

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2020

MEDIA CONTACT
Miriam Krinsky
E: krinskym@krinsky.la
C: 818-416-5218

57 Criminal Justice Leaders Rally Behind Landmark NJ Policy Limiting Local Entanglement in Federal Immigration Enforcement

Yesterday, 57 current and former elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders filed an [amicus curiae brief](#) in support of New Jersey’s landmark Immigrant Trust Directive, a statewide policy that aims to fortify trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement by limiting voluntary assistance in federal immigration enforcement activities. As noted by these national criminal justice leaders, when local law enforcement becomes involved in immigration enforcement it erodes public trust and exacerbates fear within immigrant communities, making them less likely to report crimes and cooperate with investigations, and overall leaving communities less safe. Thus, *amici* argue, New Jersey’s policy is essential to community policing models that encourage cooperation with law enforcement and promote public safety.

“The Trump Administration has spent the last four years talking about ‘law and order’ while simultaneously engaging in acts that fan the flames of distrust and make communities less safe,” said **Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of Fair and Just Prosecution** and a former federal prosecutor. “Successful community policing models – an essential starting point in this moment of national pain and upset – depend on trust between the public and law enforcement. When local law enforcement is made to step into the role of immigration enforcers, they immediately erode the trust of the public and create untenable circumstances for some of our country’s most vulnerable residents.”

In the brief, *amici* also point to research showing that undocumented immigrants are particularly vulnerable to crimes such as robbery and domestic violence. In fact, the targeting of undocumented immigrants has become so common that they are often referred to as “walking ATMs,” and many studies have shown that abusive partners use the threat of deportation to maintain power and control. Further, undocumented immigrants are more likely to suffer workplace abuse in the form of wage theft and denial of medical care, or being fired when injured on the job. By removing the threat of deportation when undocumented immigrants report crimes and cooperate with local law enforcement, people are more likely to come forward and report crimes, making the entire community safer.

“Undocumented immigrants are vital members of our community whom prosecutors have an obligation to protect,” said **Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner**, one of the signatories to the brief. “When local law enforcement is tasked with being *de facto* immigration officials, we erode public trust, make undocumented individuals more vulnerable to crime, and fail to execute our number one duty – to promote public safety through our actions.”

Amici further argue that local and state involvement in immigration enforcement diverts critical resources from public safety efforts necessary to promote community trust.

“The Trump Administration’s attack on New Jersey’s Immigrant Trust Directive threatens to divert critical resources from efforts to transform the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve,” said **Mary McCord, Legal Director of Georgetown Law’s Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection** and a former federal prosecutor. “Particularly in light of recent events, these efforts are essential to public safety.”

The brief was authored by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection, Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd, and [Fair and Just Prosecution](#) – a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting a justice system grounded in fairness, equity, compassion, and fiscal responsibility, who also organized the amicus effort in this and other similar cases.

Read the brief [here](#), and for a list of *amici*, see below.

###

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 Amici

Roy L. Austin, Jr.

Former Deputy Assistant to the President, Office of Urban Affairs, Justice, and Opportunity
Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Chiraag Bains

Former Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice
Former Trial Attorney, Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section, 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, Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit, Georgia

Chesa Boudin

District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco, California

RaShall M. Brackney

Chief, Charlottesville Police Department, Virginia

Chris Burbank

Director, Law Enforcement Engagement, Center for Policing Equity Former Chief, Salk Lake City Police Department, Utah

A. Bates Butler III

Former U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona

John T. Chisholm

District Attorney, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

John Choi

County Attorney, Ramsey County, Minnesota

Jerry L. Clayton

Sheriff, Washtenaw County, Michigan

Dave Clegg

District Attorney, Ulster County, New York

W. J. Michael Cody

Former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee Former Attorney General, State of Tennessee

Brendan Cox

Former Chief, Albany Police Department, New York

Steve Descano

Commonwealth's Attorney, Fairfax County, Virginia

Mark A. Dupree, Sr.

District Attorney, Wyandotte County, Kansas

Kimberly M. Foxx

State's Attorney, Cook County, Illinois

Gil Garcetti

Former District Attorney, Los Angeles County, California

Kimberly Gardner

Circuit Attorney, City of St. Louis, Missouri

Stanley Garnett

Former District Attorney, 20th Judicial District (Boulder County), Colorado

Sarah F. George

State's Attorney, Chittenden County, Vermont

Sim Gill

District Attorney, Salt Lake County, Utah

Joe Gonzales

District Attorney, Bexar County, Texas

Eric Gonzalez

District Attorney, Kings County, New York

Mark Gonzalez

District Attorney, Nueces County, Texas

Andrea Harrington

District Attorney, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Peter Holmes

City Attorney, Seattle, Washington

John Hummel

District Attorney, Deschutes County, Oregon

Natasha Irving

District Attorney, Prosecutorial District 6, Maine

Michael Jackson

District Attorney, Dallas County, Alabama

Justin F. Kollar

Prosecuting Attorney, Kaua'i County, Hawaii

Lawrence S. Krasner

District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Miriam Aroni Krinsky

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Criminal Appellate Chief, and General Crimes Chief, 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

Scott Lassar

Former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois

Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)

Chris Magnus

Chief, Tucson Police Department, Arizona

Beth McCann

District Attorney, 2nd Judicial District (Denver County), Colorado

Mary B. McCord

Former Acting Assistant Attorney General and Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for National Security, U.S. Department of Justice

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chief, Criminal Division, District of Columbia

Garry McFadden

Sheriff, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Marilyn J. Mosby

State's Attorney, Baltimore City, Maryland

Joseph K. Pelle
Sheriff, Boulder County, Colorado

Channing Phillips
Former U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia
Former Senior Counselor to the Attorney General and Deputy Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

Joseph Platania
Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Charlottesville, Virginia

Abdul D. Pridgen
Chief, Seaside Police Department, California

Ira Reiner
Former District Attorney, Los Angeles County, California Former City Attorney, City of Los Angeles, California

Rachael Rollins
District Attorney, Suffolk County, Massachusetts

Marian T. Ryan
District Attorney, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Daniel Satterberg
Prosecuting Attorney, King County, Washington

Ronal Serpas
Co-Chairman, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration Former Police Superintendent, New Orleans, Louisiana
Former Chief, Metropolitan Nashville, Tennessee
Former State Patrol Chief, Washington

Carol A. Siemon
Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County, Michigan

Norm Stamper
Former Chief, Seattle Police Department, Washington

David E. Sullivan
District Attorney, Northwestern District, Massachusetts

Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.
District Attorney, New York County, New York

Andrew H. Warren
State Attorney, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Florida

William D. Wilmoth
Former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia