11:15-12:15  Policing, Police Reform and the Rise in Violent Crime

Dr. Thaddeus Johnson is a former ranking law enforcement official in Memphis, TN and is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice & Criminology at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. His current research focuses on police policy and innovations, urban violence, crime control, and racially disparate justice outcomes. He is the author or co-author of numerous articles and reports and a book entitled Deviance among Physicians: Fraud, Violence, and the Power to Prescribe. In addition to having his research featured in national media outlets, he has written on police reform issues for the popular press and appeared on numerous broadcast radio and TV news programs in the US and Europe. He serves as a Senior Fellow with the Council on Criminal Justice.

Frank Russo is the Director of Government and Legislative Affairs at the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA). With more than 5,500 members nationwide NDAA is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function and is a valuable resource for the media, academia, government, and community leaders. Through continued advocacy, engagement with criminal justice stakeholders, and solicitation of ideas and input from its members, the association is able to provide the prosecutor perspective on issues including human trafficking, drug policy, forensic science, domestic violence, electronic evidence, asset forfeiture, child abuse, juvenile justice, and many more.

Prior to joining NDAA, Frank worked on Capitol Hill as a Law Clerk with both the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary and the U.S. House Judiciary Committee on the Subcommittee for Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. He is a graduate of The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, in Washington, D.C. where he currently serves on the school’s Alumni Council, and received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia. He holds a license to practice law in the State of Georgia.

Tim Richardson is the Senior Legislative Liaison with the FOP’s Government and Media Affairs Center in Washington, D.C. He is a native of Burlington, NJ, and comes from a law enforcement family. His grandfather, Mike Gallagher, co-founded the Burlington Township Police Department and later served as its Chief of Police. His father, who is retired from the same Department with the rank of Lieutenant, was the charter President of the Burlington Township FOP Lodge #84. Tim is a graduate of Elizabethtown College in Lancaster County, PA. He was hired as a Legislative Assistant by the FOP in May 1996 and was promoted to Senior Legislative Liaison in September 2001. Tim, an ardent Philadelphia Phillies fan, lives in Stafford, Virginia with his wife and two children.

12:15-1:00  Current Trends in Juvenile Justice

James Dold is the Founder & CEO of Human Rights for Kids (HRFK) a D.C.-based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the human rights of children in the United States. HRFK uses research and public education, coalition building and grassroots mobilization, as well as policy advocacy and strategic litigation, to advance critical human rights on behalf of children. A central focus of HRFK’s work is advocating in state legislatures and courts for comprehensive justice reform for children consistent with the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
Prior to launching HRFK, James served as Advocacy Director and Chief Strategy Officer at the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth where he developed and implemented the advocacy strategy that led to the quadrupling of states that ban life without parole sentences for children in the U.S. Hundreds of people who were told as children that they would die in prison have been released due to his efforts. James also served as Senior Policy Counsel at Polaris Project where he led successful state legislative campaigns resulting in the passage of 40 new anti-human trafficking laws across the country. A survivor of child labor trafficking and sexual abuse himself, James was also the architect behind Nevada’s AB 146 in 2013 which criminalized involuntary servitude of a minor which was based on his experiences as a survivor.

James received dual baccalaureates in Criminal Justice and Psychology from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and graduated Cum Laude from the University of Maryland School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in the state of Maryland and is a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. James was selected as a Halle Scholar with the Aspen Institute’s Justice & Society Program in 2016. He was also a finalist for the 2020 Grinnell Prize and 2021 Echoing Green Fellowship. In 2021 James was selected as one of the winners of the Paul H. Chapman Award by the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice and the Social Innovation Pitch Prize by Echoing Green and Barclays.

Naomi Smoot Evans is Executive Director of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. She oversees CJJ’s initiatives in government relations, leadership development, juvenile justice reform, communications, and training and technical assistance. During her tenure at CJJ Naomi has spearheaded the organization’s federal policy work and served as co-chair of the Act4JJ Coalition. She has assisted State Advisory Groups in their pursuit to build their capacity as change agents and worked with youth members in an attempt to improve relationships between law enforcement and the communities in which they work. Prior to CJJ, Naomi represented young people in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia in juvenile court proceedings and special education matters. Before attending law school Naomi worked as a print journalist for nearly a decade, amassing nearly a dozen awards for her news coverage. She received her J.D. from the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law, and her B.S. from Christopher Newport University.

