

National Criminal Justice Association

2025 Virtual Policy Summit

Speaker Biographies

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM ET

Where are we finding consensus in the states?

Greg Newburn is the Director of Criminal Justice at the Niskanen Center. His previous positions include state policy director and Florida director for FADM; chair of the Florida-based “Yes on 11” political committee; and director of student programs at the Cato Institute. He is a graduate of the University of Florida and the University of Florida Levin College of Law. His work focuses on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice systems with the goal of reducing crime and punishment.

Stephanie Pasternak is Director of State Affairs at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), where she leads NAMI’s state legislative and policy strategy. She leads a team that works closely with NAMI State Organizations to provide technical assistance to advance their policy priorities, advise on advocacy strategy, and builds NAMI’s capacity to engage in policy efforts across 50 state legislatures.

Prior to her work at NAMI, Stephanie served as the Policy and Advocacy Associate at the National Council for Behavioral Health, where she worked on federal policies dedicated to expanding and improving community-based mental health and addiction treatment. This included analyzing and responding to federal legislation and regulations impacting behavioral health providers, and composing a wide variety of advocacy resources, including a weekly public policy publication, the *Capitol Connector*.

Ms. Pasternak is a graduate of The Ohio State University, where she earned a B.A. in political science and a Master of Public Administration (MPA).

12:15 – 12:45 PM ET A View from Capitol Hill

Saurabh Sangvi is Senator Chris Coons’ (D-DE) Chief Counsel for Immigration and Criminal Justice, a position he has held since 2020. Prior to that, he was a litigator at the law firm WilmerHale. Before joining WilmerHale, Saurabh clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Lewis Kaplan of the Southern District of New York. And for the U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Reena Raggi of the Second Circuit. Saurabh earned both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Science in Computer Science from Harvard University. He earned his Juris Doctor from Yale Law School. Before attending law school, he was a strategist for Goldman Sachs on energy matters.

Matt Vigeant is Senator John Cornyn's (R-TX) Counsel for Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, and the Second Amendment. Originally from Nashua, NH, Matt earned a B.S. from the United States Military Academy, and upon graduation, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army. Matt subsequently served over five years in the Army, including two deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After leaving the military, Matt earned a J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was a James Kent Scholar, and an M.P.A. from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Matt then clerked for the Hon. Tanya S. Chutkan on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, worked as an associate at Boies Schiller Flexner and then clerked for the Hon. Dennis Jacobs on the Second Circuit. After his appellate clerkship, Matt worked as a Senior Associate and Counsel at WilmerHale, then left to serve as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. Following his time as an AUSA, Matt joined Senator Cornyn's Judiciary Committee staff.

1:15 – 2:15 PM ET Issues and policy considerations around the public safety applications of AI

Noah Spitzer-Williams is Senior Principal for Product Management at Axon, where he leads the Draft One team, which is focused on Axon's AI report-writing tool. Over his eight years at Axon, he has launched key products including Auto-Transcribe, Redaction Assistant, and Community Request. Originally from New York, Noah earned degrees in Computer Science and Entrepreneurial Leadership from Tufts University before moving west to join Microsoft. He now lives in Long Beach, California, and never leaves home without his pickleball paddle.

Laken Ferreira is Senior Director of Government Affairs at Axon Technologies, a public safety technology company known for innovations like TASER devices, body-worn cameras, and software that helps law enforcement and communities stay safer and more connected. She's been with Axon for over eight years and leads a team dedicated to shaping state and local policy that enables the responsible and effective deployment of cutting-edge public safety technology. Prior to Axon, she worked in education policy. She earned her MSW from Boston College with a focus on Social Innovation and Leadership. Laken lives in the Boston area and is passionate about Axon's mission to Protect Life—and her dog, Brewster.

Gary Marchant is Regents and Foundation Professor of Law and Faculty Director at the Center for Law, Science and Innovation at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University. His research interests include legal aspects of genomics and personalized medicine, the use of genetic information in environmental regulation, risk and the precautionary principle, and governance of emerging technologies such as nanotechnology, neuroscience, biotechnology and artificial intelligence. He teaches courses in Law, Science and Technology, Genetics and the Law, Biotechnology: Science, Law and Policy, Health Technologies and Innovation, Privacy, Big Data and Emerging Technologies, and Artificial Intelligence: Law and Ethics. He was named a Regents' Professor in 2011 and is also a professor in ASU's School of Life Sciences, a Distinguished

Sustainability Scientist in ASU's Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, and a Lincoln Professor of Emerging Technologies Law and Ethics with the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics at ASU.

