



**\*\*Subject to change\*\***

**DAY 1: THURSDAY, JUNE 16 (ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN)**

12 - 1pm

**Conference Opening & Keynote**

We will open the conference with keynote remarks from **Derecka Purnell**, author of *Becoming Abolitionists: Police, Protests, and the Pursuit of Freedom*.

Derecka Purnell is a lawyer, organizer, and author. She works to end police and prison violence by providing legal assistance, research, and training in grassroots organizations through an abolitionist framework.

As this year's conference theme is "Reimagining Justice," we invite our attendees to consider and imagine new approaches to safety.

1 - 1:15p.m.

*Break*

1:15pm - 2:15pm: **Concurrent workshops**

- **Repairing the Harm of the Family Regulation System**

The family regulation (aka "child welfare") system disproportionately surveils and criminalizes Black families for their parenting. As public defenders and advocates who work with families navigating through this harmful system, we must ensure that we are not colluding with the system and instead that we are supporting families. This session will discuss how public defenders can work with families to mitigate the harm of the family regulation system in the courtroom and with family advocates at the policy table.

**Presenters:**

*Angela Burton*, Director of Quality Enhancement for Parent Representation, New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services, Albany NY

*Anntionetta Rountree*, Parent Advocate, Bloomington, IL

*Shrounda Selivanoff*, Director of Public Policy, Children's Home Society of Washington, Seattle WA



- **Social Media for Black Public Defenders**

Every public defender with a Twitter account has the ability to help shift and change perceptions about the criminal legal system. This session will take a deep dive into the ways in which social media has been used to drive systems change. Attendees will leave with practical tips on ways to use communications and social media to elevate the voice and work of Black public defenders.

Presenters:

*Rabiah Burks*, Vice President of Communications & Team Building, National Legal Aid & Defender Association, Washington D.C.

*Alexis Mitchell*, Senior Social Media & Community Manager, FAMM Foundation, Washington D.C.

*Janicia Moore*, Director of Communications, Black Public Defender Association, Washington D.C.

- **The Jury Box, Batson and Black Liberation**

This panel will discuss the importance of Jury Service, Batson and Nullification as a tool for Black Liberation.

Presenters:

*Will Snowden*, Founder, The Juror Project, New Orleans LA

*Porsha-Shaf'on Venable*, Supervising Attorney, The Bronx Defenders, Bronx NY

*Brendon Woods*, Chief, Alameda County Public Defenders, Oakland CA

2:15 - 2:30pm      *Break*

2:30 - 4:00pm      **Training Workshop:**

**Re-imagining Resistance and Freedom Fighting in Defense of Black People**

This workshop is designed to assist attendees in re-imagining radical approaches towards racial justice, systemic change, and healing. Using an African-centered organizational approach, attendees will gain tools for preventing, identifying and addressing secondary



trauma and Public Defender Fatigue at the individual and organizational levels.

Presenter:

*Dr. Ifetayo Ojelade*, Executive Director, A Healing Paradigm Wellness Center, Atlanta GA

**DAY 2: FRIDAY, JUNE 17 (ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN)**

12 - 1:15pm

**Training Workshop:**

**Complexities of Violence: Exploring Alternative Responses to Harm**

Across the country, we see renewed calls for carceral policies that propose police and prisons as solutions to violence and harm. But as public defenders, we know that violence is complex and mass incarceration does not deliver safety. This panel of public defenders, community and policy advocates will engage in a conversation about alternative responses to harm.

Moderator:

*Chiquisha Robinson*, Director of Social Policy & Advocacy, BPDA, Washington D.C.

Panelists:

*Olayemi Olurin*, Public Defender & Political Commentator, NYC

*Premal Dharia*, Executive Director, Institute to End Mass Incarceration, Washington, D.C.

*Qiana Johnson*, Co-Conductor, Harriet's Wildest Dreams, Washington D.C.

*W. Devin Franklin*, Movement Policy Counsel, Southern Center for Human Rights, Atlanta GA

1:15- 1:30p.m.

*Break*

1:30pm - 2:30pm:

**Concurrent workshops**



- **Lawyering Outside of the Courtroom: The Power of Community**

In 2020, Alaina Bloodworth, then a public defender, partnered with Eugene Collins of the Baton Rouge NAACP to demand the dismissal of over 640 criminal cases that were tied to corrupt police practices. Using their successful advocacy as a case study, Alaina and Eugene will discuss how public defenders can partner with the community to drive systemic change. The workshop will examine public defenders' role in social movements and the impact of movement lawyering. We will discuss and identify tools to help public defenders find balance and stay focused while addressing issues inside and outside the courtroom. We also will analyze approaches to building trust with the community and providing the expertise needed.

Presenters:

*Alaina Bloodworth*, Deputy Director, Black Public Defender Association, Baton Rouge LA

*Eugene Collins*, President, NAACP Baton Rouge Branch, Baton Rouge LA

- **Holding Police Accountable by Expediting the Review of Video Evidence**

Eighty percent of criminal cases involve some form of video evidence, and increased volumes of body camera footage, interrogation videos, and jail calls are fundamentally transforming modern public defense practice. JusticeText is an evidence management tool specifically designed to strengthen the ability of indigent defense providers to extract relevant insights from hours of audio and video data by using machine learning. In this workshop, JusticeText co-founder Devshi Mehrotra will be joined by partner agencies to discuss the impact of video evidence on public defenders and the ways in which technology is being leveraged to improve case outcomes in public defender agencies nationwide.

Presenters:

*Maryam Adamu*, Attorney-Criminal Defense, Still She Rises, Tulsa OK

*Jordan Gayle*, Investigator, Still She Rises, Tulsa OK

*Devshi Mehrotra*, CEO & Co-Founder, JusticeText, Irvine CA

*LaNitria Turner*, Investigation Practice Leader, Still She Rises, Tulsa OK



- **Healing the Traumas of Black Youth: The Resilience of Black Community and Identity**

In this workshop, attendees will recognize the impact of racial trauma on Black justice-involved boys (13-17 year olds) and adverse childhood experiences on Black emerging adults (18-29 year olds). Attendees will consider how racial identity, ethnic identity, and community belonging serve as protective factors for mental health of youth who have experienced adversity. Attendees will also become familiar with evidence-based and culturally affirming interventions used to support Black youth.

Presenters:

*Evan Auguste, Ph.D.*, Incoming Assistant Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston MA

*J. Robina Onwong'a, Ph.D.*, Client Engagement Leader, Chapman & Co. Leadership Institute, Lanham MD

2:30 - 2:45pm      *Break*

2:45 - 4:00pm      **Conference Closing: Plenary Discussion and Virtual Reception**

**You Can't Keep a Black Woman Down: A Conversation with Keisha Hudson and Ilham Askia**

Join us as we close out the conference with an interview of **Keisha Hudson** by **Ilham Askia**, exploring Keisha's career journey, her transition into Chief Defender, and the challenges of being a Black woman leader in public defense. A virtual reception will follow the discussion.

Speakers:

*Keisha Hudson*, Chief Defender, Defender Association of Philadelphia, Philadelphia PA

*Ilham Askia*, Executive Director, Gideon's Promise, Atlanta GA