

# Beyond Juvenile Justice

Recommendations from the State Advisory Committee  
on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency



February 2021

## FORWARD

The State Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) in California, per the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA), was established in 2007. The SACJJDP is committed the development of useful solutions and ideas which can be practically applied to support juvenile justice system improvement efforts. The Committee membership is diverse and rich with expertise on a range of best practices and policy issues related to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, as is mandated by the JJDPA. Membership includes system involved and formerly incarcerated individuals, probation administrators, attorneys, advocates, psychologists, judicial officers, and more.

This brief includes an important set of recommendations the SACJJDP has identified as critical areas of need to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in California. In 2018, Congress passed H.R. 6964, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 which amended the JJDPA in a variety of ways. One important change was the focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities. The reauthorized JJDPA now requires, among other items, that states develop and implement a work plan with measurable objectives for policy, practice, or other system changes based on the needs identified through data collection and analyses of racial and ethnic disparities. The SACJJDP recommends the following items as part of the work plan so that California can take specific and actionable steps to address systemic racism, reduce racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice, and take a conscientious approach to reinvest in youth and communities.

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## Recommendations from the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP)

### Recommendation 1: Utilize the SACJJDP as a true State Advisory Group on critical issues related to juvenile justice including the implementation of Senate Bill 823.

The SACJJDP is a federally mandated State Advisory Group with each member appointed by the Governor. One of our primary functions is to advise the Governor on critical issues related to juvenile justice in the State of California including but not limited to alternatives to detention, reentry, evidence-based programming, conditions of confinement, racial/ethnic disparities, tribal and native youth issues, addressing trauma among justice-involved youth, community-based programming, and delinquency prevention.

The Committee is specifically eager to support the Governor in the implementation of Senate Bill 823 with the overarching goals of creating the Office of Youth and Community Restoration in the California Health and Human Services Agency, realigning the Department of Juvenile Justice, and coordination and administration of juvenile justice grants.

### Recommendation 2: Ensure that Federal and State funds are routed directly to support the community.

A significant amount of research and lived experience has confirmed that community-based programming and resources are more effective in reducing recidivism, improving public safety, promoting youth wellbeing, and saving tax dollars. In order to ensure that funding for such programming makes it into the community, local jurisdictions (e.g., Probation Departments, Law Enforcement Agencies, etc.) must be held accountable when receiving funds that are intended for youth-focused community-based

### FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMING MUST BE PRIORITIZED

Juvenile incarceration is associated with reduced likelihood of graduating from high school and an increased likelihood of adult incarceration by up to 40% for either outcome.<sup>1</sup>

Most incarcerated youth have significant trauma histories and incarceration increases their risk for ongoing victimization and trauma.<sup>2</sup> For example, one in eight youth report being sexually abused while in a secure facility.<sup>3</sup>

It is estimated that incarcerating *one youth* in California costs \$304,259 a year.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Aizer, A., & Doyle, J. J. (2015). Juvenile incarceration, human capital, and future crime: Evidence from randomly assigned judges. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130(2). <https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjv003>

<sup>2</sup> Dierkhising, C. B., Lane, A., & Natsuaki, M. N. (2014). Victims behind bars: A preliminary study of abuse during juvenile incarceration and post-release social and emotional functioning. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 20(2), 181–190. <https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000002>

<sup>3</sup> Beck, A. J., Harrison, P. M., & Guerino, P. (2010). Bureau of Justice Statistics Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2008-09, 1–49. Retrieved from <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svjfry09.pdf> <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?iid=2113&ty=pbdetail>

<sup>4</sup> Justice Policy Institute. (2020). Sticker Shock 2020: The Cost of Youth Incarceration. Retrieved from <https://backend.nokidsinprison.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NKIP-COVID19-Policy-Paper-2P.pdf>

programming. For example, state and federal dollars through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) provided \$321 million to counties in Fiscal Year 2018-19<sup>i</sup>. However, these funds are often spent on supplemental funds to staff probation departments or, even more concerning, are left unspent rather than being spent on community-based programs for which they were intended<sup>ii</sup>. In addition, legislation that earmarks taxpayer dollars for youth-focused programming should not require a pass through with a City or County agency.

