

Criminal Legal Reform in New York: Five Years In

Part 2 | Beyond Bail: How Reforms to Discovery & Appearance Tickets Impacted New York's Criminal Legal System

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.



Kate Jassin | Research Associate | [CUNY Institute for State & Local Governance](#)

Kate Jassin works with ISLG's research team to support a process evaluation for the implementation of New York's bail reform legislation, and projects working with local stakeholders to develop tools to track progress towards equity. Prior to joining ISLG, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Social and Political Psychology Lab at the New School for Social Research, where she taught courses on psychology and social policy, and conducted survey research on the ways in which intergroup perceptions and implicit prejudice shape public policy decision-making. She has also supported various non-profit organizations and government agencies as a research consultant, including conducting a national survey investigating public attitudes toward immigration policy, evaluating the workforce capacity in the New York State childcare provider network to implement a parent training curriculum, and surveying members of a law institute to inform organizational policy changes. She holds a Ph.D. in social psychology from the New School for Social Research with a graduate certificate in gender and sexuality studies. She is currently an adjunct assistant professor of psychology at New York City College of Technology where she teaches introductory psychology and personnel/organizational psychology.



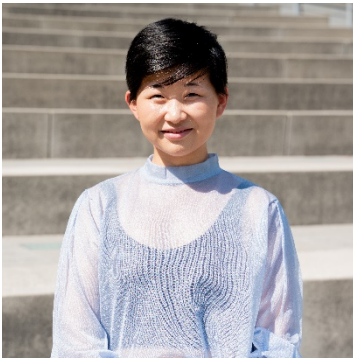
Yung-Mi Lee | Legal Director, Criminal Defense Practice | [Brooklyn Defenders](#)

Yung-Mi Lee is the Legal Director of the Criminal Practice at Brooklyn Defender Services. As a trial attorney and supervising attorney, Ms. Lee has worked on complex cases and trained attorneys to represent clients charged with a crime. Prior to joining BDS, Ms. Lee was an attorney at Neighborhood Defender Services, an associate at the Law Offices of Brian J. Neary and a law secretary to the Honorable Ellen L. Koblitz of the Superior Court of New Jersey. In her current role, Ms. Lee does advocacy work on behalf of Brooklyn Defender Services on criminal justice reform issues, trains and updates attorneys about legal issues and developments in the law and works directly on impactful litigation, including special legal proceedings to get people out of Rikers Island during Covid. She is also the current president of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.



Scott Levy | Chief Policy Counsel | [FWD.us](https://www.fwd.us)

Scott Levy is currently Chief Policy Counsel at FWD.us, a bipartisan organization committed to ending mass incarceration and transforming the immigration system, where he works on criminal justice and immigration policy reform efforts at the state and national level. Prior to FWD.us, Scott worked for 14 years as an attorney at The Bronx Defenders, a holistic public defender office in the South Bronx, where he built and managed the office's public policy practice. While at The Bronx Defenders, Scott was deeply involved in a number of criminal legal system reform efforts in New York, including the campaign to rewrite New York's bail and discovery laws, a successful campaign to eliminate driver's license suspensions for unpaid traffic tickets, and the effort to pass Clean Slate legislation to seal criminal conviction records. He also managed the Marijuana Arrest Project and was lead counsel in *Trowbridge v. DiFiore*, a federal civil rights case challenging delays in misdemeanor cases in Bronx Criminal Court. Scott graduated from the Princeton School of International and Public Affairs in 2002 and received his J.D. in 2007 from Harvard Law School, where he was the Special Projects Editor for the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. He clerked for the Honorable Nancy Gertner in the Federal District Court of Massachusetts before joining The Bronx Defenders.



Olive Lu | Associate Director of Research | [Data Collaborative for Justice](https://www.datacollaborativeforjustice.org)

Olive Lu is Associate Director of Research at the Data Collaborative for Justice (DCJ). She contributes largely to shaping DCJ's research agenda, assisting the executive director with funding and future research ideas, disseminating reports, engaging with system and community stakeholders on research findings, collaborating with fellow researchers from within and outside DCJ, as well as conducting independent research. Olive's work at DCJ has spanned across topics including misdemeanor and low-level enforcement, criminal case processing, and jail admissions in New York and other jurisdictions across the US. Her recent work centers around the impact of recent New York State criminal justice reform laws on release decisions, lower-level enforcement practices, and criminal convictions. Olive was previously a fellow at the Vera

Institute of Justice where she helped to establish the In Our Backyards Initiative to reduce mass incarceration through local, state, and federal policy change. Olive hails from Auckland, New Zealand, and holds a BA in Psychology from New York University, an MS in Criminology from the University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in Criminal Justice from the CUNY Graduate Center.



Tarek Rahman | Counsel to the District Attorney | [Westchester County District Attorney's Office](#)

Tarek Rahman is a member of District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah's Executive Team, and serves as Counsel to the District Attorney. Prior to joining the Westchester DA's Office in October 2021, Mr. Rahman served as Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, where he oversaw numerous investigations involving gang violence, firearm trafficking, narcotics trafficking, and public corruption. Mr. Rahman was also the Bureau Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, where he supervised numerous investigations utilizing court-authorized electronic surveillance. Mr. Rahman has also served in the Office of the New York State Attorney General for nearly a decade, and was the First Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Organized Crime Task Force, investigating and prosecuting organized crime, enterprise corruption and firearm trafficking.

Mr. Rahman began his career in 1999 as an Assistant District Attorney with the Bronx County District Attorney's Office. He is a graduate of Middlebury College and the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco



John Vespucci | Associate Professor | [John Jay College](#)

Dr. John Vespucci earned his PhD in Criminal Justice/Policy, Oversight and Administration from John Jay College along with his Master of Public Administration, Master of Philosophy/Criminal Justice, and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.

Dr. Vespucci is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Management and Department of Sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, teaching both undergraduate and graduate MPA courses in public administration, public policy, capstone, and justice administration.

He is also a Lecturer with the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses in research methods and statistics for criminal justice.

Professor Vespucci has lectured in several universities within New Jersey. He has also taught several years as a high school teacher in cooperative education programs. He served as a police officer in New York for 24 years and worked in several specialized units including domestic violence, warrants and civil enforcement.

Dr. Vespucci continually collaborates with police department officials regarding department policies and procedures and has made an instrumental impact in revising policies to meet the evolving needs of the police and the community. He is an assessor and Program Manager for the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

His research is concentrated on the effects of education upon police recruits, police officers and police management. He has published a Springer Brief on Education Level and Police Use of Force: The Impact of a College Degree and appeared in several media outlets regarding the effects of college education in policing.