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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY

PRISONS & JUSTICE INITIATIVE



Message from the Director



As I look back on 2021, I'm proud of both the team at the Georgetown Prisons and Justice Initiative and the students in our programs for the tremendous work we've done together through a difficult year.

We have continued to offer Georgetown courses to incarcerated students in D.C., both virtually and in person. We celebrated the graduation of the third cohort of Pivot Program Fellows and welcomed the fourth to campus to begin their business and professional development training. And the second cohort of Fellows in the MORCA-Georgetown Paralegal Program recently completed 16 weeks of full-time coursework and are now entering the workforce. These programs demonstrate that incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people are worthy of dignity, opportunity, and employment.

Students in the Spring 2021 Making an Exonerée class told the powerful stories of five wrongfully convicted men, and we celebrated the releases of two others whose cases had been reinvestigated by previous classes.

As our work has expanded, so has our team: We've more than doubled the size of our staff since this time last year, and we moved into a new office within the Georgetown School of Continuing Studies campus downtown.

Looking ahead to 2022, we are thrilled to be launching the Bachelor of Liberal Arts, Georgetown's first degree-granting program for incarcerated students, at the Patuxent Institution. After reviewing over 300 applications, we found a stellar group of 25 students from across the state who began classes in January 2022.

Of course, COVID-19 will continue to challenge the way we work, teach, and connect with our students. The pandemic has had a devastating effect on incarcerated people. Despite the uncertainties about what 2022 will bring, we remain committed to supporting our students and expanding opportunities for those affected by the criminal legal system.

In this annual report, you'll find the latest news from across our programs, revisit our highlights from the past year, and get to know some of our students and fellows. Enjoy!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marc Howard

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OUR STORY

“The Prisons and Justice Initiative is doing some of the most impactful work on mass incarceration, prison education, and reentry support for returning citizens anywhere in the country.”

*– John DeGioia,
Georgetown President*

The United States incarcerates more people per capita than any other country: An estimated 2.3 million people are confined in America’s correctional facilities today. This crisis of mass incarceration takes a devastating toll not just on those in the correctional system but on their families and communities as well.

At Georgetown University, the Prisons and Justice Initiative responds to this crisis by increasing opportunities for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. Founded in 2016, PJI has grown to offer several programs that serve those directly affected by the criminal legal system. PJI and our partners empower students through higher education, advocate for those wrongfully convicted, and engage the wider community in reform.

THANKS *to* SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

Thank you to all those who help make PJI's programs possible, including:

PARTNERS

DC Department of Corrections
DC Department of Employment
Services
Mayor's Office on Returning
Citizen Affairs
McDonough School of Business
School of Continuing Studies

SUPPORTERS

The Andrew W. Mellon
Foundation
Kerin and Matthew Bashaw
Jim and Linda Beers
Paul and Caroline Besozzi
Alfred Bozzo
Daniel Chew
Dune Road Foundation
Damien Dwin
Kathleen Flynn
David Marchick and
Pamela Kurland
Jeffrey and Betsy Pash
Jeffrey R. Perry



GEORGETOWN PRISON SCHOLARS

The Prison Scholars Program at the D.C. Jail brings Georgetown faculty and credit-bearing courses to the facility and gives its students a chance to flourish through higher education.

Twenty-six students – the majority of them new to the program this year – completed at least one of the nine courses offered in 2021.

For the spring and summer semesters, the program continued to operate virtually due to COVID-19; faculty taught their classes and connected with students via tablets. In the fall, with students and faculty fully vaccinated, we were thrilled to bring the program back in person and rejoin our Scholars in the classroom. We ended the year with a small event in December to celebrate the semester's end and the Scholars' accomplishments.

"Being in this type of environment provided an opportunity to learn," Scholar Colie Long said. "You get a sense of empowerment that can never be taken away from you."

"Being in these courses allows me to demonstrate that I'm worthy, even if it is to no one but the professor. It allows you to prove it to yourself."

