

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT



When you think about agents of social change, what comes to mind?

Historically, countless activists have criticized government, and often ended up transforming and even revolutionizing the world. Yet increasingly, we are seeing government at the forefront of reform, experimenting and supporting innovation—dare I say more than many foundations are? As local and state governments seek cost-effective solutions that work, they are increasingly embracing bold approaches as they confront our nation's social justice issues.

Here at Family Justice, our biggest support comes from diverse government entities. From law enforcement to public health departments, in large cities and rural and indigenous communities, government is investing in creative, groundbreaking collaborations to tackle the cycles of poverty, poor health, and involvement in the criminal justice system with

(Continued on next page)

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

The figures the Bureau of Justice Statistics released over the summer were sobering to those of us who work in the field. For this issue of *Family Matters*, we asked colleagues, government officials, and other community leaders to weigh in on the latest numbers and their implications for families.

A few findings from the BJS bulletin “Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2006” stand out: The number of people in state and federal prisons and local jails reached 2,245,189, an increase of 2.8% during the 12 months ending June 30, 2006. The number of incarcerated women “rose at a faster rate” than the rate for men—an increase of 4.8%, for a total of 111,403 women. In state prisons, the number of people under age 18 increased by 7.1%.

The BJS bulletin also reported that the overall increase in numbers of people incarcerated is the largest since 2000, both in absolute numbers and percent change. Go to www.familyjustice.org to

read more responses and longer versions of the thoughtful comments we heard from people throughout the country. (Visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pjimo6.pdf to read the BJS Bulletin from June.)

The question we posed was simple: **What do the latest numbers mean for families?**

“The impact of increasing incarceration rates on families simply deepens the roots of this issue in the daily fabric and expectations of our communities. It underscores and builds acceptance of incarceration as a normal part of family life, which of course has a destructive effect on

(Continued on next page)



At our annual fundraiser, Family Justice honored Salvatore Mazzeo (top) of Morgan Stanley, and Carl Wicklund (bottom), of the American Probation and Parole Association. Sal received the Corporate Leadership Award and Carl received the Justice Leadership Award at a party and ceremony at S.O.B.'s (Sounds of Brazil) in downtown Manhattan. Carl and Sal both weighed in on the question we posed for the cover story.

(Continued) new resolve. We've worked on bold initiatives with partners as different as the Chicago Housing Authority and rural villages in New Mexico.

Demands for a different kind of research continue to grow. Governments need systems that track individual outcomes and correlate with public safety. They are looking to measure family-related health and well-being as well as organizational cultural shifts that contribute to healthier families and safer communities. From Washington, D.C., to the Navajo Nation, bureaucracies of all sizes are pushing boundaries as never before.

I applaud these institutions for their openness to take risks, seek new ways of enhancing their work, and incorporate families and social networks. They are giving new meaning to leveraging social capital.

It is increasingly apparent that if we are to transform our justice paradigm from one that focuses on pathology and deficit to one that emphasizes strengths and respect, we must involve government at all levels. We must call for consistent agendas from local, state, and federal governments, as they continue to engage and partner with families and community-based organizations. Finally, government must bring to bear all its resources—money, personnel, time, expertise, and an ongoing commitment—to this critical work that will affect families and neighborhoods for generations to come.

Thank you, as always, for being part of our familia.


Carol Shapiro

BEYOND THE NUMBERS (Continued)
family life in all the ways we are familiar.”—Renata Cobbs Fletcher, Vice President for Public Policy & Community Partnerships, Public/Private Ventures

“The latest BJS statistics indicate that more strain than ever is being placed on families that have a member committing crimes and is consequently removed from the family structure for extended periods of time. The social stigma, financial stress, emotional loss, and pressure on individual family members—children and adults—will severely damage the family’s foundation or make it wobble. This will have a far-reaching deleterious effect on extended family members, neighborhoods,

and social service-oriented organizations as they strive to provide support and services that can maintain and strengthen the families of incarcerated or newly released individuals.”

