



Session 21 | Inclusion of Oversight in Settlement Agreements

August 27, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. EDT

In prison and jail reform cases, durability of remedies is always a concern: will reforms take hold or will agencies revert to pre-litigation conditions when injunctive relief ends? More than 160 jurisdictions across the country have established permanent civilian oversight of law enforcement, the vast majority focusing on policing and patrol rather than on corrections. This panel will explore how civilian oversight of jails and prisons can enhance reforms and promote more durable remedies. Panelists will explore benefits and pitfalls of this approach through a review of the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General's oversight of the Los Angeles County jails and how the OIG's work intersects with four active settlement agreements. Panelists will also discuss how oversight can help achieve reform goals and explore options for creating permanent oversight through settlement negotiations, enforcement litigation, and policy advocacy.

Speakers:

- Julie Abbate, National Advocacy Director, Justice Detention International, Washington, DC
- Cathleen Beltz, Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County Office of the Inspector General, Los Angeles, CA
- Sara Norman, Managing Attorney, Prison Law Office, San Quentin, CA

Speaker Biographies

Julie Abbate | Julie Abbate is Justice Detention International's National Advocacy Director, based in its Washington, D.C. office. She leads JDI's federal and state policy work, advocating for government action to address sexual abuse behind bars. Julie has spent most of her 25-year legal career fighting for prisoners' rights. She comes to JDI after 15 years at the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where she focused on combating sexual abuse in women's prisons. Julie was also a member of the Attorney General's PREA Working Group, which drafted the national Prison Rape Elimination Act standards. She is a certified PREA auditor.

Cathleen Beltz, J.D., M.A. | Cathleen Beltz is an attorney with more than 20 years of experience in the field of jail and prison research and reform. She was appointed Assistant Inspector General with the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors in May 2014. Beltz is responsible for managing oversight of the L.A. County jail system, including eight facilities with more than 4,000 Sheriff's personnel and 16,000 incarcerated people. Previously, Beltz served as Deputy Special Master monitoring the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation-Division of Juvenile Justice for compliance with the *Farrell v. Beard* consent decree covering medical and mental health care, education, sexual behavior treatment, safety and welfare and general conditions of confinement. She conducted an audit and policy analysis for the San Francisco Sheriff's Department on its use of strip searches and safety cells, which led to substantial reforms. Beltz has taught university courses in quantitative and qualitative research methods using surveys of corrections officers at Missouri prisons. She serves on the board of directors of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, and has co-chaired its annual conference committee for the last three years.



2020 Annual NACOLE Conference | *Oversight in Uncertain Times: The Path Ahead*

Please note, content and speakers subject to change.

Sara Norman | Sara joined the Prison Law Office in 1997 and specializes in representing prisoners with disabilities and incarcerated juveniles. She works primarily on *Plata v. Newsom*, a class action case regarding the provision of medical care to people incarcerated in California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and *Clark v. California*, a case brought on behalf of incarcerated people with developmental disabilities. Along with co-counsel in *Farrell v. Cate*, she was awarded a California Lawyer of the Year Award by the State Bar Foundation in 2005. She was awarded the Pacific Juvenile Defender Center's Defender of the Year Award in 2006 and a Pioneer Award from the Center for Health Justice in 2009. She clerked for Judge Robert Carter in the Southern District of New York. Sara graduated from Harvard College in 1990, and received her J.D. from Yale Law School in 1995. She was admitted to the California State Bar in July 1997.



2020 Annual NACOLE Conference | *Oversight in Uncertain Times: The Path Ahead*

Please note, content and speakers subject to change.