–Xavier Lee, Prison Scholar

PJI Director of Reentry Services Tyrone Walker, one of the first people to take Georgetown classes at the jail in 2018, encouraged the students to keep pushing the boundaries of what they thought was possible.

"Most of us come from communities where we've never seen people do the things you're doing," he told the Scholars in his keynote address. "We want to see you thrive not just in your current community but in your community when you come back home."

26 *Prison Scholars earned Georgetown credits in 2021*

Alumni Profile: Warren Allen

BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH EDUCATION

Warren Allen says he has a new birthday: March 11, the day he learned he would be freed from prison after more than 20 years.

“The floodgates opened. I broke down,” Allen says of the moment he got the news from his lawyer. “For being on the left so long in life, I had to see things go right. I knew I worked for it ... And when it happened, I was overwhelmed.”

Allen was released from the D.C. Jail after a judge approved his motion for a sentence reduction under the D.C. Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA), which allows for the possibility of resentencing for people who have served 15 years and whose offenses occurred when they were juveniles. Allen was just 16 when he was sentenced to 35 years to life.

After he was incarcerated, Allen describes a process of changing his mindset, working to separate himself from negative influences and instead lean toward the things that would help him succeed — including education.

“I knew that ignorance wouldn’t get me out of jail,” he says. “I wanted to participate, but I needed the tools to participate. And for me, it was just letting individuals know that I needed some help. And with that help, I gained so many friends.”

“I took initiative early on to do the right thing. I participated in my own recovery,” he adds.

Allen sought out tutors and mentors. He read, studied, and earned his GED. He later went on to become a tutor and mentor himself, including through the Young Men Emerging program for residents ages 18 to 25 at the D.C. Jail.

There, Allen also continued his pursuit of higher education through the Prisons and Justice Initiative’s



Prison Scholars Program. Most of the students had no prior experience in a college classroom, Allen says, but they excelled. Allen, who as a teenager struggled to read and write, credits the Prison Scholars Program with allowing his writing skills to flourish. He hopes to publish an extensive collection of essays he wrote while incarcerated and, someday, a memoir.

Dr. Heidi Elmendorf, who taught Allen in an introductory biology course in spring 2020, says Allen seemed hesitant at first about taking a science class. With his love for reading and writing, biology was far outside his comfort zone. But he was “tenacious about learning” and boldly approached the unfamiliar subject matter.

“He meticulously took notes as we read about and discussed new ideas, but didn’t let those ideas sit passively inside of him. I loved how Warren took the



lead in many class conversations as he sought ways to apply the concepts of biology to his everyday life, and I think it speaks to his drive to learn," she says. "I remain deeply appreciative of the opportunity to teach Warren."

For Allen, the lessons he took away from the Prison Scholars Program go well beyond the course material.

"What I mostly got away from it was if I just apply myself, I could be sufficient in life," Allen says. "Overall what I got from the program was confidence. I've gained confidence in myself. I believe in myself. But it all was a process."

Immediately after his release, Allen spent time with his family and got to know a city that looks very different from what he remembered. He learned how to drive and how to use a smartphone. And he very quickly began to look forward to his next steps.

Today, Allen is an End Life Imprisonment Fellow at the Sentencing Project, where he does outreach and advocacy work in support of the Sentencing Project's campaign to end the use of life sentences.

"I'm only one man. I don't have an 'S' on my chest. But I have a positive mind to do the right thing," he says. "So that's my ultimate goal, to significantly and adamantly make the world a better place."



2021 COURSE CATALOG

Three-Credit Courses

- African Politics: Travis Adkins
- Introduction to Justice and Peace Studies: Michael Loadenthal and Tarek Maasarani
- Language Myths: Maya Barzilai
- Personal Finance: Mike Ryan
- Prisons and Punishment: Marc Howard
- Religion and Spirituality in Africa: Annalisa Butticci
- Writing Apartheid: Joseph Napolitano

One-Credit Courses

- Forgotten Humanity of Prisoners: Marc Howard
- Global Justice: Beba Cibralic

Two of Marc Howard's courses, Prisons and Punishment and Forgotten Humanity of Prisoners, bring Georgetown undergraduate students to the D.C. Jail to learn together with the Prison Scholars. The format allows students to learn from one another's experiences and create a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system.

