




ANNUAL REPORT 2016



**THE
SENTENCING
PROJECT**

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY FOR REFORM



The Sentencing Project works for a fair and effective U.S. justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing policy, addressing unjust racial disparities and practices, and advocating for alternatives to incarceration.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Marc Mauer
Executive Director

It has been a momentous year for The Sentencing Project, and for the nation. In September we celebrated our 30th Anniversary with a lovely reception in Washington, D.C. featuring remarks by Vanita Gupta, head of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. The Sentencing Project was founded in 1986 when Malcolm Young incorporated the work he had been doing in establishing sentencing advocacy programs for indigent defendants into a fledgling organization designed to expand such initiatives. The concept proved successful, with new programs starting around the country in the following years, along with a series of national training conferences we hosted for upwards of 200 participants each year.

By the late 1980s we became increasingly engaged in research and advocacy. A briefing paper we produced in 1989 documented that the United States had just reached the dubious mark of incarcerating a million people in its prisons and jails. That seemed like a lot at the time. Two years later we issued a report showing that the U.S. had become the world leader in its use of incarceration, a position that still pertains today among industrialized nations. A series of reports over time also documented the disastrous rates of social control in communities of color, and among African Americans in particular.

Our goal in documenting these disturbing dynamics was not to cast blame, but to call for better public policy. We seek policies that can produce better outcomes for public safety while avoiding the harsh direct and indirect effects of what has become a system of mass incarceration.

Working with many allies around the country I think we've been successful in promoting these objectives. For a start, the political environment on issues of crime and justice has shifted considerably over the past decade. There are many reasons for this – a declining crime rate creating openings for more rational discussion, liberal and conservative leaders calling for reform, and ongoing scholarship documenting both problems and solutions to elements of mass incarceration. This has been encouraged and supported by a growing advocacy community including long-time justice reformers, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the voices of many who have been directly impacted by the system.

Changes in policy and practice have followed as well. A considerable number of states have adopted legislative and policy changes in the areas of sentencing reform, drug policy, felony disenfranchisement, and collateral consequences, while many practitioner organizations have reevaluated their approach toward pursuing problem-solving initiatives.

While I am encouraged by this tide of reform, we know that the overall impact on the number of people behind bars is still quite modest. And I would be remiss not to note the potential impact of the new administration in Washington. To the extent that the national narrative around crime and justice may shift in a “tough” direction that may threaten the progress of recent years.

This is cause for great concern, but I think we need to keep in mind that criminal justice reform has never been easy. We've endured decades of “wars” on crime, drugs, and communities of color, and we have had to challenge entrenched political interests, media sensationalism, racial divisions in society, and many other hurdles. These obstacles, and potentially new ones, will need to be overcome even as we collectively advance reform. So let's take a moment to celebrate our accomplishments, while also girding up for the next 30 years of engagement. We'll hope to have your support as we do so.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marc Maurer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marc" and last name "Maurer" clearly distinguishable.

RESEARCH

that makes a difference

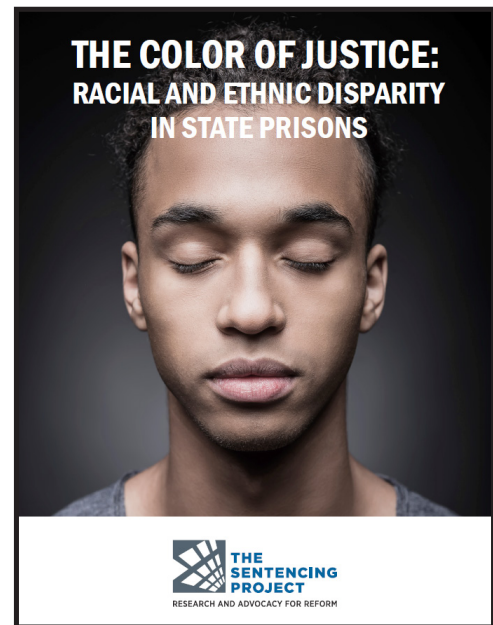
In its 30th year, The Sentencing Project continued to investigate the major trends, dynamics and impacts of the U.S. criminal justice system and identified avenues for reform.

In the face of growing momentum for reform, The Sentencing Project has played a major role in producing research and analysis designed to shape policy debates. Our research focused on analyzing the recent declines in the number of incarcerated Americans, documenting the number of people with felony convictions who are denied the right to vote, and identifying trends in juvenile detention and the racial disparities that pervade the criminal justice system.

Racial Disparities

A report by The Sentencing Project, *Racial Disparities in Youth Commitment and Arrest*, by Josh Rovner, Juvenile Justice Advocacy Associate, found that while youth incarceration has declined sharply over the last decade, racial disparities have actually increased. The report reviews the state-by-state status of racial and ethnic disparities in commitments and the likely impact of growing racial disparities in arrests. The article discussed the collateral impacts of justice involvement on communities of color and how current social movements are challenging mass incarceration.

The Sentencing Project published *The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in State Prisons*, documenting rates of incarceration for whites, African Americans, and Hispanics by state. The report, by Ashley Nellis, PhD., Senior Research Analyst, also identified contributors to disparities, and provided recommendations for reform. Its key finding—that African Americans are incarcerated in state prisons across the country at more than five times the rate of whites, and at least ten times the rate in five states—received wide media attention, including coverage in the *Guardian*, *Politico*, *NY Daily News*, *NBC News* and *Business Insider*.



