

Memo

To: Aryeh Neier

From: Ann Beeson, Leonard Noisette, and CJF Staff

Date: 15 September 2009

Re: Docket III, September 22, 2009

For this third docket of 2009, the Criminal Justice Fund (CJF) recommends 7 grants for funding totaling \$1,025,000. All of these grants are renewals. Two grants are to organizations with whom our relationship is relatively new, **Green for All** and **Foundation for Criminal Justice**, who are current leaders in addressing key CJF priorities; two are to longtime grantees who over the past few years have expanded their work and are successfully addressing a number of CJF priorities, **Ella Baker Center for Human Rights** and **Partnership for Safety and Justice**. Three grants are to organizations whose continued relationship we will evaluate during the new grant period. **Grassroots Leadership** is managing an executive transition, and the proposed grant will support that transition and allow for consideration of longer term support for the organization under new leadership. Our one-year grants to **Woman's Prison Association** and **Critical Resistance** will allow staff the time to determine whether the organizations' current priorities, strategic approaches and organizational capacity warrant further funding. Collectively, these grants would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's key goals of reducing mass incarceration, eliminating harsh punishment and eliminating racial disparities and securing a fair and equitable system of justice.

Reducing Mass Incarceration

Critical Resistance (CR), \$100,000 general support grant renewal over one year. CR continues to organize statewide training with community groups around corrections spending and challenging prison expansion. Working with the Prison Law Office and private attorneys, it is also supporting lawsuits concerning prison funding and conditions. Nationally, CR continues to advance its policy agenda of reducing reliance on incarceration by working to cultivate new leadership and support movement-building activities. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in reducing mass incarceration by attacking the excessive and economically destructive costs of incarceration and by eliminating harsh and unjust sentencing policies and practices.

Eliminating Harsh Punishment

Green For All (GFA), \$75,000 project grant renewal over one year to create, convene, and provide technical assistance to a national working group that will develop and promote strategies for expanding green job opportunities available to people with criminal records. Continued OSI funding will enable GFA to build the capacity of its *Green Pathways Out of Poverty Community of Practice* by creating and facilitating an ongoing working group specifically dedicated to supporting practitioners and advocates working to connect people with criminal records to green sector employment and career opportunities. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice

Fund's interest in eliminating harsh punishment by eliminating unreasonable barriers to successful reentry and increasing access to living wage employment opportunities in the emerging green economy.

Eliminating Racial Disparities and Securing a Fair and Equitable System of Justice

The Foundation for Criminal Justice (FCJ), \$425,000 general support renewal over two years (co-funded with the National Security and Human Rights Campaign) to support its mission to ensure justice and due process for persons accused of crime, to foster integrity and independence of the criminal defense profession and promote the fair administration of justice. NACDL has been at the forefront of reforms to improve public defense, enact sentencing reform, address racial and ethnic disparities, and oppose over-criminalization and the evisceration of fundamental constitutional rights. In the past year, NACDL has taken a lead role in challenging the prolonged detention of terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay and seeking procedural protections for these detainees. This grant will further the Criminal Justice Fund's goals of eliminating racial disparities and securing a fair and equitable system of justice and the National Security and Human Rights Campaign's goals of raising awareness about countering the government's efforts to undermine the constitutional and human rights of persons charged with terrorism-related activities in the name of national security.

Grantees Addressing Multiple Criminal Justice Fund Priorities

Ella Baker Center (EBC), \$250,000 general support grant renewal over two years. EBC's projects include: Books Not Bars, which promotes alternatives to youth incarceration in California; Silence the Violence, which combines youth leadership and cultural engagement with a strong policy agenda to reduce rates of violent crime in the Bay Area; the Campaign for Green Collar Jobs, which creates job opportunities for low income communities and communities of color by engaging diverse stakeholders to launch training programs, align green employers, and advocate for public policies that promote clean energy, green business, and green jobs training; and Soul of the City, which promotes an active solution-based model—by means of civic engagement and leadership development—for ensuring public safety. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in reducing mass incarceration and eliminating harsh punishment by attacking the excessive and economically destructive costs of incarceration, ending the treatment of children as adults in prosecution and sentencing, and eliminating unreasonable barriers to successful reentry and increasing access to living wage employment opportunities in the emerging green economy.

Grassroots Leadership, Inc. (GL), \$75,000 general support grant renewal over six months. GL is a multi-racial team of organizers who support Southern community, labor, faith, and campus organizations working to put an end to abuses of justice and the public trust by developing and directing campaigns to abolish for-profit private prisons and all immigrant family detention. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in reducing mass incarceration and eliminating harsh punishment by attacking the excessive and economically destructive costs of incarceration and reforming polices that criminalize immigrants.

Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ), \$200,000 general support grant renewal over two years. PSJ operates four programs, including: the Safety and Sentencing Program, which promotes safe and sensible sentencing reform as well as alternatives to incarceration; the Crime Survivors for Community Safety program, which has been effective at neutralizing “tough on crime” advocates in Oregon by organizing survivors of crime and violence to promote

progressive responses to the needs of survivors and to support criminal justice reform that reduces future violence without increasing prosecution and incarceration; the Beyond Barriers program, which focuses on eliminating the civil and social barriers facing people with criminal records; and the Prison Program, which advocates for increased access to quality programs within prisons and against the implementation of policies that further erode the constitutional or human rights of incarcerated people. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in reducing mass incarceration and eliminating harsh punishment by attacking the excessive and economically destructive costs of incarceration, eliminating harsh and unjust sentencing policies and practices, and eliminating unreasonable barriers to successful reentry.

Women's Prison Association and Home, Inc. (WPA), \$100,000 project grant renewal over one year to provide continued support for the Institute on Women and Criminal Justice. Continued OSI funding will enable WPA to serve as a much-needed, authoritative national voice and resource on women in the criminal justice system and avenue for promoting the participation of formerly incarcerated women in public debate about incarceration policies. This grant would advance the Criminal Justice Fund's interest in reducing mass incarceration and eliminating harsh punishment by fostering reform efforts affecting vulnerable populations such as women and children.