

# Criminal Legal Reform in New York: Five Years In

## Part 1 | Bail Reform in New York, Five Years Later: What's Next?

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### Speakers (listed alphabetically)



**Jennifer Ferone | Deputy Research Director | [CUNY Institute for State & Local Governance](#)**

Jennifer Ferone is the Deputy Research Director at CUNY ISLG leading a portfolio of research projects and working with the Research Director around strategy and development for the research department. Jennifer has extensive experience in the development and management of criminal justice research in applied settings, most recently, leading work to enhance data and analytic capacity and conduct research around racial and ethnic disparities across prosecutorial decision-making in Kings County, designing a process evaluation to assess implementation of the New York State Criminal Justice Reform Legislation, and managing a research consortium that aims to advance the [Safety and Justice Challenge](#) research agenda. At ISLG, Jennifer has also engaged in performance measurement work for both the Safety and Justice Challenge and [Criminal Justice Investment Initiative](#). Prior to joining ISLG, Jennifer worked at the Vera Institute of Justice managing research focused on system involved young people in New York City. She received two M.A. degrees in criminal justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Rutgers University and is A.B.D. in criminal justice at Rutgers University.



**Michael P. Jacobson | Executive Director | [CUNY Institute for State & Local Governance](#)**

Michael Jacobson is ISLG's founding Executive Director as well as a sociology professor at the CUNY Graduate Center (GC). Prior to joining CUNY in May 2013 to help create ISLG, Michael was president of the Vera Institute of Justice, serving from 2005 to 2013. He is the author of *Downsizing Prisons: How to Reduce Crime and End Mass Incarceration* (New York University Press 2005). Holding a Ph.D. in sociology, he has had an ongoing academic career coupled with more than 20 years of government service. From 1998 to 2005 he was a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the GC. He was New York City correction commissioner from 1995 to 1998, New York City probation commissioner from 1992 to 1996, and worked in the New York City Office of Management and Budget from 1984 to 1992 where he was a deputy budget director. In 2010 to 2012, Michael served as the chair of Altus, a global alliance working across continents and from a multicultural perspective to improve public safety and justice.



**Jaeok Kim | Associate Director of Research | [Vera Institute of Justice](#)**

Jaeok Kim is the associate director for research of the Greater Justice New York program at Vera Institute of Justice, where she leads a team of quantitative and qualitative researchers working on criminal legal policy reforms. Her research efforts focus on exploring various opportunities to reduce jail and prison incarcerations in New York. Currently, she leads several research projects that includes evaluating of the impact of New York State bail reform and estimating the impact of different sentencing reform scenarios on prison

population. Before joining Vera, Jaeok worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Data Collaborative for Justice (formerly, the Research Network on Misdemeanor Justice) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Her work during the fellowship focused on understanding jail populations in the New York City Department of Correction, with a particular focus on their readmission patterns. Jaeok holds a PhD in criminal justice from the State University of New York at Albany. Her research has been published in the Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Criminal Justice Policy Review, and Public Administration Review.



**Darren Mack | Co-Founder/Co-Director | [Freedom Agenda](#)**

Darren Mack is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Freedom Agenda. He is a formerly incarcerated activist, advocate, and organizer. Darren was involved as a leader in the #CLOSErikers campaign since its launch in 2016, and was awarded the very first Lawrence “Larry” Gelber Award for Justice in 2017 by JustLeadershipUSA. He is an alumnus of the Bard Prison Initiative where he earned his B.A. and graduated from Hunter College with an MSW in 2019. Darren previously worked as the Outreach and Alumni Engagement Coordinator with JustLeadershipUSA.



**Agnieszka Mamczur-Fuller | Associate Director of Clinical Services,  
Queens Supervised Release Program | [New York City Criminal Justice Agency](#)**

Agnieszka Mamczur-Fuller is the Associate Director of Clinical Services I of the Queens Supervised Release program at the New York City Criminal Justice Agency and has been with the program since 2017. There, Agnes focuses on the building of clinical services to support client outcomes and provides clinical oversight to new and seasoned clinicians. She is an immigrant, mother, and plant enthusiast. Agnes graduated from John Jay College in Criminal Justice with an MA in Forensic Psychology and an MA in Forensic Mental Health Counseling. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in NY since 2020 and a Licensed Professional Counselor and Approved Clinical Supervisor in NJ since 2021. Prior to working at CJA, Agnes worked as a Clinical Case Manager at the EAC Network with the Bronx Court-Based Intervention Resource Team, providing clinical services to justice-involved individuals living with mental health conditions as an alternative to incarceration.



**René Ropac | Senior Research Associate | [Data Collaborative for Justice](#)**

René is a Senior Research Associate at the Data Collaborative for Justice where he is working on research projects pertaining to New York's bail reform, case processing, delays in New York courts, and recent changes in NYC's jail population. Before joining DCJ, René was a Senior Research Associate at the New York City Criminal Justice Agency (CJA) where he conducted research on several topics, including the effectiveness of court-date reminders, juvenile justice issues, and the consequences of pretrial detention. Prior to that, he held the position of Research Associate at The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NYSPCC), a non-profit that provides therapeutic and educational services to abused and neglected children and their families. René has a B.A. in Sociology from University of Vienna, Austria, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Temple University, Philadelphia.



**Hon. Joseph Zayas | Chief Administrative Judge | [New York State Unified Court System](#)**

The Hon. Joseph A. Zayas was appointed by Chief Judge Rowan Wilson in May 2023 as the Chief Administrative Judge of the New York State Unified Court System, the highest-ranking administrative position within the New York State Judiciary. Judge Zayas oversees the day-to-day administration and operation of the statewide court system, including its \$3.3 billion dollar budget, 3,300 state and local judges and 15,000 non-judicial employees in over 300 locations across the state.

Judge Zayas was previously appointed by New York's Governor as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department – an intermediate appellate court which has jurisdiction over portions of New York City and the suburbs surrounding New York City. He previously served as the Administrative Judge for Supreme Court in Queens County, the second most populous county in the State. As a trial judge and an administrative judge of a trial court, Judge Zayas presided over jury trials in criminal cases and served as the Presiding Judge in the county's Youth Court, Drug Treatment Court, and Mental Health Treatment Court. Throughout his judicial career, Judge Zayas has published numerous opinions in criminal, civil and family cases, lectured extensively on various areas of the law and was an active member and officer of the Latino Judges Association.