—Carl Wicklund, Executive Director, American Probation and Parole Association

“A significant role for the [Department of Justice’s] Office of Justice Programs is to work in partnership with the justice community to identify the most pressing challenges facing the justice system. I believe that successfully reintegrating offenders back into their communities is imperative for neighborhoods and families. As President Bush has said, “America is the land of second chances,



ISN'T IT GRAND? New York City Housing Authority general manager Doug Apple and vice chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., along with Family Justice’s Carol Shapiro and Jenn Batterton, Family Bodega program manager, addressed an audience of about 200 at the grand-opening celebration. Mr. Andrews said that Family Bodega, located at NYCHA’s Unity Plaza in Brooklyn, “will be a valuable resource for NYCHA residents who are in need of the family-focused supportive services Family Justice provides.” Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz issued a proclamation to mark June 11 as “Family Bodega Grand Opening Celebration Day.”

and when the gates of prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life. Family support is a crucial element of successful prisoner reentry.”

—Former Assistant Attorney General
Regina B. Schofield

“The new BJS figures remind us that when someone is sentenced to prison, there is a broad network of family members who are affected by that decision as well. This makes it all the more important that we seek to develop a range of prevention and diversion options to reduce the scale of unnecessary incarceration.”

—Marc Mauer, Executive Director,
The Sentencing Project

“Is it desperation that leads me to find hope in these numbers? One of the basic functions of incarceration is invisibility: We place our prisons in remote rural counties, build high walls, and lock out the media. Then we fortify those walls with stigma, so that those who have been there—or have seen family sent there—will keep that journey secret.

But an elephant can grow only so large before people start remarking on its presence in the living room. Those who have lived inside a prison or seen a family member spirited away have seen what we are hiding from ourselves, and they are beginning to speak of it. I have to believe that it is their voices, their experiences, which will turn back the tidal wave that incarceration has become.”—Nell Bernstein, author of *All Alone in the World: Children of the Incarcerated*

“Rather than thinking about this as an impact on families, I see this as a reflection of need. Without comprehensive “family” support, the trajectory will continue in this negative direction. (Continued on next page)

news & events

OUR GROWING FAMILY

As our work continues to grow nationally, Family Justice has a number of new faces. Staff members that have recently joined us are Grace Aneiza Ali, staff writer; Dayadriz Brito, Loren de Leon, Areliez Marrero, and Erica Sczesny, family case managers; Jennifer Sinclair, membership network coordinator; Tiffany Garcia, receptionist; Mette Bastholm Jensen, special assistant to the president; Nicole Martin, project manager; and Ryan Shanahan and Kris Watson, training & technical assistance project directors.

Two Family Justice staff members are transitioning to new positions. Lily Brent has been promoted and is now training & technical assistance coordinator. Jenn Onofrio, who came to the organization as an intern, has joined the staff as a research associate.

FAMILY JUSTICE INK

In August, *The New York Times* published Carol Shapiro’s response to Solomon Moore’s important front-page article, “States Export Their Inmates as Prisons Fill.” In her letter to the editor, Carol pointed out that moving people out of state is “one more way families are punished when someone close to them is incarcerated.” The letter reiterated that strong family support makes a tremendous difference to the success of their loved ones when they return home from prison. Instead of penalizing these families, Carol reasoned, “We should do everything possible to foster” supportive social networks. To read the letter, go to www.familyjustice.org/press.

BY DESIGN

Unless this is your first time reading *Family Matters*, you probably noticed that the newsletter looks different. We have a new logo and overall design and have refined our mission statement and other language we use. The heart of Family Justice’s message is still the same, and as we reach more communities throughout the country with our strength-based, family-focused approach, we want our words and graphic representations of our work to reflect our urgency and a spirit of innovation. We joined with Jessica Weber Design, Inc. and we’re excited about how good Jessica and her colleagues Tyler Bush and Alexandra Vega have made us look. You’ll see their work reflected online too, as they redesign our website at www.familyjustice.org. Check soon for new ideas, features, and images.

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Visit us online at www.familyjustice.org.