### **Recommendation 3: Decisions about practice and policy must be data driven.**

The collection of actionable data at the County level is essential to reducing racial/ethnic disparities, identifying best practices, and developing evidence-principled policies. This first step in reducing racial/ethnic disparities is identifying the point(s) of contact in the system that contribute to the disparities at the County level which is required per the JJCPA<sup>iii</sup>. Because juvenile justice data is decentralized in the State of California there is no uniform data collection occurring across counties and access to data are extremely limited. This makes data driven decision-making through research and evaluation extremely difficult, if not impossible in some areas. Per Senate Bill 823, a workgroup must be convened to develop a plan for ‘a modern database and reporting system’<sup>iv</sup>. This provides an opportunity to begin to address the lack of juvenile justice data across the state.

## **RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN CALIFORNIA<sup>5</sup>**

Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and youth of color are more likely to be arrested in California compared to White youth. Yet, self-report data reveal that these youth *do not* commit more crime than White youth.

In California, compared to White youth, Black youth are 8.7 times more likely to be arrested, Native youth are 2.6 times more likely to be arrested, and Latinx youth are 2.1 times more likely to be arrested.

Systemic Racism has led to the increase of racial and ethnic disparities at each subsequent point of contact with the juvenile justice system. Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and youth of color youth are more likely to have their arrest referred to court, get sentenced, have their petition filed with the court, be transferred to adult court, be detained at arrest, and be incarcerated for longer periods of time.

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<sup>5</sup> Haywood Burns Institute. United States of Disparities. Retrieved from: <https://usdata.burnsinstitute.org/#comparison=3&placement=3&rac=1,2,3,4,5,6&offenses=5,2,8,1,9,11,10&year=2017&view=map>

**Recommendation 4: Implement a State level mandate to systematically reduce racial and ethnic disparities at all points of contact in the juvenile justice system.**

Based on data analysis at the County level, actionable steps must be taken and accountability measures implemented to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in measurable ways at all points of contact in the juvenile justice system. Reputable organizations have been successfully addressing racial and ethnic disparities for many years, such as the Haywood Burns Institute, the Annie E. Casey’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Program, and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. Agencies of government including local law enforcement (police, sheriffs, CHP), justice system (DA, public defenders, judges, etc.), probation, health and human services, and others should be partnering with such subject matter expert organizations through technical assistance contracts in order to provide evidence of the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities.

**Recommendation 5: Encourage and support in every way the use of community-based diversion as the primary approach to justice system involvement; detention should be a last resort.**

As soon as a young person has contact with the juvenile justice system the goal should be figuring out how to successfully get them out of the system. Prioritizing diversion has been shown to positively impact youth of color given their increased likelihood of juvenile justice contact and disproportionate risk for more severe sanctions. If a youth can't be diverted away from the system initially, the system must continue to work to successfully transition each youth out of the system no matter where they are in the system. The best way to do that is with community-based organizations not through informal or formal probation. Community-based organizations are more likely to hire those with lived experience, who can address the root causes of trauma and focus on healing and mentoring in order for youth to thrive.

**TOO MANY AVENUES TO PROBATION  
SUPERVISION AND NOT ENOUGH  
COMMUNITY-BASED DIVERSION OPTIONS<sup>6</sup>**

Youth who are arrested and referred to Probation can be placed under Probation supervision despite ever being referred to the juvenile court *or* adjudicated of a crime.

About one in four youth petitioned to court receive some type of mandated supervision despite *NOT* being adjudicated of a crime. Once under Probation supervision youth who have not been adjudicated of a crime are at increased risk for continued and/or more in-depth justice involvement.

**Recommendation 6: Counties must have an effective and comprehensive plan for initial and ongoing training for those who work with youth involved in the juvenile justice system.**

It is essential that those who work with youth involved in the juvenile justice system are trained on issues related to racial/ethnic disparities, implicit bias, child and adolescent development, trauma-informed care, how to be anti-racist, evidence-based practices, principles and programs in

<sup>6</sup> Hockenberry, S. (2020). Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court, 2018. U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs. Retrieved from: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/publications/delinquency-cases-in-juvenile-court-2018.pdf>

juvenile justice, mental health, and positive youth development. Training must be interdisciplinary, ongoing, and skills based. Trainers should include individuals in the community who work directly with youth and/or individuals who have lived experience in the system themselves to ensure cultural appropriateness and community relevance. Technical assistance must be provided following trainings to ensure that skills learned in the trainings are applied, practiced, and become routine in daily practices.

