

University of Baltimore School of Law

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Saturday, Sept 9th, 2023  
9 AM to 4 PM

# **Beyond Confinement:** **Rethinking Corrections &** **Rehabilitation in Maryland**



## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR), in partnership with the University of Baltimore Center for Criminal Justice Reform, is proud to host "Beyond Confinement: Rethinking Corrections and Rehabilitation in Maryland," with a deep commitment to addressing critical issues within Maryland's correctional system. This conference represents a pivotal moment in our ongoing and collective efforts to transform Maryland's approach to corrections and rehabilitation. Our objective focuses on:

**Addressing Systemic Challenges:** We recognize that Maryland, like many states, faces systemic challenges within its criminal legal system. These challenges include overcrowded correctional facilities, disparities in sentencing, and limited access to effective rehabilitation programs. This conference allows us to shine a spotlight on these issues and implement innovative solutions.

**Human-Centered Approach:** We believe in the potential for positive change within our corrections system. By focusing on rehabilitation and reintegration, we aim to create a more humane approach that supports individuals rebuilding their lives after involvement with the justice system.

**Community Engagement:** Engaging communities is crucial to achieving lasting reform. This conference provides a platform for diverse voices, including impacted individuals, advocates, policymakers, and experts, to come together and contribute to the conversation about the direction of reform and the future of corrections in Maryland.

**Knowledge Sharing:** Serving as a knowledge-sharing hub that brings together thought leaders, practitioners, and researchers to exchange ideas, share best practices, and learn from one another's experiences in criminal justice reform.

**Policy Advancement:** We are committed to driving policy change in Maryland. The insights and recommendations generated during this conference will inform evidence-based policy initiatives that make our corrections system more just, effective, and equitable.

The University of Baltimore School of Law Center for Criminal Justice Reform supports community-driven efforts to improve public safety and address the harm and inequity caused by the criminal legal system, bringing together diverse voices and decision-makers to examine how the system currently functions, and to collaborate on strategies that promote justice throughout the country and in Baltimore.

# Conference Sponsors & Supporters | 2023

## Conference Sponsors

We sincerely thank our sponsors for their generous support of the "Beyond Confinement: Rethinking Corrections and Rehabilitation in Maryland" conference. Your unwavering commitment and dedication have been instrumental in making this event a resounding success, and we couldn't have achieved our goals without your valuable contributions. Thank you for partnering with us to foster positive change in Maryland's justice system.



## Organizational Supporters

Hosting "Beyond Confinement" would not be possible without the collaborative efforts of our partners, supporters, and dedicated individuals who share our vision for a more just and compassionate Maryland. Together, we can drive meaningful change. Checkout the organizations tabling at the event.



# Session Schedule & Location

	Byron L. Warnken Moot Courtroom (Lower Level)	Room 202 (Level 2)	12th Floor	The John & Frances Angelos Law Center lobby (Level .5)
9:00 - 9:30 am				<b>Onsite Registration</b> *Attendees & speakers check-in at the registration table.  <b>Attendees can            browse participating            organizations            information tables</b>
9:30 - 10:00 am	<b>Opening Session</b>  <b>Dr. Crystal R. Francis</b> <b>Hon. Robert M. Bell</b> <b>Dean Ronald Weich</b> <b>Heather Warnken</b>			
10:00 - 10:45 am	<b>Morning Plenary</b>  <b>Sec. Carolyn Scruggs</b> <b>Senator Will Smith</b>			
<b>11:00 - 12:00 pm</b>  <b>Morning            Breakout            Session</b>  *Attendees Choose 1	<b>Demystifying and            Reforming Maryland's            Parole Policies and            Practices</b>  <b>Olinda Moyd, Esq.</b> <b>Keith Wallington</b> <b>Sonia Kumar, Esq.</b> <b>Gordon Pack</b>	<b>Navigating Rehabilitation            Implementation within            Correctional Facilities</b>  <b>Darrell Hale, Esq.</b> <b>Dr. Brandee Izquierdo</b>	<b>Unlocking Potential            through Correctional            Education</b> <b>Dr. Stephen Steurer</b> <b>Dr. Judith Lichtenberg</b> <b>Dr. Andrea Cantora</b> <b>Dr. Fran Tracy-Mumford</b> <b>Ricardo Burks</b>	
12:15 - 1:00 pm				<b>Networking Lunch</b>  <b>Browse participating            organizations            information tables</b>  <b>FreeState Justice</b> <b>Maryland CURE</b> <b>Maryland Reentry            Resource Center</b> <b>Rectify, Inc.</b>
1:15 - 2:00 pm	<b>Afternoon Plenary</b>  <b>Hon. Anthony Brown</b> <b>Atty.Gen. of Md.</b>			