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To make a contribution to Family Justice, go to www.familyjustice.org/support.



TESTING, TESTING At the Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in McLoud, Oklahoma, unit manager Shola Shopeyin (back, from left) and transition coordinator Deloris Milton, along with case managers (front, from left) Justin HySmith, Karen Johnson, and Emmanuel Nwoji, participated in training on Family Justice's Relational Inquiry Tool. In August, the case managers took part in the final round of pilot testing: Family Justice has now tested the tool in five states, including Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Ohio. More than 75 percent of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people and staff who participated have said that the tool would help in planning for reentry from prison.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS (Continued)

Support should be available at the individual and collective levels and in all appropriate categories." —B. Diane Williams, President and CEO, Safer Foundation

"The increased incarceration rates combined with continuing high recidivism rates are devastating entire communities and families across the United States. Not only does it require a thorough reevaluation of sentencing laws, but a massive grassroots effort aimed at rehabilitation, reconciliation, and reentry." —Mark Earley, President and CEO, Prison Fellowship

"The BJS news is disturbing on several fronts. The overall increase in U.S. prisoners may signal a return to the punitive policies of pre-2000. I hope not. There is great progress being made on

prisoner reentry programs and I think we need to give them time to work before changing course.

Of course, the figures showing the continuous and meteoric rise in the number of female prisoners should cause everyone in the United States to sit up and take notice. [The] multigenerational consequences have far-reaching implications for all of us."

—Joan Petersilia, Professor of Criminology, Law & Society and Director of the UCI Center on Evidence-Based Corrections, University of California, Irvine

"Every person sent to prison leaves behind a network of families and friends who must cope with this new reality in their lives. Our national data on increasing prison populations never include the increase in the numbers of children,

spouses, partners, parents, and others who also feel the brunt of incarceration."

—Jeremy Travis, President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York

"The increasing rate of incarceration is really affecting the extended families. What happens is that grandparents and other relatives are cast in different roles, as caretakers and providers. They're now the caretakers for inmates' children and it puts a tremendous strain on these families—and these kids run the risk of replicating their parents' behavior."

—Parole Officer Luis Torrales, New York State Division of Parole, Manhattan 1

"With increasing numbers of people incarcerated, it's clear that the repercussions for families in this country are also multiplying. If we, as a society, are going to find creative solutions, individuals and organizations will need to do more. Specifically, it is imperative for the business community to support innovative programs that focus on our most vulnerable communities and help families thrive." —Sal Mazzeo, Vice President, Head of Construction (Americas), Morgan Stanley

"The concentrated removal of parenting-age men and women not only foretells a long future of downward mobility for entire neighborhoods, but also feeds the logic of fear and insecurity that drives contemporary isolationism in better-off communities. Not until public safety is again considered a civil society issue—not to be solved by increasingly draconian martial tactics—will the country again begin to forge a collective sense of progress." —Eric Cadora, Director, Justice Mapping Center

OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

As part of our plan to help organizations implement a strength-based, family-focused approach in small, rural, and indigenous areas, Family Justice convened a two-day meeting this summer with participants from throughout the country. To address these groups' specific concerns, Family Justice has developed a customized training curriculum, *Tapping Families and Social Networks in Small, Rural, and Indigenous Communities*.

The community-based organizations that participated in the meeting were the Laguna Tribal Court of Laguna Pueblo, New Mexico; Northern Lights Program at Varney House, in Burlington, Vermont; Total Action Against Poverty of Roanoke, Virginia; Transitional Living Center of Yuma, Arizona; Arrowhead Regional Corrections of Duluth, Minnesota; American Indian Development Associates of Albuquerque, New Mexico; and the Mississippi Youth Justice Project of Jackson, Mississippi. The agencies will incorporate Family Justice's approach to enhance their case-management practices in culturally relevant ways.



