



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 7, 2018

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DAs Committed to Reform Gather in Houston to Explore New Strategies to Promote a Fair and Effective Justice System

*Elected Prosecutors Offer Insights into Changing Criminal Justice
Landscape and Opportunities for Reform*

HOUSTON – Today, some of the nation’s leading elected prosecutors – including new prosecutors voted into office last month – held a press conference, cohosted by Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg and [Fair and Just Prosecution](#) (FJP), a nonprofit that works with elected prosecutors committed to reducing incarceration and increasing fairness and equity in the criminal justice system. During the press conference, participants reflected on the changing landscape of prosecution and highlighted a recently released set of [principles](#) designed to serve as a blueprint for elected prosecutors aiming to change paradigms and bring a new vision to the justice system.

“A new wave of thinking in prosecution is taking hold with bold leaders at the forefront who have broken glass ceilings and are not afraid to question past incarceration-driven practices that have failed individuals, families and communities,” said **Miriam Krinsky**, Executive Director of Fair and Just Prosecution. “The newly released *21 Principles for the 21st Century Prosecutor* provides a roadmap and a series of concrete recommendations for DAs who, collectively, are creating a ‘new normal’ in the field – leaders committed to a more fair, compassionate and effective justice system.”

Harris County District Attorney **Kim Ogg**, speaking about why reform is needed added: “People from all walks of life agree that criminal justice reform makes us safer. Those who seek to maintain the status quo too often create a false choice between reform and public safety. A fair system improves public trust, and responsible use of taxpayer resources leads to healthier communities.”

Ogg’s new colleague **John Creuzot**, Dallas County, Texas District Attorney-elect also noted: “In a state that has been historically conservative, voters have now repeatedly cast their ballots for criminal justice reform, marking their desire to reduce incarceration and prioritize

transparency and accountability, while building a justice system that relies on innovation and evidence rather than ‘tough on crime’ policies that have failed to work. I’m proud to stand with my colleagues here in Texas and across the nation, as we work together to create a new vision for the future of prosecution.”

Wyandotte County, Kansas District Attorney **Mark Dupree** offered perspective on the bipartisan shift taking place in prosecution: “In too many instances, the system has shown itself to be inflexible in a way that compounds inequities and has locked far too many people into a cycle of incarceration. Now, we are seeing a bipartisan shift in thinking, with bold leaders from across the political spectrum coming together to create a more equitable and fair system that promotes safer, healthier communities.”

Suffolk County (Boston), Massachusetts District Attorney **Rachael Rollins** echoed these messages and underscored the importance of this growing movement of reform-minded prosecutors: “We represent a new generation of prosecutors who bring a diversity of race, gender, experience and thought to prosecution that better reflects the makeup of our communities and better represents their needs and values. While we still have a lot of work to do, I’m encouraged by this growing movement that continues to shift away from harsh punitive approaches and drive innovative strategies that will lead us to a more equitable system.”

To learn more about this work and new thinking in prosecution, as well as the recently released *21 Principles for the 21st Century Prosecutor*, visit the Fair and Just Prosecution [website](#).

For more information about the press conference please contact Kacey Bonner at kbonner@fairandjustprosecution.org or 310-402-3013.

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit www.fairandjustprosecution.org or follow us on Facebook [@FairAndJustProsecution](https://www.facebook.com/FairAndJustProsecution).