



## Session 4 | Oversight, Reform, and Abolition

July 23, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. EDT

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Abolition of prisons, jails, and detention centers has often been seen by reform advocates as idealistic, while abolitionists often view reform and oversight as legitimizing and perpetuating the systems of incarceration. While oversight is perceived to exist outside of these movements, the goals of transparency and accountability have often intersected with and supported the reform of correctional institutions. The panelists will discuss the balance between reforming facilities and the growing community objections to building new facilities. The panelists will also discuss the overlapping objectives of each of these movements and how oversight can garner support from community advocates and people with lived experience in the institutions they oversee, as well as how transparency and accountability can be used as tools for reform.

### Speakers:

- Andrea Armstrong, Professor, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, New Orleans, LA
- Alycia Castillo, Youth Justice Policy Analyst, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, Austin, TX
- Jennifer Scaife, Executive Director, Correctional Association of New York, New York, NY

### Moderator:

- Alyssa Perez Morrison, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of the Independent Monitor, Denver, CO

### Speakers Biographies

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**Andrea Armstrong** | Andrea Armstrong joined the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law faculty in 2010. She is a leading national expert on prison and jail conditions and is certified by the U.S. Department of Justice as a Prison Rape Elimination Act auditor. Her research focuses on the constitutional dimensions of prisons and jails, specifically prison labor practices, the intersection of race and conditions of incarceration, and public oversight of detention facilities. She teaches in the related fields of constitutional law, criminal procedure, law and poverty, and race and the law. In 2019, Prof. Armstrong received a three-year Interdisciplinary Research Leader grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, shared with the Voice of the Experienced and LSU Center for Healthcare Value and Equity, to examine the effects of incarceration on health service use in Louisiana, currently a global and national leader in incarceration rates.

**Alycia Castillo** | Alycia Castillo is the Youth Justice Policy Analyst for the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition. She joined TCJC as a Policy Associate during the state's 86th Legislative Session in 2019, and she continued to support TCJC through the remainder of that year as a Policy Consultant. Alycia received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at Texas State University, where she conducted research to find evidence-based solutions to problems facing marginalized populations. Alycia uses her social work background to provide trauma-informed perspectives to existing environments. Her background in teaching and education management also provide her a holistic view of the intersecting factors that lead to system involvement.



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*Please note, content and speakers subject to change.*

**Alyssa Perez Morrison** | Alyssa Perez Morrison is a Senior Policy Analyst for Denver's Office of the Independent Monitor. Alyssa is responsible for researching issues related to the Denver Police and Sheriff Department policies and practices. Before coming to work for the OIM, Alyssa worked as a Criminal and Juvenile Justice Policy Analyst for a Texas State Representative, and a criminal justice reform coalition. Alyssa earned a MA from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin and has done research and work in juvenile correctional oversight, correctional oversight, and criminal justice reform.

**Jennifer Scaife** | Jennifer Scaife is the Executive Director of the Correctional Association of New York. She previously held leadership positions in local government and in the nonprofit sector, with experience working in prisons, jails, juvenile detention facilities, and community corrections agencies. Jennifer began her career in criminal justice reform as Program Director of the Prison University Project and later as the Director of the Reentry Division at the San Francisco Adult Probation Department. Just prior to joining CANY, she was Executive Director of Prevention, Diversion and Reintegration at the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, where she developed services for justice-involved New Yorkers. Jennifer holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Indiana University Bloomington, a Master of Arts from Hollins University, and a Bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary in Virginia.



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