

CMCA 2020 Summit

"LOOK TO THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH, SEEK HIS FACE ALWAYS..." (PSALM 105:4)

Policy Forum: *Clean Slate Legislation*

Friday, May 15 | 10AM-12PM | BARROWS AUDITORIUM

Keynote Speaker



Troy Rienstra, joined **Safe & Just Michigan** in 2017 and works to advance the organization's outreach program by elevating the voices of people directly harmed by the effects of crime and punishment. He is responsible for outreach activities to crime survivors, formerly incarcerated individuals, and their family members, and the faith community. Prior to serving as outreach director, Rienstra founded the Network for Real Change, and worked as program coordinator at the Church of the Servant – Prisoners in Christ. Rienstra completed 22 years of a life sentence in Michigan, and during that time he obtained training in critical thinking, communication, substance abuse awareness, and conflict resolution. *"When people come together to help, they can change the world," says Rienstra. "Lives are being changed across the state, and that's exciting work to be a part of."*

Panel Moderator



Jerry Blassingame is founder and CEO of **Soteria Community Development Corporation** in Greenville, SC. He mentors and trains previously incarcerated individuals as they re-enter communities, acting as a catalyst for mutual understanding, respect and cooperation. As a survivor of the criminal legal system himself, Jerry served 3 ½ years of a 20-year sentence and successfully navigated the reentry process himself since his release in 1999. He provides tools to enable access and opportunities for individuals and their families who have been impacted by the legal system.

Panel



Theresa Buskey is a senior staff Attorney at **Gospel Justice Initiative/Administer Justice**. In 2005, Theresa began volunteering with Cabrini Green Legal Aid in Chicago where she was trained in expungement, sealing and clemency for criminal records. Theresa became a practicing attorney in 2006 and began working at Administer Justice, a Christian Legal Aid in that same year. She continues to work at Administer Justice in Elgin as Senior Staff Attorney. Most of her work is helping clients represent themselves in civil cases. However, she continues to do work in expungement, sealing and clemency, helping clients clear their records to improve their employment opportunities.



Deanna R. Hoskins is President & CEO of **JustLeadershipUSA** (JLUSA). DeAnna is a nationally recognized leader and a formerly incarcerated person with experience as an advocate and policy expert at the local, state, and federal level. Prior to joining JLUSA as its President and CEO, DeAnna served as a Senior Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Justice, managing the Second Chance Act portfolio and serving as Deputy Director of the Federal Inter-Agency Reentry Council. Before that, she served as a county Director of Reentry in her home state of Ohio. DeAnna has always worked alongside advocates who have been impacted by incarceration, and knows that setting bold goals and investing in the leadership of directly impacted people is a necessary component of impactful, values-driven reform.



Jonathan H. Lewis is the Executive Director of **Life Abundant, Inc.** He brings a host of experiences to Life Abundant, Inc. as an accomplished director, skilled in educating and motivating marginalized citizens in spiritual formation, life-skills training and higher learning. Jonathan also has over fifteen years of experience in conflict resolution techniques, mediation & program implementation and is versed in Nonprofit Management, evidenced-based practices and staff development. He holds degrees from Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL and Eastern University in St. Davids, PA. Jonathan was arrested and incarcerated numerous times between 1993 and 2002. He enrolled in a residential after-care facility in 2003 and has remained incarceration free to date.



Kate Trammell serves as the Director of state policy at **Prison Fellowship**, the nation's largest Christian nonprofit serving prisoners, former prisoners, and their families. In this capacity, Trammell leads the organization's state policy campaigns designed to bring values-based justice reforms to those impacted by crime and incarceration across America. This work includes negotiating strategic partnerships, building and maintaining local and statewide coalitions, and directing state policy staff and lobbying activity. Trammell also directs Prison Fellowship's research and technical writing to build a data-centered approach to justice that restores.