JOLLY GOOD FELLOWS Indra Rana Magar (center), chairperson of Prisoners Assistance Nepal and an Ashoka Fellow, visited Family Justice while she was in the States. During her trip she learned about work that other Ashoka Fellows, such as Family Justice founder and president Carol Shapiro, are doing. Joining her (from left) are Tina Santiago, program manager of La Bodega de la Familia; Carol; Sarah From, deputy director of the Women's Prison Association's Institute on Women & Criminal Justice; and Julio Urbina, senior program officer for the Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation. Indra and Carol will continue collaborating; see www.ashoka.org for more information.

According to Rick Ploski, director of operations for the Transitional Living Center, "The greatest benefit with the curriculum is adapting the tools—the ecomap and genogram of The Bodega Model—to what we have, which is called a Life Plan. And since our meeting in New York, our participation there has assisted us in involving more family participation with the women we serve." (Go to www.familyjustice.org/method/tools.html for more information on tools of The Bodega Model®.)

One of the innovative programs he describes is pizza parties at the center that involve women who are in recovery from addiction, as well as their families, clergy, counselors, probation officers, and community-service agencies. "People get to meet each other on more of an equal footing and in a more comfortable setting," Ploski says. "Sometimes an office isn't conducive to that. But we have the same goals, of people establishing a life free of drugs and alcohol." He says the monthly parties have "provided a significant impact in our community."

Agencies that serve individuals involved in the criminal justice system in rural areas face distinct characteristics, challenges, and needs. For example, in small communities, people may be referred to someone they know, potentially compromising their confidentiality or at least their comfort. Ploski lists transportation, access to resources, limited availability of some resources, and a lack of social activities as issues tackled at the June meeting.

"The discussions in New York were wonderful," he says. "A lot of people hit home on the realities that rural communities are facing." Participants also exchanged information about strategies for improving an organization's ability to support people returning home from prison or jail.

In Family Justice's training curriculum, we address many issues raised in the meeting last summer. In November, *Tapping Families and Social Networks in Small, Rural, and Indigenous Communities* will be available to our partner organizations through a multimedia CD-ROM. For more information about this project, please contact Nicole Martin at nmartin@familyjustice.org. ■

