Criminal Justice Reforms are Winning in Sacramento

2019 was a banner year for getting criminal justice reform bills passed and signed into law in California’s state capitol. Legislators from San Diego to Los Angeles to Sacramento championed critical bills to reduce police misconduct, reduce recidivism, increase core services and improve life outcomes for the justice involved population. And Governor Gavin Newsom signed the vast majority of them into law, including over two dozen last week.

Of the 12 bills that LARRP sent letters of support for, five were signed into law, one was vetoed by the Governor, and the other six were stalled in the process or became two year bills. You can review a summary and disposition of LARRP’s 12 2019 Priority Bills here.

Among the many critical legislative wins, were restoring the right to people with felony convictions to serve on a jury (SB310), banning new private prison contracts (AB32), reducing mandatory minimums (AB484), repealing certain sentencing enhancements (SB136), and an automated record clearance system for individuals arrested or convicted after January 1, 2021 (AB1076). You can read a good overview of the many bills here.

LARRP MEETINGS and EVENTS

November 14th
9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

LARRP General meeting
Last meeting of the Year. Don't miss it!

LARRP’s Free Legal Clinics The first Saturday of every month
Attorneys and paralegals from the Los Angeles Public Defenders Office will be onsite providing...
Last Meeting of the Year, Don’t Miss it!

LARRP Headquarters
742 N. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90302

November Agenda:
- LARRP Voices from Impacted People
- Troy Vaughn, LARRP Executive Directors’s Report
- Colleen Stoner, BSCC - Adult Reentry Grant Program
- Ricca Prasad, Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law - Families First: The Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law
- Norma Mtume, MAT-Access Points Project - The L.A. County Department of Health Services

November 21st, 2019
9am-11am
LARRP Employment Committee Meeting

We will be meeting at the Inglewood Community Church, 742 N La Brea Ave, Inglewood, CA 90302

Topic: Paid training opportunities for the justice involved

Please bring resources to share. We will have a table.

If you are a provider that pays wages or stipends for training, please email alex@center4living.org.

FREE post-conviction relief. Reentry services offered:
- Felony Reductions
- Dismissals
- Prop 47 and 64 Relief
- Certificate of Rehabilitation
- Referrals
- Voter Registration
- Employment Services

Next Clinic:
November 9, 2019
10AM-1PM
Amity Foundation
3750 S. Grand Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90007

Please note: LARRP General Meetings and other events are open to the public. By attending, you consent to having your voice and likeness recorded, photographed, posted on LARRP’s website and social media, and included in LARRP’s materials and publications for noncommercial purposes. If you don’t want to be photographed or recorded, please let the facilitator know so you can be seated accordingly.

LARRP is Growing

As we move into our 9th year of existence, and the demand for our services continues to grow, LARRP is happy to announce our two newest hires.
Elder Joe Paul has joined LARRP as our first Managing Director. In this role Joe manages all of LARRP’s programs and staff on a day to day basis, and he will lead LARRP’s expansion around voter engagement and faith communities. Joe Paul joined LARRP’s Steering Committee when he was working with SHIELDS for Families, where he worked for many years on reentry employment. Joe will remain on the Steering Committee, where he also plays a leadership role, bringing his 27 years in the reentry field to help guide the organization’s mission. Read Joe’s bio, and feel free to email him at joe@lareentry.org.

Takouhi “Tako” Tarkhanyan has joined LARRP as a Program Associate, focused on building and maintaining LARRP’s Reentry Asset Mapping Project (L-RAMP). Tako began working with LARRP during her Social Change course at CalState LA and continued working with LARRP over the summer as a SEEDS Scholar Intern, where she worked on building out the L-RAMP. Tako will serve as LARRP’s project lead on the Prop 64 grant partnership with 211 LA County, to ensure up to date information on reentry resources are integrated into 211 and more accessible to the broader community. System navigators please reach out! Read Tako’s bio, and feel free to email her at tako@lareentry.org.

PARTNER EVENTS

Nov 7, 2019
10:15 AM

WEBINAR: Promoting Better Outcomes and Safer Communities

New Resources for Juvenile Probation Administrators and Officers

Register

November 7
5:30pm to 9:00pm
Loyola Law School, Burns Lounge

Prosecuting the Mentally Ill: Practices and Policies

This symposium will consider best practices for prosecuting the mentally ill, including diversion, treatment provision whilst awaiting trial, and piling on of charges. The panelists will develop proposals for a truly progressive approach to prosecuting the mentally ill, as well as evaluating the current state of practice in California and particularly Los Angeles.

