of us, our lives, or our families. We bussed in five groups from around California, housed people in hotel rooms, fed everyone, had a rally with speakers and music, and organized teams to make office visits to legislators. Just a few years ago, our advocacy day was just a couple of carpools running on the prayer that we'd have enough gas.

*We have the infrastructure, resources, staff, and organizing capacity to push a multi-year strategic policy plan and succeed in passing much of the legislation we sponsor.*

SO THE consistent growth of Movement is measured by both the policies we advance and the resources available to do the work. We've

moved beyond just a reactive rally or a protest march. We have the infrastructure, resources, staff, and organizing capacity to push a multi-year strategic policy plan and succeed in passing much of the legislation we sponsor. SOMETIMES WE are so busy focusing on the issue of the day we miss how much has changed—mostly for the better—since I started this work in 1981. That arc—the one that bends towards justice—when you have longevity, you can see the bend.

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## PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES SINCE SETTling OUR SOLITARY CONFINEMENT LAWSUIT

BY CAROL STRICKMAN  
SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

WE ARE approaching the end of the two-year monitoring period in our solitary confinement lawsuit *Ashker v. Governor*. The good news is that CDCR timely completed its reviews as required under the settlement and released over 1400 prisoners to some form of general population. This has resulted in the entire elimination of Security Housing Units (SHU) at Tehachapi and New Folsom prisons, and the conversion to general population of sections of the remaining SHUs at Pelican Bay and Corcoran. As of May, fewer than 600 prisoners were housed in SHUs, down from about 2900 prisoners at the time of the settlement in August 2015. Mainly, prisoners can only be placed in SHU now if they are found guilty of a serious and “SHU-able” rules violation, for which they will receive a fixed term in SHU. Prisoners fought for these reforms for decades; LSPC is proud of its role in helping them come about.

MANY PROBLEMS remain. The gang validation process remains problematic, with dubious evidence being used to label people as gang affiliates. Gang-validated prisoners returning to prison are immediately placed in Administrative Segregation (another form of solitary), they may remain there for months to a year or more while CDCR conducts safety investigations, during which time they are unlawfully denied “Good Time” credit. We have strenuously objected to this procedure as violating the settlement agreement, to no avail. CDCR IS using “a prisoner’s own safety” as a reason to place them in solitary or restricted housing, which

looks and feels punitive. The majority of these prisoners assert that they are in no danger and want to be released to general population. Prisoners placed in the RCGP (a new restricted custody unit at Pelican Bay created by the settlement agreement) are finding it next to impossible to challenge their initial and continuing placement there.

IN ORDER to monitor the new placement of prisoners into the SHU, we have been reviewing disciplinary violation and hearing reports. Prisoners continue to be sent to SHU based on confidential information that they cannot challenge and are otherwise thwarted at presenting a defense. Some prisoners experience retaliation based on their



LSPC Senior Staff Attorney Carol Strickman presents the “Parole After SHU” informational training to family members of the California Families Against Solitary Confinement in Fullerton, CA.

involvement in our lawsuit. Others are finding the parole board to be hostile or unsympathetic to their bids for parole dates, despite their many unlawful years of suffering in solitary. The Level IV prisons that most of our class members have been assigned to do not provide sufficient jobs and programming for everyone who wants to be productive and gain an education and employment skills.

THE PLAINTIFFS are entitled to file a motion to extend the monitoring period, which is currently under consideration.

## LSPC MISSION

LSPC organizes communities impacted by the criminal justice system and advocates to release incarcerated people, to restore human and civil rights, and to reunify families and communities. We build public awareness of structural racism in policing, the courts, and prison system and we advance racial and gender justice in all our work. Our strategies include legal support, trainings, advocacy, public education, grassroots mobilization, and developing community partnerships.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONNECT WITH US ONLINE OR BY PHONE!  
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## CLEARING THE PATH TOWARDS ECONOMIC JUSTICE

BY BRITTANY STONESIFER  
STAFF ATTORNEY

THE RELATIONSHIP between punishment, white supremacy, poverty, and profit is perhaps the single most defining feature of the “tough on crime” era and the resulting crisis of mass incarceration. Exorbitant fines and fees, unfair punishments for nonpayment of court debt, and the continued existence of a for-profit bail industry all ensure that “justice” is funded by those who can least afford it.

AS COURTS and local governments have increasingly come to rely on income from tickets—frequently costing \$500 or more—60% of all court filings in California are now based on traffic or infraction citations. Two-thirds of the people incarcerated in California jails are there because they cannot afford bail, and having unpaid fines and fees can prevent families from visiting their loved ones in prison. In 30 states, court debt can bar a person from exercising the right to vote. Florida, for instance, has at least 115 different criminal fines and surcharges and bars those with outstanding court-related fees from voting until their debt is completely paid off. Moreover, tying ticketing to local revenue streams, against the backdrop of racially disparate policing, creates increased opportunities for dangerous and sometimes deadly contact between law enforcement and communities of color, as seen with the tragic case of Philando Castile, who was killed by a police officer who pulled him over for a broken tail light.

## LIFELINES FAMILY LAW CLASSES BRING LEGAL AID, LEADERSHIP INSIDE

BY HARRIETTE DAVIS,  
FAMILY UNITY PROJECT COORDINATOR

THE FAMILY Unity Project’s purpose is to maintain and strengthen family relationships during and after incarceration. “The Lifelines Family Law Class” (LFLC) is an important part of this ongoing project, empowering women in prison and jails by teaching them how to legally advocate for themselves, their families, and others in order to maintain their parental rights and family ties. I, with staff attorneys Brittany Stonesifer and Carol Strickman, travel to jails and prisons to teach the classes, sometimes with attorneys from the Harriette Buhai Center For Family Law, and with the help of interns. RECENTLY WE’VE also been able to offer an “Advanced Lifelines Leadership Class” to provide women extra training in family law and filing legal forms. We also help them see themselves as leaders so that they are able to help others. Many of the women in the advanced class work in the law

A “PAY-TO-PLAY” judicial landscape of this kind does not promote public safety and it doesn’t serve the cause of human dignity. That’s why LSPC and All of Us or None (AOUON) have spent the last several years fighting for court debt reform in California—and we’re winning. This year, as part of the Back on the Road Coalition, we convinced the Governor to sign an end to the practice of

*While the legal side of LSPC has drafted bill language and filed lawsuits demanding an end to unconstitutional fines and fees, AOUON organizers, Policy Fellows, and directly-impacted community advocates have helped shine a light on the real human impact that court-ordered debt can have.*

suspending driver’s licenses of those who cannot pay for traffic tickets. This change, coupled with the Traffic Court Amnesty Program we supported and litigation in which LSPC is co-counsel, will result in the restoration of hundreds of thousands of Drivers Licences the state had once suspended as a means of debt collection. THROUGH OUR work with other CA organizations, a specially created Fines and Fees Taskforce in San Francisco, new statewide Rules of Court, and multiple active state bills now plainly communicate that it is unfair and unacceptable to punish people for their poverty. California still has some of the highest fees in the U.S., but it is now beginning to lead the way in court debt reform. IN FACT, advocates across the country are starting to demand change. Ferguson, Missouri, which made national headlines when investigations fol-

lowing the death of Michael Brown revealed that the city was balancing its budget by aggressively ticketing black residents, has seen notable reforms through legislation and litigation. Texas, Colorado, and Michigan now all have statewide standards for assessing a defendant’s ability to pay fines. New Jersey and New Orleans have rolled back the use of money bail for people awaiting trial.

UNAFFORDABLE COURT debt can only be successfully challenged by integrating the broad range of skills and voices within our movement. While the legal side of LSPC has drafted bill language and filed lawsuits demanding an end to unconstitutional fines and fees, AOUON organizers, Policy Fellows, and directly-impacted community advocates have helped shine a light on the real human impact that court-ordered debt can have. Communications staff and interns have helped shift the narrative about people who cannot pay for tickets or bail by creating press releases, talking points, videos, and social media content. AS WE continue to demand an end to the criminalization of poverty and the financial exploitation of families of color, we invite you to join the struggle. Contact brittany@prisonerswithchildren.org to find out how to get involved!



Brittany Stonesifer, Carol Strickman, and Harriette Davis teach the Lifelines Family Law Classes in California prisons and jails.

library with access to more resources, and thus are able to help women by making copies of documents, filling out forms, and filing them at the appropriate court. IT’S CRUCIAL that women inside are able to help others: “legalese” is difficult for many to understand regardless of people’s levels of learning and education, and not everyone’s primary language is English. While we may have the right to an attorney, most people receive a court-appointed attorney who is usually buried under a heavy pile of cases.

