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About the Authors

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About the Authors

KARLTON “KNOWLEDGE” DANIEL

Karlton was incarcerated for 22 ½ years for crimes he still maintains his innocence for, but he has accepted the path that God has laid before him. This would break most people, but Karlton refused to become what society deemed as the “problem.” Instead, Karlton has become the solution. Karlton refused to become the stereotype of a felon. When he was released from prison five years ago, he set out to change his environment and began mentoring men at five different prisons to support them and help to create safer communities. Karlton founded Washington State Department of Corrections 100% donation to charity food fundraisers, and co-founded The Redemption Project with another formerly incarcerated man, Anthony Powers when they were incarcerated together. The Redemption Project remains one of the most successful cognitive behavioral health programs in the Department of Corrections facilities. Since reuniting in the community, Karlton and Anthony have designed and lead Seattle Clemency Project’s Reentry and Mentoring Program. Karlton is also a member of the board of directors for the Seattle Clemency Project. Karlton has proven to be the absolute face of redemption.

CHRISTOPHER POULOS

Christopher Poulos is the Executive Director of the Washington Statewide Reentry Council and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Seattle University. Poulos has also taught political science and criminal justice. He is a founding member of a coalition actively working to end criminal record based housing discrimination. During law school, he served at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and The Sentencing Project. Poulos has advised United States Senator Angus King (I-Maine) on addiction and justice policy and served on several local, state, and federal task forces related to

criminal justice policy and reform. The United States Department Justice consulted with him as one of the nation's most successful people following incarceration.

JENNIFER SMITH

Jennifer Smith is a Co-Founder and the Executive Director of the Seattle Clemency Project. Jennifer began her legal career as a public defender in San Francisco and worked in private criminal defense for several years. Her commitment to ensuring those who have been through the criminal justice system have a voice and a second chance is grounded in a deep belief that we are all fallible, capable of reform and that our criminal justice system must begin recognizing and rewarding redemption. Jennifer is passionate about bringing the value of the Seattle Clemency Project's client's lives to light and galvanizing support from the community to fill an urgent need for free post-conviction legal representation. Jennifer is a graduate of the University of California Hastings College of Law and the University of San Diego. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys exploring the natural beauty of the Great Northwest with her husband and two sons.

Jennifer would like to acknowledge Ellen Goncher, a student intern for the Seattle Clemency Project, who provided valuable research and feedback for this essay. Ellen is a Junior at the University of Washington, majoring in Law Societies and Justice. Ellen's informed perspective, maturity and passion for improving the criminal justice system gives Jennifer hope that the current generation of young people will drive positive change in the future.

Jennifer would also like to express gratitude to the co-author, Jeremiah Bourgeois. The power and clarity of Jeremiah's thinking and contribution to the public discourse on the criminal justice system rises above all the rest from Jennifer's perspective. It was a privilege to work together to make the case that our system of justice must recognize and reward redemption, a point that is already made so clear by his living example.

JEREMIAH BOURGEOIS

Jeremiah Bourgeois is the Director of the Beyond the Blindfold of Justice Project, a J.D. candidate at Gonzaga University School of Law, a third degree member of the Knights of Columbus, and a member of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society.

Jeremiah would like to express gratitude to Joseph Louis Brotherton, a Seattle entrepreneur and philanthropist, who advocated for his release notwithstanding the fact that Joe’s faith in second chances was shaken when several men he had come to know through volunteering at Washington State Reformatory reoffended after receiving commutations.

Jeremiah would also like to acknowledge Jacob H. Rooksby, Dean of Gonzaga University School of Law, Spokane Superior Court Judge Tim Fennessy, Franklin County Prosecutor Shawn Sant, and Mason County Detective Justin Cotte for the invaluable guidance they have provided to assist him with reentry. The uniqueness of these relationships illustrates one does not have to be defined by their crime and that redemption is possible in the criminal legal system.

MICHAEL MULLAN

Michael Mullan, an S.J.D. Candidate at American University Washington College of Law, passed away on November 23, 2020. He was working on his dissertation entitled, “Abolishing the Insanity Defense – An American Criminal Law and Human Rights Perspective” making significant progress and publishing in his field while undergoing treatment for cancer. Michael aspired to create meaningful legal change through his academic work.

