



**TOWARD  
JUSTICE** | **THE HISTORY AND  
FUTURE OF CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE REFORM IN CT**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2017**

**5:30pm–8:30pm**

*The Artists Collective, Hartford, CT*

*katal*  
CENTER FOR HEALTH,  
EQUITY, AND JUSTICE

# Today, Connecticut is a national leader in adult and juvenile criminal justice reform.

But it wasn't always this way. In the 1990s, Connecticut faced a crisis: communities were being torn apart by the war on drugs and mass incarceration. The state's prisons were severely overcrowded. The state had the worst racial disparities in the entire country. Communities began organizing for reform, but the road was long; by 2004, the state prison population had increased nearly 10 percent since the end of the millennium, and the state's prisons were over capacity by 2,000 people.

The organizing continued, and over time, community groups advanced an agenda that transformed the state, passing a range of reforms from the early 2000s through the 2010. When Gov. Malloy came to office, he embraced this reform agenda and advanced additional reforms including his Second Chance Society legislation. There has continued to be grassroots and grassroots work to continue progressive policy reform.

Thus, over the last 20 years, Connecticut has become national leader in criminal justice reform. These reforms—the result of vigorous community led campaigns advancing smart policy making—have resulted in multiple prison closings, double-digit percentage decrease in prison populations, increased pardon approval and fewer probation violations resulting in re-incarceration.

**But mass incarceration and the war on drugs still endure. To truly achieve just, equitable outcomes for health and safety in every community in Connecticut, much more needs to be done.**

**What's the next step in reform in Connecticut? Where will the state be in the next 20 years?** How can community leaders and policymakers collaborate to ensure that momentum for reform continues? What are the reforms that should be pursued in the next few years, and what are the reforms that need to be seeded for the next 20 years? Tonight's event is for community members, organizers, advocates, researchers and more to discuss the history -- and future -- of criminal justice reform in Connecticut.

# Program

5:30PM–8:30PM

## Co-MC's

**Andrea Comer**, Vice President,  
Workforce Strategies, CBIA  
Education & Workforce Partnership



**John Motley**, Principal  
Motley Consulting

5:30

### DOORS OPEN

Registration and Dinner Served (buffet style)

5:55

### PROGRAM STARTS

6:05

State Senator (Ret.) **Eric Coleman**

6:15

**Lorenzo Jones**, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director, Katal

6:25

**Michael Lawlor**, Undersecretary for Criminal Justice, State of CT

6:50

### PANEL ON HISTORY AND FUTURE OF REFORM IN CT

**MODERATOR:** gabriel sayegh, Co-Executive Director, Katal

#### SPEAKERS

**Kia A. Baird**, Chairperson,  
Southern Connecticut  
Re-entry Council

**Andrew Clark**, Director,  
Institute for Municipal and  
Regional Policy at Central  
Connecticut State University

**Kennard Ray**, Principal,  
Blue Ribbon Strategies

**Beresford Wilson**, Interim  
Executive Director, FAVOR, INC.

**Danielle Warren-Dias**,  
Program Coordinator, University  
of CT Health Center/CT Children's  
Medical Center Pediatric and Youth  
HIV Program

**Ana María Rivera-Forastieri**,  
Co-Director, CT Bail Fund (Invited)

7:50

Audience Q&A With Panel

8:20

### NEXT STEPS AND CLOSE

8:30

Thank you!

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CT Students for a Dream

Family Reentry

Institute for Municipal Research and Policy

Malta Justice Initiative

Southeastern Reentry Roundtable

### CONNECT

For more information about legislative reform work in Connecticut, or to get involved in 2018, please contact **Melody Lee** at [Melody@katalcenter.org](mailto:Melody@katalcenter.org).

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