Register
November 9th
4:30-8:30pm
at A Noise Within Theatre in Pasadena.

Reform L.A. Jails Day Party & Summit: Mental Health Matters

While we dance and vibe with music and food, there will be conversations uplifting stories of members of our community and generating the political support necessary to demand #carenotcages.

We are excited to announce that we will be joined by Dawn Lyen-Gardner of Queen Sugar, Jason George of Grey’s Anatomy, Kendrick Sampson of Insecure, Zuri Adele of Good Trouble, Boogie Compton rapper, LA District Attorney candidates Richard Ceballos, Joseph Iniguez, and George Gascón and Rachel Rossi as well as Dr. Kristen Ochoa, Medical Director of LA County’s Office of Diversion and Reentry, and many other amazing participants and guests!

Register

Read about it: Reform L.A. County Jails Campaign To Host Summit On Mental Health, BET, Oct.31, 2019

November 8, 2019
2:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Youth Justice Concert by Jared O’Brien & youth justice coalition

a fun hip hop/pop concert in the heart of the community to build awareness around social justice and oppression by probation system

Tickets

November 14, 2019
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Accelerate Uptown, 6082 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805

Choices Reentry Roundtable in Long Beach

The summit will address housing, jobs, technology, mental health, and entrepreneurship. The Choices re-entry Roundtable and networking event is our first step to establish a community of re-entry providers and support system for our re-entry community.

Register

November 13, 2019
5:30 - 8:30
King/Drew Magnet High School 1601 East 120th St, LA, CA 90059

civicallyME

a young voter candidate forum
Underground Scholars Initiative Transfer Empowerment Workshop

The Underground Scholars Initiative will bring people who have been directly impacted through mass incarceration, including formerly incarcerated students, onto UCLA to facilitate a transfer info session, personal statement workshop, provide a FREE meal and tour around campus with a panel discussion to discuss some of our members personal experiences being UCLA students.

Student Activities Center Basement
220 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095

REGISTER

November 16, 2019
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
St. Anne’s Conference Center
155 N Occidental Blvd, LA, CA, 90026

Community Policing Conference: Redefining Public Safety in L.A. County

Hosted by Los Angeles County, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission, Human Relations Commission and Department of Public Health

Register

DOORS Holiday Donation Request

As the holiday season is approaching, we are mindful of the unmet needs of our families and community members. We would like to support those in need. Please consider donating items or monetary contributions.

November 13, 2019
5:30 – 8:30
King/Drew Magnet High School 1601 East 120th St, LA, CA 90059

civicallyME
a young voter candidate forum

Los Angeles is not only the largest county in the nation but it leads the US in progressive policy making. The 2020 election is in full swing, and candidates at each level of government are beginning to set their political stance on key issues. We invite you to come enjoy an interactive forum where candidates for LACounty Supervisorial District 2 share their vision for our communities.

Get tickets

WAF Study

As part of California’s Workforce Accelerator Fund (WAF), Friends Outside in Los Angeles County has begun conducting research to understand the impacts of federal and state polices on individuals with sex offenses (adult and juveniles).

If you know of anyone with a sex offense who would like to participate in this study, or participate in the workforce program, or both, please contact our lead consultant, Luis Barrera Castaño. For further information about the program, please contact Mary Weaver.

Criminal Record Clearing Project LA County Homeless Court Program

Stuffed by the Los Angeles City Attorney’s HEART team

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in need to lighten the anticipated burden that is sometimes associated with the holiday season.

We are asking for your help with providing gently used or new clothing donations, non-perishable food items, hygiene kits, toys, books, blankets, first aid kits and other basic need supplies for adults, children and families. Individuals, groups and or organization donations are all welcomed! Taxable letters will be provided upon request.

Please feel free to contact Cherise Stephens or by calling the DOORS reception desk at 323-730-4442.

On our Radar

Voting is changing in LA County beginning with the March 2020 elections.

LARRP is working with LA County on developing implementation plans for the ATI (Alternatives to Incarceration) recommendations.

Please read more on our website

They have updated the reading list that includes a number of reports that have information that should help in filling out these plans. It includes reports like the ODR Road Map, which contains lots of specific info prepared partly for ATI, focusing on the mental health and serious medical condition populations, on community capacity, staffing, facilities, funding, legislative reforms, etc., as well as the report Million Dollar Hoods prepared for ATI, the ACLU/Bazelon Report on diversion, the County Diversion spreadsheet updated for ATI, the DA's Blueprint Report, links to Dept. of Public Health reports, and many others. Updated Reading List

One of the biggest changes under the new system is that traditional polling places will be replaced by vote centers, allowing voters to cast their ballot at any vote center in the county over an 11-day voting period.

As part of the transition process, Los Angeles County has published their draft Election Administration Plan (EAP) and has opened up the public comment period. View EAP

Take this opportunity to read through the draft plan and see where vote center locations are proposed in your city. Then, submit a public comment with your feedback to let others know if you thought the EAP was clear, informative, and helpful. The EAP is available in English and 12 additional languages. Submit public comment using the online form before the November 19th deadline, or attend an upcoming public hearing (more info below) to voice your thoughts.

Opportunities
Opportunities

Soros Justice Fellowships

The Soros Justice Fellowships fund outstanding individuals to undertake projects that advance reform, spur debate, and catalyze change on a range of issues facing the U.S. criminal justice system.

Full applications are due on November 20, 2019

More Info

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!!

For More Info and to register:

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

This month we feature the story about the parolees who helped fight the Saddleridge Fire. In these days with fires here in Los Angeles, let's take a moment to thank the prisoners and parolees who make it possible for California to fight these extreme fires.

Parolees Help Battle Saddleridge Fire as Part of New Reentry Program in Ventura County

October 14, 2019,
KTLA5, By Kristina Bravo

A new program designed to help former offenders pursue a career in firefighting made its first deployment over the weekend to help battle the Saddleridge Fire in the San Fernando Valley. The Ventura Training Center Firefighter Training and Reentry Program began teaching its first class of participants in October 2018...

Read More

More News Stories

Criminal justice reform targets court fines, fees

The state’s bewildering system of court fines and fees is now the target of reformers, who say it unfairly punishes the poor and is a bad way to fund the court system

By Greg Moran
Los Angeles County Works to Transform Criminal Justice Through Collaboration
Erin O’donnell
Next City, October 25, 2019

In Los Angeles County, which has the largest jail and probation systems in the country, leaders are finding innovative ways to collaborate — sometimes for the first time — within departments, across agencies, and with the community.

Read More....

DA Backs Off Hardline Stance on Immigrants Caught With Weed
Felipe De La Hoz
Daily Beast, Oct 30, 2019

The abrupt reversal ends the office’s argument against a state law intended to protect minor drug offenders who agreed to pretrial diversion program from deportation.

Read More

L.A. County needs real Sheriff’s Department oversight. That means subpoena power
The LA Times Editorial Board, Oct. 15, 2019

No action was taken by the board.
Elizabeth Marcellino,
NBC Los Angeles, Oct 29, 2019

Despite campaign promises by Sheriff Alex Villanueva to remove ICE agents from county jails, all that has changed about how inmates are released into immigration custody is an 80-foot walk through the county jail, according to a county watchdog.

Read More

Work, Pay, Or Go To Jail: Court-Ordered Community Service In Los Angeles
by Lucero Herrera, Tia Koonse, Melanie Sonsteng-Person, Noah Zatz

Private Prisons in the United States
The Sentencing Project

Twenty-eight states and the federal government incarcerated 121,718 people in private prisons in 2017, representing 8.2% of the total state and federal prison population. Since 2000, the number of people housed in private facilities has increased 39%, according to data collected by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and The Sentencing Project and presented in our new fact sheet.
Work, Pay, or Go to Jail: Court-Ordered Community Service in Los Angeles is the first study to analyze a large-scale system of court-ordered community service in the contemporary United States. It finds that court-ordered community service functions as a system of unregulated and coercive labor, which worsens the effects of criminal justice debt and displaces paid jobs.

Read the Report

LARRP also has an amazing resource of Reports on the website

Reports Archive

Women’s Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2019

By Aleks Kajstura
Prison Policy Initiative, Oct. 29, 2019

This report provides a detailed view of the 231,000 women and girls incarcerated in the United States, and how they fit into the even broader picture of correctional control.

Read the Report