

2005 SOROS JUSTICE FELLOWS

Bios

Advocacy Fellows

Kenavon Carter is a lawyer, teacher and community organizer. As a law student at the University of Texas School of Law (class of 2005), Mr. Carter has been active in several social justice organizations. He worked on international human rights and post 9/11 litigation as an Ella Baker Fellow at the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City, impact civil rights litigation at the Texas Civil Rights Project, and police accountability issues with the American Civil Liberties Union in Austin, Texas. In April 2004, Mr. Carter participated in an international human rights delegation to Haiti to document and publicize human rights abuses. He is a member of several professional and progressive organizations such as the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society and the student chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Carter taught U.S. History in San Antonio, Texas.

Kristi Couvillon is a lawyer and social worker. As a law student at the University of Texas School of Law, Ms. Couvillon worked with the Texas Civil Rights Project on police brutality and disability rights cases and with the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program on family law cases for indigent people. Ms. Couvillon also interned with State Representative Lon Burnam's office on a bill that would have eliminated the death penalty in Texas for juvenile offenders. She served on the editorial board of the *Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights* and as President of Texas Law Fellowships, a student-run organization that provides living-wage salaries to law students working in public interest internships. Prior to attending law school, she received her graduate degree in clinical social work from the University of Texas at Austin and worked as a social worker for people living with HIV/AIDS and those struggling with the challenges of mental illness, drug addiction, and incarceration.

Shaena Fazal is an appellate defender in Chicago, where she represents indigent criminal defendants on their appeals. She volunteers as a pro bono lawyer representing long-term prisoners at their parole hearings, and trains other volunteer lawyers to provide these services. As a volunteer with Minority Legal Education Resources, Ms. Fazal helps to prepare students for the Illinois Bar Examination. Previously, she served on the staff of Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, and worked as a staffer, board member and secretary with the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty where she monitored the conditions of Illinois' death row and coordinated visits to death row prisoners. Ms. Fazal received her undergraduate degree from Miami University and her law degree from Chicago Kent Law School.

Norris Henderson, a paralegal, advocate and organizer, was self-educated in criminal law during his 27 years in prison and currently serves as Campaign Manager of the Youth Defender Initiative at the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana. In 2004, Mr. Henderson created Voice Of the Ex-Offender (VOTE), which educates and mobilizes formerly incarcerated persons about their right to

vote in Louisiana. He also participated in the effort to bring Russell Simmons' Hip Hop Summit Action Network to New Orleans. Because of his advocacy, Mr. Henderson has been invited to serve on the Sheriff's transition team to address the needs and concerns of those in custody. During his incarceration, Mr. Henderson served as Inmate Counsel Substitute (ICS), assisting 30-40 inmates with their legal problems on a daily basis. He represented inmates at prison disciplinary hearings, and aided them in the preparation and filing of criminal pleadings, divorce petitions, and letters to outside attorneys.

Dana Kaplan is the state-wide organizer for the New York Campaign for Telephone Justice, which works to end the financially exploitative contract between MCI and the New York State DOCS. As a consultant with the National Resource Center on Prisons and Communities, Ms. Kaplan has worked with community members in Suffolk County and throughout the State of New York to address local jail overcrowding by implementing reforms and advocating for alternatives to prison construction. Prior to this, Ms. Kaplan worked with Prison Moratorium Project in New York City and with the Justice Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. and as a volunteer at the San Francisco County Jail. Ms. Kaplan is currently completing a Masters Degree at the CUNY Graduate Center with a certificate in American Studies, and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California at Berkeley.

Alexander Ndaula fought *pro se* against his own deportation for three years. After securing his own release in May 2004, Mr. Ndaula has become an active member of New York-based Families For Freedom, where he works alongside others who have been through the deportation system. He also volunteers with the National Immigration Project, responding to prisoner letters and monitoring jail abuse. Within months, Mr. Ndaula negotiated with senior federal and county officials to improve the conditions in the rural Alabama jail where he was last incarcerated. While indefinitely held in more than 7 facilities across the country, Mr. Ndaula, a self-taught litigator and advocate successfully defended inmates in federal and state courts in both civil and criminal matters, including many older inmates who approached him for counsel. He and fellow jailhouse lawyers initiated civil rights lawsuits and secured victories in cases that had been rendered 'non-starters' by advocates on the outside.

