



The Freedom & Movement Center



JUSTICE JOURNAL 2018

WELCOME TO THE FREEDOM & MOVEMENT CENTER

BY DORSEY NUNN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



IN 1978 LSPC started as Network for Women in Prison—a few people coming together to support the then-relatively “small”—and ignored—population of women incarcerated in California’s prison system. In 2003, AOUON began when four formerly incarcerated people gathered during a lunchbreak, deciding to organize with other directly-impacted people and family members to advocate in our own voice to Ban the Box and remove the largest barriers to reentry: employment and housing.

FAST-FORWARD TO 2018: All of Us or None celebrates the implementation of AB 1008—our Ban the Box bill—which extends Fair Chance hiring policies to private employers in California. AOUON also organized hundreds of directly-impacted people and family members to rally and speak to legislators in Sacramento at our 6th annual Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day. Meanwhile our National Organizing work has helped start and strengthen chapters both in California and across the country. And the big news: LSPC finally bought our own building in Oakland!

WHEN BUYING a building it’s easy to get caught up in costs (and there are quite a few! Feel free to donate at: www.prisoner-withchildren.org!), rather than focusing on the possibilities for the community. The Freedom and Movement Center, located in the Longfellow District a few blocks away from a former Black Panther Party headquarters, will create a space of our own to support and service our community—to organize, to train, to self-reflect, to heal, and to build. People will be able to come out of prison knowing they have a place they can call home, an organization that has their back and values their experience. At the same time, directly-impacted led organizations can tap into our experience and have a blueprint for buying a building for their own community.



The next generation of All of Us or None organizers stands ready outside the Freedom & Movement Center.

THIS BUILDING is more than just walls, windows, and a roof: it’s setting the foundation for a larger work—a common space for creating common dreams. 15 years ago, AOUON was able to organize because a few people had the means, support, and space to sit down, discuss, share, strategize, and move forward. In the past few years, LSPC has been able to provide Ronald “Elder” Freeman Policy Fellowships to support and train formerly incarcerated and convicted advocates and organizers. The Freedom and Movement Center will multiply that training tenfold by being a West Coast hub for bringing people and organizations together from down the street and across the country to find fellowship, make connections, share strategies, and support the Movement to restore our rights and end mass incarceration.

WE INVITE you to join us at our new home in Oakland, for it truly is All of Us or None.

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WHITTLING DOWN THE FILES REVEALS A LEGAL LEGACY

BY CAROL STRICKMAN
SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

LSPC'S 40-YEAR struggle for justice has generated a lot of paper files, files which will have no home in our new Oakland office. With help from many others, my task these last months has been to whittle down, recycle, shred, or otherwise dispose of the documents in 13 file cabinets, 20 boxes, and bookshelves. This has been a journey down LSPC's, and my own, Memory Lane.

WE STARTED with files that pre-dated my 2008 arrival. There were many files with women's medical records from the days of the Shumate class action case, which challenged inadequate medical care for women in state prison. We contacted anyone still in prison—otherwise, the files were sent to the shredder. There were amicus briefs about the termination of parental rights in dependency court.

THERE WAS a lot of individual advocacy. I would occasionally pause to read the contents. Newspaper articles about the compassionate release of a dying cancer patient gave a misleading impression—the thickness of her file showed the amount of effort it had taken to achieve this modicum of relief.

LSPC DOES data collection. There were files on numerous Public Records Act requests and surveys of prisoners, such as women in the mother-infant programs. LSPC fights for visiting rights. We opposed harmful and unnecessary restrictions on prison visits with one's children, receiving many letters from prisoners on the subject.

WE HAD files of many women now released through the efforts of the California Habeas Project.

We were happy to learn that several other habeas project clients have been paroled since the 2013 closure of that project.

WE UNEARTHED a box of files on the 2001 hunger strike at Pelican Bay State Prison, as well as multiple boxes related to the landmark Castillo case (concerning gang validation evidence).

THERE WERE several boxes per year of correspondence from prisoners, answered by our interns. There were thank you notes and baby pictures and old versions of our self-help manuals.

