

Published Articles

1. [“How to Get Smarter About Fighting Crime,”](#) *Vital City*, July 10, 2025.
2. [“How Police De-Escalation Training Can Prevent Civil Unrest,”](#) *The National Interest*, July 9, 2025.
3. [“A Stunning Verdict: A Shared Vision of Justice Unites Americans,”](#) *The Fulcrum*, June 13, 2025.
4. [“What We Should Be Doing for the Children of the Incarcerated,”](#) *Governing*, July 8, 2025.
5. [“Post-Woke Criminal Justice Reform,”](#) *Law & Liberty*, May 29, 2025.
6. [“A Strong Legislative Session for Criminal Justice Reform in Texas is Within Reach,”](#) *San Antonio Express-News*, May 21, 2025.
7. [“What Can Be Done to Make Prisons Better Workplaces,”](#) *Governing*, May 29, 2025.
8. [“Like Mahmoud Khalil or Not, Due Process is the American Way,”](#) *The National Interest*, April 30, 2025.
9. [“6 Criteria Can Help Assess Executive Branch Actions,”](#) *Law360*, April 21, 2025.
10. [“Texas Lawmakers Can Ensure Justice with Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing,”](#) *San Antonio Express-News*, April 2, 2025.
11. [“WA Prisons Fast-Approaching Maximum Capacity, Highlighting Urgent Need for Reform,”](#) *The West Australian*, March 31, 2025.
12. [“Americans with Criminal Records Don’t Deserve a Lifetime Scarlet Letter,”](#) *The Hill*, March 25, 2025.
13. [“Banishing U.S. Citizens to El Salvador Puts American Values Last,”](#) *Newsweek*, March 12, 2025.
14. [“Give Texas Judges the Option to Deny Bail. But Don’t Force Them to Lock Up Grandpa,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, March 7, 2025.
15. [“Common Ground in Pennsylvania on Criminal Justice,”](#) *Pittsburgh Tribune*, February 28, 2025.
16. [“Deterring Dubious Prosecutions Could Avoid Pardon Issues,”](#) *Law360*, February 21, 2025.
17. [“Data, Best Practices and Other Wonky Ways to Defeat Houston Crime,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, January 3, 2025.
18. [“Yes, Policies Advancing Justice Can Prevail Again in Trump 2.0,”](#) *The Hill*, December 30, 2024.
19. [“The Peril — and Promise — of AI in Criminal Justice,”](#) *Governing*, November 20, 2024.
20. [“Challenging Robert Roberson’s Execution Makes Texas Government Work as Intended,”](#) *San Antonio Express-News*, October 29, 2024.
21. [“Ken Paxton Got Pretrial Diversion. Shouldn’t More Texans Get It Too?”](#), *Houston Chronicle*, August 16, 2024.
22. [“Criminal Justice Reform May Be Under Pressure, But It Still Has Plenty of Life,”](#) *Route Fifty*, June 27, 2024.