<p><b>2:15 - 3:15 pm</b></p> <p>Afternoon Breakout Session</p> <p>*Attendees Choose 1</p>	<p><b>No Excuses: Preparing for Reentry in Maryland</b></p> <p><b>Donna Rojas</b>  <b>Derrell Frazier</b>  <b>Marsha Briley</b>  <b>Rodney Moore</b>  <b>Stefan LoBuglio</b></p>	<p><b>Policy Reform &amp; Legislative Advocacy</b></p> <p><b>Bob Rhudy, Esq.</b>  <b>Nicole Hansen-Mundell</b>  <b>Lila Meadows</b>  <b>Suzanne O'Hatnick</b>  <b>Alice Wilkerson</b>  <b>Elizabeth Hilliard</b>  <b>Natasha Khalfani</b>  <b>Jenny Zito</b></p>	<p><b>Reimagining Corrections</b></p> <p><b>Hon. Phil Caroom</b>  <b>Dr. John Hart</b>  <b>Lt. Temesghen Andemicheal</b>  <b>Tonyah Roberts-Johnson</b>  <b>Tyrone Walker</b></p>	
<p><b>3:30 - 4:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Summary Wrap Up &amp; Call to Action</b></p> <p><b>Hon. Phil Caroom</b>  <b>Olinda Moyd, Esq.</b>  <b>Darrell Hale, Esq.</b>  <b>Dr. Stephen Steurer</b>  <b>Donna Rojas</b>  <b>Robert Rhudy, Esq.</b>  <b>Dr. Crystal Francis</b></p>			
<p><b>4:00 - 4:30 pm</b></p>				<p><b>Networking Reception</b></p> <p>*Attendance Optional</p>

# Session Details & Speakers| 2023

## Welcome Address

(Byron L. Warnken Moot Courtroom)

## Beyond Confinement: Rethinking Corrections & Rehabilitation in Maryland

Setting the tone for a transformative event dedicated to reshaping Maryland's approach to corrections and rehabilitation, the conference hosts highlight the urgency of reimagining our justice system, emphasizing the potential for rehabilitation and the pursuit of lasting social change.

## Master of Ceremonies



### **Dr. Crystal Francis, Vice Chairwoman, Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform**

Francis is a public policy expert passionate about advancing positive social change in the justice reform space. As the Vice President of MAJR, she develops the policy agenda for the Backdoor reentry workgroup. She is the former Associate Director of Georgetown University's Pivot program, an entrepreneurship-oriented workforce development program designed for people returning home after incarceration.

## Speakers



### **Hon. Robert M. Bell, (retired), Chief Judge, Maryland Supreme Court (formerly Maryland Court of Appeals)**

Bell has experienced Maryland's criminal justice system at every level: as a juvenile-defendant, a practicing attorney, and as a judge in the District, Circuit, and both appellate courts. He has stated, "It is imperative that our legal system operate without bias of any kind, and be perceived as dispensing justice fairly and equitably," throughout his career deciding cases and providing administrative leadership to facilitate such progress.



### **Dean Ronald Weich, University of Baltimore School of Law**

Weich was named dean of the School of Law in 2012, following a lengthy career in government. He served as an assistant attorney general for the U.S. Department of Justice during the Obama administration and chief counsel to the U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Sen. Edward Kennedy. In 1987, he joined the staff of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, serving as its legislative liaison and representing the commission in federal courts throughout the country in litigation challenging the constitutionality of the Sentencing Reform Act.