AS A formerly incarcerated person, I am honored to be part of the Lifelines classes—to have the opportunity to give back and to help those who are still locked inside—as I know what it’s like to be separated from my family and community. Now when I return to these facilities, the women can see by my example that success is possible: I have been able to reunite with my family, study at college, get and

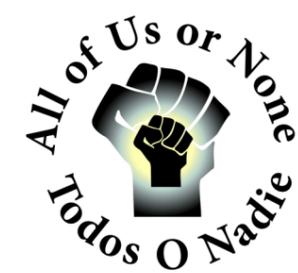
keep a job to support my family, and contribute to my community. To see another woman who can get out and do well gives women hope. FOR PEOPLE who are locked up, their families—whether blood or chosen—are of vital importance. The Lifelines Family Law Class gives people hope that they can connect with and maintain a relationship with their family. Folks want to be able to visit with their loved ones: to not lose custody, to be able to see their children, and to be able to maintain the family bond while they’re inside. That is their “lifeline”—their families.

# THE EVOLUTION OF ALL OF US OR NONE

BY HAMDIA COOKS-ABDULLAH  
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS &  
PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

IN NOVEMBER 2002, Dorsey Nunn—then Program Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children in San Francisco—wrote a document called “Save Our Selves.” The proposal suggested how activists, prisoners, and formerly incarcerated people could unite to build political power. He shared it with many people, asking for comments and modifications. Many organizers who had been in prison were already excited by the idea of uniting with other former prisoners and people inside prison to build political power for our communities. “Save Our Selves” proposed a way to build a new civil rights movement to eliminate the many forms of discrimination faced by people with felony convictions. AT THE suggestion of LSPC staff member Donna Willmott, we renamed “Save Our Selves” as All of Us or None in honor of Nate Harrington, a San Francisco man who had earned his GED while incarcerated, and went on to become a lawyer and director of Prisoner Legal Services in the San Francisco County Jail.

ALL OF Us or None’s first meeting took place in March of 2003. A statewide gathering of former prisoners was subsequently held in Oakland, California, and was followed several weeks later by a national meeting in New Orleans. MANY OF the original activists who gathered that day in 2003 are now elders in the criminal justice movement. We recognize the need to keep this movement active and alive with new and fresh ideas and people. AS A result, All of Us or None has taken the step to intentionally seek, train, hire, and work with the youth who will ultimately move this work forward. We are also making strides to create chapters inside the prisons from which we’ve come. We know we won’t win unless we work together and continue the commitment to fight the powers that discriminate and abuse us daily. You’ll be hearing more about our specific efforts to work with criminal justice impacted youth, families and supporters to continue this most needed work. We appreciate everyone who has been a part of our struggle and want you to know we’re not ever giving up!



All of Us or None - Oakland, CA

## JOSEPH JOHNSON 2017 “ELDER” FREEMAN POLICY FELLOW



I AM so thankful for Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and All of Us or None providing me the opportunity to participate in the Elder Freeman Policy Fellowship. As a Policy Fellow with LSPC, I’m taking this opportunity to gain new skills and share my expertise. I enjoy my bill tracking duties, but the work that’s being done in Sacramento—testifying in support of our sponsored bills, talking with legislators and staffers, mobilizing people—is the most exciting part of the work. MY POLICY Fellowship experience has confirmed my career goal of being an attorney, and the skills gained working with other LSPC staff and All of Us or None members are instrumental in shaping my legal career. I am energized by thinking quickly to

find solutions to problems that LSPC tackles. My life goal is to transform government, culture, and community by promoting and implementing laws which better the lives of the incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and their families. WORKING WITH LSPC staff and AOUON members is stimulating and deeply inspirational. It makes me very excited about my future! I will continue to shape public messaging, organize communities, employ direct action, and advocate with formal decisionmakers to drive policies and practices that lead to the liberation of current and formerly incarcerated people and the communities most impacted by incarceration. I AM truly grateful for the opportunity to work with each and every member of the staff. I cherish their advice about getting the most out of The Elder Freeman Policy Fellowship. Thank you LSPC and All of Us or None!



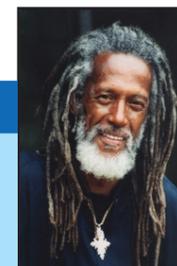
Keynote Address



Political Prisoners Panel

## 2017 RONALD “ELDER” FREEMAN POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

LSPC is proud to introduce our inaugural Elder Freeman Policy Fellows, Joseph Johnson and Sandra Johnson (no relation). Developed by LSPC Management and former Policy Director Endria Richardson, the Policy Fellowship program provides practical legislative advocacy, organizing, and leadership training for formerly incarcerated people. The Fellowship is named after Black Panther and All of Us or None co-founder Ronald “Elder” Freeman (right).



