

# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES: CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD



## Speakers



### **Jeffrey Usman, Moderator**

Professor Jeffrey Usman is a professor at Belmont University College of Law, specializing in Constitutional Law and a well-recognized scholarly author. Professor Usman received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown University, his Juris Doctorate from Vanderbilt University Law School, and his Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School. Professor Usman serves on the Tennessee Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee and is a frequent contributor to scholarly journals. His published works have been relied upon by other scholars in books, treatises, and law review articles and referenced by a diverse array of persons including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India and the Tennessee Attorney General.



### **Dr. Tom Smith, Panelist**

Dr. Tom Smith is an Associate Professor in Law and member of the Global Security, Crime and Justice research group, within the Faculty of Business and Law at the University of the West of England. Dr. Smith has been published in various peer-reviewed law journals and has given papers at national and international conferences. He has co-edited a collection examining disclosure in the criminal justice process (2020), and is co-author of the book, *Criminal Procedure and Punishment*. He is also editor of a forthcoming book on autistic suspects, defendants and offenders in the criminal justice system. Dr. Smith is also the Coordinator of the Neurodivergence in Criminal Justice Network.



### **Nathalie Vandeveld, Panelist**

Nathalie Vandeveld works at Fair Trials as an Assistant Legal aid Policy Officer. Before joining Fair Trials, she practiced as a criminal defense and legal aid lawyer in Belgium. She also worked for the NGO Avocats Sans Frontières in Uganda, mainly on access to justice in the areas of criminal justice, transitional justice and alternative dispute resolution. She holds a LLM in International Public Law and a Master's degree in Law from the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium.

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### **Marcus Floyd, Assistant Public Defender**

Marcus Floyd has served as a Judicial Law Clerk, Prosecutor, Policy Advisor, and a Public Defender in his career. Mr. Floyd graduated from Middle Tennessee State with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration. Prior to attending and graduating from Belmont University College of Law, Mr. Floyd served as a probation officer. As an assistant district attorney, Mr. Floyd handled matters ranging from simple driver's license cases to aggravated robbery and homicide. Mr. Floyd was also a founding member of Nashville's Conviction Review Unit, established to investigate, review and overturn wrongful convictions. Mr. Floyd currently serves as an assistant public defender and is a candidate for General Sessions Division VII Judge in Nashville.



### **Rebecca Shaeffer, Moderator**

Rebecca Shaeffer serves as one of several Legal Directors at Fair Trials, an organization which campaigns for criminal justice reform worldwide. As Legal Director for the Americas, she leads Fair Trials' justice reform and advocacy efforts in both the United States and Latin America. Currently, she also sits on the Steering Committee for an International Protocol on Non-Coercive Investigative Interviewing and on the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section's plea bargaining task force.



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### **Rob McGuire, Panelist**

Rob McGuire was a state prosecutor in the Davidson County District Attorney's Office for thirteen years, mainly prosecuting violent crimes. Since 2018, he has worked as the Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee and is the Project Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator for the office. He is Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division and the supervisor over the General Crimes Unit. Mr. McGuire has also been recognized by the Department of Justice for his outstanding contributions to the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, the DOJ's effort to reduce gun violence.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES:  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM IN THE  
UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD



**Speakers**



**Lucian Dervan, *Panelist***

Lucian E. Dervan is a Professor of Law and the Director of Criminal Justice Studies at Belmont University College of Law in Nashville, Tennessee. Professor Dervan's research and writing focus on plea bargaining, as well as on white collar crime, and international criminal law. Professor Dervan currently serves on the ABA Board of Governors, and he is also the founder and Chair of the ABA Global White Collar Crime Institute and a member of the American Bar Foundation.



**Chris Behan, *Panelist***

Chris Behan is a Professor of Law at the Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale, Illinois. Before joining the SIU faculty, Mr. Behan was an officer in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. His research and teaching interests include military justice, evidence, national security law, and trial advocacy pedagogy. In 2021, he received a four-year appointment as a Fulbright Specialist and is currently working on a curriculum development project with the Law Development Centre in Kampala, Uganda.



**Cyntoia Brown Long**

Cyntoia Brown Long is an author, speaker, and advocate for criminal justice reform and victims of trafficking. Her memoir, *Free Cyntoia: My Search for Redemption in the American Prison System* (Atria Books), written while in prison, documents her early years and the 15 years she was incarcerated and takes readers on a coming-of-age spiritual journey. Cyntoia hopes her story will not only inspire others but also shine a light on the injustice that people still face on a daily basis, especially the injustice to women and children in American prisons. She, with her husband, Jaime, is the founder of The Foundation for Justice, Freedom, and Mercy (The JFAM Foundation). In January of 2020 the Vera Institute of Justice recognized Cyntoia as one of the Best of Justice Reform honorees.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES:  
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UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD



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**Dorris Walker-Taylor, Panelist**

Dorris Walker-Taylor is a survivor and she is proud to share her journey. Dorris overcame 26 years of addiction, trauma, and prostitution. She is a 2012 graduate of the Thistle Farms Magdalene Residential Program. Dorris' goal is to pave the way forward and speak out for women around the world who have yet to find their way home. Dorris is an accomplished speaker and advocate, and has done interviews with CNN, the Today Show, and many others in order to spread her message. Dorris currently serves as the Senior Ambassador of Community Relations and manages Thistle Farm's events and the travel team. Now she brings the message of #LoveHeals on the road.



**Kay Kretsch, Panelist**

Kay Kretsch became the CEO of Dismas Inc. in July of 2020. Before that she served as a board member since 2015. Ms. Kretsch led the five-year Dismas expansion project from start to finish. Ms. Kretsch is a multifaceted business leader. She has diverse experience in operations, program management, contract management, and more. Ms. Kretsch has a track record of consistent results in building performance-driven organizations for Global 2000 and Fortune 500 companies. She has brought that business experience and success to Dismas Inc., to help continue the successful program that helps people re-entering into the community after serving time in prison.



**Torry Johnson, Moderator**

Professor Torry Johnson served as the elected District Attorney General of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County for more than twenty-six years, where he developed special units that focused on child sexual and physical abuse, domestic violence, complex drug cases, drunk driving, quality of life crimes, and cold case homicides. During his career as District Attorney, he held leadership positions with the National District Attorneys Association and the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference and was a member of the Boards of Directors of both the Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations. He currently serves on the steering committee of the Tennessee Criminal Justice Reinvestment Task Force. Over the years, he has been recognized with a number of awards for his contributions to victims' issues, and the legal profession, including the renaming of the Victor S. Johnson III Nashville Children's Alliance in his honor, which serves the victims of child physical and sexual abuse.

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### **Chris Young, Panelist**

Chris Young is a tech entrepreneur and a passionate advocate for people excessively punished under America's drug laws. An injustice Mr. Young experienced first hand. Mr. Young incorporated his life experiences where he was surrounded by poverty, incarcerated and suffered from depression as the foundation to build an empowerment app called "Like You!". This app helps remove the isolating effects of trauma and encourages people to a positive mindset. His story has earned national recognition and now Mr. Young is writing a memoir about his journey.



### **Albert Barker, Panelist**

Albert Barker is an Aboriginal Australian from the Nengmbah clan group. While born in Sydney, Mr. Barker has lived all across New South Wales. Mr. Barker battled addiction from 1997 until 2018. He spent many years in and out of prison due to his addiction and lack of support when trying to stay clean outside of prison. Mr. Barker turned his life around in 2018 with the support of the Worldview Program. Mr. Barker is now drug free, has a stable home life, a loving relationship, and serves as a mentor to young Aboriginal men. He helps his mentees avoid the mistakes that he made in his youth and provides others with the support that he needed when he was young.



### **Larry Craig, Panelist**

Larry Craig is the Social Enterprise Director at Project Return. He leads the organization's work in its two employment-creating social enterprises as well as its affordable housing enterprise. Mr. Craig joined Project Return in 2014, bringing with him more than twenty years of experience in social service leadership and delivery in Nashville, particularly with severely marginalized populations. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in psychology with a focus on guidance and counseling from Tennessee State University.

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### **Kevin Ring, Keynote on Plea Bargaining**

*Kevin Ring has served as the president of FAMM since January 2017, having previously served as the group's vice president and director of strategic initiatives. Prior to joining FAMM in 2008, Mr. Ring was a lobbyist in Washington, DC. However, in September 2008, Ring was indicted on public corruption charges as part of the Jack Abramoff lobbyist scandal. After two trials and appeals, Ring ultimately served 20 months in federal prison.*

*Mr. Ring has brought attention to sentencing and prison reform through a great many platforms, from testifying before Congress to appearing as a guest speaker at events such as the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Conference, CPAC, and the Variety/Rolling Stone Criminal Justice Summit. He has appeared as a justice reform expert on various media outlets such as MSNBC, FOX News, NPR, and Al Jazeera. Mr. Ring has been profiled in national publications such as the Wall Street Journal, the National Journal, and The Hill. Finally, Mr. Ring has been published in USA Today, The Washington Post, and The Washington Examiner, just to name a few.*

*Mr. Ring is a graduate of Syracuse University and The Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He now lives in Maryland with his two daughters.*