

CENTER FOR
JUSTICE
AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Center for Justice is a catalyst for interdisciplinary approaches to justice and connecting the university to community and national initiatives to achieve justice goals. Our vision is a new, replicable model of mobilizing collaborations among the multiple disciplines of the university and community partners to address critical justice issues in ways that enrich research, education and civic engagement within the university; and strengthen leadership among the formerly incarcerated. Launched in 2014, the Center—whose founders, leadership, staff and students include formerly incarcerated people—operates to transform the justice system through activities that range from directly investing in people affected by mass incarceration to collective action to promote justice policy reform.



Some of the ways we have made a difference over the last year:

- We were instrumental in Columbia University [becoming a founding partner](#) of the [Fair Chance Higher Education Pledge](#)—a White House call to institutions of higher education to improve their communities by eliminating barriers for those with a criminal record.
- With the [Tamer Social Enterprise Center at Columbia Business School](#), we hosted a generative conference on *Solutions to Post-Incarceration Employment and Entrepreneurship: The Role of Businesses and Universities*. Next year with our support, the Tamer Center will be offering educational programming in entrepreneurship at a local prison and to those who have returned home.
- The inaugural Center for Justice Research Fellows Awards for research on justice reform were awarded to two Ph.D. candidates and one Ph.D. All were formerly incarcerated.
- [The Justice-in-Education Initiative](#), a partnership with the Heyman Center for the Humanities, offered Columbia credit for classes taught in prisons (in collaboration with Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison) and to formerly incarcerated students on campus. We also provided youth and young adults with educational enrichment programs both in Rikers and on campus.
- We welcomed new full-time (3) and part-time (2) staff, teaching instructors and assistants, three of whom were formerly incarcerated.
- Our policy paper, [Aging in Prison: Reducing Elder Incarceration and Promoting Public Safety](#) and short film, [Rosalie Comes Home](#), and NYT op-ed gained policy makers' attention.
- The annual [Beyond-the-Bars](#) conference went national, with Bryonn Bain hosting simultaneous tele-participation of UCLA students at the conference; 20 *Beyond-the-Bars* Fellows graduated.
- Our work was featured in various publications and news articles including: [The Atlantic](#), [CBS' "This Morning"](#), [Ebony Magazine](#), and [The New York Times](#).

Please consider supporting us so we can continue our work in 2017, <http://centerforjustice.columbia.edu/support-2/>