2:30 - 3:15 PM ET

Leveraging AI in the Administration of Justice: A framework for analysis and an example from the courts

Ashwini Jarra is Director, IJIS Institute. Ashwini Jarra is currently engaged with various resources to launch his new venture focused on new and innovative approaches focused on digital transformation. Mr. Jarra also provides consulting services for non-profit and not-for-profit organizations to help advise them on the issues associated with digital transformation strategies. Prior to his current role, Jarra was the co-founder of an innovative health care technology company, IDYA4, serving as the Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Jarra grew this company from the startup stages to over \$7 million in revenue over 18 months. Jarra also provided oversight on business development and day-to-day administrative and operational functions before the acquisition of IDYA4 by CloudMD in 2021. Prior to IDYA4, Jarra served as the Executive Director (CEO) of the IJIS Institute, a nonprofit corporation formed by the U.S. Department of Justice to help state and local governments develop ways to share information among disciplines engaged in homeland security, justice, and public safety. At the Institute, Mr. Jarra led the organization to the largest growth period in the history of the Institute, demonstrated by a 700% increase in funding through diversification to a market presence beyond justice.

Michael Navin is Principal Court Management Consultant, Technology, Architecture Planning and Security Division, National Center for State Courts (NCSC). He joined NCSC in October 2023, after 23 years working in Management and Court Technology across several courts in Michigan. He currently serves as the moderator for the NCSC's Court AI Implementers' Forum and has presented numerous times on the effect AI will have on the courts to both domestic and international audiences. Other focus areas include technology assessments, assistance with technology staff reorganizations and recruitment, change management, court business process, and GAP analysis assessments, developing and implementing policies and procedures, leading cross-functional teams, and case filing projections for court space analysis. Mr. Navin holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice and Psychology from Wayne State University.

3:30 - 4:30 PM ET

Keynote: An evolution in what works in reducing crime

Jens Ludwig is the Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago, Pritzker Director of the University of Chicago's Crime Lab, codirector of the Education Lab, and codirector of the National Bureau of Economic Research's working group on the economics of crime.

His current work focuses on how behavioral science and data science can help solve social problems. He helped found the Crime Lab and the Education Lab to work closely with government agencies to turn these insights into social change out in the real world. Examples of real-world impact include studies of promising social and educational programs that have led to millions of dollars of public sector resources being re-allocated to more

effective, evidence-based strategies, working with the Chicago Police Department to implement data-driven management changes that helped substantially reduce gun violence without increasing arrests, and partnership with the Mayor's Office in New York City to help build and implement a new pretrial risk tool as part of the city's goal to close Riker's Island.

Crime Lab and Education Lab projects have been featured in national news outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, PBS News Hour, and National Public Radio. In 2014, the Crime Lab was the recipient of a \$1 million MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, the organizational equivalent of the foundation's "genius prize." Ludwig's research has been published in leading scientific journals in numerous disciplines, including the *American Economic Review*, the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and the *American Journal of Sociology*. He is coauthor with Philip Cook of *Gun Violence: The Real Costs* (Oxford University Press, 2000), coeditor with Cook of *Evaluating Gun Policy* (Brookings Institution Press, 2003), and coeditor with Cook and Justin McCray of *Controlling Crime: Strategies and Tradeoffs* (University of Chicago Press, 2012).

Ludwig received his BA in economics from Rutgers College and his MA and PhD in economics from Duke University. He was previously a professor of public policy at Georgetown University. He is currently on the editorial board of the *American Economic Review*. In 2012, he was elected vice president of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM). In 2006, he was awarded APPAM's David N. Kershaw Prize for Contributions to Public Policy by Age 40. In 2012, he was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science.

4:45 - 5:30 PM ET Refocusing on federal grants to drive change

Charles Fain Lehman is a fellow at the Manhattan Institute and senior editor of City Journal. He focuses primarily on the public policy of antisocial behavior, including issues of crime, drugs and public disorder. His work has appeared in outlets including the New York Times, Atlantic, Wall Street Journal, and National Review. He has discussed policy issues before the Senate, House of Representatives, and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Prior to joining the Manhattan Institute in 2021, Charles was a staff writer at the Washington Free Beacon. Charles is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and now lives outside Washington, D.C., with his wife and sons.

John Maki is a Fellow in the Litmus Program of the NYU Marron Institute, where he assists public-safety-related agencies and community-based organizations to improve outcomes for people who have been impacted by violent crime. As a non-profit executive, senior state governmental leader, and criminal-justice policy and grantmaking agency, and partnered with community-based organizations and local, state, and federal government leaders across the country to design and implement criminal-justice reforms and expand

victim services. He currently serves as the director of the Council on Criminal Justice's Task Force on Long Sentences. He has a bachelor's degree in English and philosophy from Whittier College, a master's degree in English from the University of Chicago and a J.D. from the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law.