December Spotlight

LARRP is, first and foremost, a network, a network of humans who love and care for people in reentry. This is what binds us, this is what drives us, this is why we exist. We appreciate all of our partners and allies, but we want to say a special THANK YOU to all of you who took the step to become a paid member of LARRP in 2019. Haven’t done so, there’s still time! [click here]

We are proud to share with you that in 2019 LARRP held six General Meetings (always the 2nd Thursdays of the odd months 9:30-Noon), hosted over a dozen free expungement clinics, and held over two dozen reentry issue committee meetings. Whether it was helping to convene nearly 1,000 Angelenos in Montebello in May for the “Shaking up Reentry: A Collaborative Approach to Reentry in LA County,” hosting a workshop on how to apply for the Prop 64 Cal Grant funding, or sending letters of support for key reentry bills in Sacramento, the LARRP team is always working hard to bring critical information and resources to LA’s reentry community.

We have also delivered you 12 jammed-packed newsletters listing regional reentry events, announcing funding opportunities and jobs, profiling member services and accomplishments, and providing timely articles and reports to keep you informed with the key happenings in reentry and criminal justice reform. If you missed them, you can read about the two awards LARRP received under the California Community Reinvestment Grants (Prop 64) here, or the hiring of long time reentry leader Joe Paul Jr. and other new LARRP staff here.

2019 has been an incredible year for LARRP, thank YOU for being a part of it.

LARRP MEETINGS and EVENTS

LARRP Integrated Health Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 2019
2:00 – 3:00 PM
In Person Meeting:

LARRP's Free Legal Clinics
The first Saturday of
742 N. La Brea Ave, Inglewood (parking onsite)
Call-In Option: (323) 840-1331 | No Pin

Intended Meeting Outcomes:
- Formalize and Launch the LARRP Integrated Health Committee
- Understanding of the Integrated Health landscape
- Identification of the priority issues that the Integrated Health Committee will focus on

Last meeting of the year

**Education Committee Meeting**

December 19th, 2019
4:00-5:30
LATTC

Save the Dates!

**Next LARRP General Meeting**

January 9, 2019
9:30am – 12:00pm
Inglewood Community Church 742 N. La Brea Ave

Next Year's Committee Meetings

Education Committee -
January 16, 2020
4:00-5:30

Housing Committee -
January 16, 2020
1:00 -3:00

Employment Committee -
January 16, 2020
9:00 - 1:00

All locations tbd

Unlock the Vote Campaign:
Request for Volunteers

The Unlock the Vote campaign aims to amplify the voices of justice-involved and justice-impacted folks in our democracy. We are embarking on a campaign to reduce barriers to registration and voting for justice-involved and justice-impacted folks in Los Angeles County.

By disseminating information and educating disenfranchised communities, we can increase voting access to at least the 17,000 people inside the LA jails!

To do this, LARRP, along with a number of community partners including ANOWL, will educate and register individuals who are incarcerated inside the LA jails as well as engage with the justice-impacted community at re-entry fairs.

In order to engage with as many people who are impacted as possible, we need your support.

**We will need volunteers:**
- To go inside the jail facilities to educate and register*,
- At the visitor’s line educate and register family and friends,
- To help with mailings,
- To attend reentry fairs to educate and register people who are CJ-impacted
- And so much more

If you and/or your organization are interested in any of the above, please contact Joe Paul, Managing Director of LARRP, at joe@lareentry.org

PARTNER EVENTS
December 8th  
12:00 PM  
4423 Santa Monica Blvd  
LA, CA, 90299  

Naloxone training event with Bob Forrest.  
Food and music will be provided

The LA Coalition for DA Justice & Accountability presents  

**A District Attorney Candidate Debate**  

December 11, 2019  
6-9:30  
California African American Museum

District attorneys are the most powerful elected officials within the criminal legal system, yet voter turnout for DA elections is historically low. On March 3, 2020, LA County will hold its first contested DA race since 2012. Due to a rising swell of transformational criminal justice efforts and focus on the power of district attorneys, DA Lacey will run against at least 3 other reform-minded candidates: Richard Ceballos, George Gascón, and Rachel Rossi.

Register

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A New Vision of Pretrial Justice Symposium  

Friday, December 6, 2019  
10am - 4pm  
Los Angeles Trade Technical College, 400 W. Washington Blvd., LA, CA 90015,  
Aspen Hall, Room TE - 101 Technology

The JusticeLA Coalition & Vera Institute of Justice invite you to our symposium on December 6, 2019 to contemplate the future of pretrial justice in Los Angeles County. Local and national experts will weigh in on some of the most important issues in pretrial justice, including: (1) the role of prosecutors in pretrial justice; (2) reconsidering the use of risk assessment tools; (3) using strengths & needs assessments to support pretrial release; and (4) models of pretrial release from around the country.