"Hearing their experiences directly, you feel you understand more about what you're reading and you get that personal connection."

- Thais Borges, C'22

FALL 2021 GUEST LECTURERS



Paul Blavin

Co-founder and CEO, Mercy Analytics

Annalisa Butticci

Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies

Elana DeLozier

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Center for Security Studies

Heidi Elmendorf

Associate Professor of Biology

Zia Faruqi

U.S. Magistrate Judge

Bianca Forde

Attorney and advocate

John Glavin

Professor of English

Athena Grace

Human behavior analyst

Kristin Henning

Director of the Georgetown Juvenile Justice Initiative and Professor of Law

Marc Howard

PJI Director and Professor of Government and Law

Patrick Johnson

Assistant Teaching Professor of Physics

Michael Li

Data scientist and entrepreneur

Abbe Lowell

Defense attorney

Joshua Miller

PJI Director of Education and Assistant Teaching Professor of Philosophy

Marty Tankleff

Defense attorney, exoneree, and Mullen Visiting Professor of Government and Law

“I can say that some of the best students that I have had not only at Georgetown but in my career as a teacher are at the D.C. Jail.”

– Annalisa Butticci



Prison Scholar and ANC Commissioner Joel Castón Comes Home

Joel Castón made his way through a crowd of people and one by one embraced family members and friends who had long been waiting for his first moments of freedom. After 27 years of incarceration, Castón was released from the D.C. Jail just a few days before Thanksgiving.

Castón is best known for his impact as a mentor, a teacher, and — following a historic election — a local public official. Now, he has a chance to continue that work back in the D.C. community for the first time since he was 18 years old.

“It hasn’t been 27 years of waiting to go home, it’s been 27 years preparing myself to never come back to prison again,” Castón said shortly after his release.

While incarcerated, Castón learned several languages, practiced yoga, developed a personal finance curriculum called Currency Catchers, helped establish the Young Men Emerging mentorship program at the D.C. Jail, and took Georgetown classes through the Prison Scholars Program.

In June, he made history when he was elected to the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission in Ward 7. The ANC 7F07 seat, which represents residents at the jail, the Harriet Tubman Women’s Shelter, and the Park Kennedy apartment complex, was created after a redistricting in 2013 but had never been filled. Castón ran unopposed in 2020 but was disqualified because his voter registration card didn’t reflect his address at the jail. In 2021, he ran again, this time against four other incarcerated candidates, and won.

At the start of his two-year term, Castón tackled his commissioner responsibilities from the jail, attending meetings, hearing from constituents, and addressing concerns from the community over Zoom. He is supported by a team of Georgetown students and alumni who make up his staff.

“I’m overjoyed to welcome Joel home,” said Marc Howard, director of the Georgetown Prisons and Justice Initiative. “This is just the beginning for him, and I look forward to many years of work, inspiration, and friendship together.”

BACHELOR OF LIBERAL ARTS PROGRAM

“I’m grateful that this expansion of the Prison Scholars Program will ensure that future leaders who are currently incarcerated will be able to access the Georgetown academic experience as members of our community.”

*– John DeGioia,
Georgetown President*

In April 2021, PJI officially announced the launch of Georgetown’s first bachelor’s degree program for incarcerated students. The Bachelor of Liberal Arts (BLA) program, located at the Patuxent Institution in Jessup, Maryland, welcomed its first cohort of students in early 2022.

The new degree program builds on the success of the existing Prison Scholars Program, which has offered Georgetown credit-bearing courses at the D.C. Jail since 2018. Admissions were open to incarcerated people across all Maryland state carceral facilities, and PJI received over 300 applications for the 25 available seats. The inaugural cohort is an extraordinary group of students, full of intellectual promise and potential.