**Recommendation 7: Hire individuals that understand the vast potential youth possess and their role in helping youth succeed.**

The Supreme Court has recognized that “children are different” and should be treated as such. This means that those who are hired to work with youth involved in the juvenile justice system must understand the developmental differences between adolescents and adults, take a non-punitive approach to youth justice, and recognize that working with youth and families in the communities in which they live and should draw on the principles of social work, adolescent development, public health, and racial equity. Adolescence is an age of opportunity, during which youth are highly sensitive to and influenced by their environments and their relationships such that when they are surrounded by positive people and experiences, they are most likely to succeed. Conversely, incarceration, punishment, and discrimination have the opposite effect by increasing the risk for adult criminal justice involvement, reducing educational attainment, and increasing racial and ethnic disparities.

**Recommendation 8: Reduce the use of detention.**

Youth of color bear the brunt of punitive detention practices which means many youth are detained for reasons that are not related to public safety such as certain violations of probation, status offenses, bench warrants for missing a court date, or pre-trial detention for youth who have not been charged with a violent or serious crime. In fact, pre-trial detention makes up 75% of local juvenile detention admissions across the nation<sup>v</sup> and in California about one-third of youth petitioned to juvenile court experience pre-trial detention<sup>vi</sup>. The use of detention, and its disproportionate impact on youth of color, can be dramatically reduced in very simple ways. For instance, notifying a family when a youth’s court date is coming up, not detaining youth for truancy in alignment with the JJDP, or only detaining a youth on a probation violation when it includes a new crime.

**YOUTH OF COLOR  
DISPROPORTIONATELY EXPERIENCE  
DETENTION**

Compared to White youth in California, Black youth are 7.7 times more likely to be detained when their petition is referred to court.<sup>5</sup>

Compared to White youth in California, Latinx youth are twice as likely to be detained and Native American or Alaskan Native youth are nearly four times as likely to be detained.<sup>5</sup>

Pre-trial detention is associated with a 33% increase in felony recidivism and 11% increase in misdemeanor recidivism.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Walker, S. C., & Herting, J. R. (2020). The Impact of Pretrial Juvenile Detention on 12-Month Recidivism: A Matched Comparison Study. *Crime and Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/001128720926115>

**Recommendation 9: Detained and incarcerated youth and those being released to the community must have immediate access to a continuum of resources to meet their complex reentry needs.**

In the rare occurrences that youth need to be detained or incarcerated (i.e., for violent crimes or if they are an immediate threat to public safety), they must have access to programming. This should include, at minimum, education services, mental health services, life skills, job training, health care services, religious and cultural services, and access to services provided by culturally competent community-based organizations. As soon as youth are removed from the community, planning must begin for their return to the community so that there is a smooth transition and warm handoff between the facility and the community. Community-based organizations should be involved in the reentry process prior to the youth being released from detention to ensure a continuum of care is provided. Community-based organizations support young people and families in neighborhoods that are unique environments. Their inclusion in the reentry process is vital to ensuring the best possible outcomes for youth.

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<sup>i</sup> Washburn, M. & Menart, R. (2020). A Blueprint for Reform: Moving Beyond California's Failed Youth Correctional System. Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Retrieved from:

[http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/blueprint\\_for\\_reform.pdf](http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/blueprint_for_reform.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> Same as above

<sup>iii</sup> H.R.6964 - Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018.

<sup>iv</sup> SB-823 Juvenile justice realignment: Office of Youth and Community Restoration.

<sup>v</sup> Walker, S. C., & Herting, J. R. (2020). The Impact of Pretrial Juvenile Detention on 12-Month Recidivism: A Matched Comparison Study. *Crime and Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128720926115>

<sup>vi</sup> Becerra, X. (2018). Juvenile Justice in California. CA Department of Justice. Retrieved from: <https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-07/Juvenile%20Justice%20In%20CA%202018%2020190701.pdf>

## **SACJJDP Member Profiles**

**Rachel Rios**, Chair, of Sacramento was appointed to the SACJJDP on November 9, 2016. Ms. Rios has been Executive Director at La Familia Counseling Center Inc. since 2012. She served in several positions at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from 1984 to 2012, including Chief Deputy Secretary of the Division of Juvenile Justice, Director of Juvenile Parole Operations, Case Services Administrator, Youth Authority Administrator, Assistant Superintendent at the Northern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic, Supervising Parole Agent and Juvenile Parole Agent.

