



Post AB 109: Adult Criminal Justice

BREAKING NEWS: [CJCJ's Juvenile Placement Manual 2012 Edition](#) is available for purchase! The updated manual lists over 150 out-of-home placement options throughout CA and out-of-state for justice-involved youths. Order now: ssp@cici.org.

::AB 109 UPDATE::

Legislative hearings for AB 109 fixes begin; counties propose jail expansion; SF establishes sentencing commission

[ACLU reveals county realignment plans](#) rely heavily on jail expansion; pretrial services bill passes senate sub-committee despite bail industry opposition; SF appoints Sentencing Commission members

On April 24, the Senate public safety sub-committee voted to approve [SB 1180 \(Hancock\)](#), a bill that would expand county sheriffs' ability to release detainees on "own recognizance" pending resolution of their cases. CJCJ supports this bill and provided written testimony at the hearing. SB1180 was prompted by concern for county jail overcrowding following the implementation of AB 109 in October last year. Currently 71% of California jail space is occupied by un-sentenced inmates (well above the state average), but this could change as counties assume the responsibility for housing convicted low-level offenders for the duration of their sentences.

Representatives from Bail Associations presented opposition to SB 1180 at the Tuesday hearing, claiming that pretrial services are a waste of taxpayer money. Scheduled for release in May 2012, an upcoming report by CJCJ's research and policy team takes a closer look at Bail Industry lobbying activities in California, revealing their "for profit" agenda and adverse impact on public safety.

For more information about our upcoming Bail Industry publication, tune in to tonight's [KALW radio interview](#) with author, Amanda Gullings.

County realignment plans revealed

Last month, the [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\) released a report](#) reviewing county approaches to realignment, finding that many counties are adjusting to the increased jail population by making plans to build more jails, or expand existing ones. This comes at a time when the majority of voters in California would prefer that their taxes were spent on alternatives to incarceration, according to a [Pew research poll](#). It is imperative that counties begin exploring new ways to reduce their pretrial detainee population and alleviate jail space, including releasing eligible detainees on their own recognizance.

For a more detailed review of the ACLU report, read [Adult realignment and the county jail](#)

[building boom.](#)

For a more detailed review of the Pew research poll, read [Pew Study: strong majority of voters favor alternatives to incarceration.](#)

San Francisco's [Local Sentencing Commission](#)

San Francisco continues to be a leader in progressive realignment reform, creating a new Sentencing Commission charged with encouraging the development of criminal sentencing strategies that reduce recidivism, prioritize public safety and victim protection, emphasize fairness, employ evidence-based practices, and efficiently utilize San Francisco's criminal justice resources. On April 24, [CJCJ's Kate McCracken was appointed to the Commission](#) which will be chaired by the District Attorney's Office, and will be advisory to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

San Francisco's residents speak out about the city's racially disparate arrest trends

::DRUG POLICY::

[SF Human Rights Commission hearing](#) on impact of drug war reveals radically discriminatory arrest practices.

CJCJ and SJSU present evidence of 40 year racially discriminatory drug arrest practices in San Francisco during HRC hearing. [Publication now available online!](#)

On April 12, 2012, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission held a hearing to discuss the human rights impact of the war on drugs in the city. Chief of Police Gregory Suhr was in attendance as testimony was provided by many prominent local organizations and impacted individuals.

CJCJ presented its findings in a publication released that morning entitled, [San Francisco's Arrest Rates of African Americans for Drug Felonies Worsens](#). The publication found that based on the most recently available data, **African Americans experience felony drug arrest rates 19 times higher than other races in San Francisco, and 7.3 times higher than African Americans elsewhere in California.** Professor William Armaline from [San José State University](#) and co-author of the publication, provided additional testimony describing how these trends could constitute a violation of the international human rights conventions that the U.S. is signatory to.

In a [KPFA radio interview](#) and [California Progress Report op-ed](#), CJCJ's Senior Research Fellow, Mike Males, emphasized his dismay at these San Francisco trends, arguing that they are directly contrary to the egalitarian ideals the city traditionally champions.

CJCJ's Selena Teji provides a review of the HRC hearing in her blog, [San Francisco's war on drugs, "stop chasing my children."](#)

[We have moved:](#) CJCJ's new main office address is [40 Boardman Place](#), San Francisco, CA 94103. For a list of new phone extensions please see [here](#).

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