**Heather Warnken, Executive Director, Center for Criminal Justice Reform, Ubal School of Law**

Heather Warnken leads the Center for Criminal Justice Reform, where she works on numerous initiatives spanning decarceration, community-based public safety, victim services, policing and more, and for which she was recognized in 2023 by The Daily Record as one of Maryland's Leaders in Law. Prior to the University of Baltimore, her work at both the U.S. Department of Justice and U.C. Berkeley's Warren Institute was focused on addressing the harm caused by the criminal legal system, promoting healing in marginalized communities, and increasing resources for community-based strategies that more effectively enhance public safety and prevent harm.

**Morning Plenary  
(Byron L. Warnken Moot Courtroom)**

**Reimagining Corrections & Justice Reinvestment**

This session delves into the pressing topic of reimagining corrections and rehabilitation in Maryland, shedding light on the state's ongoing efforts to reform its justice system. The session continues with a discussion about the critical aspects of Justice Reinvestment, emphasizing the need to address the unfinished business in this transformative initiative. Attendees will leave with a heightened awareness of the challenges and opportunities in achieving a more just and rehabilitative approach to corrections in Maryland.

**Speakers**



**Carolyn J. Scruggs, Secretary, Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services**

Citing her vast experience in multiple divisions of DPSCS, Gov. Wes Moore named Scruggs secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services in January 2023. Scruggs made history as the first African-American female ever named DPSCS Secretary. She is a 27-year veteran of DPSCS who has played critical roles in pre-trial corrections and the DOC, including oversight of CJIS and programs, treatment, and services.



**Hon. Will C. Smith, Jr., Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee**

Smith was appointed to represent District 20 in the Maryland State Senate, making him the first African American senator from Montgomery County. In 2019, he became the 50th chairman of the Judicial Proceedings Committee. He is the first African American to hold that post. As chairman, Smith has championed robust criminal justice reform measures and has led efforts to provide economic and educational opportunities for all Marylanders.

## Morning Breakout Sessions (Choose 1)

### Demystifying and Reforming Maryland's Parole Policies and Practices

(Byron L. Warnken Moot Courtroom)

This engaging discussion will highlight the current policies and practices associated with seeking parole in Maryland and the decision-making process. The audience will engage in dialogue with individuals who have direct experience and explore the hurdles and challenges that individuals face as they seek release through this statutorily enacted parole process. The panelists will discuss best practices and propose recommendations for reforming the current parole process and discuss how these recommendations will improve parole outcomes.

#### Moderator



#### **Olinda Moyd, Esq., Board Member, Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform**

Moyd is a social justice champion who has dedicated her legal career to disrupting the machinery of mass incarceration through her work on prisoners' rights, parole, post-conviction and reentry. She is currently director of the Decarceration and Re-Entry Clinic at the American University Washington College of Law.

#### Speakers



#### **Sonia Kumar, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**

Kumar is a senior staff attorney for the ACLU of Maryland, with a strong interest in issues at the intersection of criminal justice, poverty, and racial and gender equity. She is the founder and director of the Maryland Parole Partnership, which matches pro bono lawyers with people serving life sentences in preparation for their parole hearings.



#### **Gordon Pack, Advocate, Prepare Parole**

Pack served over 42 consecutive years of imprisonment before being released under Maryland's historic Juvenile Restoration Act. Just as he engaged in advocacy for release, rehabilitation and reentry of prisoners during his incarceration, he continues to advocate for restorative justice. His lived experience is invaluable to justice-impacted people, organizations assisting returning citizens, and juvenile justice coalitions.





**Keith Wallington, Director of Advocacy, Justice Policy Institute (JPI)**

Wallington collaborates with other Maryland advocates to pass justice reform legislation to enhance the parole process in Maryland and other avenues for rehabilitation and release. JPI published the report “Safe at Home: Improving Maryland’s Parole Release Decision Making,” to assess how well Maryland parole practices align with those of other states, identify inefficiencies in release decision-making, and recommend evidence-based changes for policy and practice.