23. [“Congress Can Score Another Bipartisan Win for Safety and Justice,”](#) *The Hill*, June 18, 2024.
24. [“Two Major Cities Are Notching Big Victories Over Crime,”](#) *Governing*, June 18, 2024.
25. [“Congress Must Abolish Acquitted Sentencing,”](#) *Law360*, May 31, 2024.
26. [“Yes, Criminal Justice Reform Is Still a 'Thing,' and It Might Be Yours,”](#) *Newsweek*, May 29, 2024.
27. [“There’s Nothing Woke About Ruling Against Sleep Deprivation in Prison,”](#) *The Hill*, April 26, 2024.
28. [“Texas Needs Prosecutor Transparency That’s Practical, Not Political,”](#) *San Antonio Express-News*, April 12, 2024.
29. [“The Case for Optimism”](#), *Vital City*, March 27, 2024.
30. [“Abolishing Parole Doesn’t Work. Louisiana Must Fight Crime with Facts,”](#) *NOLA.com*, February 27, 2024.
31. [“How Police Can Pursue Without Harming the Public,”](#) *Governing*, January 24, 2024.
32. [“Why D.C. is Bucking the Trend When it Comes to Violent Crime,”](#) *MSNBC.com*, January 18, 2024.
33. [“Attacks on Homeless Must Lead to Balanced Solutions for Safety and Stability,”](#) *The Messenger*, December 12, 2023.
34. [“Bill Would Give Some Criminal Cases a Second Look,”](#) *Detroit News*, November 21, 2023.
35. [“How Tonight’s Debate Can Spark a Nuanced Conversation on Crime,”](#) *The Hill*, November 8, 2023.
36. [“Impeachment May Seem Harsh, But Here’s How Policing Corruption Reinforces Rule of Law,”](#) *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, October 4, 2023.
37. [“Texas is Keeping the Wrong People in Jail. It’s Time to Fix That,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, September 9, 2023.
38. [“Trump’s Georgia Case Should Provide Impetus for Reining in Public Mugshots,”](#) *RealClearPolicy*, August 25, 2023.
39. [“The GOP Was For These Prison Reforms Before Turning Against Them,”](#) *The Hill*, August 15, 2023.
40. [“Why We Need More College Graduates Behind the Badge,”](#) *Governing*, May 19, 2023.
41. [“Give Texas Prosecutors the Chance to Do Justice for Old Cases,”](#) *San Antonio Express-News*, May 11, 2023.
42. [“Longer Sentences & More Prisons Aren’t a Panacea for Crime in Southern States,”](#) *The Crime Report*, April 25, 2023.
43. [“America Doesn’t Need Public Mugshots of Donald Trump or Joe Blow,”](#) *Washington Monthly*, April 21, 2023.
44. [“How DC Can Satisfy Congress and Bolster Public Safety,”](#) *The Hill*, March 21, 2023.
45. [“Missouri Republicans Making the Right Moves on Justice – for Offenders and Taxpayers,”](#) *Kansas City Star*, March 19, 2023.
46. [“Jail Before Trial Should Be the Exception, Not the Norm,”](#) *Governing*, March 9, 2023.
47. [“How Texas Can Improve Prisons, Drug Policy and the Justice System,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, February 12, 2023.
48. [“‘Hotspot Policing’ – We Must Recalibrate Tactics After Nichols Killing,”](#) *The Hill*, February 11, 2023.