FINALLY, I was able to turn my attention to my own files. One of my first assignments was to represent LSPC in CURB (Californians United for a Responsible Budget). At that point, the Coleman/Plata crowding trial was still in session. My CURB files document our campaigns to stop prison construction and support the prisoner reduction order. My Prop 9 files document LSPC's statewide town halls about that new repressive parole law. Two boxes contain court files on the North Oakland gang injunction and our

work, in coalition with others, to oppose it. Coincidentally, our new office—at 44th and Market Streets—is located in that injunction area (the injunction was dismissed). The bulk of my files, though, involve the on-going Ashker v. Governor solitary confinement case and the organizing work around it, the equivalent of five file cabinets.

THESE PAPER files are a silent witness to the tremendous work that LSPC has accomplished in our first 40 years. We can only hope that, going forward, LSPC's next mountain of work is preserved in electronic form.



LSPC Senior Staff Attorney Carol Strickman sorts through decades of files from our many litigation cases.

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!
www.prisonerswithchildren.org info@prisonerswithchildren.org (415) 255-7036

REFORMING CRIMINAL FEES: THE FIGHT TO STOP WEALTH EXTRACTION IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

BY BRITTANY STONESIFER
STAFF ATTORNEY

THROUGHOUT AMERICAN history, the primary results of the criminal legal system have been to extract resources from, and impose state control over, communities of color.

These oppressive outcomes are, in fact, what define the various fines and fees that are charged to anyone accused of a crime, regardless of whether that crime is a minor infraction or a life-sentence felony. That's why, when LSPC began working to end the harmful impacts of unaffordable court debt, we were joining a growing national movement to expose cities and states that were attempting to build revenue on the backs of those who could least afford it. These unfair systems fuel aggressive policing and incarceration.

IN JUST the last few years, LSPC/AOUON and our allies have come a long way in reversing some of the oppression that expensive fines and fees cause. We recently made California the first state in the nation to stop suspending the driver's licenses of people who miss a payment on their traffic tickets. And, on July 1, 2018, San Francisco made history by becoming the first county to stop charging defendants for major criminal fees, including probation costs and electronic monitoring fees.

NOW WE'RE pushing the conversation on this issue forward with a campaign to repeal as many misdemeanor and felony administrative fees statewide as we can. These fees are high pain for the predominantly black and brown families they trap in poverty, and they are low gain for the governments that waste resources trying to squeeze blood from a turnip. Creating big change like this will take big support. If you would like to be part of this



Brittany Stonesifer testifies in favor of eliminating probation fees in San Francisco County.



AOUON organizers with SF Board of Supervisors President London Breed after the elimination of probation fees in S.F. County.

EAST BAY EXPRESS

OAKLAND, BERKELEY, AND EAST BAY NEWS, EVENTS, RESTAURANTS, MUSIC, HOME NEWS & OPINION ARTS & CULTURE FOOD & DRINK

News

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017

Alameda County Superior Court Reverses License Suspensions for Nearly 54,000 Drivers Who Couldn't Afford to Pay Traffic Fines

By Jessica Lynn

Email Tweet Share 907 Print 30 points



Nearly 54,000 East Bay drivers can legally get back on the road after Alameda County Superior Court announced Monday that it will reverse holds on driver's licenses that were suspended due to inability to pay a traffic ticket.

California ended failure-to-pay suspensions on driver's licenses in

LSPC's work with the Back on the Road CA coalition led to Governor Brown halting the suspension of driver's licenses due to inability to pay, and to counties restoring licenses previously suspended.

campaign – especially if you or your family has been affected by unaffordable criminal debt – we urge you to reach out to us and join the fight!

SEND INQUIRIES to:
info@prisonerswithchildren.org.

Economic Justice Through Reforming Fines & Fees



Staff Attorney Brittany Stonesifer highlights many of the Economic Justice successes of 2017 at the LSPC Victory Party in Oakland, CA.

All of Us or None members gather at San Francisco City Hall to support the elimination of county probation and reentry fees. A great example of legal and organizing strategies working together.

