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More Than 60 Elected Prosecutors Pledge to Visit Their Local Correctional Facilities

DAs to Implement Officewide Requirements Promoting Greater Understanding of Conditions and Implications of Incarceration

Today, 65 elected prosecutors pledged to personally visit the correctional facilities in which individuals prosecuted by their offices are placed and to require all prosecutors in their offices to do the same. The signatories – who represent nearly 55 million people across 28 states and the District of Columbia – emphasize that “it is vital for prosecutors to understand the true impact of their decisions and to see firsthand the jails, prisons, and juvenile facilities in their jurisdiction.” The pledge is part of Fair and Just Prosecution’s ongoing efforts to advance FAMM’s #VisitAPrison challenge, which encourages all state and federal policymakers to visit a prison or jail.

“Local prosecutors across the country wield incredible power to shape lives and influence communities with every decision they make. This is a responsibility that demands more than legal expertise – it requires empathy and genuine firsthand understanding of the implications of their decisions,” said Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of Fair and Just Prosecution.

“Prosecutors and other public safety leaders must walk into correctional facilities, look into the eyes of those they have sentenced or detained, and see how these places often do little to rehabilitate people and instead simply perpetuate the abuse, neglect and harm that leads to crime in the first place. Only then can prosecutors truly appreciate the weight of their actions.”

There are currently more than 2 million people held in federal, state, local, and tribal jails and prisons. Prosecutors have immense influence over whether someone becomes incarcerated and for how long, but far too many only have an abstract idea of what these facilities are really like. As more prosecutors implement reforms to promote public safety while also helping reduce our jail and prison populations, it is critical that they and their staff develop a deep understanding of correctional facilities – including how isolating, dehumanizing and unsafe conditions can impact an individual’s rehabilitation efforts and in turn, the safety of the communities to which they return.

“Prosecutors have an obligation to acknowledge the often deeply disturbing realities of incarceration if they are truly committed to the pursuit of justice. Seeing firsthand some of the conditions we subject people to in these facilities emphasizes why we must urgently end our overreliance on incarceration and embrace new visions for public safety, accountability and
rehabilitation,” said Winnebago County, WI District Attorney Eric Sparr, a signatory to the pledge.

The pledge was last issued in January, 2023 and includes many of the inspiring reform-minded prosecutors across the nation who are transforming the justice system from within. Participating offices will carry out their commitment over the coming year and beyond, as the elected leaders, as well as all prosecutors in their offices, complete visits to their local prison, jail and juvenile facilities. Requiring these visits is a crucial part of setting culture and expectations among those who make vitally important decisions in these offices every day.

“As ministers of justice, it’s imperative that all of the prosecutors in my office fully understand how asking for jail or prison sentences impacts individuals in the system, the communities we serve and long-term public safety goals,” said City of Norfolk, VA Commonwealth’s Attorney Ramin Fatehi, another signatory to the pledge. “Visiting these correctional facilities firsthand and engaging directly with the people most impacted by incarceration is the only way to foster the empathy and insight needed for informed decision-making.”

Read the full pledge statement here and see below for a full list of pledge participants.

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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 our website and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Threads, and LinkedIn.

**Pledge Participants**

Amy Ashworth  
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Prince William County, Virginia

Diana Becton  
District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California

Wesley Bell  
Prosecuting Attorney, St. Louis County, Missouri

Alvin Bragg  
District Attorney, New York County (Manhattan), New York

Aisha Braveboy  
State’s Attorney, Prince George’s County, Maryland

Danny Carr  
District Attorney, Jefferson County, Alabama
John Choi
County Attorney, Ramsey County (St. Paul), Minnesota

Darcel Clark
District Attorney, Bronx County, New York

Laura Conover
County Attorney, Pima County (Tucson), Arizona

Shalena Cook Jones
District Attorney, Chatham County (Savannah), Georgia

John Creuzot
District Attorney, Dallas County, Texas

Benjamin R. David
District Attorney, Sixth Prosecutorial District, North Carolina

Kara Davis
District Attorney, Gilliam County, Oregon

Satana Deberry
District Attorney, Durham County, North Carolina

Parisa Dehghani-Tafti
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, Virginia

Steve Descano
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Fairfax County, Virginia

Michael Dougherty
District Attorney, Twentieth Judicial District (Boulder), Colorado

Mark Dupree
District Attorney, Wyandotte County (Kansas City), Kansas

Matt Ellis
District Attorney, Wasco County, Oregon

Keith Ellison
Attorney General, Minnesota

Ramin Fatehi
Commonwealth’s Attorney, City of Norfolk, Virginia

Kimberly M. Foxx
State’s Attorney, Cook County (Chicago), Illinois
Glenn Funk  
District Attorney, Nashville, Tennessee

Delia Garza  
County Attorney, Travis County (Austin), Texas

Sarah F. George  
State’s Attorney, Chittenden County (Burlington), Vermont

Sim Gill  
District Attorney, Salt Lake County, Utah

Eric Gonzalez  
District Attorney, Kings County (Brooklyn), New York

Deborah Gonzalez  
District Attorney, Western Judicial Circuit (Athens), Georgia

Kimberly Graham  
District Attorney, Polk County, Iowa

Jim Hingeley  
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Albemarle County, Virginia

Elizabeth K. Humphries  
Commonwealth’s Attorney, City of Fredericksburg, Virginia

Natasha Irving  
District Attorney, Sixth Prosecutorial District, Maine

Melinda Katz  
District Attorney, Queens County, New York

Lawrence S. Krasner  
District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Chris Liberati-Conant  
District Attorney, Columbia County, New York

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Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua’i, Hawaii

Leesa Manion  
Prosecuting Attorney, King County (Seattle), Washington

Beth McCann  
District Attorney, Second Judicial District (Denver), Colorado
Karen McDonald
Prosecuting Attorney, Oakland County, Michigan

Ryan Mears
Prosecuting Attorney, Marion County (Indianapolis), Indiana

Stephanie Morales
Commonwealth’s Attorney, Portsmouth, Virginia

Mary Moriarty
County Attorney, Hennepin County (Minneapolis), Minnesota

Steve Mulroy
District Attorney, Shelby County (Memphis), Tennessee

Jeff Nieman
District Attorney, Chatham and Orange Counties, North Carolina

Jody Owens
District Attorney, Hinds County, Mississippi

Anthony Parisi
District Attorney, Dutchess County, New York

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

Josh Pond
District Attorney, Columbia County, Oregon

Pamela Price
District Attorney, Alameda County, California

Dalia Racine
District Attorney, Douglas County, Georgia

Eric Rinehart
State’s Attorney, Lake County (Waukegan), Illinois

Jeff Rosen
District Attorney, Santa Clara County, California

Marian Ryan
District Attorney, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Jacqueline Sartoris
District Attorney, Cumberland County (Portland), Maine
Eli Savit  
Prosecuting Attorney, Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor), Michigan

Mike Schmidt  
District Attorney, Multnomah County (Portland), Oregon

Brian Schwalb  
Attorney General, District of Columbia

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