**Carol Biondi**, Vice Chair, of Los Angeles was appointed to the SACJJDP on November 28, 2005. Ms. Biondi has served as a Commissioner on the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families since 1999. She also serves as a Board Member for The National Children's Defense Fund, the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and ManifestWorks.

**The Honorable Brian Back** of Camarillo was appointed to the SACJJDP on December 18, 2012. After 20 years on the bench, including serving as Presiding Judge and Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, he retired from the Ventura County Superior Court in 2018. He was an attorney with Arnold Back Mathews Wojkowski and Zirbel LLP from 1990 to 1997, Arnold and Back from 1989 to 1990, and Nordman Cormany Hair and Compton LLP from 1977 to 1989. He earned a Master of Arts degree in government from Claremont Graduate School and a Juris Doctorate degree from the Santa Clara University School of Law. He has taught numerous courses related to juvenile law and delinquency prevention. He is also a past member of the California Judicial Council as well as the Council's Juvenile & Family Law Advisory Committee.

**Amanda Ayala** of San Jose was appointed to the SACJJDP on October 31, 2019. From 2017 - 2020 Ms. Ayala was the policy and advocacy associate at the Bill Wilson Center. In 2021, she was named Co-Director of A Way Home America. She earned a Master of Public Policy and Administration degree from Northwestern University.

**Dr. B.J. Davis** of Elk Grove was appointed to the SACJJDP on November 9, 2016. Dr. Davis is the owner of Davis Consulting, and the Senior Manager of Training and Clinical Quality at WellSpace Health. He recently served as the Executive Director of Strategies for Change Substance Abuse and Co-occurring Mental Health Treatment Agency. In addition to his work at WellSpace Health, Dr. Davis is an Adjunct Professor in the Forensic and Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at Alliant International University, is a consultant to the Sacramento Aids Housing Alliance, and is the past vice chair of the CAADAC Counselor Certification Board.

Dr. Davis is active in conducting research that focuses on treatment effectiveness and outcomes and is recognized for his innovative work in treatment approaches based on Choice Theory and Motivational Interviewing. Recently, Dr. Davis has facilitated several workshops related to the psychology of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and its impact on providing recovery related services for African-American clients. Dr. Davis holds a doctor of psychology in Clinical Psychology, a masters of arts in Psychology, a masters of science in Community Counseling, and is licensed by the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPPP).

**Carly B. Dierkhising, PhD**, was appointed to the SACJJDP on May 11, 2016. Dr. Dierkhising is an Associate Professor at Cal State LA in the School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics. She holds a doctorate in Developmental Psychology and a masters in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Dierkhising is committed to developing actionable research and translating research to practice and policy in order to improve the lives of trauma-exposed and system-involved youth. Prior to coming to Cal State LA, she worked for the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress on various initiatives to create trauma-informed child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Clinically trained, Dr. Dierkhising has also worked at a Los Angeles County Probation Camp as a clinical intern. Her publications and research grants are on topics related to trauma-informed gang intervention, trauma and delinquency, crossover or dual system youth, commercial sexual exploitation of youth, and creating trauma-informed systems.

**Miguel A. Garcia** was appointed to the SACJJDP on November 9, 2016. Mr. Garcia is currently the Advocacy Coordinator for the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and is a member/consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Justice Strategy Group Youth Advisory Council and Northwestern University's Center for Child Trauma, Assessment, Services, and Intervention. Mr. Garcia's personal experience has helped inform his thinking on youth justice. Mr. Garcia is heavily involved in his community as a youth justice advocate, a passion that began after his own experiences with the justice system. Mr. Garcia has previously worked with Human Rights Watch as a fellow, and with Impact Justice on restorative justice practices. He has served on the Riverside County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Committee and was the former Western Regional Board Member for the Coalition for Juvenile Justice executive board and on California's Juvenile Justice subcommittee at the Child Welfare Council, focused on implementing the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR). Mr. Garcia is a graduate of UC Riverside, and will attend law school this fall to continue his advocacy work in youth justice and human rights.