CALIFORNIA TRAFFIC DEBT: CLEARING THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC JUSTICE

As of 6/27/17, CA traffic courts and the DMV must stop suspending driver's licenses for failure to pay tickets.
AB 103 - 2017-18 state budget



CLEAN SLATE CLINICS & RECORD EXPUNGEMENT—REMOVING BARRIERS TO HOUSING & EMPLOYMENT

BY EVA DELAIR
STAFF ATTORNEY

PART OF LSPC’s mission is to restore the full human and civil rights of formerly incarcerated people. Rights restoration has two components: creating/protecting/restoring legal rights through policy or litigation, and then ensuring that those rights are implemented and honored at a human level. Our record-clearance work and Clean Slate Clinics combine policy advocacy and direct services to satisfy both aspects.

OUR POLICY work in this area has included advocating for the passage of the Ban the Box / Fair Chance in Hiring Act (2017) and for increasing access to clean slate remedies. This year, we are working on a slate of bills supporting formerly incarcerated and convicted people in accessing occupational licensing. These efforts and campaigns are built on a foundation of firsthand knowledge from our directly-impacted membership and conversations we have with clients about why they are working to clean up their conviction histories. Our legal clinic days and interactions with clients keep us grounded, so when we enter Sacramento to advocate policy change they remind us why we do this work and why we must succeed. ADDITIONALLY, OUR legal clinics are incredibly enhanced by our policy work. Before 2014, if a person went to prison for a case, they couldn’t clear that conviction except through a Governor’s Pardon. Since then, social justice advocates have passed propositions and lawmakers have implemented laws reducing or redefining sentences, opening the possibility of clearing and cleaning up records. Those changes in the law are not always well known to the attorneys and volunteers performing record clearance clinics. But because we worked to pass the laws, we know about the changes and can ensure that they are implemented in our clinics and at our allies’ clinics.

THE CONTINUED need for policy change gives us an opportunity to talk with folks about getting involved and changing the law. Instead of saying, “No, we cannot help you,” we can point people to getting involved with All of Us or None and to finding solidarity with others experiencing the same form of discrimination. We are constantly reevaluating and improving our clinics and services to better implement and protect the human and civil rights of those who come to us for assistance.



LSPC Staff Attorney Eva DeLair goes over the process to obtain a RAP sheet and file for resentencing or expungement at a Clean Slate Clinic in Fresno, CA.



LSPC Intern Alex (center, standing) assist people with signing in to the Clean Slate Clinic in Fresno, CA.



Volunteer attorneys from One Justice review people's RAP sheets and help file requests for resentencing or expungement.



Over the past several years LSPC Staff Attorney Eva DeLair (left) has developed an effective and engaging community-centered Clean Slate Clinic program.

We offer Clean Slate clinics with partner organizations throughout the year and throughout California. Check our website www.prisonerswithchildren.org or contact us through email at info@prisonerswithchildren.org to find out about upcoming clinics.

THE COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF INCARCERATION

BY SABINA CROCETTE
POLICY MANAGER

THE “COLLATERAL consequences of incarceration” refers to the secondary or indirect results and realities created by incarceration. There are many, and they are—almost without exception—all negative. Most make it impossible for those returning from prison to ever be fully restored as citizens and human beings in our society. Some of the most serious collateral consequences:

- CIVIC disenfranchisement: Those with conviction histories and those who are currently incarcerated, particularly with felonies, face long-term voting disenfranchisement while in state prison and while on parole. In the case of the right to sit on a jury, those with felony convictions are permanently barred from ever serving on a jury.

THERE IS no necessary reason to lump voting disenfranchisement in with conviction/incarceration unless the intention is to stop a large population from having a voice in society’s policies and priorities. Those who are eliminated from civic participation are disproportionately poor, Black and Brown, and women. Felony disenfranchisement began after the Civil War as a tool to limit the civic power of freed people of color and continues to this day. We can change this: for example, a current campaign to restore voting rights of people with felony convictions in Florida would re-enfranchise over 1.4 million people.

- DISINTEGRATION of familial bonds and the ability to parent children: When women and men go to prison for more than 15 months, their parental rights may be temporarily, and even permanently, terminated if they have minor children in dependency court. Often the families of incarcerated folks do not have inalienable rights to either parent their grand-

age and deter families from maintaining close physical and emotional bonds with their incarcerated loved ones.

- LACK of equal opportunities for re-entry and reintegration upon release: After the traumatic experience of incarceration, people returning from prison are never fully restored

to equal treatment under the law. Their conviction history follows them through every facet of their lives, including employment, housing, education, child custody and visitation, and many others. With our current societal framework, an individual’s past with the criminal justice



LSPC Policy Manager Sabina Crocette (second from left) and Staff Attorney Eva DeLair (far right) stand with CA Assembly Members Eloise Gomez (far left) and David Chiu (at podium) during the press conference introducing AB 2293 on April 22, 2018 in Sacramento, CA. [John Myers / Los Angeles Times]

THE PLACEMENTS of prisons far away from cities and public transportation creates financial and time burdens on the families and loved ones of incarcerated folks. Many cannot afford the travel costs or may work and need to care for children on the limited days and times available for visiting. Prison staff enforces visiting rules—such as attire color policies—arbitrarily, and family members can be denied a visit for the most insignificant reasons. All of these factors further discour-

system is NEVER forgiven or forgotten—punishment extended far beyond the original sentence and any meaningful rehabilitation we currently offer.

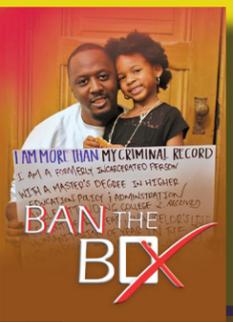
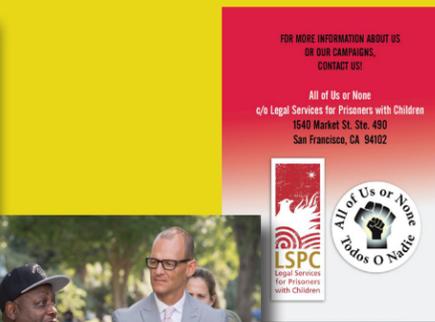
THESE ARE just a few in an inexhaustible list of collateral impacts. Almost 8 million Californians have conviction histories. They struggle with the collateral consequences of incarceration daily and so do their families. Our organization is committed to change this reality and bring an end to these senseless collateral consequences. Join us in the fight to end collateral consequences.

Ban the Box

To Restore our Civil and Human Rights to Work, Housing, Education, and Community

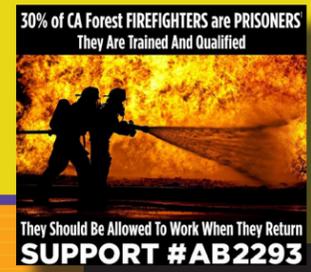


Taking to the streets in 2010



Supporting AB 1008 in 2017 to extend BTB to CA private employers

Spreading the word to people inside & out of prison



They Should Be Allowed To Work When They Return SUPPORT #AB2293

Moving the Ban the Box battle to increase access to hundreds of occupational licenses

WE BUILD, TOGETHER

BY DAURAS CYPRIAN
AOUON LEAD ORGANIZER

We at All of Us or None pride ourselves on being a grassroots organization. This basically means that we organize from the ground up. Grassroots organizing is ordinary people doing extraordinary things in my opinion, because the majority of the time a grassroots organization is attempting to slay a giant. We go up against entities, corporations, the elite, and government. We are usually out-numbered and out-funded, yet we find way to be victorious. I believe that when you have truth on your side, it finds a way to shine.

“An unorganized truth has no chance against an organized lie.” That is why organizing is imperative: You have to have a game plan. You have to have tactics. You need to do your research. There are six basic steps I try to keep in mind:

1. *Identify the issue:* know how you want to remedy the problem, identify the stakeholders, prepare an argument, organize your base.
2. *Know your facts:* prepare a list of the most important points, have a fact sheet to back up your points.
3. *Build your base:* figure out the best way to reach out to the broader community: is it through social media, a town hall, a press conference, etc. Contact other organizations and influential community leaders to support your position. You may even consider a coalition.
4. *Know your opposition:* you must know your opposition's stance, their argument, who they are—an organization, industry, or individual?—what they support, who supports them, etc. Do your homework!
5. *Know the legislative process:* understand the role legislators will play in the process, and learn that process.
6. *Use the media:* media helps bring awareness. Make a list of media contacts, do local cable shows, local radio shows, use social media, write letters or op-ed pieces to get your point out there.

Organizing is about building relationships with the community members, it's about guiding the community through the process so they know how to fight and advocate on their own behalf. That is our job here at All of Us or None: to build the community, build leaders in the community, transform the community to be self-sufficient. We do that through awareness, our presence, and civic and political education.



AOUON NC Organizers Brian “BDubb” Wiley, Andraé “Muffin” Hudson, and Umar Muhammad tabling at a community event in Durham, N.C.

www.allofusornone.org

GIVE BACK, KEEP FAMILIES CONNECTED

BY HAMDIYA COOKS-ABDULLAH
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Community Engagement, Organization, Mobilization, & Celebration



AOUON Lead Organizer Dauras Cyprian (left) and 2018 Youth Policy Fellow Noe Gudiño (right), engage the community at First Friday in Oakland, CA.

For more information about All of Us or None and future events, contact Lead Organizer Dauras Cyprian: dauras@prisonerswithchildren.org

AOUON National Organizing

By Oscar Flores



AOUON National Organizer Oscar Flores (left) with AOUON San Antonio Organizers Steve Huerta (center) and Tommy Acosta

NATIONAL ORGANIZER is a new position at AOUN—and I'm proud and honored to be the first. My main responsibility is to maintain and support AOUON chapters and membership across the country. When I began in this position, there were seven chapters in California and two in other states—currently we are supporting the organizing of four more, while also providing training and resources to established chapters.

I THINK that people gravitate to AOUON immediately because of our name—“All of Us or None” speaks to solidarity, which puts unity into action. The purpose of expanding AOUON chapters nationally isn't just to up our numbers. We want to nationalize this organization in order to de-silo the important organizing that folks around the country have been doing, and to build connections between those organizers. Because AOUON chapters are self-directed, there is a variety of unique work happening in all different areas of this country. Developing connections of support and communication between chapters can be a vital part of strengthening our movement nationally.

THE NEW chapters we are forming include a range of people: from folks who are brand-new to organizing to activists who are already part of an organization—and thus able to contribute resources and meeting space—to established chapters that have had transitions in their leadership and are trying to re-engage. I travel all over the country to meet with these organizers and offer my support to get them up and running and engaged in the community.

AOUON'S NATIONAL commitment to its chapters is to provide useful fundraising models, networking and peer learning opportunities, and leadership development. We help identify challenges that organizers across the country are facing and tap into our experience and knowledge to identify ways to overcome them. Please contact me if you want to join an existing chapter or establish one in your community: oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org



LSPC'S ANNUAL Community Giveback is a very special event for so many reasons. The event gives formerly incarcerated people an opportunity to engage in philanthropy through volunteering and supporting children with incarcerated parents. The Community Giveback embodies the spirit of the late Robert Moody—someone so integral to the early incarnations of the event—who All of Us or None cherishes in our memories as one who gave selflessly and sacrificed for others. Continuing this altruistic service, Amy Ralston Povah from the Can-Do Foundation, based in Southern California, has been donating teddy bears to the children for many years.

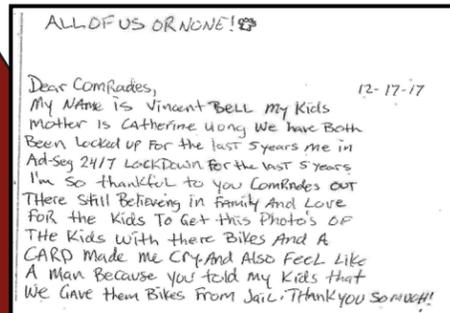
HELD ON the 2nd Saturday in December, the Community Giveback allows children—who may not have received a gift during the Christmas season—to receive a brand-new bike. The 2018 event will be the 18th year that LSPC organized this special day. Volunteers from Stanford Law School have participated in this event for the past 4 years, in addition to volunteer support from organizations like the Young Women's Freedom Center in San Francisco and our All of Us or None

Bay Area membership. I cannot say enough about the support we get from donations of new bikes, helmets, and locks from the non-profit organization Turning Wheels for Kids, who have supported this event for many years.

