

Soros Justice Fellowships 2008 Meeting Agenda Sunday, June 15 – Tuesday, June 17

Hotel Nikko
222 Mason Street
San Francisco, California 94102
<http://www.hotelnikkosf.com/>

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2008

4:00pm – 4:30pm

Welcome

Ann Beeson, Director, [U.S. Programs](#), OSI
Adam Culbreath, Program Officer, [Soros Justice Fellowships](#)
Christina Voight, Program Assistant, Soros Justice Fellowships

4:30pm – 6:00pm

OSI's U.S. Programs and Fellows Introductions

Hear from OSI staff on the range of work supported by OSI's U.S. Programs, as well as from new, current and alum Soros Justice Fellows on their fellowship projects and current work.

OSI U.S. Programs Staff

Current and Alum Soros Justice Fellows (1997 – 2008)

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Reception and Dinner

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2008

7:30am – 9:00am

Breakfast

9:00am – 10:45am

Morning Plenary

California Prison Crisis: Lessons from the trenches

California's correctional system has reached a crisis of catastrophic proportions. Over the last three decades, advocates, policymakers and observers both inside and outside the state have seen the crisis mount and know full-well the specific policies that have led the state down this road. But how did things reach this point? Are there signs of hope? What does the California prison and corrections crisis have to teach other states and locales?

This panel will explore a range of critical issues facing activists and advocates who confront the state's crisis on a daily basis. What are primary obstacles in the way of reform? What strategies for reform have shown success (or at least promise)? What will it take to move the state in the right direction? Are there any looming threats on the horizon?

David Rogers (Moderator), Executive Director, [Partnership for Safety and Justice](#), Portland, OR

Rose Braz, Campaign Director, [Critical Resistance](#), Oakland, CA
Linda Evans, Organizer, SJF Alum, [All Of Us or None](#), San Francisco, CA
Jakada Imani, Executive Director, [Ella Baker Center for Human Rights](#), Oakland, CA
Pete White, [Los Angeles Community Action Network](#), Los Angeles, CA

10:45am – 11:00am

Break

11:00am – 12:30pm

Morning Concurrent Sessions

Session A – The Failed War on Gangs: Is there a way out?

In the often confusing and emotionally charged debate around gangs and gang-related crime and violence, one thing is clear: repressive law enforcement responses not only fail to make individuals, neighborhoods and communities safer, they also, in many respects, contribute to the very problems they seek to address. But how should advocates and policymakers address the concerns that communities have about very real violence and crime, while at the same time acknowledging that the notion of gangs both reflects and engenders suspicion and fear of certain individuals and communities? How are responses to gangs connected to other issues, from changing community demographics (and the emerging “gang race war” of which some commentators have warned) to the intersection with immigration and deportation policy? At bottom, what does a comprehensive strategy to address gang-related crime and violence look like? In other words, is there a way out of the failed “war on gangs”?

Judy Greene (Moderator/Panelist), Founding Partner, SJF Alum, [Justice Strategies](#), Brooklyn, NY
Jeff Adachi, Public Defender, [Office of the San Francisco Public Defender](#), San Francisco, CA
Angie Junck, Staff Attorney, [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#), San Francisco, CA
Alex Sanchez, Director, [Homies Unidos](#), Los Angeles, CA

Session B – Fundraising Workshop

This workshop will explore strategies for raising non-grant funds to support work for criminal justice reform, including how to find and solicit major donors and building a grassroots fundraising base. It will take a hard look at the unspoken questions most donors will have, and how to craft a response you can use in face-to-face meetings, fundraising appeals, and proposals. It will also explore creative fundraising strategies for busy activists with limited time, money and volunteers, and examine the particular challenges of raising money for criminal justice reform work.

[Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training](#), San Francisco, CA

Session C – Affinity Groups/Open

Space for Fellows to gather informally, strategize, network, etc.

12:30pm – 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Session C – Criminalization of the Sex Trade

The state's response to those involved in the sex trade implicates a wide range of issues of concern to advocates in numerous quarters: race, gender and class discrimination; immigration and deportation policy; the globalization of labor, commerce, and crime; community development and gentrification; health, substance abuse, and social support structures; children and youth; poverty and inequality. It also evokes serious and polarizing debates about whether the sex trade should be legalized, decriminalized, regulated – or abolished outright.

Wherever one stands on these various points of contention, the fact remains that a significant amount of criminal justice resources are devoted to policing, prosecuting, incarcerating (and, in many cases, deporting) individuals involved in the sex trade.

Is there a better way? This panel will explore efforts to address the sex trade as the complex and cross-sectional issue it is. It will also examine ways in which these issues connect to efforts being undertaken by criminal justice reformers in various sectors.

Alice Miller (Moderator), Visiting Professor, [U.C. Berkeley School of Law](#)

Kathleen Kim, Associate Professor of Law, [Loyola Law School](#), Los Angeles, CA

Elizabeth Sy, Program Director, [Banteay Srei](#), Oakland, CA

Juhu Thukral, Director, [Sex Workers Project – Urban Justice Center](#), New York, NY

Session D – Lobbying Restrictions Workshop

Mandatory for all new fellows. This training will cover the lobbying prohibitions imposed on private foundations that all fellows are required to follow. A number of case studies will be reviewed and there will be time for Q & A.