Oregon Far Outpaces Nation in Black Imprisonment

July 3, 2016

A recently published report indicates that Oregon ranks seventh in its rate of black incarceration, far outpacing the national average despite state laws meant to curtail racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

Dr. Ashley Nellis, a research analyst and author of the report for the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit The Sentencing Project, said the racial disparities in incarceration create profound effects. “When people are in prison, their absence from the community affects their spouse and children, but also their employer. If one racial group is over-incarcerated, that can fundamentally change a community.”

Racial Bias, Safety and the Quality of Community Life

The narrative of “Black Lives Matter” offers a new framework for policymakers, activists, practitioners, and other stakeholders to think about a public safety strategy that is not primarily defined by arrests and admissions to prison. [*Expanding Public Safety in the Era of Black Lives Matter*](#), an article authored by Director of Advocacy Nicole Porter for the *University of Miami Law Review*, provides an overview of evidence-based approaches for public safety interventions that exist outside of law enforcement interactions.

Ms. Porter also wrote [*Unfinished Project of Civil Rights in the Era of Mass Incarceration and the Movement for Black Lives Matter*](#), which was published by the *Wake Forest Journal of Law & Policy*. The article discussed the collateral impacts of justice involvement on communities of color and how current social movements are challenging mass incarceration.

What Drives Declines in Prison Populations

The number of people in prison in the U.S. has stabilized in recent years, but incarceration trends among the states have varied significantly. [*U.S. Prison Population Trends: Broad Variation Among States in Recent Years*](#), by Nazgol Ghandnoosh, PhD., Research Analyst, found that twelve states have produced double-digit declines in recent years, most notably New Jersey (31%), New York (28%) and Rhode Island (25%), with no adverse effects on public safety.

These reductions have come about through changes in policy and practice, including drug policy sentencing reforms, reduced admissions of parole violators to prison, and diversion options for lower-level property and drug crimes. However, the number of people in prison rose in 11 states. The publication’s findings were featured in *Newsweek*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and other media outlets.

Twelve states have produced double-digit declines in their prison population for some period since 1999
with no adverse effect on public safety

Repurposing Prisons

Since 2011, at least 22 states have closed or announced closures for 94 state prisons and juvenile facilities, resulting in the elimination of 48,000 state prison beds and an estimated cost savings of \$345 million. The opportunity to downsize prison bed space has been brought about by declines in state prison populations as well as the increasing challenge of managing older facilities. *Repurposing: New Beginnings for Closed Prisons*, by Nicole Porter, documented how reducing the use of incarceration has created the opportunity to restructure closed prisons for use by local communities for urban redevelopment, cultural and recreational programs, and small businesses.

Reform at the State Level

The State of Sentencing 2015: Developments in Policy and Practice, by Nicole Porter, enumerated reforms in 30 states in 2015 that demonstrated a continued trend to reform sentencing policies and scale back the use of imprisonment without compromising public safety. The report was disseminated to key legislative leaders in every state, as well as advocates and practitioners, and received significant coverage in criminal justice media.

The Washington Post

Will states follow DOJ's private prison move? Some are ahead of the feds.

August 26, 2016

Some states are ahead of the federal government in closing for-profit correctional locations. Nicole D. Porter, advocacy director of the Sentencing Project, which ...opposes private prisons, provided these examples of states moving away from private facilities:

- Colorado announced plans...to close the private Kit Carson Correctional Center
- Mississippi will close the Walnut Grove Correctional Facility
- D.C. announced that the District would resume operation of the Correctional Treatment Facility
- Kentucky announced the closing of its last of three [private] facilities in 2013
- Texas closed two private prisons in 2013
- Idaho said it would no longer send prisoners to a private facility in Colorado

Keeping Youth from Adult Courts

The Sentencing Project published *How Tough on Crime Became Tough on Kids: Prosecuting Teenage Drug Charges in Adult Courts*, by Josh Rovner. The report examines the many pathways that states have devised that allow youth to be charged and tried as adults for drug charges and the negative effects of such policies. Our recommendations included raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to age 18; establishing alternatives to incarceration that hold young offenders accountable without the severe consequences of adult charges on their records; and eliminating automatic waivers into adult courts.

Eliminating Juvenile Life Without Parole for Youth

Most of the approximately 2,500 individuals sentenced as juveniles to life without the possibility of parole now have a chance for release in the wake of recent Supreme Court decisions. The policy of permitting teenagers to receive the harshest available sentence is not shared among all states. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia have banned life sentences without the possibility of parole for juveniles. In a handful of other states, no one is serving such a sentence.

The New York Times

Iowa Court Rejects Life Without Parole for Juveniles

August 23, 2015

The Iowa Supreme Court ruled in a split decision Friday that sentencing juveniles to life in prison without parole is unconstitutional because it amounts to cruel and unusual punishment.

“The courts and state legislatures alike have agreed that life without any chance of parole is an inappropriate sentence for a child,” said Joshua Rovner, who focuses on juvenile crime for the Sentencing Project.

