



Center for
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Leading Prosecutors Gather at Georgetown To Focus on Rethinking Juvenile and Young Adult Justice

*DC Attorney General Racine and Other Elected Prosecutors Gather to Discuss
Innovative and Effective Justice System Reforms*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Elected prosecutors and leading practitioners in the fields of juvenile and young adult justice are assembling this week at [Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#) at a convening to consider best practices and reforms aimed at improving how our justice system attends to the unique needs and challenges of children and young adults.

Over the two-day convening hosted by [Fair and Just Prosecution](#) (FJP) – a national network of elected District and State attorneys committed to developing new thinking and promoting a smarter, more compassionate justice system – prosecutors from around the nation will meet with researchers, advocates and experts, hear from youth who have been involved with the justice system, and tour the ground-breaking [New Beginnings](#) juvenile facility in nearby Laurel, Maryland. These leaders will discuss strategies to prevent youth from entering the justice system in the first instance and how to treat young people who do come into the system in a manner that recognizes their circumstances, brain development, and potential for reform.

Elected leaders from across the United States attending include **Attorney General Karl Racine** (District of Columbia); **District Attorneys Diana Becton** (Martinez, CA), **Sherry Boston** (Decatur, GA), **Mark Gonzalez** (Corpus Christi, TX), **Christian Gossett** (Oshkosh, WI), **Larry Krasner** (Philadelphia, PA), **Beth McCann** (Denver, CO), **Kim Ogg** (Houston, TX) and **Tori Verber Salazar** (Stockton, CA); **State Attorneys Aramis Ayala** (Orlando, FL), **Melissa Nelson** (Jacksonville, FL) and **Andrew Warren** (Tampa, FL); **State's Attorney Sarah George** (Burlington, VT); **Prosecuting Attorneys Dan Satterberg** (Seattle, WA) and **Carol Siemon** (Lansing, MI); and **Commonwealth's Attorney Stephanie Morales** (Portsmouth, VA). These prosecutors will meet with leading

experts, practitioners and advocates including **Clint Lacey**, Director of the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, **Vanita Gupta**, former head of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, **Vincent Schiraldi**, Co-Director for the Columbia Justice Lab and former Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services for the District of Columbia, **Mark Soler**, Executive Director of the Center for Children's Law and Policy, and **Kris Henning**, Deputy Director of Georgetown's Juvenile Justice Clinic.

"We have lost too many young people to a cycle of incarceration despite research that shows that the adolescent brain is less developed and that young people are particularly susceptible to positive -- and negative -- influences," said **Miriam Krinsky**, Executive Director of Fair and Just Prosecution. "A new generation of prosecutors can remedy that; they have the power to reimagine and transform how the justice system treats young people and to offer these youth the second chances they need and deserve."

"Scientific evidence often challenges practice in the justice system, but prosecutors have an obligation to do what's right," said **Shay Bilchik**, Director of Georgetown's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the other organizer of the summit. "That means prosecutors must understand how children are different from adults and what interventions are actually effective at breaking the cycle of incarceration."

"Prosecutors are uniquely positioned to break the school-to-prison pipeline by helping kids stay in school and ensuring that detention facilities heal, rather than harm," said **D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine**, a co-host of the convening. "My office is committed to ensuring young people in and out of the justice system receive the resources and positive support they need to have a fair chance at success."

Nationally, many leading criminal justice reform organizations have coalesced to bring new attention to the impactful role of prosecutors and the need for prosecutors to rethink their approach to promoting the safety and well-being of their communities. [Fair and Just Prosecution](#) has taken a leadership role in these efforts to shrink the size of our criminal justice system by helping newly-elected reform-minded District and State Attorneys translate their goals into concrete policies and action. This gathering will assist those prosecutors in learning about and developing strategies to better address the needs of young people in the justice system.

For additional questions about the Washington D.C. convening, please contact Miriam Krinsky at krinskym@krinsky.la or 818-416-5218.

To learn more about FJP's work, visit www.fairandjustprosecution.org or follow us on Facebook [@FairAndJustProsecution](#). To learn more about the work of Georgetown's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, visit <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/>.