**Navigating Rehabilitation Implementation Within Correctional Facilities**

**(Room 202)**

While studies indicate that rehabilitation behind the walls decreases the likelihood of recidivism, these studies do not necessarily address the nuances associated with implementing rehabilitative services in a correctional setting. The lecturer explores solutions-focused approaches for navigating the complexities associated with rehabilitation implementation.

**Facilitator**



**Darrell Hale, Esq., Board Member, Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform**

Hale has held leadership roles within the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for nearly 20 years, such as branch chief for the Family Mediation Program and director for the Crime Victims Compensation Program. His drive for justice reform stems from his deeply personal journey with his brother’s incarceration in a state prison for a decade, and how insufficient healthcare impacted his brother’s well-being. Darrell became co-chair of MAJR’s Backdoor Workgroup in 2022.

**Speaker**



**Dr. Brandee Izquierdo, Behavioral Health Programs, Pew Charitable Trusts**

Izquierdo oversees Pew Charitable Trusts' behavioral health portfolio, which includes the substance use prevention and treatment initiative and the suicide risk reduction project. Her career path, which focused on expanding access to behavioral health and recovery services while ensuring that communities are educated and able to cultivate equitable, inclusive care, has been driven by her knowledge of behavioral health services and lived expertise as a woman in recovery.

## Unlocking Potential through Correctional Education

### (12th Floor)

This panel discussion delves into the transformative impact of correctional education, exploring how it equips individuals with essential skills, knowledge, and opportunities for personal growth, fostering a pathway towards successful reintegration into society upon release.

#### Moderators

##### **Dr. Stephen Steurer, Advocation, CURE National**



Steurer is a member of the advisory board of the Barbara Bush Foundation and the Reentry/Education Advocate for CURE National. Previously, he served the Maryland Department of Education as the Correctional Education Academic Program Coordinator, overseeing literacy and secondary education in the state's adult prisons.

##### **Dr. Judith Lichtenberg, Board Member, Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform**



Lichtenberg is a professor emerita of philosophy at Georgetown University. She has taught college-level philosophy courses at Jessup Correctional Institution and the DC Jail since 2016 and for Georgetown University's new program at Patuxent Institution.

#### Speakers

##### **Dr. Andrea Cantora, Second Chance, Jessup Correctional Institution**



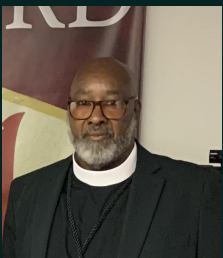
Cantora is an associate professor at the University of Baltimore and director of its Second Chance College Program at Jessup Correctional Institution. The program is part of the national experiment under the U.S. Department of Education's Second Chance Pell Grant Experimental Sites Initiative. She is an advocate for expanding access to post-secondary education.

##### **Dr. Fran Tracy-Mumford, Maryland Department of Labor**



Tracy-Mumford has administered state and local adult education and correctional education programs for more than 40 years. She has been chair of the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education, leading the state directors through several versions of the Adult and Correctional Education Act. She continues to lead programs helping adults achieve a high school diploma and GED.

##### **Minister Ricardo Burks, Advocate, Celebrate Recovery Program**



Burks spent over 32 years in Maryland prisons before coming home earlier this year. He is a senior at the University of Baltimore, majoring in human service administration, and was in the UB Second Chance Program at JCI until his release. He is a trained facilitator in the Alternatives to Violence Project, Conflict Resolution, and the Celebrate Recovery Program.

**Afternoon Plenary**  
**(Byron L. Warnken Moot Courtroom)**

**Correctional Oversight**

This session focuses on correctional oversight and the pressing need for a correctional ombudsman office in Maryland to ensure transparency, accountability, and improved conditions within the state's correctional facilities. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the potential benefits associated with this crucial aspect of Maryland's criminal justice reform efforts.