“There is a widespread understanding now, with scientific research backing up our own common sense, that juveniles are not adults, and shouldn’t be treated that way,” he said. “Adolescence is not a permanent condition, and the courts are recognizing this.”

The Sentencing Project analyzed these developments in *Juvenile Life Without Parole: An Overview*, by Josh Rovner. This briefing paper noted that the U.S. stands alone as the only nation that sentences people to life without parole for crimes committed before turning 18.

The Right to Vote

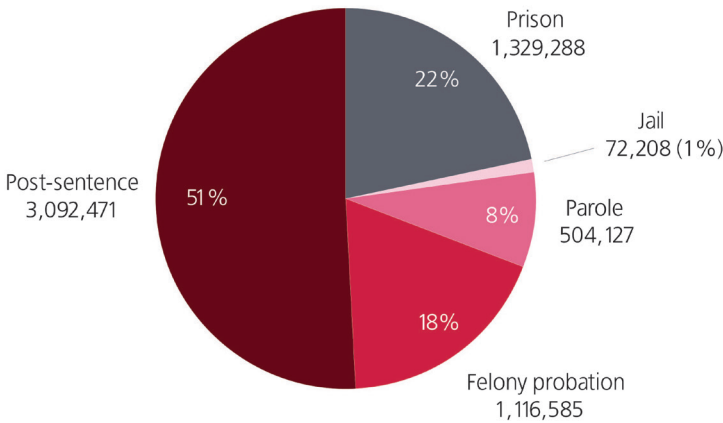
The Sentencing Project published *6 Million Lost Voters: State-Level Estimates of Felony Disenfranchisement, 2016*, a report by Christopher Uggen and Ryan Larson of the University of Minnesota and Sarah Shannon of the University of Georgia. The report documented the country’s status as the world’s strictest nation in regard to denying the right to vote to citizens convicted of crimes.

The report estimated that 6.1 million Americans—one in every 40 adults—were prohibited from voting during the 2016 election because of a felony conviction. In six states, more than 7% of the adult population is disenfranchised.

6.1M:

The number of people disenfranchised in the 2016 election due to a felony conviction

Disenfranchisement Distribution Across Correctional Populations, 2016



Among African Americans, one in 13 is disenfranchised, a rate more than four times that of non-African Americans. The report, released just before the November election, received broad media attention, including coverage by *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *NPR*, *BBC*, and *C-Span*.

In partnership with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, The Sentencing Project co-authored *Free the Vote: Unlocking Democracy in the Cells and on the Streets*. The report documented the harmful and discriminatory impact of felony disenfranchisement laws, and discussed how eliminating disenfranchisement policies would strengthen our collective democracy.

ADVOCACY

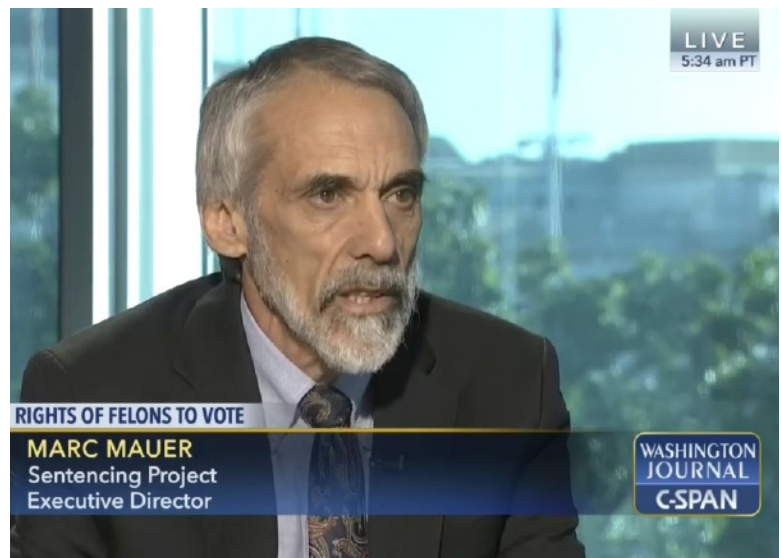
for state & federal
policy change

Throughout the year The Sentencing Project worked closely with policymakers and activists on reform strategies, coalition formation, planning, media outreach, communications and advocacy campaigns.

STATE REFORM

Online Education

The Sentencing Project hosted a series of webinars for organizers, policy advocates, state legislative staff, and practitioners on criminal justice advocacy efforts, with 100-200 participants for each program. Topics included assessing the impact of the California Realignment legislation, state sentencing reform campaigns, and successful efforts to scale back collateral consequences and challenge racial disparity in state sentencing policy.



Marc Maurer discusses The Sentencing Project's publication, "6 Million Lost Voters: State-Level Estimates of Felony Disenfranchisement, 2016," on C-SPAN.

