



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Over 65 Criminal Justice Leaders Denounce Attorney General Barr's Remarks to Fraternal Order of Police**

### *Leaders Correct the Record on Reform-Minded Prosecutors and Urge Research-Backed Criminal Justice Policies That Reduce Incarceration*

Today 67 criminal justice leaders from across the country joined together in a [statement](#) repudiating recent [remarks](#) made by Attorney General William Barr to the Fraternal Order of Police. In his remarks, Attorney General Barr levelled attacks at reform-minded prosecutors across the country who are driving new data-backed approaches to criminal justice that have proven to be effective in decreasing incarceration and promoting public safety. In their joint statement, the current and former prosecutors, law enforcement, Department of Justice and judicial leaders corrected the factual inaccuracies in Barr's remarks and cautioned against a return to past failed approaches.

"We are in the midst of a sea change where a growing number of elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders are turning away from 'tough on crime' policies that have done little more than fuel mass incarceration and fracture trust in our justice system. These leaders are embracing new thinking grounded in evidence and compassion that has been shown to promote safer and healthier communities," said **Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of Fair and Just Prosecution** and a former federal prosecutor. "While AG Barr's unfounded attack on reform-minded prosecutors is based on fear-driven policies that have torn apart families and simply don't work, these leaders are choosing a new pathway that is smart, data-driven and gaining bipartisan support."

The statement outlines how the policies of reform-minded prosecutors are not only aligned with research and fiscal responsibility, but also increasingly called for by all segments of our communities. Noting the bipartisan progress that has been made on criminal justice reform in recent years, the signatories to the statement assert that this "...is not the time for a return to fear-driven narratives that find no foundation in fact." Instead, they advocate for "[d]ata-driven justice, the wise use of limited prosecutorial and law enforcement resources, fiscal responsibility, [and] compassion and respect for human dignity" -- all proven to promote community trust, fairness, accountability and greater public safety.

**Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle** underscored the significance of the statement saying, "It is the duty of law enforcement to protect communities and public safety is not served by policies that fuel fear and distrust of police. In a time when we are finally making progress on meaningful reform that can help us fortify trust within our communities, we must lead with facts and best practices that move us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century rather than return us to a bygone era grounded in fear."

Signatories include, among others, **Police Chief Abdul Pridgen** (Seaside Police Department, CA); **Sheriffs Jerry Clayton** (Washtenaw County, MI) and **Joe Pelle** (Boulder County, CO); **Former Law Enforcement Leaders Joseph Brann** (Former Chief, Hayward Police Department, CA; Former Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice), **Chris Burbank** (Former Chief, Salt Lake City Police Department, UT), **Ronald Davis** (Former Chief, East Palo Alto Police Department, CA; Former Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice), **William Lansdowne** (Former Chief, San Diego Police Department, San Jose Police Department and Richmond Police Department, CA) and **Sue Rahr** (Former Sheriff, King County, WA); **Former Judicial Leaders Bobbe Bridge** (Former Associate Justice, WA State Supreme Court), **Nancy Gertner** (Former Senior Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of MA), **Emily Jane Goodman** (Former Justice, NY State Supreme Court) and **James McHugh** (Former Associate Justice, Massachusetts Appeals Court); **Attorneys General TJ Donovan** (Vermont), **Aaron Ford** (Nevada), **Kathy Jennings** (Delaware) and **Karl Racine** (District of Columbia); **District Attorneys Sherry Boston** (DeKalb County, GA), **Kim Foxx** (Cook County, IL), **Joe Gonzales** (Bexar County, TX) and **Eric Gonzalez** (Kings County, NY); and **Prosecuting Attorneys Wesley Bell** (St. Louis County, MO) and **Dan Satterberg** (King County, WA).

“Our national crime rate is at an all-time low thanks to greater community engagement, enlightened criminal justice policies informed by facts and experience, and effective leaders who have been willing to acknowledge and correct the unsuccessful policies and programs that were prevalent for far too long. Yet AG Barr now seeks to take us back to an era of known failures where we have tried to incarcerate our way to safety, and all we have to show for that is the world’s largest prison population. This isn’t justice and doesn’t make us any safer,” said **Joseph Brann, Former Hayward, California Chief of Police and Former Director of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services**. “We reject this type of rhetoric and are advancing new approaches that move us away from a carceral and ineffective justice system to one that recognizes science, distinguishes issues that require public health responses, and looks toward building meaningful and effective relationships with communities rather than instilling fear. It is through these measures that we will create a system that promotes true public safety – one in which the public will consistently be engaged as active stakeholders and co-producers of public safety.”

Read the statement [here](#), and for a full list of the 67 signatories, see below. For any questions about the statement or to speak to any of the signatories, please contact Miriam Krinsky at [krinskym@krinsky.la](mailto:krinskym@krinsky.la) or 818-416-5218.

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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 <http://www.fairandjustprosecution.org/> or follow us on Facebook [@FairAndJustProsecution](#).