**Speaker**



**Hon. Anthony G. Brown, Maryland Attorney General**

Brown assumed office as Maryland's 47th attorney general on January 3, 2023. He represented the 4th Congressional District from 2017 to 2023, served as lieutenant governor from 2007 to 2015, and in the House of Delegates as vice chairman of the Judiciary Committee and majority whip from 1999 to 2007.

**Afternoon Breakout Session**  
**(Choose 1 Session)**

**No Excuses: Preparing for Reentry & Reintegration in Maryland**  
**(Byron L. Warnken Moot Courtroom)**

This panel will explore the implementation of successful strategies and innovative approaches to reshape and address reentry challenges, ultimately ensuring the success of all returning citizens.

**Moderator**



**Donna Rojas, Board Member, Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform**

Rojas has actively engaged with pre- and post-release incarcerated individuals in local correctional settings in Maryland, improving the lives of justice-involved people through the delivery of passionate and inspirational reentry programming. She provides leadership, training, technical assistance, and program services in reentry space via her private consulting practice.

**Speakers**



**Derrell Frazier, Reform Alliance**

Frazier is a public speaker and social justice strategist who takes pride and ownership in his community. A Baltimore City native, Frazier has a unique understanding of the challenges our society faces and the importance of equity and advocating on its behalf. He championed the needs of the youth in the carceral system, focusing on advocacy and system innovation.



**Marsha Briley, Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities**

Briley is the reentry coordinator for the Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities Pre/Re-Entry Program (PREP) and the home of the soon-to-be Ordnance Road Reentry Hub. She oversees the County's Reentry initiative, a coordinated county-wide partnership among all county, state, and local agencies, streamlining processes and program development to eliminate barriers to reentry prior to release, prevention and intervention efforts to divert individuals from incarceration, and post-release services to promote stability in the community.



**Rodney Moore, Advocate, Moore & Moore Management**

As president of the Maryland Association for Supportive Housing, Inc., Moore educates other housing providers who seek to provide supportive housing throughout the State of Maryland and the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Moore has an extensive background working as an outreach clinic coordinator, where he provided medication and housing services to the needy.



**Dr. Stefan LoBuglio, Justice Innovations**

LoBuglio has worked in corrections for over three decades as a practitioner, policy advocate, researcher, and consultant. His firm, Justice Innovations LLC, provides assistance to jurisdictions in the United States and internationally to strengthen their justice systems through the implementation of innovative and evidence-based practices.

**Policy Reform & Legislative Advocacy**

**(Room 202)**

This session provides an overview of various legislative proposals that impact corrections championed by MAJR and partner organizations. The workshop concludes with an overview of the legislative advocacy process.

**Facilitator**



**Robert J. Rhudy, Esq., Board Member, Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform**

Rhudy, a member of the MAJR board of directors and executive committee, is an attorney, mediator, trainer and consultant to nonprofit organizations regarding legal assistance, mediation, legislative advocacy and strategic planning. He is also president of Senior Mediation and Decision-Making, Inc. He was formerly executive director of Maryland Legal Services Corporation and director of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals Office of Conflict Resolution.

## Speakers



### **Nicole Hansen-Mundell, Out for Justice**

Hansen-Mundell is an expert on criminal justice policy and reentry navigation in Maryland, with over ten years of experience in the field. She currently serves as the executive director of Out for Justice, a returning citizen, member-led nonprofit organization working to reform local and statewide reentry policies.



### **Lila Meadows, Esq., University of Maryland Carey School of Law**

Meadows directs the Survivors of Violence Clinic, where she represents clients who have experienced interpersonal and systemic violence and trauma. Before joining Maryland Carey Law, she was a clinical teaching fellow at the University of Baltimore School of Law in the Juvenile Justice Clinic, where she helped start the Maryland Juvenile Lifer Parole Representation Project.



### **Suzanne O'Hatnick, Interfaith Action for Human Rights**

O'Hatnick served as Maryland Legislative Coordinator for Amnesty International. In 2014 the revived group was incorporated as Interfaith Action for Human Rights, a nonprofit interfaith human rights organization serving Maryland, D.C. and Virginia. O'Hatnick was the first president of the board of directors.



