

CMCA 2020 SUMMIT

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

Policy Forum: *Clean Slate Legislation*, Friday August 14, 10:00-11:00 AM CST

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



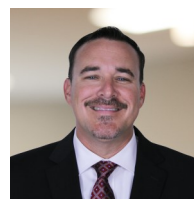
Theresa Buskey is a senior staff Attorney at **Gospel Justice Initiative/Administer Justice**. In 2005, Theresa began volunteering with Cabrini Green Legal Aid in Chicago where she was trained in expungement, sealing and clemency for criminal records. Theresa became a practicing attorney in 2006 and 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 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 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.



From ex-felon to successful businessman, **Josh Smith** has spent the last 15 years actively involved in prison reform efforts, supporting programs that provide hope, training and reentry support to prisoners and their families who earnestly want a new life, including hiring and mentoring many felons. Josh was the founder of Knoxville, Tennessee's largest home improvement service company, growing it to nearly \$30M in revenue with over 150 employees and locations across 3 different states. This past November, he dedicated over \$10M from to form **4th Purpose Foundation**. The foundation's mission is to help develop scalable, best-practice programs to make prison a place of transformation.



Kate Trammell serves as the **director of policy and research at Prison Fellowship**, the nation's largest Christian nonprofit serving prisoners, former prisoners, and their families. In this capacity, Trammell oversees the development of Prison Fellowship's policy positions on criminal justice issues and directs the organization's state and federal lobbying initiatives designed to bring justice that restores to those impacted by crime and incarceration across America. Trammell also directs Prison Fellowship's research and technical writing to build a data-based and values-centered approach to justice that restores.