**Juan Gomez** was appointed to the SACJJDP on November 9, 2016. Mr. Gomez is a proud father to Rayo Tamoxtzin (Honorable Lightning Spirit Ray). In addition, he has dedicated his adult life to being a cultural broker, movement builder, and is both a barrios "community" scholar and storyteller. Mr. Gomez is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of MILPA where he works to build next generation leadership while supporting healing informed team building. Throughout his career he has provided technical assistance for various youth justice strategies and initiatives; where he co-created training, strategic facilitation, and capacity building efforts. Mr. Gomez was raised by his grandparents Amelia and Ampelio and is of Coahuiltecan Nation and of Chicano indigenous descent.

**Michelle Guymon** of West Covina was appointed to the SACJJDP on October 31, 2019. Ms. Guymon has served in multiple positions at the Los Angeles County Probation Department since 1989, including group supervisor, deputy probation officer, supervising deputy probation officer, and probation director. She earned a Master of Social Welfare degree in social work from California State University, San Bernardino.

**Susan Harbert** of Pacific Palisades was appointed to the SACJJDP on January 19, 2007. Ms. Harbert is currently Staff Attorney at the Juvenile Innocence and Fair Sentencing Clinic at Loyola Law School and has served as Special Legislative Counsel to the Center for Juvenile Law and Policy at Loyola Law School since 2006. She previously was Executive Vice President of Series

Development for MGM Television from 1989 to 1992 and worked for ABC Entertainment as a Director and Executive Producer from 1986 to 1989.

**Elloitt Housman-Turrubiate** of Redwood City was appointed on October 31, 2019. Mr. Housman-Turrubiate received his undergraduate degrees from Colorado State University in Ethnic Studies and English Literature and an M.A. in Native American Studies at UC Davis. Mr. Housman-Turrubiate was a product of the Key Communities; a campus program designed to support first-generation students and students of color through their first years in college. Mr. Housman-Turrubiate spent two years as a Direct Care Counselor at a youth residential treatment facility. Mr. Housman-Turrubiate currently provides culturally integrated crisis intervention, case management, and mentoring services to Native youth in Sacramento County. Mr. Housman-Turrubiate is a descendant of the Yaqui and Tohono O'odham Nations.

**Gordon Jackson** was appointed to the SACJJDP on January 21, 2009. Mr. Jackson is currently the National Director of 3Strands Global Foundation's PROTECT Prevention Education and Training Program. He is tasked to manage the implementation of the program that focuses on protecting school age children from human trafficking in the USA and internationally. Prior to joining 3Strands Global Foundation two years ago, Gordon enjoyed a 40-year career in public education that included opportunities as a high school French, English, and Speech/Drama teacher, vice principal, principal and as an executive in the California Department of Education, where he led a division that focused its energies on meeting the needs of California's most vulnerable students.

Throughout his career, Mr. Jackson has enjoyed a wide variety of opportunities to make a difference. He served as Board President of the Woodland Joint Unified School District, provided assistance to number of companies and agencies as a communication consultant, and has provided a number of keynote speeches at events where school climate, student behavior, school attendance, and cultural awareness were the focus. Gordon is a graduate of CSU Chico and the Universite d'Aix-Marseille, France.

**Ramon Leija** of Indio was appointed to the SACJJDP on November 9, 2016. Mr. Leija was also appointed in 2019 to the Constituent Affairs Representative for the Office of the Governor. Mr. Leija has been a Subcommittee Member at the Riverside County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council since 2021. He was previously a Youth Mentor in East Coachella Valley since 2014 and a Juvenile Justice Reform Advocate at the Anti-Recidivism Coalition since 2010. Mr. Leija was a Volunteer Reserve Firefighter/EMT at the Riverside County Fire Department from 2015 to 2019. He was Eastern Coachella Valley Boys and Men of Color Initiative Coordinator from 2013 to 2014. Mr. Leija earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Riverside in Political Science and Education.