### List of Signatories

#### **Roy L. Austin**

Former Deputy Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity, White House Domestic Policy Council

Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

#### **Aramis Ayala**

State Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Florida

#### **Chiraag Bains**

Former Trial Attorney, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Former Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

#### **Diana Becton**

District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California

#### **Wesley Bell**

Prosecuting Attorney, St. Louis County, Missouri

**Sherry Boston**

District Attorney, DeKalb County, Georgia

**Joseph Brann**

Former Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice  
Former Chief, Hayward Police Department, California

**Bobbe J. Bridge**

Former Associate Justice, Washington State Supreme Court

**Kenyen Brown**

Former U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Alabama

**Chris Burbank**

Former Chief, Salt Lake City Police Department, Utah

**John T. Chisholm**

District Attorney, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

**John Choi**

County Attorney, Ramsey County, Minnesota

**Jerry L. Clayton**

Sheriff, Washtenaw County, Michigan

**Scott Colom**

District Attorney, Sixteenth Judicial District, Mississippi

**Brendan Cox**

Former Chief, Albany Police Department, New York

**John Creuzot**

District Attorney, Dallas County, Texas

**Ronald L. Davis**

Former Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice  
Former Chief, East Palo Alto Police Department, California

**Satana Deberry**

District Attorney, Durham County, North Carolina

**W. Thomas Dillard**

Former U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Florida  
Former U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Tennessee

**Thomas J. Donovan, Jr.**

Attorney General, Vermont

**Mark Dupree**

District Attorney, Wyandotte County, Kansas

**Aaron Ford**

Attorney General, Nevada

**Lisa Foster**

Former Director, Office for Access to Justice, U.S. Department of Justice  
Former Judge, California Superior Court

**Kim Foxx**

State's Attorney, Cook County, Illinois

**Kimberly Gardner**

Circuit Attorney, City of St. Louis, Missouri

**Sarah F. George**

State's Attorney, Chittenden County, Vermont

**Nancy Gertner**

Former Senior Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts

**Joe Gonzales**

District Attorney, Bexar County, Texas

**Eric Gonzalez**

District Attorney, Kings County, New York

**Emily Jane Goodman**

Former Justice, New York State Supreme Court

**Andrea Harrington**

District Attorney, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

**Scott Harshbarger**

Former Attorney General, Massachusetts

**David J. Hickton**

Former U.S. Attorney, Western District of Pennsylvania

**Peter S. Holmes**

City Attorney, Seattle, Washington

**John Hummel**

District Attorney, Deschutes County, Oregon

**Kathy Jennings**

Attorney General, Delaware

**Zach Klein**

City Attorney, Columbus, Ohio

**Lawrence S. Krasner**

District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Miriam Aroni Krinsky**

Former Criminal Appellate Chief and Chief, General Crimes, United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California

Former Chair, Solicitor General's Criminal Appellate Advisory Group

**William Lansdowne**

Former Chief, San Diego Police Department, California

Former Chief, San Jose Police Department, California

Former Chief, Richmond Police Department, California

**Beth McCann**

District Attorney, Second Judicial District, Colorado

**James F. McHugh**

Former Associate Justice, Massachusetts Appeals Court

**Brian Middleton**

District Attorney, Fort Bend County, Texas

**Kenneth Mighell**

Former U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Texas

**Stephanie Morales**

Commonwealth's Attorney, Portsmouth, Virginia

**Marilyn J. Mosby**

State's Attorney, Baltimore City, Maryland

**Joe Pelle**

Sheriff, Boulder County, Colorado

**Channing Phillips**

Former U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

**Abdul Pridgen**

Chief, Seaside Police Department, California

**Karl A. Racine**

Attorney General, District of Columbia

**Sue Rahr**

Former Sheriff, King County, Washington

**Ira Reiner**

Former District Attorney, Los Angeles County, California

Former City Attorney, Los Angeles, California

**Rachael Rollins**

District Attorney, Suffolk County, Massachusetts

**Jeff Rosen**

District Attorney, Santa Clara County, California

**Marian Ryan**

District Attorney, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

**Dan Satterberg**

Prosecuting Attorney, King County, Washington

**Ronal Serpas**

Former Superintendent, New Orleans Police Department, Louisiana

Former Chief, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Tennessee

Former Chief, Washington State Patrol

**Harry L. Shorstein**

Former State Attorney, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Florida

**Carol A. Siemon**

Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County, Michigan

**David Soares**

District Attorney, Albany County, New York

**Norm Stamper**

Former Chief, Seattle Police Department, Washington

**Carter Stewart**

Former U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Ohio

**David Sullivan**

District Attorney, Northwestern District, Massachusetts

**Thomas P. Sullivan**

Former U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Illinois

**Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.**

District Attorney, New York County, New York

**Andrew H. Warren**

State Attorney, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Florida

**Lynneice Washington**

District Attorney, Jefferson County, Bessemer Division, Alabama