The BLA combines the traditional Georgetown emphasis on the liberal arts with a series of innovative, interdisciplinary major programs. After completing the core requirements, students will choose one of three majors: cultural humanities, interdisciplinary social science, or global intellectual history. The degree requires 120 credit hours, and students are expected to complete the program in five years. To support them throughout their education, students will have access to Georgetown resources including academic support, library and research assistance, and career counseling, as well as comprehensive reentry services from the PJI team.

“Our goal is to provide the same rigorous, demanding courses of study inside of the prison that make a Georgetown education world-class. Incarcerated students have repeatedly shown that they can rise to the challenge,” said Joshua Miller, PJI’s director of education.



“Pivot has allowed the world to see us differently, reigniting our passion to succeed and giving us the chance to show our brilliance.”
– Kaamilya Finley, Pivot Graduate

PIVOT PROGRAM CELEBRATES GRADUATION

The Pivot Program celebrated its third cohort of Fellows as they walked across the stage in June to receive their certificates in business and entrepreneurship. It was the culmination of nine months of hard work in the classroom and at internships for the group of accomplished returning citizens.

“I honor each of the Fellows today for pushing and not giving up, knowing that better is around the corner,” said graduate Kaamilya Finley. “You are allowed to sit here today screaming, ‘I did it!’ Success looks good on you.”

With its focus on business and entrepreneurship thinking, the Pivot Program prepares the Fellows for a wide range of professional careers or helps them with the beginnings of their own business venture. The program is a joint initiative of PJI and the McDonough School of Business and is supported by the D.C. Department of Employment Services.

Fellows complete six months of full-time coursework, followed by three-month internships with D.C. companies and nonprofit organizations. Internship hosts in 2021 included Deloitte and DICK’S Sporting Goods.

Due to COVID-19, the third cohort of Pivot Fellows completed the program almost entirely virtually. Graduation was one of the few occasions when the students, faculty, and staff were able to gather in person. The ceremony also honored the 16 graduates from the program’s second cohort, who had an online graduation in 2020.

“You are all a symbol of what is possible in this world, in the face of adversity. You exemplify what Pivot is all about, and that is hope. And I mean real hope for the future,” said keynote speaker Rosemary Kilkenny, Georgetown’s vice president of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and chief diversity officer.



WELCOME, NEW PIVOT FELLOWS!

The Pivot Program celebrated the launch of its fourth cohort and welcomed a new group of Fellows as they began their business and entrepreneurship training on Oct. 12.

With a new class of 10 Pivot Fellows, the program offers another opportunity for formerly incarcerated D.C. residents to build their professional careers and business ventures.

“It is hard to believe that we are launching our fourth Pivot cohort,” said Pietra Rivoli, co-executive director of the program. “We are so grateful for the support of the whole Georgetown community in doing this important work; we are changing the narrative and business practices around second-chance hiring every day.”

By partnering with businesses to host Pivot interns and preparing Pivot graduates for successful careers, Pivot is contributing to a shift in the business community that will create more opportunities for returning citizens. Pivot is also a founding member of the Second Chance Business Coalition.

For the new group of Fellows, it represents an opportunity to establish a professional network, build new skills, and kickstart rewarding careers.

“I’ve never really thrived the way that I could have because I was missing confidence in myself,” said Pivot Fellow Sai’id Wahid. “Now that I’m here in the Pivot Program, I want to evolve to a place where I have that confidence, and I believe the individuals I’m surrounding myself with will help me get there.”

Alumni Profile: Lakina Edwards

Since 2018, the Georgetown Pivot Program has given dozens of returning citizens a second chance for career success. For Lakina Edwards, a 2020 graduate of the program, the Pivot experience and network of staff and other determined Fellows propelled her into a career that has continued to blossom since her graduation.

"The level of education, the freedom to pursue my dreams, and the quality of professional networking all contributed to growing my confidence in becoming the leader I believed I was meant to be," said Edwards. "I was able to believe in my future again."

