

# Reducing Jail Use through Pretrial Detention and Release Approaches

## Speaker Biographies

**The Hon. Jake Coolidge** is a Municipal Court Judge in Missoula, Montana. The Municipal Court in Missoula is comprised almost exclusively of misdemeanor criminal cases. Since taking the bench, Jake and his colleagues have instituted several criminal legal reforms at the local level. Prior to joining the judiciary, Jake worked as a public defender in western Montana and worked as a professor in the sociology and criminology department at the University of Montana. Jake is passionate about criminal legal reforms that rely on evidence-based practices that decrease incarceration rates and strive to mitigate or eliminate inequitable and unjust outcomes.

**Jesse Jannetta** is a senior policy fellow in the Justice and Safety Division at the Urban Institute, where he leads projects on gun violence reduction initiatives, prison and jail reentry, local justice reform, and community supervision. He directs Urban's work as a partner in the Safety and Justice Challenge, is co-principal investigator for the Evaluation of Oakland's Measure Z Services, and is a member of the leadership team for the Prison Research and Innovation Initiative. He was previously principal investigator for the Developing a Research-Based Practice Guide to Prevent Youth Gun and Gang Violence project, co-lead for the Community Violence Intervention Research and Evaluation Training and Technical Assistance Center, project director for the Transition from Jail to Community initiative, process and fidelity assessment lead for the evaluation of the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice, and co-principal investigator for evaluations of the Los Angeles Gang Reduction and Youth Development strategy and the Chicago Violence Reduction Strategy. He applies mixed-methods approaches to process and impact evaluations and provides technical assistance to state and local jurisdictions. Before joining Urban, Jannetta was a research specialist at the Center for Evidence-Based Corrections at the University of California, Irvine. He evaluated GPS monitoring for parolees, analyzed parole discharge and violation response policies, measured the scope of correctional control in California, and assessed inmate and parolee programs against evidence-based program design principles. Jannetta holds a BA in political science from the University of Michigan and an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School.

**Don Stemen**, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology and the Co-Director of the Center for Criminal Justice at Loyola University, Chicago. Don's research focuses on prosecutorial decision-making, prosecutorial performance measurement, criminal case processing, and bail reform. He currently co-manages the Prosecutorial Performance Indicators, a national research and technical assistance project working with local prosecutors' offices to enhance data capacity, data-driven decision making, and transparency. He also co-directs a process and impact evaluation of bail reform in Illinois and a project examining case processing in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

Before joining Loyola, Don was the director of research on sentencing and corrections at the Vera Institute of Justice, where he worked with state and county governments to reform criminal justice policies. Don holds a BS in mathematics and an MA in criminal justice from the University of Illinois, Chicago and a PhD in Law and Society from New York University.

**Stephen Thompson** brings more than six years of experience in Missoula, Montana’s criminal legal system, with a focus on building practical, people-centered solutions within the courts. He began his career as a Case Manager with the Public Defender’s Office, where he worked directly with clients to connect them to community resources and treatment options as alternatives to pretrial incarceration, while advancing more holistic approaches to criminal defense through strong community partnerships. In his current role as the Court Programs Administrator for the Missoula Municipal Court, Stephen works closely with Municipal Court Judges and local justice system stakeholders to design and implement supportive, evidence-based programming for defendants, advancing equitable and effective approaches within the court system.