Providing Support to Advocates at the State Level

During 2016, The Sentencing Project worked closely with partners in 18 states and the District of Columbia on sentencing reform, racial disparities, and efforts to scale back collateral consequences. We provided a broad array of technical and strategic assistance that included convening state coalition partners for discussions on strategy, providing feedback on policy goals, sharing stories of success (or failure) from other states, and providing research and data analysis for advocacy campaigns. We also published regular assessments of policy proposals and reforms at the state level. Specific activities included:

- Helping craft and provide support to campaigns in 10 states to scale back felony drug bans on food stamps, restore voting rights and advance racial impact statement policy;
- Providing strategic assistance to an advocacy coalition that worked to successfully terminate the District of Columbia's contract with the for-profit Corrections Corporation of America;
- Helping Kentucky advocates build support for legislation on expungement and felony disenfranchisement reform;

- Organizing national opposition to a regressive three strikes measure in New Mexico, including publishing an op-ed in the major state newspaper;
- Playing a key role in the success of a Maryland coalition in overriding the governor's veto of felony enfranchisement legislation by testifying before the legislature and helping establish a task force to address racial disparity in the state's criminal and juvenile justice systems.

FRONTLINE

Maryland Votes to Expand Felons' Voting Rights

February 9, 2016

The state legislature on Tuesday voted to overturn Gov. Larry Hogan's veto of a bill [that] restores voting rights immediately upon a prisoner's release.

"These are people living in the community," said Nicole D. Porter, advocacy director at the Sentencing Project, a nonprofit group that works toward criminal justice reform. "They participate in other areas of the social contract. They are expected not to recidivate. They pay taxes. They want to participate in democracy and should have a role in deciding who represents them."

FEDERAL REFORM

Building bipartisan support for reform

In 2016 The Sentencing Project played a significant role in building support among members of Congress for the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (SRCA). We were one of a core group of organizations leading the effort to forge broad, bipartisan consensus for passage and helped members of Congress understand the policy reform options at their disposal. We also collaborated with a White House working group as it educated the public in support of the reforms. Though SRCA did not pass in 2016, the broad coalition that supported it is well-positioned to move forward with reform legislation in 2017.

Our advocacy at the federal level also included publishing op-ed commentaries advocating for a broad approach to executive clemency for individuals serving time under harsh federal mandatory drug laws; providing support for a sign-on letter campaign on the issue that received extensive media coverage; and pushing for the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act that helped spur passage in the House of Representatives.



Coalition pushes for more Obama commutations

November 29, 2016

A coalition of criminal justice reform advocates is asking President Obama to grant more commutations before leaving office. The letter was signed by more than 50 advocates **including Van Jones and John Legend, and groups such as The Sentencing Project and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.**

Specifically, the group wants Obama to consider commuting the sentences of prisoners who did not benefit from the retroactivity granted under the Fair Sentencing Act in 2010.

“With a stroke of your pen, you could change the lives of thousands of individuals and their families and write a legacy that will stand throughout history,” the letter said. “We do not know whether the next president will support clemency efforts or criminal justice reform, but we do know that until Jan. 20, you alone have the power to deliver both mercy and justice to those who deserve it.”

takepart

Federal Drug Policy Softens as Whites Become Face of Heroin Addiction

January 8, 2016

Heroin addiction disproportionately impacts white families, and U.S. drug policy is changing as a result—reversing long-standing trends in which drug addiction was largely perceived as a problem for racial minorities and seen as grounds for stricter law enforcement and prison sentencing.

Nazgol Ghandnoosh, a research analyst at The Sentencing Project, said it's worth questioning whether rehabilitation-based approaches would be embraced if heroin were perceived as an epidemic among African Americans and Latinos.

"The more people associate drug crime with people of color, the more likely they are to support punitive policy solutions. But in this case we are seeing a move in the treatment direction, which is a really positive outcome," Ghandnoosh said. "So the question is, how much is this about race? And how do we replicate this next time, if those impacted by the perceived epidemic aren't white?"



Nicole D. Porter speaking at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference on "Ending Mass Incarceration, Police Brutality, and Rebuilding Community Trust."



BUILDING

public support for reform

The Sentencing Project's research and analysis captured broad media attention, with citations from nearly 800 media outlets throughout the U.S. and internationally during 2016.

Media presence

The list of newspapers, radio stations, and prominent websites includes:

ABA Journal
ABC News
Above the Law
Afro
Al Jazeera
Albany Times Union
Albuquerque Journal
Aljazeera
America Magazine
Arkansas Times
Associated Press
Atlanta Black Star

Atlanta Journal Constitution
Austin American-Statesman
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
BBC News
Between the Lines
Big Country
Birmingham Times
Black Agenda Report
Black Star News
Black Voice News
Bloomberg
Boston Globe
Boston Herald
Business Insider
CatholicPhilly.com
CBC News
Charlotte Observer

Chicago Tribune
Christian Science Monitor
Cincinnati.com
CNN
Connecticut Law Tribune
Constitution Daily
CorrectionsOne.com
Cosmopolitan
Daily Beast
Daily Kos
Daily Mail (UK)
Daily Utah Chronicle
Democracy Now!
Denver Post
Des Moines Register
Eastern Arizona Courier
Ebony

