

Sustaining Court Watch Programs and Seeing Impacts

Speaker Biographies

Jesse Manley is the Deputy Director of Court Watch NOLA, where he conducts a community-based participatory data program to monitor criminal court. CWN trains community members in criminal court procedure and data collection practices before they collect data in open court proceedings. CWN writes reports and makes recommendations to criminal legal system stakeholders to hold them accountable for fairness and transparency. Jesse has a background in education, electoral politics, community organizing, and advocacy for survivors of gender-based sexual violence. Jesse moved to New Orleans in August of 2005 for a master's degree program at the University of New Orleans. He teaches classes in English, Sociology, and Criminology at Loyola University, Nicholls State University, and Tulane University. Jesse is a board member of the Hollygrove Neighbors Association, the Delgado Community College Criminal Justice Program advisory board, the UNO Justice Studies Community Advisory Committee, the New Orleans Police Community Advisory Board, and an executive committee member of the People's DA Coalition. He was named Bayou Brief/Louisiana Lefty's "Organizer of the Month" for January 2022.

Andreea Matei is a senior policy associate in the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where her work focuses on criminal and juvenile justice reform. She works on projects related to prosecutorial discretion and decision-making, public defense quality, restorative justice, long sentences and resentencing, and youth alternatives to justice involvement. She believes in creating safety, rehabilitation, and accountability outside the criminal justice system and investing in community support and services. Along with her work at Urban, Matei serves on the advisory board for the Prosecution Research Collaborative, where she shares her expertise on prosecutorial decision-making. Matei previously worked with the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan as a Civil Liberties Fellow. She collaborated with the policy team to advocate for issues related to juvenile life without parole, bail reforms, Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act reforms, and other state criminal justice issues. Matei holds a BA in history and political science from the University of Michigan and an MPP from the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

Karen Reece is the Vice President of Research and Education at Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development. Dr. Reece is involved in strategic planning and manages a continuous/dynamic evaluation program to ensure forward progress and quality control. She oversees Nehemiah's adult educational offerings focused on cross-cultural leadership development and the carceral legal system. She coordinates several academic-community research partnerships focusing primarily on improving healthcare access and wellbeing for people who are or have been incarcerated. Dr. Reece also serves as Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor at the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health where she develops curriculum for and co-instructs Intersection of Health Care and Incarceration. Dr. Reece is a community-based reviewer for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Minimal Risk Institutional Review Board.

Lily Robin is a senior research associate in the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where their work focuses on community-driven approaches to safety and well-being, the school-to-prison pipeline,

prosecutorial discretion and decision-making, and the intersection of racism and ableism disability in the criminal legal system. They apply community-engaged mixed-methods approaches to identifying and evaluating strategies to address the harms of violence and the criminal legal system. Before joining Urban, Robin worked in criminal legal system research and technical assistance, with a focus on law enforcement interventions. They hold a bachelor's degree from New York University, with a concentration in the school-to-prison pipeline, and a master's of public policy from George Washington University, with a concentration in mixed-methods program evaluation.