Edwards credits the Pivot Program for training her in the skills needed to enter the workplace. Through Pivot, she interned with LINK Strategic Partners, a D.C. strategic communications and stakeholder engagement firm, in the spring of 2020.

"By learning to properly manage my priorities and utilize my resources, I was better prepared to enter the fast-paced and demanding work environment," said Edwards.

As an intern, Edwards learned about the importance of strategic communications and built on her project management skills as she contributed to LINK's work with clients.

"Learning about how a company or organization's messaging and public perception play an important role in the execution of its mission has been eye-opening," said Edwards.

After she graduated from Pivot in 2020, Edwards was offered a permanent position at LINK. She recently celebrated her one-year anniversary as a full-time associate at the company.

Michael Akin, LINK's president, said Edwards is quick to go above and beyond for the company and her colleagues. At the beginning of the pandemic, she spearheaded the organization's transition into the virtual environment.

"She brought us together as we pivoted to virtual work, maintaining our family spirit and energy," said Akin. "It



takes a team to buy into that, but it takes a person to cultivate it, and Lakina has been that person."

In addition to her work with LINK, Edwards joined the board of Suited for Change, an organization that provides workforce training and professional clothing for women who are seeking employment. Suited for Change also works with Pivot to outfit Fellows for their own interviews.

"While I knew I wanted to be of service to others, I have since determined that my greatest contributions lie in my ability to contribute to an organization as a thought leader and strategist," said Edwards.

Edwards' leadership and approach to her work is shaped by her unique perspective as a returning citizen.

"Returning citizens bring many of the same skills and the desire to make a positive impact in the community at large as do non-returning citizens," said Edwards. "Many bring a unique brand of creativity, skill, and knowledge to an opportunity, allowing them to see possibilities not necessarily considered by others."

Edwards said when companies welcome these perspectives into the workplace by hiring returning citizens, everyone benefits.

"Second-chance hiring opportunities are the arms and legs that help pull returning citizens out of fear, shame, and disbelief," said Edwards. "A second chance becomes the actionable step toward a better world; one that exemplifies diversity, equity, and true inclusion."



MORCA-GEORGETOWN PARALEGAL PROGRAM

Over 16 weeks of intensive training in a Georgetown classroom, 10 returning citizens prepared to enter the field of law as qualified paralegals.

Many students had little formal training in the legal field, but brought valuable, self-taught knowledge and skills from their own experiences in the criminal legal system.

Through the MORCA-Georgetown Paralegal Program, these Fellows earned professional certificates in Paralegal Studies through the Georgetown School of Continuing Studies. The program is a partnership between the D.C. Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA), the D.C. Department of Employment Services (DOES), and Georgetown.

"There are people like me who are capable of doing phenomenal research in a law library. But when we came home, because of our backgrounds, we weren't really attractive hires," said Paralegal Fellow Timothy Thomas, who is also a graduate of the Pivot Program. "With the paralegal certificate, I got something from a top university that I can legitimize myself with."

The program's curriculum comprises 12 courses on topics including legal research and writing, contracts, litigation, ethics, trademark law, immigration, criminal law, and torts. After completing the intensive academic portion of the program, Fellows go on to interview with D.C. law firms, government agencies, and nonprofits for one-year paid positions.

Formerly incarcerated people face immense barriers to employment, particularly in the legal services industry.

The program provides the formal training, networking, and employment connections to build that experience into a rewarding and successful career.

"Graduates of the program will leverage their education and training to access employment with competitive salaries, benefits, and a clear path to the middle class," said DOES Director Unique Morris-Hughes. "This is also a great opportunity for their employers, who will gain qualified, dependable professionals with a unique and valuable perspective."

Alumni Profile: Joshua Stendeback

Joshua Stendeback's work in the legal field began in a law library, where he spent much of his time while incarcerated reading, studying, and absorbing as much information as he could.