“All of Us or None!” shout activist participating at the FICPFM National Conference. Over 650 formerly incarcerated and convicted people and family members from over 35 states came to Oakland for the 3-day event.

Photos by Scott Braley

## 2016 FICPFM NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In September, 2016 LSPC / All of Us or None hosted the first National Conference of the Formerly Incarcerated & Convicted People & Families Movement (FICPFM) in Oakland, California.

Over 650 formerly incarcerated people, family members, and allies came together over three days of workshops, strategy sessions, music, and a Justice Fair of local and national organizations providing legal, housing, and employment information. Panel topics included Political Prisoners, Restorative Justice, Housing, Education, Youth Advocacy, Families & Mass Incarceration, Restoration of Civic Rights, Women in the Movement, and What About Pookie?

The FICPFM National Conference was the largest gathering of formerly incarcerated people and activists in history, and sparked countless campaigns across the country.



Youth Panel

# POLICY ADVOCACY FOR THE PEOPLE

BY MARCUS MCKINNEY  
POLICY DIRECTOR

RECENTLY I heard singer/songwriter John Legend reiterate the fact that “There are more black men under correctional control today than were under slavery in 1850.” This shocking quote shook the consciousness of many Americans causing a period of reflection in the mainstream news. The claim has been repeatedly dissected over time and taken to task—with more energy devoted to parsing the claim than actually exploring the issue of mass incarceration—but has ultimately passed fact check after fact check. Yet the fact remains that blacks are more likely to be in state or local prison in every state in the nation, with the black-white disparity highest in Wisconsin and Iowa. Some of the worst states are in the Midwest: in places like Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota, black people are 10 times more likely than whites to be in state prison or local jail. MICHELLE ALEXANDER, former LSPC board member and current civil rights attorney, characterizes the U.S. criminal justice system as The New Jim Crow. No matter what you call it, there is growing agreement among academics, activists, and scholars that mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex have had a disproportionate impact on the

quality of life of people of color in America. In many instances these experiences with the criminal justice system also contribute to the erosion of critical civil and human rights. Past convictions and their collateral consequences have the effect of functioning as a life sentence in and of themselves by barring people from housing, employment, and other civic opportunities linked to reduced recidivism. LSPC IS committed to playing its role in the movement to end mass incarceration by waging its policy advocacy campaigns. The organization is immersed in policy battles on measures that seek to comprehensively address the rippling effects mass incarceration has had on entire families and communities. Our 2017 policy agenda is an illustration of such rooted in the struggle for justice, aiming to stem the tide of oppression experienced by folks who interact in any capacity with the criminal justice system. The policy measures we advocate seek to address sentencing disparities, reform the bail industry so that it’s less class-based, and Ban the Box for California employers, stipulating that they must make a conditional offer before conducting a background check. Our platform is aimed at truly empowering the formerly incarcerated to be productive tax-paying members of society.

CHECK OUR website:  
[WWW.PRISONERSWITHCHILDREN.ORG](http://WWW.PRISONERSWITHCHILDREN.ORG)  
FOR the full list of sponsored legislation & for status updates on specific bills.

## SANDRA JOHNSON 2017 “ELDER” FREEMAN POLICY FELLOW



IT IS an honor to be the first Ronald “Elder” Freeman Policy Fellow. THESE FIRST six months have been an amazing learning experience. I’m really enjoying learning about the laws that impact us, because I didn’t know about the process of leveling the playing field for people who are directly impacted. As I have a felony conviction, I’m directly impacted: our Ban the Box bill (AB 1008) is a huge bill for me. I was also directly impacted by an enhancement, so the RISE Act (SB 180) is also a huge bill that affects me. THERE ARE many challenges, starting with the text of the bills. Former policy director Endria Richardson taught me how to read and summarize the text of the bill into layman’s terms. When I first started going to Sacramento, I saw all the legislators and office staff as being very educated people who would think I didn’t belong in the Capitol. Now, after having talked with many legislators in person, I see they’re just people like me. MY FAVORITE part of the Policy Fellowship is going up to Sacramento and helping the legislators connect the policy

