



FOR AHKEEM

A SCREENING AND DISCUSSION ON YOUNG WOMEN OF COLOR AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Speaker Biographies

Sheila Clark is chief of programs at Sasha Bruce Youthwork. She has over 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership focusing on children, youth, and families. Before joining Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Clark was the associate director of public programs at Equal Justice Works, an organization dedicated to mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to equal justice. Clark managed over \$7 million in federal grants, including three AmeriCorps grants that engaged over 800 students and lawyers in service. Before that, Clark was the program manager of the DC YouthLink Initiative at the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, where she managed over \$6 million in city funds for a nationally awarded juvenile justice program focused on improving public safety and increasing positive outcomes for court-involved youth. Before that, Clark held various leadership positions at nonprofit organizations across the District of Columbia, including division director with the United Planning Organization, executive director with the Northwest Church Family Network, and assistant director with the North Capitol Collaborative.

Jimmie M. Edwards, a judge known for his commitment to troubled youths, was appointed director of public safety for the City of Saint Louis, Missouri, by Mayor Lyda Krewson in 2017. He oversees more than 3,500 employees and has an operating budget of \$340 million. Edwards was previously a circuit judge for the State of Missouri for over 26 years. From 2007 to 2012, he was administrative judge of the family court. Frustrated by the rising number of high school dropouts with no job skills and no legitimate means to earn a living, Edwards conceived an idea for an innovative school that could educate and supervise the court's juvenile delinquents: the Innovative Concept Academy, which opened its doors in 2009. This first-of-its-kind school has received national acclaim from *CBS This Morning*, *Today*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. Edwards has received recognition from *People* magazine and *Ebony* magazine and has received awards from Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts and the National Bar Association Judicial Council. In 2014, Edwards received honorary doctorates from Saint Louis University and Eden Theological Seminary; in 2016, he was inducted into the Missouri Public Service Hall of Fame; and in 2017, he was inducted into the Order of Fleur De Lis, Saint Louis University School of Law Hall of Fame.



Gustavo Velasquez is director of Urban–Greater DC, a cross-center initiative and multidisciplinary program of evidence and policy analysis focused on the national capital region. As a reliable source of evidence and advice, Urban–Greater DC provides insights from research to policymakers and practitioners in ways both relevant and actionable. Velasquez served for nearly three years as assistant secretary for fair housing and equal opportunity at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He served on behalf of the president as the strategic lead of the fair housing and inclusive community agenda for the Obama administration. During his tenure, HUD achieved groundbreaking enforcement victories in fair lending and in major housing discrimination cases. Velasquez led efforts to promulgate the landmark Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, a key tool for cities, states, and other HUD funding recipients to reduce inequality and disparities in access to opportunity. Velasquez worked in executive roles in the administrations of DC mayors Anthony Williams, Adrian Fenty, and Vincent Gray. He also has nonprofit experience as executive director of the Latino Economic Development Center, a local community development organization in Washington, DC, and Congreso de Latinos Unidos, the leading social service provider to Latinos in Philadelphia. Velasquez has served on numerous boards and committees of financial institutions, civil rights groups, and educational organizations at the local and national levels. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a master’s degree in public administration.

K. Shakira Washington is vice president at the National Crittenton Foundation and deputy director for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the National Girls Initiative. Over the past 20 years, Washington has combined community organizing, program development, and behavioral research to address the social, economic, and political inequities marginalized communities face. She trained residents to implement community-based needs assessments; facilitated discussions between community-organizing entities and local officials; and helped design and implement behavioral health research studies. She has coauthored several articles and has presented at many conferences. Her current work focuses on program and policy reform for girls and young women who have experienced violence and adversity that are entrenched in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Washington received her bachelor’s degree in urban studies from San Francisco State University, received her master’s degree in public administration from New York University, and is a doctoral candidate in the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland, College Park.