

Brief Summary of Program and Strategies

Criminal Justice Fund

Through its programming, organizational grantmaking, and fellowships, the Criminal Justice Fund seeks to reduce the destructive impact of current criminal justice policies on the lives of individuals, families, and communities in the United States by challenging the over-reliance on incarceration and harsh punishment and ensuring a fair and equitable system of justice.

The Fund supports policy advocacy, impact litigation, strategic research and analysis, public education, and community organizing and coalition-building efforts to:

- Attack the excessive and economically destructive costs of incarceration
- Eliminate harsh and unjust sentencing practices
- Reform parole and probation policies and practices
- Foster new approaches to drug policy
- Combat the criminalization of marginalized populations, such as people with mental illness, young people, immigrants, and the homeless)
- End punitive school disciplinary policies
- Challenge the stigmatization of people with criminal records and eliminate unreasonable barriers to social, economic and political participation they face
- End the treatment of children as adults in prosecution and sentencing
- Abolish the death penalty
- Reform police and prosecution practices
- Improve indigent defense services and systems

The Criminal Justice Fund favors initiatives that demonstrate a clear understanding of the intersection of criminal justice issues with the particular needs of low-income communities, communities of color, immigrants, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, women and children, and those directly affected by harsh criminal justice policies.

The Fund's grantmaking decisions and programmatic activities are also informed by a desire to develop and strengthen leadership and organizational capacity in affected communities, and to foster greater collaboration across various criminal justice fields and related sectors, such as education, health and mental health, housing and employment.

CJF staff includes:

Leonard Noisette, Director

William Johnston, Program Officer

Adam Culbreath, Program Officer, Soros Justice Fellowships

Terrance Pitts, Program Officer

Susan Tucker, Director, the After Prison Initiative

Angela Cheng, Program Associate

Jill Sowards, Program Associate

Christina Voight, Program Associate, Soros Justice Fellowships

For a complete copy of CJF's 2009-2011 Strategic Plan, please visit USP's central repository of information, "USP Central", in Karl.