work they are doing with real people. I believe sometimes even well-meaning legislators are basically detached from reality and don’t understand the challenges and barriers formerly incarcerated people face when coming back into the community. When talking to some of these senators and staffers, they admit that LSPC’s work impacts their family too: they have loved ones who are current or formerly incarcerated. Some of them keep that fact a secret, but they felt comfortable talking with me about it. BEING THE first Policy Fellow is such an honor because I might be teaching the people who come after me. That’s why learning all the aspects of creating and advocating for policy is very important to me. WHAT I really enjoy is coming to work and being around other people that understand—other formerly incarcerated people who have walked the same path that I walk. ONE OF the best aspects of this fellowship is that being formerly incarcerated is an important aspect of the work. I used to be ashamed of being incarcerated, I used to keep it quiet, but now I use my expertise to effectively change the criminal punishment system. MY LIFE’S a full circle. I’m learning everything from policy to organizing. I’m working with really good people. It’s just fun.

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Jackie Schirn	Samantha Wall
Karen Schryver	Marilyn Wallner
Edith Scripps	Martha Wallner
Amika Sergejev	Mackenzie Walls
Cassandra Severe	
Savvy Shabazz	
Daron Sharps	

Louise Walter, M.D.  
Paige Wartko  
Meg Warren  
Myra Weihar  
Ilene Weinreb  
Corey Weinstein & Pat Downey  
Denise Wells & Eileen Hansen  
Rodger White  
Aaron Whitmore  
Mark Wieder & Shauna Haines  
Richard Wilk  
Tom Willging  
Kelly Williams  
Tiheba Williams-Bain  
Bate Wilson  
Waleisah Wilson  
Whit Wilson  
Marilynn Winn  
Leilani Witt  
Zachary Witus  
K. Wolf  
Betty Wong  
Michael Woods  
Lis Worcester  
Angela Wright  
James Young  
Sarah Zarba  
Sally Zebrick  
Matthew Zimmer  
Carol Zuerndofer  
Erica Zunkel

### Organizations, Firms & Businesses

America Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Foundation of Northern California  
Arabella Advisors  
Artifex Software  
Beasley Books  
Berkeley Patients Group  
Center for Community Change  
Community Futures Collective  
County of Alameda  
Crosby & Kaneda  
CT Thompson Consulting  
Da Capo Chamber Players  
Drug Policy Alliance

Ella Baker Center for Human Rights  
Essie Justice Group  
Executive Alliance for Boys and Men of Color  
Fidelity Charitable  
Friends Committee On Legislation of California  
Homies Unidos, Inc  
Institute for Democratic Education and Culture  
JustGive  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc.  
La Plazita  
La Tierra Community  
Local Independent Charities of America  
National Religious Campaign Against Women  
Network for Good  
A New Way of Life Reentry Project  
Nomadic Ground Coffee  
OneLife Institute  
PM Press  
Revolution Per Minute  
Rosen, Bien, Galvan & Grunfeld  
Social Impact Fund  
The Ripple Effect  
Turning Wheels for Kids  
Uber  
United Food & Commercial Workers International Union  
United Way CA Capital Region  
ValueAct Capital Management  
Vitalita, Inc.  
Voice of the Ex-Offender

### Foundations

Akonadi Foundation  
Alcibie Alliance  
Blum-Kovler Foundation  
California Bar Foundation  
California Wellness Foundation  
Columbus Foundation  
Common Counsel Foundation  
East Bay Community Foundation, Ruth Arnhold Fund  
Elsie Procter Van Buren Foundation

Falk Foundation  
Ford Foundation  
Frances Lear Foundation  
Frank Pace Jr. Foundation  
Fund for Nonviolence  
Groundswell Fund  
Harrington & Ingram  
Hill-Snowdon Foundation  
Horizons Foundation  
JK Irwin Foundation  
Kazan McClain Partners' Foundation  
Left Tilt Fund  
Lipton Family Foundation  
Marin Community Foundation  
Peace & Blessing Fund  
Memton Fund  
Morningstar Foundation  
New Venture Fund (RWJF)  
New York Community Trust  
Omnia Foundation  
Open Society Foundations  
O2 Initiatives  
Peace Development Fund  
Posel Foundation  
Returning Home Foundation  
Robert N. & Ella S. Ristad Foundation  
Rosenberg Foundation  
Sakana Foundation  
San Francisco Foundation  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Solomon Family Foundation  
The California Endowment  
The State Bar of California (IOLTA, EAF and Bak Grants Funds)  
Tides Foundation  
Triskles Foundation  
University of Redlands Horizons Foundation  
van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation  
Women Donors' Network  
Women's Foundation of California  
*Our Apologies if your name is missing or misspelled. Contact tina@prisonerswithchildren.org to correct it.*