1:15 – 1:45    A View from the Department of Justice

Rachel Rossi is a Deputy Associate Attorney General at the United States Department of Justice, and she was recently appointed the Justice Department Hate Crimes Coordinator. In these roles, Ms. Rossi leads efforts related to criminal justice reform, community-law enforcement engagement, access to justice, and combatting hate crimes and hate incidents.

Ms. Rossi started her career as a public defender, where she practiced for almost a decade with the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office and the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California. Ms. Rossi then served as Counsel to Senator Richard J. Durbin (Illinois), the Democratic Whip, where she was the lead staffer on the First Step Act, a major U.S. federal criminal justice reform bill signed into law in 2018 that created comprehensive sentencing and prison reforms. Ms. Rossi then transitioned to the role of Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, where her portfolio included criminal justice reform and oversight.

In 2020, Ms. Rossi was the first former public defender to run for District Attorney of Los Angeles County. She was five points shy of qualifying for the runoff election, with over 400,000 votes.
1:45 – 2:30  A View from the Biden Administration: Policy and Funding for the Justice-Involved

**Dr. Joseph Bullock** is currently a Senior Public Health Advisor for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA), National Mental Health Substance Use Policy Laboratory. Dr. Bullock has an extensive leadership and clinical background in substance use disorder treatment, mental health treatment as well as working with individuals involved in the criminal justice system. Prior to joining SAMHSA, Dr. Bullock worked for Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), in the role of Director for the Re-Entry and Sanctions Center. Dr. Bullock also worked over 20 years for local government in Arlington, Virginia where he served in the role of Bureau Chief for Substance Abuse Services. He holds a doctoral degree in Community Agency Counseling from Virginia Tech University, served four years in the United States Marine Corps reserves and is also a licensed therapist in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia.

**Richard Cho**, Ph.D., serves as Senior Advisor for Housing and Services in the Office of the Secretary. In this role, Richard advises the Secretary on HUD’s efforts to end homelessness, protect HUD-assisted households from COVID-19, advance the community integration of people with disabilities, connect housing with health care, and create housing options for returning citizens. Richard brings to this role two decades of experience at the community, state, and federal levels building collaboration between the housing, health care, social services, and criminal justice sectors to address the housing and services needs of vulnerable Americans. He served as Deputy Director at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness during the Obama Administration and has held positions at the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. He has a Ph.D. in Public Administration from New York University, a Master in City Planning degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago.

**Alex Green** is Chief of Reentry at the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Office of Workforce Investment, supporting agency efforts to provide national leadership, oversight, policy, and technical assistance to the public workforce system through reentry grant initiatives. Prior to joining DOL, Green was the Manager of Employment Services with Offender Aid and Restoration in the Washington DC, area where he developed and facilitated pre and post release programs and services. Green served previously as a Business Partnership Specialist with the Philadelphia Youth Network and as a Vocational Program Coordinator with the City of Boston serving justice-involved youth. He earned his B.A. in Public Policy from Duke University and has been serving justice-involved individuals for over 14 years.

3:00 – 4:00  Crisis Response and Coordination with Behavioral Health

**Eric Rafia-Yuan, M.D.** is the 2021 American Psychiatric Association (APA) Jeanne Spurlock Congressional Fellow, and a voluntary assistant clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California San Diego. His research focuses on policy drivers of health outcomes, and his work on crisis care has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine and Health Affairs.