Vivian Nixon, who spent 3 and a half years in a New York State Prison, serves as Executive Director of the College and Community Fellowship, a model program based at the City University of New York that promotes higher education among formerly incarcerated women. She is an ordained minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and currently serves as an Associate Minister at the Mt. Olive AME Church in Port Washington, NY. Previously, Reverend Nixon ran a school-to-employment program for at-risk youth and developed a faith-based mentoring program for minority teens in her home community of Port Washington. She has completed the B. S. program in Human Services Administration at Empire State College and will receive her degree in Spring 2005. In March 2004, Rev. Nixon received the "Lifting as We Climb Advocacy Award" from the Correctional Association of New York. She is currently writing a book about her experiences entitled *Guilty and Saved: The Spiritual Journey of a Preacher Woman in Prison*.

Emmett Solomon is a retired Director of Chaplains for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. In 1992, he and other clergy founded Restorative Justice Ministries Network (RJMN) to provide direct services, engage in policy advocacy, and enlist the support of church people in criminal

justice reform; he has served as RJMN's Executive Director since 1993. Mr. Solomon has been publishing a trade journal newspaper, *Restorative Justice News*, which now boasts a circulation of 65,000 nationwide, for 11 years. He holds a Masters of Divinity from of New York Theological Seminary in New York and a Masters in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University in Texas.

Senior Fellows

Michelle Alexander is an Associate Professor of Law at Stanford Law School. Prior to joining the Stanford faculty, Ms. Alexander was Director of the Racial Justice Project at the ACLU of Northern California, where she launched a major campaign against racial profiling in law enforcement that later gave rise to a national campaign against biased police practices. Ms. Alexander received numerous awards and honors for the success of that campaign, as well as the other advocacy efforts she led challenging racial bias in access to quality education. Ms. Alexander obtained significant experience litigating civil rights cases in private practice, representing plaintiffs in employment discrimination, housing, and police misconduct cases. Ms. Alexander served as a law clerk on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit for Chief Judge Abner Mikva and on the United States Supreme Court for Justice Harry Blackmun. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Stanford Law School.

Michele Deitch, an Austin, Texas-based attorney, is an independent consultant to lawmakers, correctional agencies, and advocates around the country on a wide range of criminal justice policy issues. She is also a lecturer at the University of Texas's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, where she teaches a graduate-level course on corrections and sentencing policy. In her work as a consultant, she has conducted performance and management audits of correctional agencies, helped jurisdictions address jail crowding, developed legislative proposals and innovative programs, improved the accountability of correctional agencies, and organized several high-profile conferences on prison reform and jail crowding. Ms. Deitch was recently appointed as Reporter for an American Bar Association Task Force that is revising criminal justice standards affecting prisoners' rights. An accomplished writer with a host of publications, she is also Contributing Editor to the *Correctional Law Reporter*, one of the country's leading publications for corrections officials, attorneys, and advocates. Prior to becoming a consultant, Ms. Deitch held a number of key criminal justice policy positions in Texas in the early 1990s, including serving as the Policy Director for Texas' sentencing commission and as General Counsel to the Texas Senate Criminal Justice Committee. Working in those posts, she was involved in virtually every significant criminal justice policy decision made in Texas during a period of intense crises and massive changes. Previously, she was appointed by Federal District Judge William Wayne Justice as a full-time monitor of prison conditions in the landmark prison reform case of *Ruiz v. Estelle*. Ms. Deitch holds her J.D. with honors from Harvard Law School, a master's degree in psychology (with an emphasis on criminology) from Oxford University in England, and her B.A. with honors from Amherst College, where she also served on the College's Board of Trustees.