"When you're trying to fight for your freedom, you find motivators every single day," he said. "But it takes a lot. You read a lot of cases, you read a lot of procedural books, and for someone with no familiarity with higher education, educating yourself is a pretty steep climb."

Stendeback taught himself enough to gain an understanding of the law, filing dozens of motions and appellate briefs on behalf of himself and others. He helped file two appeals that were ultimately successful in court.

Shortly after he returned home in June 2021, Stendeback applied for the MORCA-Georgetown Paralegal Program, where he could build on his existing legal skills with formal education and training.

The drive to learn that brought him to the law library served him well as the program's intensive, full-time coursework got underway in September. Navigating dense readings, new technology, and a challenging Georgetown classroom required self-discipline and time management.

"It was intimidating at first because I had no idea how to learn and everything's being presented to you so quickly," he said. "But I understood that I needed to essentially blur everything else out that was going on in my life and simply be present every day and make that my sole focus."

Stendeback and his classmates spent 16 weeks in the classroom with Georgetown faculty to earn their certificates in Paralegal Studies. Now, Stendeback is confident that he can excel as he takes his skills and experience into a new legal career.

"I'm ready to go," he said. "I'm really excited to get to a law firm and just show off what I can do."



Stendeback ultimately hopes to earn his bachelor's degree and law degree. And while he's excited about the possibilities for his own future, he also feels a responsibility to pave the way for others.

"The focus is not just graduating from the program. It's also when I go to a law firm and people are introduced to me, that I'm changing their notion of what somebody with my background looks like and how they perform and how they interact with people," he said. "People can't get educated unless programs like this exist and people like me are given a platform to perform and to break traditional molds. And for that, I'll be eternally grateful for the rest of my life."

MAKING AN EXONEREE 2021

Georgetown students from the spring 2021 Making an Exoneree class produced five powerful documentaries that tell the stories of wrongfully convicted men who have spent a combined 122 years in prison.

The short documentaries, which were released in August, highlight the cases of Rodney Derrickson, Orlando “Tray” Jones III, Melvin Ortiz, Charles Santana, and Raymond Allan Warren, who remain incarcerated for crimes they didn’t commit.

Marty Tankleff, who was himself wrongfully convicted and later exonerated, co-teaches the course with PJI Director Marc Howard.

“The starting point of this course is that we don’t just have to wait for the wheels of justice to turn,” Tankleff said. “Instead, a group of energetic and determined undergraduate students can reinvestigate cases, expose injustice, and help get people out of prison.”

The 15 students spent months researching the cases, producing their documentaries, and launching online campaigns to advocate for the freedom of their “clients.”

“I have waited 23 years to tell my side of the story and show I am innocent and I am not the person they claim me to be,” Ortiz said in a recorded message at the virtual documentary screening event. “Making an Exoneree is an important program that gives us life, the air we need to breathe, and that can bring us home to our loved ones.”

Ortiz said more important than its impact on his life is the program’s potential to bring change to the criminal legal system and prevent other wrongful convictions.

Howard said the goal of the course is to use the students’ storytelling and advocacy tools to bring wrongfully convicted people home.



“We took on some of the most difficult and challenging cases, where leads had vanished, where legal appeals seemed at a dead end, and where hope was just about lost,” he said. “We’re breathing new life into these cases.”

Making an Exoneree student Josiah Laney, who was on the team that reinvestigated Derrickson’s case, said Derrickson taught him to not give up — even in the face of challenging moments, heartbreaking conversations, and steep odds against their case.

“I hope to give Rodney Derrickson an outlet to tell his story to a world that silenced him at the age of 17,” Laney said. “I hope to galvanize viewers to join the fight to bring Rodney home, and to remind our audience that together, they have the power to do something about the innocent men and women who do not deserve to spend another night in prison.”



CELEBRATING TWO LONG-AWAITED HOMECOMINGS

The hope of seeing a wrongfully convicted person come home inspires and drives the students, faculty, and volunteers involved in Making an Exoneree.

In 2021, that hope became a reality – twice.