**Dr. Ayesha Delany-Brumsey** is Director of Behavioral Health for the Council of State Governments Justice Center. In that role Dr. Delany-Brumsey oversees the Behavioral Health Division and its various portfolios, which focus on how parts of the criminal justice system intersect with the mental health, substance addiction, and homelessness systems, among others. Before joining the organization, Ayesha was most recently the director of Behavioral Health Research and Programming at the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice in New York City. Prior to that, she was the director of Substance Use and Mental Health program at the Vera Institute. She received her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles.
Shannon Sully is the Senior Advisor for Justice and Crisis Response Policy at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), where she serves as a subject matter expert, providing strategic guidance across the organization regarding NAMI’s criminal justice, diversion, and crisis response policy. She works closely with key federal agencies and Congress to advance NAMI’s priorities and supports leaders across the NAMI Alliance to increase their impact on local and state policies. Prior to joining NAMI, Ms. Scully worked for several other national non-profit organizations on various justice related issues. She began her criminal justice career supporting victims of crime in the county courts in Cook County, IL. Ms. Scully holds a bachelor’s degree from the College of St. Benedict, and a Master of Public Policy from American University.

Melissa Nee is Vice President of Government Relations at Brooks Bawden Moore, LLC. Melissa has years of experience leading government relations efforts for prominent public safety organizations, and developing strong relationships on Capitol Hill and across the public safety stakeholder community. Prior to joining BBM, Melissa managed government affairs for SEARCH - The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics from 2015-2019. At SEARCH, Melissa worked with federal, state, and local organizations, the executive branch, and Congress to develop legislation and policy to improve justice information sharing and the national background check system that is used extensively for criminal justice and non-criminal justice purposes.

From 2013-2015, Melissa managed the government affairs portfolio for the National Association of Police Organizations, which represents over 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the country, and led efforts to advocate for programs and legislation to support the law enforcement community. Melissa started her career at the Department of Defense, working for five years in the Secretary of the Air Force’s Office of General Counsel and at the Defense Security Cooperation Agency. Melissa earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Virginia Tech University.

4:00 – 4:45 A View from Capitol Hill: Current Legislation and Future Goals

Chastidy Burns is Criminal Justice and Civil Rights Counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee for Chairman Dick Durbin. Prior to joining the committee, Chastidy was Assistant Public Defender II and a 711-Licensed Law Clerk in the Felony Trial Division in the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender, Chicago, IL. She also was Adjunct Professor at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, IL. Prior to joining the Cook County Public Defender, Chastidy was Associate Attorney with the Shiller-Preyar Law Offices in Chicago, IL where she represented clients in every phase of both misdemeanor and felony state criminal cases, including preliminary hearings, motion hearings, bond hearings, and trial. Chastidy earned her B.A. from the University of Chicago and her J.D. from the DePaul University College of Law.

Mauri Gray is Deputy Chief Counsel to the House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, which is chaired by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. She previously served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the District of Puerto Rico and then, in the District of Arizona. She holds a Jurist Doctor from the University of Georgia School of Law and a Bachelor of Science in Criminology from the University of Florida.

Ryan Raybould is chief counsel for Senator John Cornyn. As chief counsel, Ryan advises Senator Cornyn on matters involving national security, crime, criminal justice reform, border enforcement, cybersecurity, judicial and executive branch nominations, and oversight of law enforcement and national security agencies. Ryan previously served as a federal prosecutor for close to seven years, and was most recently the deputy chief of the white collar and public corruption unit in the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Texas. Ryan also clerked for the Honorable Reed O’Connor, a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the
Northern District of Texas. He earned his B.A. from Yale University and his J.D. from Notre Dame University Law School.

Jason Cervanek is the Republican Chief Crime Counsel on the House Judiciary Committee. In that capacity, he handles criminal justice reform issues, second amendment issues, forensics, prisons, and oversight of federal law enforcement agencies. Prior to his current position, he served in a variety of capacities on and off the hill. Jason spent two years as a legislative liaison with the Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. During much of that time, he served as acting chief of the unit. Previously, Jason served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Associate General Counsel at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy where he advised the President’s Science Advisor as well as other White House senior staff on a variety of technology policy issues. He was also responsible for managing all legislative and communications staff and activities, including the coordination and advocacy for the federal government’s science and technology budget. Prior to joining the White House staff, Jason served as an oversight counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security for two and a half years where he initiated and conducted numerous oversight investigations into the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and their subcomponent law enforcement agencies. Jason began his career as a counsel to the House Science Committee. In addition to his service on Capitol Hill and in the administration, Jason acquired private sector policy advocacy experience while employed by the Aerospace Industries Association. He lives in Falls Church with his wife and three daughters.