49. "[Remembering Paul Burka and His Lessons on Texas Politics](#)," *Houston Chronicle*, December 19, 2022.
50. "[A Healthier Path Out of Prison Leads to Safer Communities](#)," *The Hill*, December 13, 2022.
51. "[How to Settle the Tug of War Over Migrants](#)," *Washington Monthly*, November 30, 2022.
52. "[To Address the Corrections Staffing Crisis, Think Outside the Cell](#)," *Governing*, October 16, 2022.
53. "[Why a Strong, United America Requires Effective Criminal Justice Policies](#)," *The Hill*, October 15, 2022.
54. "[A Nat-Con Case for Criminal Justice Reform](#)," *Law & Liberty*, October 10, 2022.
55. "[Don't Abort Local Prosecutors' Discretion](#)," *Washington Monthly*, August 11, 2022.
56. "[7 Ways Harris County Could End Jail Overcrowding and Outsourcing](#)," *Houston Chronicle*, August 7, 2022.
57. "[Guns: Yes, Virginia, There Really is a Middle Ground](#)," *The Crime Report*, July 15, 2022.
58. "[We Need to Talk About Animal Cruelty and Mass Shooters](#)," *Time*, June 29, 2022.
59. "[There's Still Hope for Prosecutorial Reform After Recall of San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin](#)," *Reason*, June 8, 2022.
60. "[Bipartisan Drug Sentencing Reform Isn't a Pipe Dream](#)," *The Hill*, June 5, 2022.
61. "[Bail Fail Needs More Than a Band-Aid](#)" *Houston Chronicle*, April 22, 2022.
62. "[Confirmation Combat Can't Crush Bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform](#)", *The Hill*, April 6, 2022.
63. "[Jackson Confirmation Hearings Should Examine Due Process](#)," *Law360*, March 11, 2022.
64. "[Close the Door on No-Knock Raids and Usher in Training and Resources](#)," *The Hill*, February 17, 2022.
65. "[Critical Race Query](#)," *Washington Monthly*, January 13, 2022.
66. "[Young Offenders Need 2nd Chance, Pathway to Parole](#)," *Albuquerque Journal*, January 3, 2022.
67. "[Make Land of Enchantment a Land for Second Chances](#)," *Santa Fe New-Mexican*, December 16, 2021.
68. "[How Do We Stop the Homicide Crisis? Think Small](#)," *Newsweek*, December 16, 2021.
69. "[What Britney Spears Can Teach Us About Probation Reform](#)," *RealClearPolicy*, November 24, 2021.
70. "[Voters' Verdict on Policing: Mend It, Don't End It](#)," *Newsweek*, November 10, 2021.
71. "[Tap Talents of Ex-offenders to Solidify Supply Chain](#)," *The Hill*, November 5, 2021.
72. "[Reducing the Staggering Backlog of Court Cases](#)," *Route Fifty*, October 8, 2021.
73. "[After Congress Struck Out, Biden Must Go to Bat on Policing](#)," *The Hill*, October 1, 2021.
74. "[Returning Missing Students to School is Our National Homework Assignment](#)," *Newsweek*, September 22, 2021.
75. "[Planning for Losing': A Lesson on Justice Reform from Afghanistan](#)," *The Crime Report*, September 16, 2021.
76. "[Police and Voting Reform Need Federal Remedy, Not Takeover](#)," *Law360*, August 22, 2021.

77. [“Suicides Represent a Sobering Wake-up Call for Officer Wellness,”](#) *The Hill*, August 8, 2021.
78. [“A Conservative Case for Balanced Bail Reform,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, July 25, 2021.
79. [“Criminal Justice Reform in Texas Inches Forward,”](#) *San Antonio Express-News*, June 16, 2021.
80. [“Five Myths About Qualified Immunity”](#) with Nancy La Vigne, *The Washington Post*, May 27, 2021.
81. [“What Policing Reformers Can Learn from the National Push for Education Reform,”](#) *The National Interest*, May 6, 2021.
82. [“Require Officers to Intervene and Stop the Next Derek Chauvin,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, April 30, 2021.
83. [“Why American Exceptionalism Abroad Requires Criminal Justice Reform at Home,”](#) *The National Interest*, February 28, 2021.
84. [“DOJ Charging Memo Rescission Aids Prosecutorial Discretion,”](#) *Law360*, February 9, 2021.
85. [“What Makes for Good Policing Makes for Good Citizenship,”](#) *RealClearPolicy*, January 25, 2021.

Selected Presentations, Panel Discussions, and Media Appearances

1. American Legislative Exchange Council 2025 Annual Meeting Judiciary Task Force Presentation on Bipartisan Criminal Justice Principles, July 18, 2025.
2. Co-Host of Council on Criminal Justice Webinar, [“Behind the Walls: A Conversation on Prison Conditions in America,”](#) July 1, 2025.
3. Interviewed for [“Formerly Incarcerated People Must Clear High Hurdles to Get Reliable Health Care,”](#) *MLK50*, June 26, 2025.
4. Interviewed for [“Houston Police Seeing Quicker Response Times for Some Crimes, but Homicide Reactions Slowed,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, June 24, 2025.
5. Presentation on Communicating with Center-Right Audiences on Criminal Justice Policy, Harris County Mindful Justice Conference, June 17, 2025.
6. Interviewed for [“Trump Takes Credit for Political Shift Reducing Violent Crime to Record Lows,”](#) *Washington Times*, June 5, 2025.
7. Co-Host of Council on Criminal Justice Webinar, [“A Shared Vision for the Future of Criminal Justice Policy,”](#) June 1, 2025.
8. Host of Federalist Society Webinar: [“Courthouse Steps Decision: Barnes v. Felix,”](#) May 21, 2025.
9. Quattrone Center 2025 Spring Symposium Conversations on Criminal Justice Reform Panel Presentation [“Enhancing Police Data Practices: Identifying and Improving the Quality and Usability of Police Data,”](#) May 14, 2025.
10. Interviewed for [“For Years, a Nonprofit Worked to Mend Relations Between Teens and HPD. Then the DOJ Cut Its Funding,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, May 14, 2025.
11. Interviewed for [“Houston Has Seen a Rise in Homicides Compared to 2024, Contrary to National Trends, Records Show,”](#) *Houston Chronicle*, May 7, 2025.
12. Co-Host of Council on Criminal Justice Webinar, [“Second Chances: Navigating Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities,”](#) April 22, 2025.