THE DAY is filled with good food, face painting, laughter, and giving. A key part of this program is the testimonial table [left] where children get to draw pictures and write something to their parent, grandparent, or incarcerated loved one. We send those testimonials—as well as pictures of the children with bikes—to the loved ones inside. This event brings together family like no other event all year!



I'd like to share a portion of a letter received from one of the incarcerated parents whose children have participated in the Community Giveback:



I WANT to thank all of you who have contributed to the Community Giveback—your support means to so many children with incarcerated parents as well

as the formerly incarcerated people who get a chance to give back to the community. We love and appreciate all of you!



AOUON Co-Founder Dorsey Nunn (second from left) meets with the newly-formed AOUON chapter in Illinois.



POLICY ADVOCACY: FROM PARTICIPANT TO PLANNER

SANDRA JOHNSON
AOUON ORGANIZER

In my position as the first policy fellow in 2017, I was able to learn about policy and find my voice to advocate for policy that affects me and other formerly and currently incarcerated people. Having testified my own unique story in my own voice to push the Ban the Box bill over the edge and see it put into law was a transformative experience—speaking up sometimes does make things better for everyone.

Since January 2018, I have slowly transitioned from my role as policy fellow into my new role as AOUON organizer. And this year I was able to create this powerful day of advocacy for others. Quest for Democracy is a 2-day, state wide advocacy day held at the California Capitol in Sacramento. LSPC's mission focuses on advocating to reunite families and communities, and restore our civil and human rights. We commit to organizing communities directly impacted by the prison system. Quest for Democracy was a large-scale manifestation of these values. We fed, housed, and transported over 500 people to Sacramento where we trained them on how to do legislative visits and effectively present their stories. On the second day, we did 120 legislative visits, advocating for the 20 bills on our policy platform.

Through these visits, AOUON has been able to build relationships with assembly members and senators which bridge the gap between lawmakers—who have significant legislative power—and those of us who are most effected by the policies they are creating. I remember speaking with the governor's chief of staff about fair chance, which was eventually passed—having my testimony and my story impact that success was a big deal. I thank god that I found an organization that is LED by formerly incarcerated folks, and that I have been able to find my voice among these people. That is what Quest for Democracy is all about.



All of Us or None Organizer Sandra Johnson



UNLOCKING THE VOTE IN CALIFORNIA

BRITTANY STONESIFER
STAFF ATTORNEY

More than 6 million people are currently barred from exercising the right to vote in the United States on the basis of a criminal conviction. That's more than twice the number of popular votes that determined the 2016 presidential election.

Because of racial bias in the criminal legal system, felony disenfranchisement disproportionately constrains the citizenship rights of black and brown Americans. Over 7.4% of the adult African American population is disenfranchised for a conviction, compared to the 1.8% of non-African Americans. The racial impact of this suppression is not new and it's not an accident. In the wake of the Civil War, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, declaring that states may not prohibit citizens' right to vote based on their "race, color or previous condition of servitude." To prevent black citizens from exercising their newly gained political power, many states rushed to pass statutes or amendments to their own constitutions disqualifying voters who were convicted of certain crimes.

Unfortunately, California was one of the states to codify disenfranchisement of people "imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony" into its constitution during the Reconstruction Era. LSPC and All of Us or None have used a combined litigation and policy

advocacy strategy to restore the franchise to more than 100,000 people in California since 2015. **Today, the only people who cannot vote in California on the basis of a conviction are people who are currently in state or federal prison or currently on state parole.**

least the last year and a half. After follow-up negotiation from advocates—and, in one case, the filing of a lawsuit—most of these counties have since brought their policies into compliance with state elections law. But the fight is far from over.

The good news is that all over the country, activists are engaging in struggles to restore voting rights. An initiative on the ballot in Florida—which has one of the severest felony disenfranchisement laws in the U.S.—could automatically restore voting rights to individuals upon their release from prison. New Jersey, Louisiana, and Virginia are also active battlegrounds in the fight to re-enfranchise people with convictions. That this growing movement is being led by the very individuals whom felony disenfranchisement laws seek to silence is not lost on formerly incarcerated social justice advocates. "While some may see this as a struggle simply for voting rights," says LSPC Executive Director Dorsey Nunn, "formerly incarcerated activists see it as something much larger—a demand for the fundamental acknowledgement of our citizenship."