USING MAPS TO TELL A STORY

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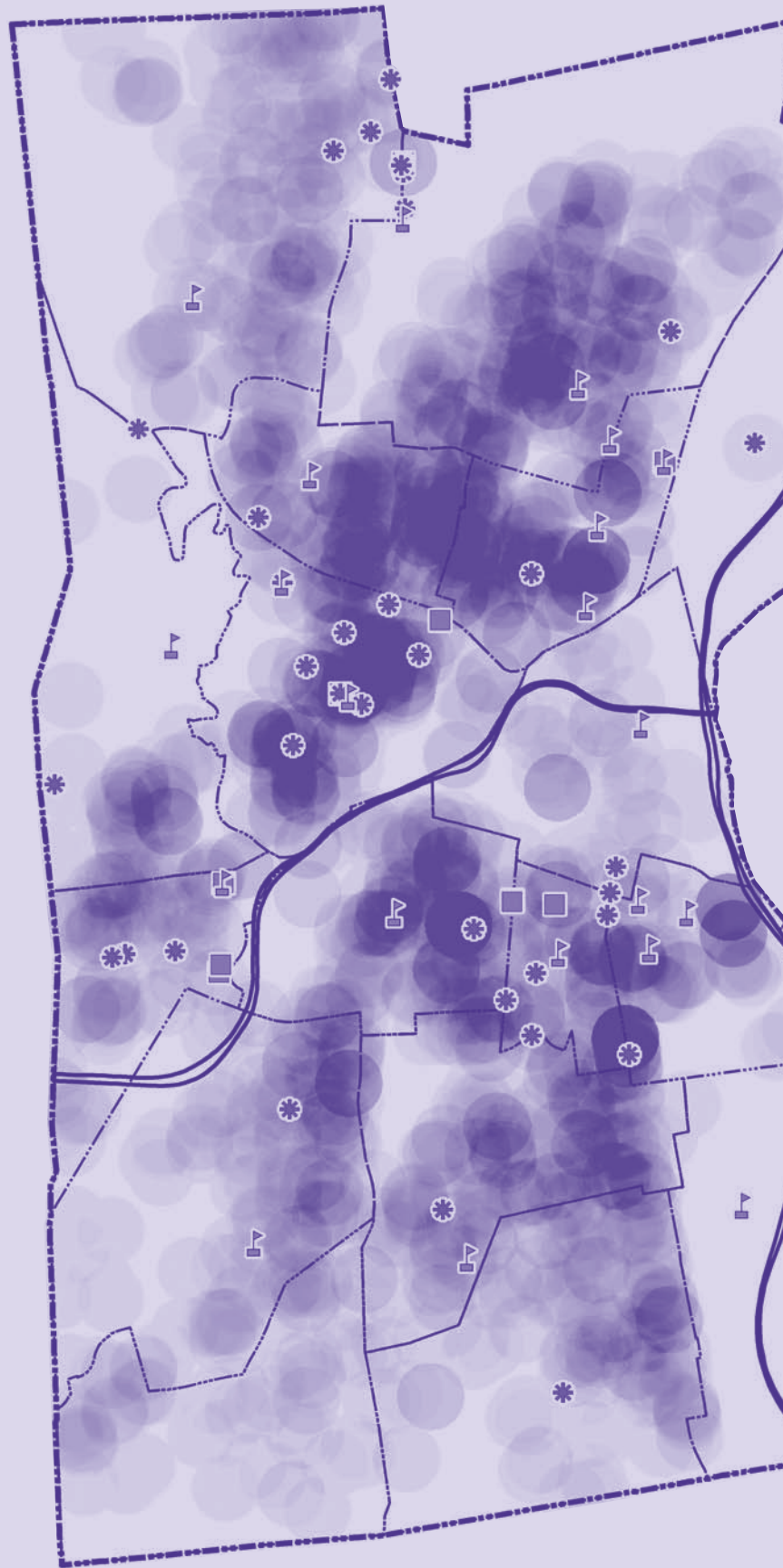
any people think of data like a mouthful of saltines—dry and boring. But if a picture is worth a thousand words, a map can be valuable in transforming numbers into a compelling image—one that can serve as a powerful catalyst for change.

“We are a society that is very visually oriented, and mapping is a great visual tool to convey these complex layers of information,” says Jeff Mellow, an associate professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. “They paint a portrait that can open up a dialogue about how we improve the policies and practices of criminal justice procedures and social services.”

As we seek new ways of using demographics and criminal justice data to improve public health and safety, maps tell stories and show characteristics of neighborhoods that sheer numbers and statistics cannot. Through Geographic Information Systems, maps capture the dynamics of neighborhoods in imaginative, multidimensional ways. They can display locations, for example, where poverty, unemployment, affordable housing, and substance abuse are concentrated. If you’ve ever used a GPS device in a car or Google maps, it’s the same process: relying on software to create a picture.

When used to illustrate community strengths, resources, challenges, and risks, maps can inform decision makers and stakeholders. For instance, a map (at right) from the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center shows the proximity of substance abuse treatment, education resources, and other programs to high concentrations of people who are under community supervision in Hartford, Connecticut. However, the map also indicates the absence of such services in North Hartford, which is home to a dense population of people involved in the criminal justice system.

“This map depicts how services are not always located in places where the majority of returning prisoners reside,” says Nancy LaVigne, a senior research associate at the Urban Institute and an author of *Mapping Prisoner Reentry*, the guidebook in which the Hartford map appears. “Maps like this one can guide decisions on where to site new clinics and service providers’ offices, so that these resources are accessible to those they are designed to serve.”



PRISONER REENTRY AND SERVICES FOR THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED IN HARTFORD



Jeff Mellow is working on a multifaceted project in Newark, New Jersey, that entails mapping the caseloads of parole officers, the needs of people returning to the community from prison or jail, and the distance between their residences and the parole offices where they report. An important goal of the project is to show how accessible relevant social services are.