Eric Riddick and Keith Washington were both released from prison over the summer within just a few weeks of each other. They spent a combined 42 years incarcerated.

When Making an Exoneree picked up Riddick’s and Washington’s cases – in 2019 and 2020, respectively – students jumped in to conduct interviews and research, start online petitions and campaigns, and produce their documentaries.

They were also working behind the scenes and collaborating with attorneys: In Riddick’s case, three students presented their research to the Philadelphia Conviction Integrity Unit. And at one of Washington’s last hearings before his release, the judge and lawyers on both sides acknowledged the Georgetown students’ work.

“Georgetown played a very instrumental role in my freedom and proving that I [had] a wrongful conviction,” Riddick said after his release.

The Philadelphia Conviction Integrity Unit ultimately supported Riddick’s release. Prosecutors acknowledged

Team Riddick

- Alexander Buffone
- Kendell Long
- Taylor Riddick

Team Washington

- Céline Berdous
- Trevor O’Connor
- Josh Rosson

at a hearing that he had been wrongfully convicted in 1992. Hours later, he walked out of the courthouse as a free man.

The Prince George’s County Conviction and Sentencing Integrity Unit also supported Washington’s reduced sentence and release. Washington served 13 years on an excessive 45-year sentence for involuntary manslaughter – despite evidence that he was acting to defend himself and his family in his own home. Washington said that the Georgetown students who worked on his story were “instrumental” in his release.

“We’re so grateful to Keith and his family for their openness and for allowing us to tell Keith’s story. It’s humbling to think that our work played even a small part in getting him home,” said Josh Rosson, one of the three students who worked on Washington’s case.

PJI IN THE MEDIA

Opinion Pieces

Prison Reform Should Be a Bipartisan Issue

By Marc Howard, PJI Director, in the Wall Street Journal

A Second Look at the D.C. Parole Discussion

By Joshua Miller, PJI Director of Education, and Tyrone Walker, PJI Director of Reentry Services, in the Washington Post

In the News

Elected from Jail, DC Official Advances Voting Rights and Racial Justice

ABC News

Georgetown University to Introduce Degree Program for Maryland Inmates

The Washington Post

Eric Riddick, imprisoned for murder he says he didn't commit, released after almost 3 decades

NBC News

Ex-Prince George's official, sentenced to 45 years for manslaughter, is released after 13

The Washington Post

STAFF IN ACTION

Sharing Expertise

Staff, faculty, and alumni of PJI and the Pivot Program headed to Denver in November to attend the National Conference on Higher Education in Prisons. The team organized three sessions to share our experience with other educators, administrators, and advocates of prison education programming.

Testimony and Advocacy

Members of the PJI team testified as part of two D.C. Council hearings. In May, Director of Education Joshua Miller and Director of Reentry Services Tyrone Walker spoke in favor of a local parole system that places decisions with judges rather than a parole board. Walker and PJI Director Marc Howard later addressed the need to update the city's Criminal Code.

Miller and Pietra Rivoli, co-executive director of the Pivot Program, also spoke at an October White House listening session focused on employment for formerly incarcerated people. And in December, Miller joined a similar Department of Education session to discuss students' needs during and after incarceration.



OUR TEAM



Caitlin Chamberlain
*Assistant Director
of Program
Management*



Valerie Coats
*Technology
Coordinator and D.C.
Jail Site Director*



Tessa Gulley
*Program
Associate*



Eleanor Haney
*Program
Associate*



Virginia Hill
*Assistant Director
of Operations*



Marc Howard
Director



Joshua Miller
*Director of
Education*



Joseph Napolitano
*Assistant Director
of Education*



Evelyn Rupert
*Director of
Communications*



Ellie Sims
*Program
Associate*



Frances Trousdale
*Program
Associate*



Tyrone Walker
*Director of
Reentry Services*



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

To make a donation to the Georgetown Prisons and Justice Initiative, visit
prisonsandjustice.georgetown.edu/giving

Interested in partnering with us? Email
prisonsandjustice@georgetown.edu

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