Even though the current version of California voting rights law took effect at the beginning of 2017, LSPC and our partner organization A New Way of Life recently found that several of the state's 58 counties had not updated their local policies and procedures. This caused them to improperly trigger the removal of thousands of eligible voters from registration rolls for a



Many Californians mistakenly believe a criminal conviction keeps them from voting. **Politicians bet on that fact to win elections.**

On Probation?
On Community Supervision?
Off Parole?

IS THE ANSWER YES?
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

If you have a misdemeanor conviction, you can always vote.

In fact, you always keep your right to vote unless you are currently serving a sentence for certain felonies.

If you have a felony conviction, you can vote if:

- You are on probation OR
- you are on post-release community supervision OR
- you are on mandatory supervision OR
- you have completed parole.

Your voting rights are automatically returned when you complete your sentence. You just have to fill out a voter registration card.

Register to Vote at:
LETMEVOTE.CA.ORG

In California, the deadline to register to vote for any election is 15 days before Election Day.

Questions?
votingrights@acluca.org



ORGANIZING DIRECTLY-IMPACTED FAMILIES ON THE FRONT LINES

AALIYAH MUHAMMAD
FAMILY UNITY PROJECT COORDINATOR

On June 19-20, LSPC and AOUON hosted the Family Unity Convening at the Asian Cultural Center in Oakland. Over 40 people came together to build networks, priorities, and organizing strategies that will strengthen the future movement of currently and formerly incarcerated folks and their families. Our priorities for the conference included working with individuals and organizations we hadn't worked with before. We ended up with a great group of people who work on a wide variety of issues that align with LSPC and AOUON's values.



Family Unity Project Organizer Aaliyah Muhammad

for. By the end of the two days, participants decided to focus on just one piece of this massive issue: visiting our loved ones in prison and jail.

When someone is sent to jail or prison they are ripped from their family and larger community—often placed in facilities that are far removed from their family. Not only are in-person visits difficult, especially for families with limited resources, but phone calls also come at great expense to those who want to simply speak to their loved one inside. LSPC's Family Unity Project has worked for on visitation issues for many years, including campaigns to expand visiting hours and to ban the ION



Family Unity Conference participants listen as small groups share their solutions for family visiting issues.

At the convening we had many discussions about the issues that people directly affected by mass incarceration experience. We brainstormed policies, resolutions, and solutions we want to write and campaign

scanners which trigger false positives and prevent people from entering the prison. Recently, in 2017, in response to increased use of video-only visitation, LSPC and AOUON supported a bill that would have guaranteed in-person visiting at every county jail in California. Gov. Brown vetoed that bill, but we continue to fight for family members' rights to connect with incarcerated loved ones. LSPC also conducts Lifelines courses with incarcerated women to train them on their legal options and rights to maintain



Thank you to all—including those not photographed here—who traveled to Oakland, CA for the first Family Unity Conference!

connections with their family members a key factor in the transition coming back from incarceration. Rebuilding those connections throughout the re-entry process can be so difficult. We want to learn from families what their issues are and help to resolve them. We want to create policies that make sure people are placed closer to their families and cannot be shuffled around from state to state.

At the conclusion of the conference, we laid out next steps for organizing and partnerships. We look forward to reviewing the surveys that participants in the convening filled out so we can better understand the successes and points of growth of the event and incorporate them into the next conference in January.



2018 Summer Intern Corryn (above, center), along with Patricia, Allie, and Abby (below, clockwise from top right), helped facilitate & document the Family Unity Conference in Oakland, CA.



2018 Summer Intern Allie (below) helps engage the community with info and swag at a First Friday event in Oakland, CA.



LSPC Interns Turn Semesters into Lifetime Advocacy



Intern Supervisor Brittany Stonesifer (far left) discusses Abolitionist theory with the 2017 Summer Interns.

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.

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

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

Interested in joining the elite cadre of LSPC Interns?
Contact Tina Nunn: tina@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7041

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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



Our apologies if your name is missing or misspelled. Contact azadeh@prisonerswithchildren.org to correct it.

JOIN US TO BUILD THE FREEDOM & MOVEMENT CENTER!

AS MANY of our supporters and allies know, we are now moved into our new Oakland home, and just opened the Freedom and Movement Center this Summer. More than just an office building, the Freedom and Movement Center will be a reentry hub and community organizing space to keep the freedom movement in the Bay Area thriving, and led by directly-impacted people of color. As many of our people and the organizations that support them are being pushed out of Oakland through gentrification, we are determined to create a space that will be a touchstone for people returning from prison and their families to find community and services designed for them.

OUR 40 years of success so far has only been possible with the support of all of you. In order to continue growing into our new space and to increase the reach of our



programs, we are on a mission to raise \$5 million dollars by 2020. Yes, this is a big number to match the big plans we have for this next phase of our work! Every little bit of support counts. We're calling on all of you to consider investing in this campaign by donating, hosting fundraising parties, inviting others to donate, and generally helping to get the word out about our work. You can donate to the campaign on the donation page of our website and contact me at azadeh@prisonerswithchildren.org if you'd like to discuss additional ways to support.

WE LOOK forward to welcoming you into our new space!

- DORSEY NUNN
Executive Director
- HAMDIYA COOKS-ABDULLAH
Administrative Director
- AZADEH ZOHRABI
Development Director

Building Leaders Through Total Immersion, Support, & Training



Aminah Colbert

It is amazing how life manages to come full circle. It was while incarcerated that I became involved with Legal Services for Prisoners with Children through their Family Law training classes—in those groups I discovered my passion for the law as well as organizing. Upon my release, LSPC and All of Us or None welcomed me into their hearts and organization as a 2018 Elder Freeman Policy Fellow and Community Organizer.

My experience to date has been one of constant learning and growth. This fellowship allows me the opportunity to work alongside individuals in many different areas of the non-profit sector. I've endured the hard work of the legislative process and witnessed the people-power needed to push through the bills that affect minorities and those impacted by the criminal justice system. I've met and become comfortable speaking and sharing my experiences in public hearings and to legislators directly without feeling "less-than" or unqualified. I now fully understand the value of organizing and showing up for issues that affect our most sensitive populations of people, and how our absence can be detrimental.

Transitioning from prison to politics has been a dream come true—I have literally dreamt of the moment when I would be able to speak in my own voice and be heard—not as a black woman "felon," but by as an expert and leader in this field. I owe a debt of gratitude and appreciation to LSPC and AOUON for giving me the platform and opportunity to learn, teach, and remain my authentic self.

Noe Gudiño

As a formerly incarcerated youth, I wasted many of the most important years of my life and development. Also, as an adult, I had my brushes with the law and the unjust system of "criminal justice."

Working at LSPC has allowed me to travel all over: to the statewide bail reform convening at the Foundation Center in Inglewood, California, or to the CURB Face-to-Face Convening in Ontario, CA, to the countless trips to Sacramento to advocate for the many bills that impact hundreds of thousands of mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, and other directly-impacted love ones. The experience has been so gratifying, and much needed for me, personally, to see the positive effect we can have on the system.

I can't forget the once in the lifetime opportunity I experienced in the Motherland, Africa. I spent 10 days in Kigali, Rwanda, East Africa, while participating in the International CURE Conference on Human Rights & Prison Reform. Kigali is the cleanest city in Africa—no plastic or trash any-



where. The food was fabulous, and I ate a traditional dish called "Matooke"—baked goat, baked bananas, and baked potatoes. It was exciting to meet and work with human rights and prison reform advocates from around the world, sharing our experiences and building an international movement.

This Fellowship is an amazing opportunity to expand my own horizons while working to restore our civil and human rights. I can't wait to see what the next six months bring!

2018 RONALD "ELDER" FREEMAN POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Begun in 2017, 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).

Interested in becoming or supporting formerly incarcerated leadership? Contact us: info@prisonerswithchildren.org.