Mellow believes that graphically representing this information can help parole professionals improve their work and ultimately the outcomes of individuals coming home. “A really important part of being a parole officer is knowing the community where parolees live,” he says. “The maps make you rethink the

logistics of getting from place to place to use these services, and they allow criminal justice practitioners to engage in conversations about what this picture is telling us about the needs of our communities.”

Mapping has also become a significant tool in Family Justice’s work. To assess residents’ needs in the Bushwick neighborhood of Brooklyn, maps provided a snapshot of the area’s specific challenges. Jan Holland, senior research associate at Family Justice, mapped Census data and information from the New York City Department of Probation to show the parts of Bushwick with the highest rates of people under community supervision.

“The visual display helped us think about the geographic distribution of relevant issues for families,” Holland explains. “What’s even more important is that it helped our funders and local organizations to understand our work and the strengths as well as needs of Bushwick families. People related to—and really responded to—a visual image of the blocks and streets and buildings they know, where they live and work.”

As an organization dedicated to research and evaluation, Family Justice uses mapping and other methods of interpreting data in our everyday thinking and practice. The process supports creative approaches to analyzing and addressing social justice issues, and better informs our work. ┐



LEGEND

SERVICE TYPE

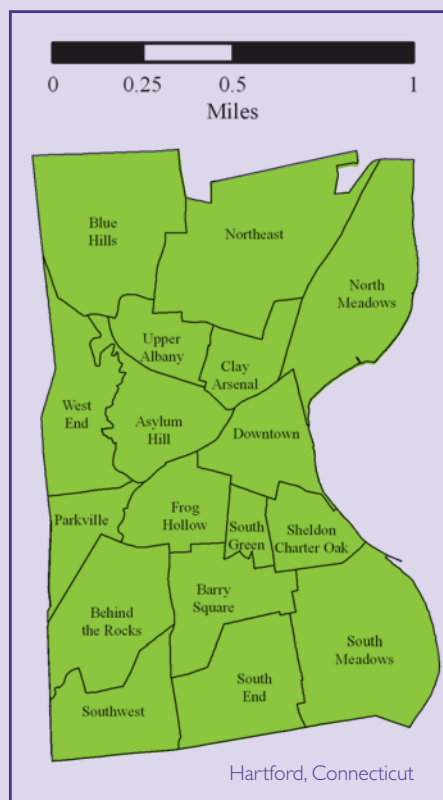
- ✱ Substance Abuse
- Community Services for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals
- 📖 Education Resources

REENTRY CONCENTRATION

- High Concentrations
- Low Concentrations

OTHER

- Highways
- ▭ Neighborhood Boundaries
- ▭ City Boundary



Map sources: Connecticut Department of Corrections (July 2005) and City of Hartford Planning Department (2000); prepared by City Scan, a project of the United Way of Connecticut. Maps and legend are reproduced courtesy of the Urban Institute and appear in *Mapping Prisoner Reentry: An Action Research Guidebook, Second Edition* (2006), by Nancy G. La Vigne, Jake Cowan, and Diana Brazzell; Washington, DC: Urban Justice Policy Center.

WELL SAID

Authors Donald Braman and Todd Clear spoke recently at Family Justice's headquarters in New York. The following are excerpts from their comments:

"How do you get people interested in closing down prisons? It's a chance to be creative: For every dollar from prison-system reduction, give 50 cents to a scholarship fund for children of officers... We need rewards structures [such as]: If you can reduce incarceration rates through your parole, some of that money goes back into raises."

—Todd Clear, author of *Imprisoning Communities: How Mass Incarceration Makes Disadvantaged Neighborhoods Worse* and professor of criminal justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York

"Thinking about that kind of social connection was eye-opening for me: the expensive phone bills, the need for spending money and additional child care, lost income, the need for a lawyer. These types of economic effects have a ripple effect on the community."

—Donald Braman, on families that have a loved one involved in the criminal justice system. Braman is the author of *Doing Time on the Outside: Incarceration and Family Life in Urban America* and associate professor at George Washington University Law School.

family matters

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FAMILIES ARE PART
OF THE SOLUTION

JUSTICE
FAMILY