Jeffrey Fagan is a Professor of Law and Public Health at Columbia University, where his work examines policy and research questions on crime, law and social policy. His recent work includes research on patterns of mass incarceration in New York City and their effects on the well-being of neighborhoods and returning prisoners. He also is analyzing the effects of incarceration on voter

participation. His past projects include analyses of the effects of transferring adolescents from juvenile to criminal court, rates of reversal and errors in death sentences, the effects of criminal justice policies on battered women, community justice and the legitimacy of criminal law, evolving social and legal norms on the juvenile death penalty, racial profiling by the New York City Police Department, the effects of drug criminalization policies on neighborhoods, and the social contagion of gun violence. He serves on the editorial boards of several journals on crime, criminology, and law, and his articles have appeared in several leading journals in law and social science. He is a member of the *Committee on Law and Justice* of the (U.S.) National Research Council, the *National Consortium on Violence Research*, and the MacArthur Foundation's *Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice*. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology.

Gregory Hooks is Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at Washington State University. In recent research, Professor Hooks has challenged the widely shared belief that new prisons provide economic stimulus to hard-pressed rural communities, arguing that new prisons actually slow employment growth. Professor Hooks has also done extensive research on the economic, environmental and community impacts of military installations. Professor Hooks earned a bachelors degree at Kent State University, a master's degree in rural sociology at The Ohio State University, and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin.

Abubakr Muhammad Karim is president and senior consultant for Karim International Development Services, Inc., a private foundation in Washington, D.C. specializing in business management, non-profit grants management, international research, health, instructional training, communications technology educational and social services. Karim also serves as a consultant to the Washington, D.C. citywide reintegration strategy in collaboration with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA)/Faith Community Partnership. He has established relationships with local and federal agencies including the United States Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Parole Commission, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, D.C. Mayors Office and others. Karim served as CED Administrator and adjunct faculty member at the Southern New Hampshire University, where he currently co-teaches its Faith-Based CED course. In DC, he helped establish the East of the River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership (ERCPCP) reentry-housing center. A previous inmate of the DC Dept of Corrections, (1969), he was one of the first participants in the historic Lorton Prison/Federal City College program, and continues to visit prisons to assist in the development of pre-release and diversion initiatives. He earned a Masters Degree in Community Economic Development from the New Hampshire College Graduate School of Business, and Computer Support Specialist Certification at George Washington University.

Harmon Wray directs the Program in Faith and Criminal Justice at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, TN. He is also a free-lance writer, speaker, and consultant on restorative justice and criminal justice issues, working with both faith-based and secular groups. He was Executive Director of the Nashville-based office of Restorative Justice Ministries with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church). He has also been Executive Director of the National Association of Sentencing Advocates, affiliated with The Sentencing Project in Washington, DC, and of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is the author of *Restorative Justice: Moving Beyond Punishment*, published by The United Methodist Church. Since 1974 he has taught "The Theology and Politics of Crime and Justice in America" at Vanderbilt

Divinity School (VDS), and is part of a teaching team for this and other VDS courses at Riverbend Maximum Security in Nashville. He earned an M.Div. degree from Duke University Divinity School, an M.A. in religion from Vanderbilt, and a B.A. from Rhodes College.

Media Fellows

Fredric Dannen is a journalist and author with a specialty in criminal justice, and has been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* and *Vanity Fair*. *Hit Men*, his best-selling book about the American music industry and the influence of organized crime, and has been in print continuously for more than thirteen years. One of his magazine articles prompted the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to rebuke the U.S. Justice Department for fraudulently withholding exculpatory evidence in the case of Cleveland auto worker John Demjanjuk, who was extradited, wrongly convicted, and sentenced to hang in Israel as the Nazi war-criminal "Ivan the Terrible." He secured the only interview given by Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates on the heels of the infamous Rodney King beating, and the only interview ever given by crime boss Lorenzo Nichols, the crack kingpin of New York City. In the course of researching his forthcoming book, which concerns a capital case in Texas, Mr. Dannen uncovered lost evidence in the related case of Calvin Washington, who was serving life for a rape-homicide he did not commit. As the direct result of Mr. Dannen's efforts, Mr. Washington won the first pardon for innocence granted under Texas's recently enacted DNA statute.

