



Latest on AB 109 and juvenile justice reform

::PUBLICATIONS::

Study shows which counties exacerbate prison overcrowding, despite Realignment

One of the primary objectives of California's Public Safety Realignment (AB109) is to encourage counties to develop and implement best practices and alternatives to incarceration. Counties must limit their use of state prisons to those offenders who have committed serious, violent, or sexual crimes.

A [CJCJ report](#), analyzes newly released data from the last quarter of 2012. This report shows new admissions to California prisons are down by 34% since before Realignment. However, while many counties have dramatically reduced their prison commitments for low-level offenses, others continue to send these offenders to state prison at a high rate.

With taxpayers spending \$51,889 per year for each inmate, the cost of imprisonments by major counties ranges nearly 10-fold, from \$12,300 per felony arrest in Kings County to \$1,300 in San Francisco County. State-dependent counties, such as Kings, also bear greater culpability for prison overcrowding, while the costs of the resulting litigation and oversight are borne by all counties.

Read [*Beyond Realignment: Counties' Large Disparities in Imprisonment Underlie Ongoing Prison Crisis*](#)

::ADVOCACY::

Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer supports juvenile justice reform, introduces AB 915

Elected in November 2012, Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr. wasted no time in placing juvenile justice reform firmly at the forefront of the public safety dialogue. Introduced on February 22, 2013, [AB 915](#) provides an innovative approach to building county capacity to serve justice-involved youth that builds on previously successful legislation. The bill is currently co-sponsored by CJCJ and Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ).

AB 915 will allocate 75% of future savings from the state's shrinking Division of Juvenile Facilities (DJF) directly to counties in the form of a Youthful Offender Block Grant Part B, for the purpose of serving high-needs youth offenders locally.

This legislation provides a choice for counties to commit new youth offenders to DJF and creates a new funding stream for those counties who are currently opting to supervise DJF-eligible youth locally, and those who would do so in the future.

Please send your letters of support for this important bill to Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer at (916) 319-2159 (fax).

::IN THE SPOTLIGHT::

CJCJ joins colleagues for discussion of key criminal justice reforms

CJCJ experts have been busy this month speaking at multiple conferences across the state:

On March 19, Director of Policy and Development Kate McCracken spoke at the San Francisco Public Defender's [Justice Summit](#), celebrating 50 years of *Gideon*. Alongside Sheriff Mirkarimi, District Attorney Gascón, Pretrial Diversion CEO Will Leong, California Bail Agents Association President Vera Robles DeWitt, and Professor Jonathan Simon, the panel discussed opportunities to reform the commercial bail system in California and alternatives to bail that could help relieve overcrowded jails safely. [Read a recap!](#)

On March 21, Senior Research Fellow Mike Males presented at the Association for Criminal Justice Research, California (ACJRCA), regarding the first full year data on AB 109 Realignment. The conference brought together practitioners and researchers across the state to engage in a two-day discussion of Public Safety Realignment. [Read the publication!](#)

On March 22, Executive Director Daniel Macallair joined panelists at the [California Correctional Crisis conference](#) to discuss the future of juvenile justice. Hosted by the University of California, Hasting College of the Law, the conference was a statewide convening of lawmakers, practitioners, academics, formerly incarcerated individuals, advocates and others to discuss the future and challenges of corrections in California. [Read a recap!](#)

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