**Kent Mendoza** of Los Angeles was appointed to the SACJJDP on November 9, 2016. Mr. Mendoza is the Manager of Advocacy and Community Organizing at the ARC. Mr. Mendoza is also the Spokespersons for the Campaign For Youth Justice (CFYJ) based out of Washington D.C. Mr. Mendoza was appointed to serve as an at-large community representative for the fifth supervisorial district to the Los Angeles Countywide Juvenile Justice Coordinated Council (JJCC) in 2018 and was re-appointed in 2020. Mr. Mendoza was also selected as an Aspen Institute

Ricardo Salinas Scholar in 2018. He recently served as a lead Youth Justice Work Group consultant under the Burns Institute (BI) in LA County to develop a report with recommendations on moving youth out of the County's probation department completely. Mr. Mendoza previously worked at the LA Area Chamber of Commerce on smart justice issues where he held several positions from 2014 to 2016, including Senior Administrative Assistant, Assistant, and intern. Mr. Mendoza completed the 2015 Commission Training Program offered by the Wally Mark Leadership Institute from the Liberty Hill Foundation.

**Amika Mota** of Oakland was appointed to the SACJJDP on August 27, 2018. Mrs. Mota is the Statewide Policy Director at the Young Women's Freedom Center. She was previously the Prison Reentry Director at the Young Women's Freedom Center until 2019. She was a legal assistant at California Traffic Defenders from 2015 to 2016, lead engineer and firefighter at Madera County Fire Station 5 from 2012 to 2015, and Assistant Director at the Andaluz Waterbirth Center from 1999 to 2005. Mrs. Mota also serves as a Board Member for For The People.

**Vanessa Najjar** of Sacramento was appointed to the SACJJDP on August 27, 2018. Ms. Najjar has been a peer mentor at the Puente Project at Sacramento City College since 2017. She was a canvasser at United Latinos in 2016, peer mentor at Luther Burbank Library in 2016, project committee member at La Familia from 2015 to 2016 and office assistant at St. Anne's Parish from 2015 to 2016.

**District Attorney Nancy O'Malley** of Alameda was appointed to the SACJJDP on October 21, 2011. Ms. O'Malley is the Alameda County District Attorney and is the first woman to serve as Alameda County's District Attorney. D.A. O'Malley is a national and statewide leader known for her innovation and vision. She has led criminal justice reform efforts. She has created several model programs, including the Family Justice Center, that serve, support and empower victims of crime and youth who experience or witness violence. DA O'Malley is a national expert and has led groundbreaking work in combatting human trafficking, particularly involving minor victims. She created the first 'Girls Court' in the Juvenile Justice system to work with vulnerable young women, including trafficked youth; the Young Women's Empowerment Program to support young women in the Juvenile system and SafetyNet, which creates Safety Plans for vulnerable youth, many of whom are homeless or being sex trafficked. She has held several statewide conferences "All Things Teen" which focuses on the health and well-being of youth, particularly those who found themselves in the Juvenile or Social Service systems. DA O'Malley has received numerous statewide and federal awards for her work as well as awards from community organizations for her collaborative, innovative work.

**Winston Peters** of Los Angeles was appointed to the SACJJDP on November 21, 2006. He is an Assistant Public Defender in the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office. Mr. Peters is a former Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Judicial Appointments Committee and a former member of its Board of Trustees. He is a recipient of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Livingston Hall Juvenile Justice Award, and the Pacific Juvenile Defender Center's, Defender of the Year Award, for service in the field of juvenile justice. Mr. Peters is a former member of Governor Brown's Juvenile Justice Workgroup and former President of the California Public Defender's Association. He earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of

California, Hastings College of Law and an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Dr. Mimi Silbert** of San Francisco was appointed to the SACJJDP on April 19, 2005. Dr. Silbert has served as Chief Executive Officer and President of the Delancey Street Foundation since 1974. She was the Director for the Center for Institutional Change at San Francisco State University from 1973 to 1975. Dr. Silbert earned her Doctorate in Criminology from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Dante Williams** of Sacramento was appointed to the SACJJDP on November 9, 2016. Mr. Williams has been a youth advocate Manager at Stanford Youth Solutions since 2016, where he was a Lead Youth Advocate from 2011 to 2016. He has been a Volunteer Juvenile Justice Chaplain at the Sacramento County Probation Department since 2010. Mr. Williams is Co- chair of the Sacramento County Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee.