**

*“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”*

- Eleanor Roosevelt, Chair of Human Rights Commission for the United Nations

***Resources***

***For learning more about Human Rights issues in the American Criminal Justice system***

*with thanks to Helen Hershkoff, Demitri Papolos and Meredith Palmer*

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## Mental Health and Criminal Justice

**April 13, 2018** NYU is hosting a conference on the subject of mental health and prisons that is open to the public and is free of charge:

**Center on the Administration of Criminal Law’s Tenth Annual Conference in Partnership with Fair and Just Prosecution**

On April 13, 2018, the Center on the Administration of Criminal Law, in partnership with Fair and Just Prosecution, presents its Tenth Annual Conference, “Disrupting the Cycle 2: Mental Health Reforms in the Criminal Justice System.” The conference will be held in Greenberg Lounge in Vanderbilt Hall from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.

**The conference will feature a diverse group of speakers, including prosecutors, practitioners, policymakers, and judges, and panels include the following:**

**• Avoiding the Criminalization of Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System – An Opportune Moment for Change**

**• Charting a Different Path – the Role of Prosecutors and Criminal Justice System Leaders in Reform**

**• Moving the Needle: A Model of Change in Indianapolis**

There are 3.5 CLE credits available in the Areas of Professional Practice. CLE registration starts at 8:30 am. **There is no fee but registration is required.**

**RSVP to the event** [**here**](https://nyu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7X4ETNRjU7Da8It)**.**

## Bail Funds and Community-Based Strategies

[Webinar](https://vimeo.com/259738795) by the National Lawyer's Guild about bail reform available on Vimeo:

**Helen Hershkoff** teaches at NYU Law School and shared information about a webinar on Bail Reform by the National Lawyer's Guild, which looks into the **experience of lawyers and activists who have established bail and bond funds intended to help end mass incarceration**.

**Bail Funds and Community-Based Strategies**: Bail and bond funds can be an important tool towards dismantling the prison industrial complex and ending mass incarceration. However, as many new funds emerge in response to the rampant policing of protests and uprisings, this is an important moment to share lessons learned on the ground. Lawyers and legal workers sometimes create the funds without establishing a direct, accountable, intentional connection to the communities in which they exist causing a disconnect in strategy and desired outcome.

This webinar features volunteers from bail fund groups in Baton Rouge, Standing Rock (the Freshet Collective) and the Chicago Community Bail Fund to explore some of these tensions while uplifting some concrete victories. Law for Black Lives, the National Lawyers Guild and the National Bail Fund Network will offer a framework in which bail and bond funds are connected to community-based organizations with a focus on racial justice and eventual prison abolition. Southerners on New Ground will discuss their recent National Mama's Day Bailout Action and how we can move forward together.

Further resources on community-based bond/bail/legal defense funds compiled by the panelists are available at [bit.ly/bailfundresources](http://bit.ly/bailfundresources)

Information from NYU Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law about **groups working on bail reform:**

The Katal Center has been at the front of the charge in this space, hosting monthly calls and pulling together materials to keep folks informed about the advocacy. The Statement by Criminal Justice Reform Groups lists a number of orgs in this fight, but Helen suggests they start with Katal.

## Juvenile Bipolar Disorder and the Fear of Harm Diagnosis

A moving account of a mother’s experience with her son, “I am Adam Lanza’s Mother,” is recounted [here](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/04/24/475461959/how-talking-openly-against-stigma-helped-a-mother-and-son-cope-with-bipolar-diso) from an NPR report, which describes classmate **Demitri Papolos**’s research and the relief he was able to bring to her troubled son. Liza Long, who wrote the blog post described in the NPR piece, has also written a book entitled *The Price of Silence: A Mom’s Perspective on Mental Illness*, also available in audio format.

## *13th*: The History of Mass Incarceration on film

**Meredith Palmer** writes, “For those who have not seen it, I highly recommend the 13th film on Netflix.” 13th is a 2016 American documentary by director Ava DuVernay which explores the intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States; it is named for the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery (unless as punishment for a crime). “Duvernay connects the dots in a way that seems so obvious about mass incarceration’s history that you will not understand how you missed these developments before,” said Meredith.

## Art for Justice Fund

**Meredith Palmer** suggests that “If you go on the website for Agnes Gund’s [Art for Justice Fund](https://artforjusticefund.org), you can see the initial 30 grantee organizations announced in November (more coming in May) in categories that I mentioned:

1. Bail Reform

2. Sentencing Reform

3. Re-entry Barriers

4. Bear Witness

5. Arts Programs”