Dan Hunt is an independent producer who has been creating award-winning documentaries for Public Television and Cable since the late 1980's. His film projects include: "Cruel and Unusual" (TBA, '05), "Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World" (here!TV '05), "Oliver Button is a STAR" (PBS, '02), "After Stonewall" (PBS, '99), "Her Place in History" (PBS, '98) and "Name... from home" (PBS, 92). His work explores the rights of prisoners, AIDS, bullying and gender variance in children, gay identity, women's history, gay and lesbian rights, and gender. Hunt has received the Silver Angel Award from Excellence in Media, the NAME Award for Media from the National Association of Multicultural Education, the Gracie Allen Award from American Women in Radio and Television, Best Documentary from the Hometown Film Festival, the CINE Golden Eagle, and honors at the Chicago International, LA Gay & Lesbian, Barcelona and New England Film Festivals. Prior to going independent, Hunt was employed at WGBH Boston, WGBY Springfield and KUAC Fairbanks.

Janet Baus is a filmmaker who has worked as a director, producer and editor for a variety of lesbian and gay civil rights documentaries; she has also worked commercially for cable and industrial productions. Most recently, she co-produced (with Dan Hunt) "Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World," which is currently screening in festivals and is scheduled for cable broadcast in June 2005. Ms. Baus also co-produced the PBS documentary "After Stonewall: From the Riots to the Millennium" with John Scagliotti and Dan Hunt, which was broadcast nationally in 1999 and won the CINE Golden Eagle as well as many festival awards. She has worked on several pieces for television including The Learning Channel series "Trauma: Life in the ER," the award-winning PBS series "In The Life," and the Lifetime documentary "A Few Good Women." Her documentary work also includes: "Some Ground To Stand On (awarded the National Educational Media Bronze Apple and the Director's Choice Award in the Black Maria Festival), "The Furies" (awarded the Vito Russo Award from the New

York Gay and Lesbian Film Festival as a work-in-progress), "Lesbian Avengers Eat Fire Too," "Risk: Lesbians and AIDS" and "Eating Right in the Bronx."

Joe Loya is an essayist, playwright, and contributing editor at the Pacific News Service. His opinion essays have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsday*, *The Washington Post*, *Salon*, and other newspapers across the country. He frequently comments on politics, religion, criminal justice, and cultural events. In 2002, he wrote and performed "The Man Who Outgrew His Prison Cell" at San Francisco's Thick Description Playhouse, which was subsequently published in book form by HarperCollins. Mr. Loya is a recipient of the Sundance Writing Fellowship, the Sun Valley Writer's Conference Fellowship and the Ovid Foundation Playwriting Fellowship.

Annie Sundberg is a documentary and narrative filmmaker and writer. Ms. Sundberg developed and produced the independent feature film "Tully," nominated for four 2003 IFP Spirit Awards and recipient of Best Film at eleven festivals, including the Los Angeles Film Festival. Ms. Sundberg co-produced "In My Corner," a feature documentary film on the world of amateur boxing and the lives of young men who train in the South Bronx, which premiered nationally as part of PBS' award winning P.O.V. series (1999). Her television credits include Series Producer for Hybrid Films on the first season of A&E's "Family Plots" – a thirteen part documentary series about a family run funeral parlor. As producer and director, she helped launch the recent series "Now Who's Boss" for New York Times Television, which premiered in February 2004 on TLC. Ms. Sundberg's producing credits also include the 1996 Academy Award and Emmy winning "One Survivor Remembers," a co-production of HBO and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the 1995 ten-part "History of American Cinema Project" for PBS. Since starting her work in film as a reader for Miramax, she has worked extensively as a freelance writer and producer. After completing a National Outdoor Leadership School semester in Kenya, Ms. Sundberg taught English language skills through the World Food Programme in Nairobi. She is a graduate of Dartmouth College, where she earned a BA in English Literature.

Rickie Stern is a documentary producer and director whose films have shown on HBO and PBS. Ms. Stern is the co-producer and director of the award winning "In My Corner," a documentary film on the world of amateur boxing and the lives of the young men who train in the South Bronx. The film was nationally broadcast as part of PBS' award winning documentary series P.O.V. (Point of View), and is the winner of four honors, including a Golden Apple Award from the National Education Media Network. Ms. Stern also produced and directed the EMMY nominated PBS documentary "Neglect Not The Children," featuring a Harlem-based youth program and host Morgan Freeman. Ms. Stern is the co-author of a three-book series for children entitled *Beryl E. Bean: Mighty Adventurer of the Planet*, published by HarperCollins. She graduated with a BA from Dartmouth College.