Lunch and light breakfast to be served

Register

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Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Meeting  

Tuesday, December 10, 2019  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Liberty Community Plaza  
14181 Telegraph Road Whittier CA 90604

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**Member Newswire**

This month we highlight LARRP’s Steering Committee member Sam Lewis. He is the Executive Director of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), and we want to give a shout out to his inspiring recent work with the Hope and Redemption Team he leads.

Watch this [YouTube video](#).
reentry support in seven Southern California prisons.

Led by eight former Lifers, the Hope and Redemption program launched in August 2017. In each institution, ARC offers three workshops – Criminals and Gang Members Anonymous, Board Parole Hearing Preparation and Relapse Prevention, and Youthful Offender Program Mentoring. Thus far, HART has served over 2,000 individuals inside prison.

Opportunities

Centralized Training Academy

**Homeless Health Care Los Angeles**

(HHCLA) is excited to announce the launch of several new FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES for entry level, mid-level and supervisory staff in the homeless services sector!!

Curriculum I: Care Coordination and Systems Navigation

Curriculum II: Applied Care Coordination and Systems Navigation

Curriculum III: Supervisory Training for Homeless Services

NEWS

Featured News Story

For our End of the Year Featured News Story we offer a vision of what incarceration can and should look like!

Where Prisons Are A Last Resort

How Finland & Norway Cut Prisons, Increased Social Programs, and Boosted Public Safety

Nov 23 by By Richie “Reseda” Edmond-Vargas, Co-Founder, Initiate Justice

“You know what the difference is between Finland and the U.S.? In the U.S., you have to earn being a human.”

Read the Story

More News Stories

How College In Prison Turns Around Lives And Saves Taxpayers Money

Forbes

Nov 23, 2019, Evan Gerstmann

Read the Article
Los Angeles unveils first ever bridge housing project for trans women
Casa de Zulma aims to help vulnerable community members get back on their feet.

USC Annenberg Media
By Hayley Smith, November 14

Read the Story

Minor crimes, major time
SF Chronicle,
Joaquin Palomino and Jill Tucker, Nov. 21, 2019
As youth crime plummets, authorities claim California's increasingly empty juvenile halls now hold mostly the worst young offenders. But a Chronicle investigation shows nearly a third of kids in custody are there for low-level offenses.

Read the Story

Since you asked: Is it me, or is the government releasing less data about the criminal justice system?
Prison Policy Initiative
by Wendy Sawyer, November 14, 2019
The Bureau of Justice Statistics is tasked with collecting, analyzing, and publishing data about the criminal justice system. But its reports are slowing down - and its framing of criminal justice issues is becoming more punitive.

Read More

Some criminal justice reform measures taking hold slowly as judges and prosecutors oppose them
Two major reform bills passed by legislators in Sacramento are not getting much traction in practice in the state’s large counties

San Diego Union Tribune
By Greg Moran, Nov. 24, 2019

Read the Story

Algorithms were supposed to make Virginia judges fairer. What happened was far more complicated
The Washington Post
Andrew Van Dam, November 19, 2019

Read the story
Featured Report

Review of the Inmate Reception Center Intake Evaluation Process
November 2019

This month we feature a heartbreaking report about the substandard conditions in the Inmate Reception Center of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. For over a decade oversight agencies have reported on these problems and made recommendations, but, the problems persist. Some of the patients subjected to the worst conditions are those who display the most serious medical or mental health symptoms. Patients who are at risk of or exhibit acute mental health distress are tethered with handcuffs to fixed chairs for the duration of the intake process.7 Despite the reporting, recommendations, and frequent warnings by the OIG against long-term tethering, patients continue to encounter excessive wait times in unsanitary conditions while tethered to chairs.8 At times, patients have remained tethered for nearly twenty-four hours.

Read the Report

LARRP also has an amazing resource of Reports on the website

50-State Chart on Relief from Sex Offender Registration: Updated
Collateral Consequences Resource Center, November 21, 2019

Read the Report

The Steep Costs of Criminal Justice Fees and Fines
Brennan Center for Justice, November 21, 2019, Matthew Menendez, Michael Crowley, Lauren-Brooke Eisen, Noah Aichison

SUMMARY: Court fees and fines unjustly burden people with debt just as they re-entering society. They are also ineffective at raising revenue.

Read the report

Costs Of Injustice: How Criminal System Fees Are Hurting Los Angeles County Families
ACLU Southern California
November 19, 2019
Los Angeles County has a responsibility to ensure that all its community members, whether rich or poor, receive equal justice and a fair chance to succeed. However, by using the criminal system to extract fees
and fines from low-income communities of color, the county is doing the opposite.

Read the Report