

Sentencing Reform & Advocacy

Felony Murder Elimination Project is a growing group of concerned citizens whose goal is the elimination of the Felony Murder Rule from California law. We strive not only to bring an end to the Felony Murder Rule but to bring relief to those who are serving harsh and manifestly disproportionate sentences by its application. It is our belief that everyone should be held accountable for their actions, but only in proportion to their participation in the crime they commit.

<https://www.endfmrnow.org/>

California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) is a grassroots social justice organization, with members inside and outside prison, that challenges the institutional violence imposed on women, transgender people, and communities of color by the prison industrial complex (PIC). We see the struggle for racial and gender justice as central to dismantling the PIC and we prioritize the leadership of the people, families, and communities most impacted in building this movement. CCWP helps people prepare for their parole hearings, including offering assistance with the parole packet and by bringing in materials from the outside to help people inside get organized and trained to support each other in preparing for parole.

<https://womenprisoners.org/about-us/>

Californians for Safety and Justice is a project of the Tides Center, is a nonprofit working with Californians from all walks of life to replace prison and justice system waste with common sense solutions that create safe neighborhoods and save public dollars. Through policy advocacy, grassroots mobilization, public education, alliances and support for local best practices, we promote strategies to stop the cycle of crime, reduce reliance on incarceration and build healthy communities.

<https://safeandjust.org/>

AFSC California Healing Justice works to reduce reliance on incarceration and other punitive approaches and replace them with restorative/healing practices. Toward that end we concentrate on four areas: mass incarceration, long term isolation, militarized policing, and the promotion of healing alternatives.

<https://www.afsc.org/program/bay-area-healing-justice>

Legal Aid

Prison Law Office is a nonprofit public interest law firm based in Berkeley, California that provides free legal services to adult and juvenile offenders to improve their conditions of confinement. The office provides direct services to thousands of prisoners and juveniles each year, advocates for policy changes, and, if necessary, engages in impact litigation to ensure that correctional institutions meet standards required by the U.S. Constitution. The Prison Law Office has litigated numerous successful institutional reform cases that, among other things, have improved health care services, guaranteed prisoners with disabilities reasonable accommodations and equal access to prison programs, reduced the use of excessive force,

limited racial discrimination and restricted the use of solitary confinement in adult and juvenile correctional systems.

<https://prisonlaw.com/about-us/>

California Innocence Project is a law school clinic, founded in 1999 at California Western School of Law, dedicated to freeing the innocent, training law students, and changing laws and policies in the state of California. The California Innocence Project has freed many innocent people from prison, trained hundreds of outstanding law students who have gone on to become excellent attorneys, and changed multiple California laws to improve the justice system. We are a founding member of The Innocence Network and have helped launch organizations throughout Latin America.

<https://californiainnocenceproject.org/>

UnCommon Law's mission is to provide access to justice and healing for people impacted by incarceration. We deliver trauma-informed, healing-centered mental health and legal counseling to help provide a safe pathway home for people currently serving lengthy prison terms in California prisons. We represent people in their parole hearings and habeas petitions, and we engage in litigation and policy advocacy to address systemic discrimination in the criminal justice system. We also provide training for people in prison, attorneys, family members, and law students in order to improve the overall quality of preparation for and representation in parole hearings. Our clients cannot be released from prison unless and until they have participated in counseling and other training programs, and can show the California parole board they can safely rejoin their communities. We help them get ready to make that showing.

<https://www.uncommonlaw.org/>