Education Week	National Catholic Reporter	Richmond Times-Dispatch
El Economista	National Review	RollingStone
Elle	NBC News	Rutland Herald (VT)
Falls Church News-Press	New Hampshire Public Radio	Salon
Fiscal Times	New Jersey 101.5	Santa Fe New Mexican
Florida Courier	New Orleans Times-Picayune	Slate
Florida Times-Union	New Republic	St. Louis American
Forbes	New York Daily News	St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Fortune	New York Law Journal	Talk Poverty
Fox News	Newsweek	Tampa Bay Times
Governing	New Mexico Politics.net	Texas Observer
Herald Scotland (UK)	Nonprofit Quarterly	The American Prospect
Houston Forward Times	North County Public Radio	The Atlantic
Huffington Post	North Jersey Record	The Chicago Crusader
Illinois Times	Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal	The Diane Rehm Show
Insider Louisville (KY)	Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette	The Economist
International Business Times	Norwalk Reflector	The Guardian
Jackson Free Press (MS)	NPR	The Hill
Jacobin	Omaha World-Herald	The Nation
Jet	Orlando Sentinel	The New Yorker
Las Vegas Sun	Pacific Standard	The New York Times
Latina	PBS Newshour	The Oklahoman
Los Angeles Times	Pensacola News Journal	The Oregonian
Madison.com (WI)	Philadelphia Inquirer	The Tennessean
Maine Public Radio	Philadelphia Tribune	The Wall Street Journal
Miami Herald	Pittsburgh Courier	Time
Mic	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Toledo Blade
Milwaukee Community Journal	Politico	U.S. News & World Report
Missourian	PolitiFact	Univision
Modern Healthcare	Portland Press Herald (ME)	USA Today
Mother Jones	Prison Legal News	Vice
Moyers and Company	Psychology Today	Vox
MSNBC	Quartz	Washington Post
My San Antonio	Reason.com	Washington Times
Nashville Scene	Reno Gazette-Journal	Women's Health

Public presentations

In 2016 the staff of The Sentencing Project made more than 60 presentations on a range of criminal justice reform issues at professional conferences, academic institutions, and policymaker gatherings on all facets of criminal justice reform. Venues and audiences included:

Academic Institutions

American Society of Criminology
American University- Washington College of Law
Arthur Liman Public Interest Program - Yale Law School
Ball State University
Catholic University
Columbia University
College of William and Mary
George Washington University School of Public Health
George Mason University
Georgetown University
Georgetown University Law Center
Goucher College
New School
Princeton University
University of Illinois School of Law
University of Maryland
University of Michigan Law School
University of Minnesota
University of South Florida
University of Tampa
University of Utah
Washington Center for Internships and Seminars

Civil Rights Organizations

Black Men United Forum
Congressional Black Caucus
Congressional Hispanic Caucus
National Black Law Students Association
National Urban League
New Jersey Black Issues Forum

Research Organizations and Professional Groups

CATO Institute
Confluence Philanthropy
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Reform Advocates

AFL-CIO
Coalition for Public Safety
Coro Fellows Program
Detention Watch Network
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
National Lawyers Guild
Nebraska Conference on Mass Incarceration Reform
Prince George's County (MD) Peace & Justice Coalition
Southern Center for Human Rights
Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform
Washington Appleseed

Criminal Justice Practitioners

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program
District of Columbia Court Services and Offender
Supervision Agency
Maryland Judicial Institute

Religious Organizations

Ignation Family Teach-in for Justice
New Bethel Baptist Church (MD)
Northern Virginia Ethical Society
Payne Theological Seminary (OH)
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church
and Society

Government Agencies

District of Columbia City Council
U.S. Department of Justice, Reentry Council
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Miscellaneous

American Film Institute
American Justice Summit
Blouin Creative Leadership Summit
Eastern State Penitentiary (PA)
U.S. Senate Democratic Caucus



Vanita Gupta speaking at The Sentencing Project's 30th Anniversary.

Marking 30 Years of Research, Advocacy and Public Education

In September, The Sentencing Project marked its 30th Anniversary with a program and reception in Washington D.C., with over 150 guests in attendance. Vanita Gupta, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice was the keynote speaker. The program opened with the premiere of a short film highlighting the work of The Sentencing Project, and featuring commentary on our role in the field by Senator Dick Durbin and a range of advocates and scholars. The video was made available on our website and was broadly disseminated through social media.



Roy Austin Jr., the Honorable Patti Saris and Marc Mauer discuss federal criminal justice reform at Georgetown University Law Center.

The future of reform

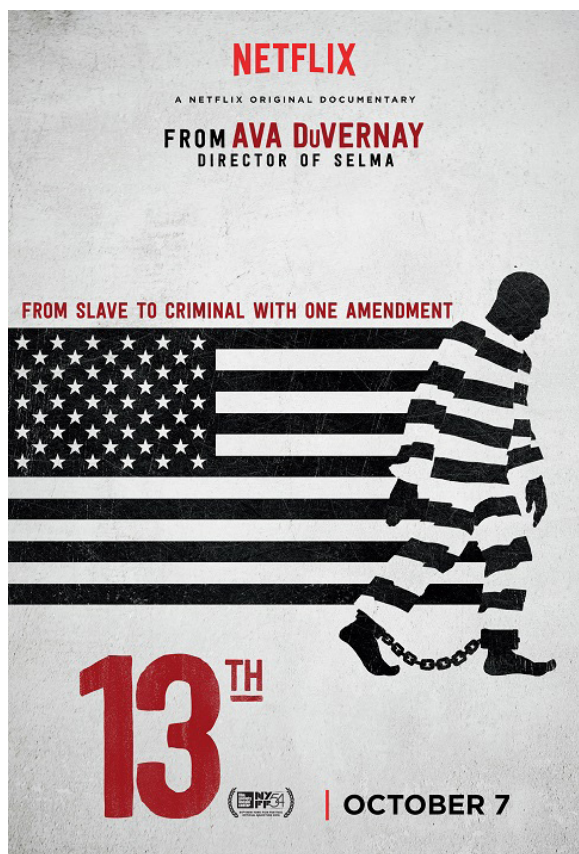
The Sentencing Project co-sponsored a panel with the American College of Trial Lawyers at the Georgetown University Law Center on mass incarceration, sentencing reform, and the next presidential administration. The event featured presentations by the Hon. Patti Saris, chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and Roy Austin Jr., Deputy Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity for the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Museum-based Education

