



## Session 18 | The Future of Jail and Prison Oversight

August 19, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Despite growing consensus that the criminal justice system needs a second look, it often takes a tragedy occurring before jurisdictions talk about the need for additional oversight of jails and prisons. As reform efforts continue, jail and prison oversight should continue to expand to ensure humane treatment of those in custody and to prevent unnecessary tragedies from occurring. This panel will bring together oversight practitioners, academics, and advocates to discuss not only the necessity of expanding the number of jail and prison oversight entities throughout the country but also the need for continued and enhanced support mechanisms for those doing the work.

Those working in and around the field of jail and prison oversight are encouraged to attend this event and to participate directly in the discussion.

### Speakers:

- Marc-Anthony Clayton-Johnson, Founder, Frontline Wellness Network, Los Angeles, CA
- Michele Deitch, J.D., M.Sc., Senior Lecturer, University of Texas at Austin Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and School of Law, Austin, TX
- Sade Dumas, Executive Director, Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition, New Orleans, LA

### Moderators:

- Nashla Rivas Salas, Senior Research Director, New York City Board of Correction, New York, NY

## Speaker Biographies

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**Mark-Anthony Clayton-Johnson** | Mark-Anthony is a licensed acupuncturist, and seasoned organizer who was born and raised in Los Angeles. Mark-Anthony a member of the Movement for Black Lives Policy Table Leadership Team and the Founder of the Frontline Wellness Network (FWN); a network of health care providers working to end the public health crisis of incarceration and criminalization through action-oriented political education and through bridging relationships between providers and grassroots campaigns against state violence. The FWN is a member of the Executive Team of the JusticeLA Coalition, a Los Angeles based coalition that successfully stopped the County from spending \$4 billion on a women's jail and a mental health jail while reallocating those funds to community based treatment and alternatives to incarceration. He served as the Director of Health and Wellness at Dignity and Power Now and in this capacity, provided strategic support for DPN's two member-led campaigns for a legally empowered and independent civilian oversight commission of the sheriff's department as well as the campaign against the County's proposed jail construction plan. He also led the Building Resilience project of DPN; a Healing Justice intervention and collaboration of formerly incarcerated people, organizers, health care providers and academics whose goal was to decarcerate the county jails via the diversion of incarcerated people into community-based treatment and the creation of community-based spaces to address the trauma of state violence. Mark-Anthony is also 2017 Soros Justice Fellow.

**Michele Deitch, J.D., M.Sc.** | Michele Deitch is a Distinguished Senior Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin, where she holds a joint appointment at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and at the School of Law and teaches graduate-level courses on criminal justice policy. She is widely

recognized as one of the country's leading experts on the issue of correctional oversight and has written and published extensively on this topic. She won the 2019 NACOLE Flame Award, NACOLE's highest honor, for her contributions to law enforcement oversight, and she co-chaired the NACOLE-UT Academic Symposium on oversight in 2020. Her forthcoming article in the American Journal of Criminal Law assesses the current status of prison and jail oversight in the United States. She co-chairs the American Bar Association's subcommittee on correctional oversight and helped draft the ABA's policies on this issue as well as the ABA's standards on the treatment of prisoners. Michele served as a full-time court-appointed monitor of conditions in the Texas prison system in the landmark class action lawsuit of *Ruiz v. Estelle*, and advises policymakers and advocates on the development of oversight bodies. She is currently working on projects related to COVID and correctional oversight, with funding from Arnold Ventures. A former recipient of a Soros Senior Justice Fellowship, she holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a master's degree in Psychology from Oxford University, and a B.A. from Amherst College.

**Sade Dumas** | Sade Dumas is a native New Orleanian and the executive director of the Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition (OPPRC). She works with community members and stakeholders to improve conditions of confinement in the local jail, advocate for research-backed methods to reduce incarceration, and promote alternatives to arrests. The New Orleans jail population has declined by over 50 percent during her time as executive director of OPPRC. Ms. Dumas' direct and lived-experience with incarcerated loved ones guides her jail reform efforts.

Ms. Dumas' previous work focused on harm reduction initiatives to reunify families affected by incarceration and improve educational outcomes for formerly incarcerated women. She serves as a proud member of the New Orleans Safety and Justice Community Advisory Group, the Tulane University Embracing Change Task Force, and a She Leads by Power Coalition fellow. Ms. Dumas is committed to amplifying the voices of families impacted by incarceration to lead jail reform and decarceration efforts.

**Nashla Rivas Salas** | Nashla is a Senior Research Director for the New York City Board of Correction where she leads the Board's oversight of the NYC jails grievance procedures, a critical responsibility under the Board's NYC Charter mandate. In this role, Nashla works closely with NYC Department of Correction and NYC Health and Hospital's Correctional Health Services to ensure that the grievance system is procedurally fair, safe and accessible, transparent and responsive, and coordinated and consistent across all facilities. She convenes quarterly interagency meetings to review data on the number, types, and resolutions of grievances filed by people in custody to identify systemic trends and determine areas for policy improvement. Her research also includes qualitative methods to incorporate feedback, recommendations, and the perspectives of people in custody about the grievance process. Nashla has completed the Board's first two comprehensive assessments of the Department of Correction's grievance system. She received her Master's in Public Administration from New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service and her B.A. in Urban Studies from Queens College.