13. [Invited Testimony on Juvenile Justice and House Bill 31](#), Texas House Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, April 7, 2025.
14. Interviewed for "[More Houstonians Are Staying Home at Night and Moving Neighborhoods to Avoid crime, Poll Says](#)," *Houston Chronicle*, March 31, 2025.
15. Co-Host of Council on Criminal Justice Webinar, "[Executive Actions and Criminal Justice](#)," March 25, 2025.
16. Panel Presentation "[Building Consensus: Bipartisan Strategies for Improving Criminal Justice and Advancing Public Safety](#)," Louisiana Public Safety Summit, East Baton Rouge Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, March 21, 2025.
17. Co-Host of Council on Criminal Justice Webinar, "[Executive Power – Exploring Clemency and Pardons](#)," February 12, 2025.
18. Interviewed for "[Lessons From the US on Combating Mass Incarceration](#)," *Financial Times*, February 9, 2025.
19. Host of Federalist Society Webinar. "[The Perils and Promise of A.I. in Criminal Justice](#)," January 16, 2025.
20. Interviewed for "[Harris County Violent Crime Dropped in 2024, Records Show](#)," *Houston Chronicle*, January 10, 2025.
21. Interviewed for "[Joe Biden Didn't Act to Advance Campaign Promise on Eliminating Cash Bail](#)," *Politifact*, December 6, 2024.
22. Group Presentations to the U.S. Sentencing Commission on Drug Sentencing and Supervised Release, December 4, 2024.
23. Interviewed for "[Handshakes, Murals and Ministry: A Reopened Texas Prison Focuses on Rehabilitation](#)," Associated Press, December 2, 2024.
24. [Presentation to Michigan State Law Federalist Society](#) on Leveraging Data & Research to Cut Crime and Advance Justice, November 18, 2024.
25. Interviewed for "What Might a Second Trump Term Mean for Public Safety in Houston? Here's What to Know," *Houston Chronicle*, November 16, 2024.
26. Interviewed for "[Texas Supreme Court Removes Temporary Block to Robert Roberson's Execution](#)," *Texas Tribune*, November 15, 2024.
27. American Society of Criminology Presidential Panel: The 2024 Elections and Criminal Justice, San Francisco, CA, November 14, 2024.
28. [Presentation to University of Houston Law Federalist Society](#) on Criminal Justice Policy Solutions, November 11, 2024.
29. Interviewed for "[What Latest FBI Data Shows About Violent Crime](#)," BBC News, October 18, 2024.