Nazgol Ghandnoosh provided extensive research support for the inauguration of a comprehensive new exhibit, *Prisons Today: Questions in the Age of Mass Incarceration*, at the Eastern State Penitentiary Museum in Philadelphia. The exhibit has been viewed by thousands of visitors from across the country and internationally.

Mass Incarceration

The Sentencing Project collaborated with filmmaker Ava DuVernay on *13th*, an Oscar-nominated documentary that traces the history and impact of mass incarceration. Along with many colleagues in the field, Executive Director Marc Mauer was featured in the film, which was broadly disseminated through Netflix.



Website, Social Media and E-News

The Sentencing Project launched its thoroughly redesigned website, which features enhanced graphics, integrated database content, expanded data analysis, and other features. Our website is viewed by many journalists, academics, and policymakers as the “go to” site for current and comprehensive criminal justice data. Over the year our Facebook and Twitter accounts grew substantially. We also hosted Facebook Live interviews featuring staff members who authored two of our 2016 reports, *Repurposing: New Beginnings for Closed Prisons* and *How Tough on Crime Became Tough on Kids*.

Tracking and Framing New Developments

The Sentencing Project continued monthly publication and dissemination of three unique electronic newsletters. *Race and Justice News* is the only newsletter in the U.S. covering up-to-the minute research, advocacy and policy reforms on all facets of race and criminal justice, while *Disenfranchisement News* is a comprehensive publication covering research, advocacy and policy reforms on the issue. Our *State Advocacy Update* reports on policy developments, emerging research, organizing activities, and news and editorial commentary of interest to local activists.

COMMENTARY

BY THE SENTENCING PROJECT



THE HILL

How the Felony Drug Ban Keeps Thousands of Americans Hungry

Jeremy Haile

Talk Poverty, March 21, 2016

The felony drug ban imposes a lifetime restriction on the cash assistance program, TANF, and nutrition assistance, SNAP, for anyone convicted of a state or federal drug felony, unless states opt out. **A study by The Sentencing Project found that in the 12 states that impose the lifetime ban, an estimated 180,000 women are impacted...and because drug law enforcement is conducted with racial biases, people of color are disproportionately denied assistance.**

Our compassion for drug users should not be determined by race

Marc Mauer

The Guardian, January 7, 2016

“At the inception of the war on drugs in the 1980s, leaders of both parties endorsed harsh punishments and mandatory sentencing as their preferred approach to substance abuse, with seemingly little interest in supporting prevention and treatment. Three decades later, there is unity again, but now characterized by a broader vision of the problem. So how did this come about?

One would hope that this shift, in part, reflects an understanding of the failure of the punitive “war on drugs” approach to substance abuse. But it also seems clear that the political environment is related to how racial perceptions frame our attitudes on social policy.

Until we acknowledge the complex ways in which racial perceptions frame public policy, we risk reinforcing a two-tiered approach that only hardens social divisions.”

Real prison reform must take long look at life sentences

Ashley Nellis

The Hill, September 15, 2016

Despite a slowing of prison population growth over the last several years, and even declines in a handful of states, the rise in life-sentenced inmates has continued. And it is occurring despite a decline in violent crimes over the same period. Nationally, one in nine prisoners is serving a life sentence, totaling out to more than 159,000 people. Two-thirds are people of color. **The majority of lifers have been convicted of serious, violent offenses, but the length of time before the potential for release is out of step with international and human rights norms and also with the latest research on crime.**

Commentary: Should felons vote? Yes

Marc Mauer

The Philadelphia Inquirer, May 17, 2016

“Why should we permit people with felony convictions to vote? In part, this is what democracy is all about. Voting rights are determined based on citizenship, not character...Think about a person coming home from a five-year prison sentence. He is most likely to succeed if he can get a job, find a place to live, and establish strong ties to the community. If we tell him that he’s a second-class citizen who can’t vote, that can only create barriers to his integration. **By extending the right to vote to people who have made mistakes, we can both build a more inclusive democracy and make our communities safer.**”

Point of View: It's time to address racial disparities in Oklahoma's prisons

Ashley Nellis and Ryan Kiesel, ACLU of Oklahoma
The Oklahoman, July 29, 2016

A new report on racial disparities in state prisons underscores the need for policymakers and state administrators in Oklahoma to take a hard look at the policies, practices and prejudices that are playing out in the state’s criminal justice system. **The Sentencing Project found that Oklahoma has**

the nation’s highest incarceration rate for black men, nearly twice the national average. One in 15 adult black men in Oklahoma is in prison, compared with a national average of 1 in 26.

African-Americans are not more likely to use or sell drugs, but biased policing practices as well as state drug laws that have a disparate impact on blacks mean they are more likely to wind up in prison, where whites convicted of similar offenses may get alternative outcomes.

Law and order agenda should take note of bipartisanship's results

Kara Gotsch

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, November 29, 2016

“As this politically divided nation prepares for the transition of power, President-elect Trump should take the time to talk to his Republican colleagues to review the national success story of criminal justice reform. In recent years, America’s prison population has finally stabilized after nearly 40 years of unprecedented growth. **Most states have seen declines in their prison populations because of policy reforms that curbed mandatory minimum sentences for low-level drug crimes, scaled back imprisonment for technical violations of parole and diverted small-time property and drug offenses from incarceration.**”

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(Former)*

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Bernard F. and Alva B. Gimbel
Foundation
General Board of Global Ministries
of the United Methodist Church
Jewish Communal Fund
JK Irwin Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Overbrook Foundation
Public Welfare Foundation
David Rockefeller Fund
Elizabeth B. and Arthur E. Roswell
Foundation
Tikva Grassroots Empowerment
Fund of Tides Foundation
Wallace Global Fund

\$10,000 and up

Medea Benjamin
Theresa Fulton
Janine Lariviere and Roger Gural
Barbara A. Stiefel
Amanda Westlake and Aaron Stupple

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous (2)
Robert and Susan Bell
Naneen Karraker
Richard Leimsider
Maria Petschek Smith

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Alison Akant
Albert Family Charitable Fund
Deanne and Jonathan Ater

The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Sally Burkhart and Hugh Rubin
Robert L. Cohen and Madeline deLone
Cox Farms of Virginia
Wil and Lauren Cramer
The Elsie P van Buren Foundation
Michael Francis
Peter Gerbic
The Honorable Nancy Gertner
David Goldman
Marie Gottschalk
Eileen Heaser
Barbara Howald and Michael Blake
Corliss Jacobs
Annette B. Johnson
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Mark MacDougall
Steven J. Metalitz and Kit Gage
Tollie Miller
Albert Mishaan
Joanna Monti-Masel

Michael D. Morganstern
Namaste Foundation
Michael P. Puisis
Peter Peyser
Returning Home Foundation
Philip and Mercy Rome
Evan T. Tenenbaum
Michael Tonry
Henrie Treadwell
Melinda A. Tuhus and Robert D. Dubrow
United Methodist Women
Roberta Van Houweling
Thomas and Susan Wardell
Robert Weiss
Lois Q. Whitman

\$500 to \$999

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1002 Foundation
1871 Chicagoland Entrepreneurial
David Albrecht
Phyllis C. Annett
Aviva Aron-Dine
Carol Aucamp
Benevity OneWorld
Watson Branch
Robert Creamer
Angela J. Davis
Dharma Merchant Services
Matthew Eskuche
Patricia Fellner
Frank Firke
Eric Fisher
Michael Gompertz
John Hart
William Johnson

Cynthia E. Jones
Elizabeth Kantor
Katherine Katcher
Jeffrey Kerr
Jane Lerner
Judith Lichtenberg
Jaime and Sylvia Liwerant
Gilbert Lopez
James McCarthy
Ruth H. Melville
Matthew Namer
Martha Rayner
Eve S. Rosahn
San Francisco Foundation
Gordon Schiff
Peter Sills
Craig Smith
Marcus and Celena Smith
Nate and Karin Van Duzer
The Honorable Gregory Weeks
Peter Yedidia
Kurt A. and Elizabeth Young

\$250 to \$499

Anonymous (2)
Sara Adland
Brian Alexander
Shirley Baccus-Lobel
Robert W. Bohall
Nancy Brittain
Michael Z. Castleman
The Chicago Community Trust
William N. Clark
David Cole
Richard Coleman
Encana Corporation

Kevin Crane
Robert D. Crutchfield
Beth Curtis
Robin Eastman-Abaya
Frank Einstein
John Evans
Jonathan Gibson
Ira and Trude Glasser
Suzanne Gylfe
Donald and Ann Hague
Peter Harnik
Trudy Ruth Hayden
Daniel Hecker
Edward Herman
HHD Foundation
Fumiko Jensen
Patricia A. Kates
Joseph Kelaghan
Barbara L. Kessler and Richard Soble
Daniel Klein
Janet P. Kramer
Fred Krasner
Merle and Phyllis Krause
Luis Lainer
Nancy F. Lee
Ian Lind
Helen E. Longino
Joyce Mast
Edward and Alice Mattison
William E. McDaniels
Shingirai Middelmann
Christina Morehead
Allan Noonan
Northern Virginia Ethical Society
Patricia E. O'Connor
Mark and Joan Olson
William Preston

Mary E. Richards
Pamela Roberts
Robert C. Sash
William Schwarzer
Samuel Scott
Andrew Seligsohn
Elisabeth A. Semel and James S.
Thomson
Philip R. Simmons
Joseph Singer
Sisters of the Divine Savior
Elizabeth Stillinger
Stephen Strahs
Judith L. Tharp
Stephen Van Eck
Charles B. Vetzner
Johanna Wald
Derek Walker
Mary and Joseph Watson
John D. Wayman
Elizabeth Williamson