Maria Santos Valentin, Deputy General Counsel, OSI

Michele Hirsch, Legal Assistant, OSI

Session E – Affinity Groups/Open

Space for Fellows to gather informally, strategize, network, etc.

3:45pm – 3:45pm

Break

3:45pm – 5:15pm

Afternoon Discussion

Bringing Young People to the Policy Table: A conversation with youth advocates

Hear from youth members of the California Council on Youth Relations, an entity that helps young people involved in the juvenile justice, foster care and other public systems engage with policymakers at the state and local levels on a range of issues of vital importance to youth around the state, as well as from other leaders in California's burgeoning youth advocacy movement.

Nell Bernstein (Moderator), Author, SJF Alum, Albany, CA

Youth Members of the California Council on Youth Relations

5:15pm – 5:30pm **Break**

5:30pm – 6:30pm **Reception**

6:30pm – 7:30pm **Harmon Wray Remembrance**

Vivian Nixon, Executive Director, SJF Alum, [College and Community Fellowship](#), New York, NY

Judy Greene, Founding Partner, SJF Alum, [Justice Strategies](#), Brooklyn, NY

Andrea Black, Network Coordinator, SJF Alum, [Detention Watch Network](#), Washington, DC

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2008

7:30am – 9:00am **Breakfast**

9:00am – 10:45am **Morning Plenary**

Working Across Sectors

It is axiomatic that in the United States, neighborhoods subjected to the most repressive and retrograde law enforcement policies and practices and highest rates of incarceration and harshest punishments are the very same neighborhoods that have been divested from strong labor markets, safe and affordable housing, quality public education, quality health and mental healthcare, reliable public transportation, healthy and sustainable environmental conditions, and equal access to power and other resources. But how should criminal justice reformers position themselves vis-à-vis these larger, systemic problems? And, how might work in other sectors inform the criminal justice reform community? This plenary will present cross-sector ideas, strategies, and research that have implications for how we work to reduce America's reliance on incarceration and harsh punishment, and it will provide a space for participants to reflect on and discuss how this cross-sector work might resonate with their current and future work.

Susan Tucker (Moderator), Director, [The After Prison Initiative](#), OSI

Marshall Clement, [Council on State Governments Justice Center](#), New York, NY

Myron Orfield, Executive Director, [Institute on Race & Poverty](#), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

John Powell, Executive Director, [Kirwan Institute on the Study of Race and Ethnicity](#), Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Robert Rooks, Soros Justice Fellow, [Justice Strategies](#), DeSoto, TX

10:45am – 11:00am **Break**

11:00am – 12:30pm **Morning Concurrent Sessions**

Session A – A Hip-Hop Theory of Criminal Justice

Hip-hop contains a compelling descriptive and normative analysis of crime and punishment in the United States. This presentation imagines criminal justice in a hip-hop nation – where hip-hop is used to inform a theory of punishment that is

coherent, enhances public safety, and treats all people with respect. Hip-hop – considered by many to be the most thuggish art – can improve law and order in the United States.

In a remarkable moment in American history, pop music is weighing the costs and benefits of going to prison. As we listen to the radio, watch videos, dance at clubs, or wear the latest fashion, we receive a message from the "black CNN". The message has the potential to transform justice in the United States.

Paul Butler, Professor of Law, SJF Alum, [The George Washington University Law School](#), Washington, DC

Session B – Communications Workshop

Strongly encouraged for New Fellows. This workshop will offer an overview of how OSI can help with your communications strategy, as well as a practical discussion with OSI staff and current and alum Soros Fellows on the ways in which you can use local, regional and national media to advance your work.

Subhash Kateel, Soros Justice Fellow, [Florida Immigrant Coalition](#), Miami, FL
Laura Mansnerus, SJF Alum, Philadelphia, PA
Amy Weil, Media Officer, OSI

Session C – Film Screenings

Life Sentence by Lisa M. Gray (presented by Mika'il DeVeaux, Vice President, SJF Alum, [Citizens Against Recidivism](#), New York, NY).

Vision is Our Power by Youth Members of Visions to Peace Project (presented by Johonna McCants, Soros Justice Fellow, [Visions to Peace Project](#), Washington, DC).

12:30pm – 2:00pm

Lunch Discussion

Forecast – The 2008 Presidential and Congressional Elections: What does the future hold for criminal justice reform?

2008 will usher in a new era of politics – but what that era will look like, no one really knows. Nor is it clear what a change in the White House and in Congress will mean for the range of issues related to the criminal justice reform movement. Come and peer into our political crystal ball and get the latest prognostication on the upcoming Presidential and Congressional elections, and what the various possible outcomes will mean for your work.

John Kowal (Moderator), Director, Constitutional Democracy Initiatives, OSI

Hilary Shelton, Director, [NAACP – Washington Bureau](#), Washington, DC
Nkechi Taifa, Senior Policy Analyst, [OSI - DC](#)

2:00pm – 2:30pm

Close

2:30pm – 4:00pm

Film Screenings

Moral Panic: A Documentary on Gangs and Prisoner Reentry by Akintola Hanif (presented by Judy Greene, Founding Partner, SJF Alum, [Justice Strategies](#), Brooklyn, NY).