Thank you to all who support creating leadership and community with formerly incarcerated and convicted people, our families, and allies. For more ways to support us:

[www.prisonerswithchildren.org](http://www.prisonerswithchildren.org)



# REFLECTIONS ON 9 YEARS AT LSPC



**B**efore former Program Director Manuel Blafontaine transitioned to another organization, the veteran organizer and co-founder of All of Us or None sat down with Summer Intern Natalia Marques to discuss his social justice work with LSPC.

**YOU'VE BEEN here for close to 9 years at this point. How do you think that LSPC has evolved in the time you've been a part of it?**

I THINK we have hired a lot of formerly incarcerated people, and we've given them an opportunity to organize and become advocates and activists. Now they have the opportunity to figure out how they can become part of the solution—while getting paid. LSPC WAS founded in 1978 and gave birth to All of Us or None in 2003, creating an organizing arm that challenges the convention of hierarchy. In some ways All of Us or None's values overlap with LSPC's values, but there is this fundamental difference in that All of Us or None was founded on this notion of no one being left behind. But where is the transgender community within? Where is the youth component? Where is the AAPI component? Where is the immigration component within LSPC? Because immigration, or "cimmigration", is part of the prison industrial complex now. I want to expand our vision here at LSPC, and want to figure out how we can incorporate a struggle towards bringing those folks who are impacted by crimmigration into our fold. IF YOU'VE been in a cage, one way or another, you're directly impacted: A cage is a cage. To me, "detention center" is a sanitized word. It's another cage, another concentration camp. And so we have to be very critical about how we name things.

**WHAT WORK have you engaged in that has been the most satisfying, both to you personally and to the larger movement?**

I'VE APPRECIATED my ability to develop as a political activist in a way that has allowed me to engage with other formerly incarcerated people. At times you can be with an agency that micromanages everything you do, and doesn't allow you to be autonomous, but this organization has allowed me to explore what it is to be an activist. ALSO, THE hunger strike: the leaders inside, and the family members' ability to step up and organize themselves and recognize that they were in the closet for so long because of stigma that comes with having a loved one inside.

**AS YOU move on to the next thing, what about the culture and work of LSPC/ All of Us or None are you going to take with you?**

THE RIGHT to speak in our own voice. That's critical. I'm able to say almost anything I want, and I don't have to worry about getting fired. That's beautiful—not a lot of people can do that. Some people gotta stick to the company line, gotta stick to the talking points. Not once have I been told by any of my supervisors or bosses or board members that what I said was out of pocket. I think that aspect is huge: to speak in your own voice. AND THE right to be able to demand that those most impacted by the prison system should be in the forefront. So it's not only the right to speak in our own voice, but the fact that we pride ourselves in centering survivors of the prison industrial complex front and center. And to be unapologetic about that, right? And so to be able to take that with me and recognize that we need to organize ourselves—that's critical. To organize everyone and recognize that everyone has a value and a skillset. That's what All of Us or None means.

## Public Policy - Legal Advocacy- Grassroots Organizing - Public Education

Expert Testimony for SB180



AB1008 - Ban the Box

National Night Out Oakland, CA



2016 Community Giveback

## INTERN PROGRAM

SINCE OUR founding almost 4 decades ago, LSPC has depended on the help of dedicated interns and volunteers to accomplish our work. LSPC's internship program, however, is about much more than work product; it's about bringing the next generation into the fight to end mass incarceration.

BY MEETING regularly to discuss literature aimed at political thought development and by building relationships with formerly incarcerated staff members who demand the right to speak in their own voices, interns come to see their own roles in the struggle and carry their experiences at LSPC with them for the rest of their lives.

IN ADDITION to answering the hundreds of letters from people incarcerated requesting information, this year interns also worked on our upcoming No More Shackles II report, helped prepare our publications, and spent countless hours in Sacramento meeting with legislators to advocate for our sponsored bills.

THANK YOU, Interns, we couldn't do all our work without you!



2017 Summer Interns Alexis, Alena, Natalia, Pamela, Sydney, Juliette and LSPC Staff Attorney & Intern Coordinator Brittany Stonesifer