30. Marc Levin: "[The Pandemic Affected Crime Prevention Programs](#)," Publico.PT, October 25, 2024.



31. Interview for "[Robert Roberson's Case Spotlights Texas' GOP Divide on Criminal Justice](#)," Texas Tribune, October 4, 2024.
32. Interview for "[Texas Prisons' Staffing Crisis and Outdated Systems Endanger Guards and Inmates: Report](#)," NBC DFW, October 4, 2024.
33. [Interview on Breaking the Bond: What Bail Reform Looks Like Across the U.S.](#), NPR's Hear and Now, September 26, 2024.
34. Briefing to Uruguayan Interior Ministry on Criminal Justice Policy Hosted by U.S. Embassy, September 24, 2024.
35. Presentation on National Association of Pretrial Services Annual Conference on Communicating with Policymakers, New Orleans, LA, September 10, 2024.
36. [Beyond Borders – A Conversation About Immigration and Crime](#), Council on Criminal Justice Centering Justice LinkedIn Audio Event, August 27, 2024.
37. Reflecting on the Past Year and Envisioning the Year Ahead in State Criminal Justice Legislation, [Panel Presentation to NACDL's 23rd Annual State Criminal Justice Network Conference](#), August 14, 2024.
38. Presentation on Artificial Intelligence & Criminal Justice, ALEC Criminal Justice Task Force Summer Meeting, Denver, CO, July 24, 2024.
39. Interview for "[HPD Will Expand AI Surveillance with 64 New Cameras. Here's why – and How They'll Be Used](#)," Houston Chronicle, June 12, 2024.
40. Guest on [Beyond the Beltway with Bruce DuMont](#), WBEZ Chicago and Syndicates, May 26, 2024.
41. [Exploring the Relationship Between Housing and Crime](#), Council on Criminal Justice Centering Justice LinkedIn Audio Event, May 20, 2024.
42. "[Bail Reform: Illinois' Experience After 9 Months](#)," Federalist Society Webinar, May 20, 2024.



43. Wisconsin Crime Victims' Rights Conference, [Leveraging Data & Research to Cut Crime, Advance Justice and Restore Victims](#), April 18, 2024.
44. Panel on Texas Criminal Justice Reform, National Urban League Advocacy Day, Texas Capitol, February 6, 2024.



45. Interview for "[Murders Decline in Harris County, But Aggravated Assaults, Robberies Increase, Data Shows](#)," *Houston Chronicle*, January 12, 2024.
46. Centering Justice LinkedIn Audio Event, "[The First Step Act – From Idea to Implementation](#)," December 13, 2023.
47. Federalist Society [Teleforum on Voting Rights for People with Felony Convictions](#), December 13, 2023
48. Presentation at ALEC Winter Meeting on Violent Crime Solutions, Scottsdale, AZ, November 30, 2023.
49. Panel Discussion at Villanova Law School on Findings of CCJ Task Force on Long Sentences, October 26, 2023.
50. Presentation at Houston Rotary Club on State & Local Crime Trends and Solutions, October 5, 2023.

51. Panel Discussion with State Lawmakers at Young Republican National Convention, Dallas, TX, August 20, 2023.
52. Presentation at ALEC Summer Meeting on Long Sentences, Orlando, FL, July 27, 2023.
53. Centering Justice LinkedIn Audio Event: "[Pretrial Justice, Sentencing and Corrections—Finding Common Ground in State Capitals](#)," May 23, 2023.
54. Federalist Society [Teleforum on State Sentencing Policy for Violent Crime](#), May 16, 2023.
55. Presentation to Federalist Society on Criminal Justice Reform, Lubbock, TX, April 20, 2023.
56. Presentation on Collaborative Strategies for Public Safety & Equal Justice at Texas Criminal Justice Planners Meeting at Sam Houston State University, April 12, 2023.
57. Presentation to Safety & Justice Challenge Network Meeting on Communicating with Policymakers on Reform, April 4, 2023.
58. Federalist Society [Teleforum on Plea Bargaining Reform](#), March 29, 2023.
59. Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, [Virtual Forum on Prosecutorial Reform](#), December 13, 2022.
60. Presentation at U.S. Embassy, Montevideo, Uruguay, December 7, 2022.
61. Americans for Prosperity Ohio Public Safety and Justice Reform Summit, Columbus, OH, November 11, 2022.
62. Testimony Before Texas House Interim Committee on Criminal Justice Reform, October 12, 2022.
63. Texas Juvenile Probation Association Presentation on Legislative Initiatives, October 6, 2022.
64. Texas Tribune Festival Panel on Bail Reform, Austin, TX, September 24, 2022.
65. National Association of Pretrial Service Agencies (NAPSA) Panel on Communicating with Policymakers, Atlanta, GA, September 19, 2022.
66. ALEC Virtual Event on the Trial Penalty, September 15, 2022.
67. Integrated Justice Systems Information Institute Conference, Orlando, FL, September 1, 2022.
68. Vera Institute In Our Backyards Conference Presentation, Chattanooga, TN, August 19, 2022.
69. Presentation at ALEC Summer Meeting on Mental Illness and Criminal Justice, Atlanta, GA, July 29, 2022.
70. Federalist Society Courthouse Steps [Teleforum on Egbert v. Boule Decision](#), July 5, 2022.
71. Presentation at Institute on Innovation in Prosecution Conference of District Attorneys, June 17, 2022.
72. [Talk Justice Podcast](#), June 14, 2022.
73. Presentation with Jerry Madden on Reforms to Community Supervision and Prisons at American Legislative Exchange Council Criminal and Civil Justice Summit, Arlington, TX, June 9, 2022.
74. Houston Property Rights Association Presentation, June 3, 2022.
75. Presentation on Criminal Jurisprudence Legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Holocaust Museum of Houston, May 12, 2022.
76. America's Voice with Steve Gruber, March 21, 2022.
77. Believe in Arkansas [Podcast on Violent Crime](#), March 1, 2022.