### **Alice Wilkerson, Advance Maryland, Trans Rights Advocacy Coalition**

Wilkerson is a seasoned policy expert in Annapolis who has worked as a legislative staffer, lobbyist, and as executive director of Advance Maryland, where she helps amplify the voices, ideas, and messages of organizations and coalitions that are working for progress, opportunity, and equity in our state.



### **Elizabeth Hilliard, Maryland Office of the Public Defender**

Hilliard is the acting director of government relations for the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. She has worked for MOPD for six years and spent five of those years representing incarcerated persons throughout the state in the Post Conviction Defenders Division.



### **Natasha Khalfani, Maryland Office of the Public Defender**

Khalfani is the acting assistant director of government relations at the Office of the Public Defender. She started as an attorney in the Parental Defense Division and continues to serve in that capacity, while also serving in the Government Relations Division.



**Jenny Zito, Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform**

Zito is a member of the MAJR board of directors. She is the co-chair of the Front Door workgroup and advocates for policies that prevent unnecessary incarceration such as pretrial detention and alternatives such as diversion to mental health programs, mediation and other rehabilitative services short of incarceration and injustices stemming from “tough-on-crime” policies.

**Reimagining Corrections  
(12th Floor)**

The panel discussion, "Reimagining Corrections," delves into innovative approaches to transforming the traditional corrections system. Experts and thought leaders will explore alternative strategies that prioritize rehabilitation, restorative justice, and community reintegration. The discussion aims to inspire fresh perspectives on reshaping the corrections landscape for more effective and humane outcomes.

**Moderator**

**Hon. Phil Caroom, Chairman, Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform**



Maryland.

Now retired, Caroom works as a recalled judge and, schedule permitting, as a private mediator, neutral evaluator, and arbitrator with concentration in the areas of family law, real estate and business matters. In his free time, he volunteers as the chairman and founding member of the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform, advocating to end unnecessary incarceration and improve public safety in

**Speakers**

**Tyrone Walker, Georgetown Prisons Justice Initiative**



After 25 years behind bars, Walker became director of reentry services at Georgetown University’s Prisons and Justice Initiative. He empowers students through their journey, pre- and post-release. He has been a trailblazer since his time with D.C.’s Young Men Emerging Unit (YME), rewriting reentry’s script behind the walls.

**Dr. John Hart, Vera Institute of Justice**



Hart is Restoring Promise’s associate director of partnerships and community network and is responsible for implementing a national strategic plan that strengthens the initiative’s partnerships and community networks. He serves as primary investigator for the initiative’s Towards Liberations study – aimed at learning more about the relationship between radical changes to prison culture and the growth and development of young adults in the community.



**Tonyah Roberts-Johnson, MSW, LCSW-C, Office of the Public Defender**

Roberts-Johnson has served as a forensic social worker to provide biopsychosocial assessments, empirically based clinical findings, and individualized recommendations to the court for justice-involved individuals in the State of Maryland and the federal penal system. She is a reentry specialist and community-based mental health provider, certified in treating trauma and persons with sex-crime convictions.



**Lieutenant Temesghen Andemichael, Correctional Officer, District of Columbia Department of Corrections**

Andemichael is a correctional officer for Young Men Emerging (YME), a housing unit dedicated to young adults ages 18-25 years old at the DC Jail. YME offers group counseling, mentoring, job training, and educational programs to prepare young men for successful reentry upon release.

**Summary Wrap Up & Call to Action**

**(Byron L. Warnken Moot Courtroom)**

Speakers will succinctly report on the key insights and recommendations gathered from each breakout session. This collective knowledge will serve as a catalyst for a unified call to action, inspiring attendees to take the lessons learned and drive meaningful change in Maryland's corrections and rehabilitation system.

**Dr. Crystal R. Francis**

**Hon. Phil Caroom**

**Olinda Moyd, Esq.**

**Darrell Hale, Esq.**

**Dr. Stephen Steurer**

**Donna Rojas**

**Robert Rhudy, Esq.**