



NYC-PARENTS IN ACTION

SPRING SEMINAR PANEL  
MARIJUANA NOW: WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

APRIL 6, 2020

**MODERATOR**

*Juju Chang*  
Co-Anchor, "Nightline"



Juju Chang is an Emmy Award-winning co-anchor of ABC News' "Nightline," also reporting regularly for "Good Morning America" and "20/20."

Chang has been recognized for her in-depth, personal narratives in exclusive television interviews with figures like transgender soldier Chelsea Manning, former firefighter Pat Hardison and transgender teen Jazz Jennings. Additionally, Chang anchored a special edition of "Nightline," "Consent on Campus," from Penn State, tackling issues surrounding sexual assault.

Chang has also covered major breaking news for decades for ABC News, including Superstorm Sandy, the Orlando nightclub massacre and the Boston Marathon bombing. Her extensive feature reporting covers parenting dilemmas, digital addictions and social media moguls like Dude Perfect and Esther the Wonder Pig.

A former news anchor for "Good Morning America," Chang joined ABC News as an entry level desk assistant in 1987 and rose to become a producer for "World News Tonight." Chang's work has been recognized with numerous awards including multiple Emmy's, Gracie's, a DuPont, a Murrow and Peabody awards.

Born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in Northern California, Chang graduated with honors from Stanford University with a B.A. in political science and communication. She is married to WNET President and CEO Neal Shapiro and together they have three sons.

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## PANELISTS

### *Dr. Yasmin Hurd*

Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience & Pharmacological Sciences,  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai



Dr. Yasmin Hurd is the Director of the Addiction Institute and Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Pharmacological Sciences at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

She is an internationally renowned scientist whose research examines the neurobiology of drug abuse and related psychiatric disorders. A major focus of the research is directed to the effects of cannabis on neurodevelopment and the risk factors of addiction disorders including genetics.

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### *Kevin A. Sabet, PhD*



Dubbed by NBC News as the “prodigy of drug politics,” author, consultant, advisor to three U.S. presidential administrations, and assistant professor, Kevin A. Sabet, Ph.D., has studied, researched, written about, and implemented drug policy for more than 20 years. He is currently the President and CEO of SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana), a non-profit organization he founded with Congressman Patrick Kennedy and David Frum. His book, *Reefer Sanity: Seven Great Myths About Marijuana*, was published in 2013.

His work as a government advisor began in the Clinton Administration as a researcher, and he was the senior speechwriter on drug policy in the Bush Administration (2002-2003). He returned to government in 2009, where he was asked to assist in drafting President Obama’s National Drug Control Strategy as a senior advisor.

As America’s point person on drug policy issues, he has spoken at the Allen and Co. Sun Valley Conference, the Aspen Ideas, New Yorker, and Politicon festivals, and on the Organization of American States blue ribbon commission advising hemispheric drug policy. He has been featured in virtually every major media publication and news channel on the subject of drug policy. Dr. Sabet’s regular blog is housed at the Huffington Post.



*Kevin A. Sabet, PhD cont...*

In 2013, he co-founded SAM, which advocates for a public-health based marijuana policy. As the President of SAM, he leads an advisory group comprising the most prominent scientists in the field of marijuana research. As the Director of the Drug Policy Institute at the University of Florida, Department of Psychiatry, Division of Addiction Medicine, he is the author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles.

Dr. Sabet also regularly advises foreign governments and non-governmental organizations working to reduce drug abuse, and serves in an international role as an advisor to the United Nations.

He is the winner of numerous drug policy awards, including the 2014 Nils Bejerot Award for Global Drug Prevention, the 2019 National Narcotics Lifetime Achievement Award, and the John P. McGovern Award for Drug Prevention.

He received his Doctorate of Philosophy and Masters of Science from Oxford University, and his B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley.

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*A. Jordan Wright, PhD, ABAP*



Dr. Wright is a clinical psychologist on faculty at New York University in the doctoral program in Counseling Psychology, where he started and runs the NYU Center for Counseling and Community Wellbeing. He has conducted research and written in the area of drug use prevention, especially in teenage populations, and has been the Consulting Psychologist to Hallways, Freedom Institute’s school-based substance abuse prevention program, for the past 10 years. As the author of the Handbook of Psychological Assessment (6<sup>th</sup> edition), he also works extensively in assessment of potential addictive disorders in youth who have begun using substances. In his private practice, he has also been working with adults with substance use disorders from an evidence-based perspective for the past 15 years.

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