Mr. Mullan, originally from Ireland, spent the past number of years living in Boston. His legal education began at Trinity College Dublin, where Michael graduated with a first-class honors in Law and Business. Michael’s legal interests and passion were at the intersection of criminal law and disability. Michael completed an LL.M. at Harvard Law

School, receiving a number of scholarships, such as the JFK Fund scholarship and a Cancer for College scholarship. At Harvard Law School, Michael specialized in criminal law and justice, disability law and human rights jurisprudence. He received the Graduate Student's Humanitarian Award for his voluntary work with Harvard's Project on Disability and Harvard's Prisoners Legal Assistance Fund. Michael's work is widely published in Ireland and in the U.S. on a variety of criminal law and justice topics.

MOLLY GUPTILL MANNING

Molly graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Alpha Theta from the University at Albany, earning B.A. and M.A. degrees in American History. Thereafter, Molly attended the Cardozo School of Law, where she earned a J.D. Molly is currently enrolled in the "Museum Studies" program at NYU, where she anticipates earning an M.A. Molly is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *When Books Went to War*, and has toured the country giving talks, including at the Library of Congress and the U.S. Senate Library. Prior to becoming a visiting associate professor at New York Law School, Molly was a supervisory staff attorney at the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and she clerked for the Honorable Kevin Nathaniel Fox in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

ARIANA HEADRICK

Ariana Headrick will receive her J.D. from Seattle University School of Law in May 2021. Prior to law school, she earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she obtained her B.A. in Psychology and minored in both Inter-Group Relations and Drama. As a law student, she has participated in the Seattle University International Human Rights Clinic and the Housing Justice Clinic, and she has externed with the Northwest Justice Project. She is an Executive Editor

for the Seattle Journal for Social Justice. Throughout her law school career, she has served in multiple leadership positions for both the Seattle chapter and the Seattle University chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

ROSA AGUILAR

Rosa Aguilar will receive her Juris Doctorate from Seattle University School of Law in May 2021. She received her B.S. in Justice Studies from Arizona State University, where she focused her studies on the intersection of justice and immigration. During law school, Rosa interned at the Maricopa County Superior Court; the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project; the ACLU of Washington; and the Ronald A. Peterson Workers' Rights Clinic. She was also active in the law school community, as an Executive Editor for the Seattle Journal for Social Justice, Research Officer for the SU Post-Conviction Appellate Alliance, and Member of the Latinx Law Student Association. After law school, Rosa will begin a Judicial Clerkship at the Arizona Court of Appeals.

TORI SULLIVAN LAVOIE

Tori Sullivan Lavoie will receive her Juris Doctorate from Seattle University School of Law in May 2021. Prior to law school, Tori graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington with a B.A. in Political Science and Sociology. During law school, Tori was a 2019 Calhoun Family Fellow with The Defender Initiative, and she worked as a Rule 9 Intern with the King County Department of Public Defense as well as the Snohomish County Public Defender Association. Tori is an active member of the law school community. She is the Managing Editor of the Seattle Journal for Social Justice and the President of the Public Interest Law Foundation. Tori has also served on multiple committees, including the Juvenile Justice Research Committee for the Race and Criminal Justice Task Force, the Social Justice Leadership Committee at Seattle University School

of Law, and the Washington State Bar Association's Access to Justice Conference Planning Committee.

EMILY JUSTIN

Emily Justin came to law school with a background working with young people experiencing trauma and throughout her law school career she has been increasingly passionate about advocating for our community's youth. Emily studied Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies and Political Science at the University of Washington before law school and always knew she wanted to have a career in social justice work. After law school, Emily hopes to continue working alongside marginalized communities to bridge the access to justice gap.

JAMIE WILSON

Jamie Wilson will receive her Juris Doctorate from Seattle University School of Law in May 2021. Prior to law school, she attended Western Washington University, where she double majored in Political Science and Religious and Cultural Studies and graduated *magna cum laude* with her B.A. While in law school, Jamie has interned with The Seattle Clemency Project (SCP) and the Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel. Through her work at SCP, she helped obtain clemency for a remarkable man, originally sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, who served almost 40 years in prison before being released to his family. She is also active in the law school community, serving three years on the Student Bar Association, with her most recent position on the Executive Board as Treasurer. Jamie is also active on the Seattle Journal for Social Justice, where she currently holds an Editorial Board position as a Content Development Editor. In this role, Jamie had the honor of planning and hosting the journal's annual symposium. Post-graduation, Jamie looks forward to continuing to work with marginalized communities in need of legal representation.