78. LBJ School of Public Affairs Future Forum: [Effects of a Changing Criminal Justice System](#), February 23, 2022.
79. Federalist Society [Teleforum on Policing Reform](#), February 9, 2022.
80. Bill Martinez Show, January 26, 2022.
81. Aspen Institute Podcast, "[Can We Depoliticize Criminal Justice Reform?](#)," December 10, 2021.
82. American Legislative Exchange Council [Winter Meeting](#) in San Diego, December 3, 2021 (co-presenter with CCJ Violent Crime Working Group Member and Vallejo Police Captain Jason Potts on recommendations for evidence-based strategies to combat violent crime).
83. [Millennial Action Project Webinar for State Lawmakers](#), November 14, 2021.
84. "[What is the Right Way Forward on Clemency Reform?](#)", Federalist Society, October 24, 2021.
85. American Legislative Exchange Council [Summer Meeting](#) in Salt Lake City, July 29, 2021 (providing introduction to Council's work and highlighting key findings of Policing Task Force).
86. [Maryland Juvenile Justice Reform Council](#), July 14, 2021. (discussing evidence against current policy allowing for direct file on youths in adult court).
87. Justice Action Network Congressional Briefing on Qualified Immunity, May 14, 2021.
88. "[Courthouse Steps Decision Teleforum: Jones v. Mississippi](#)", Federalist Society, April 26, 2021.
89. Justice Action Network & Millennial Action Project [Webinar for State Lawmakers](#), March 14, 2021.
90. Stand Together Virtual Discussion on Criminal Justice Reform, March 11, 2021.

Boards and Task Forces

1. American Legislative Exchange Council Criminal Justice Task Force
2. Federalist Society Criminal Law Practice Group Executive Committee
3. Urban Rural Action Board of Directors
4. Caruth Police Institute at Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute Advisory Board
5. Correctional News Editorial Board
6. Aspen Institute Criminal Justice Initiative Advisory Board
7. Texas Clean Slate Initiative Steering Committee
8. Prison & Jail Innovation Lab at UT-Austin LBJ School Advisory Board
9. The Marshall Project Advisory Board
10. Texas Indigent Defense Commission Legislative Working Group
11. Advisory Board for Skiff Mountain Films' project "Crime and Punishment in America"
12. End the Trial Penalty Policy Committee
13. Harris County Commissioners Court Precinct 4 Safety & Justice Advisory Committee
14. ABA Task Force on Plea Bargaining Reform (2021-2024)
15. Square One Collaborative on Race, Justice & Reckoning (2023-2024)
16. National Association of Drug Court Professionals Board of Directors (2016-2022)