\$100 to \$249

Virginia and Stephen Abrams
Accountable Bookkeeping Services
Sean Adcroft
Francine Alexander
Albert W. Alschuler
Rachael D. Amber
Glen A. Anderson
Sybil Anderson
Barbara Appel
Carol R. Aronoff
Sherman Aronson
Claire Asarnow
Chester Ashby

Marc Atkins
Nancy Atlas
Audre Azuolas
Chiraag Bains
Steven E. Barkan
Alan Barnett
Chris Barnum
Jesse Barton
Paul W. Beach
Duncan Beale
Margaret and Robert Bearse
Douglas Beattie and Linda Eichengreen
David Berliner
Wilson Bethel
Susan Blackman
Marc Bloom
Eric Blumenson
Karen Blumenthal
The Boeing Company
Linda K. Bowen
Francis Boylan
Bernard Brachfeld
Eric Braden
Lynn Branham
Robert and Paula Brent
Jody and Sheila Breslaw
Marc I. Breslow
Carol A. Brook
Cynthia Brooks
Dorothy Brooks
Frederick Brown
Jeffrey M. Brown
E. Wayles Browne
Mary L. Bruce
Linda Brunner
Michael Bryant
William C. Buhl
Delia Burke

Martha W.D. Bushnell
Michael Butterworth
Pamela Calvert
Aaron Campbell
Allen Campbell
Brenda Carleton
Juan Cartagena
Gene Cass
Debra Chaplan
Paul Chernick
Lucy Ann Christopher
Alison Cien Fuegos
Polly Cleveland and Thomas Haines
Ann Cockrell
Rosemary Coffey
Rachel Cohen
Nicholas Cole
Veronica F. Coleman-Davis
Community of Celebration
Mary M. Connors
Chris Cooper
Kay Cooper
Ronald Corbett
Tom and Judy Croxton
Joanne Cunningham
Bernadette M. Darakjy
Margaret R. Davis
Dawn Day
Lawrence de Graaf
Michele Deitch
Bailey Delongh
Brett Dignam
John L. Ditman
Keith Donoghue
Rory Dowd
Carol Drisko
Nan Martin Drummond
Steve Dunham

The Honorable William Dyson
Lucia Edmonds
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Richard Eisenstein
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Patricia Weiss Fagen
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Kenneth P. Giles
Joe Goldenson
Nathan L. Goldschlag
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Theodore T. Gotsch

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Devon Johnson
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Nolan E. Jones
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Martin Kreiswirth

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Lynda Markham
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Christine Matthews
Margaret S. Maurin
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Patricia McDougle
Belle McMaster
Ashley McSwain
Robert and Ellen Meeropol
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Laura Miller
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Myra Mitzman
Kevin Morris
Maureen Mulligan
Stephen Munkelt
Edward Munyak
Elliott C. Murray
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Katherine Nelson
Stephen Nelson
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Sabrina Pacifici
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Rod Rogers
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Walter Simpson
Steven and Sue Simring
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Zane Smith
Geneva Smitherman
Robert Smolen
Robert H. Smolen
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Doris Solberg
Barbara Spack
Richard Speiglmán
Michael Spielman
Solveig Spjeldnes
Anita Sra
Robert Stack
Eric and Tobi Starin

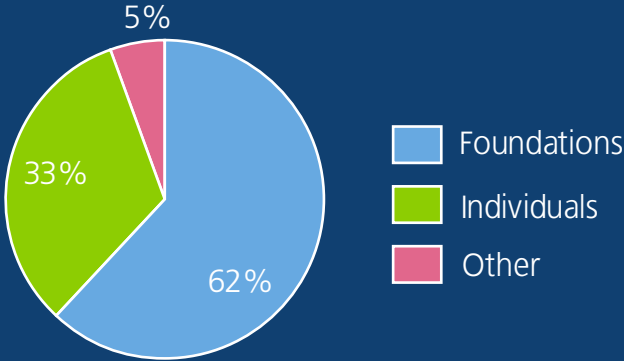
Ben R. Stavits
Barbara Anne Steck
Adria Steinberg
Eric E. Sterling
Diana Stewart
Richard Stillinger
Dorothy Stoneman
Michael L. Stout
Michael Strasser
Susan Strasser
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Theodore Tapper
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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

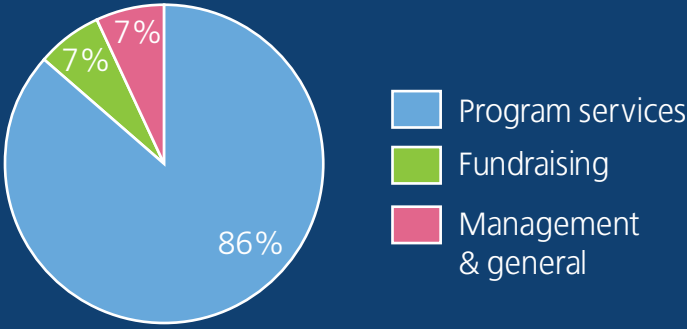
REVENUE

Foundations	630,000
Individuals	332,815
Other	54,062
TOTAL	\$1,016,877



EXPENSES

Program services	1,215,379
Fundraising	93,655
Management and general	95,262
TOTAL	\$ 1,404,296





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