

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/gala-2019-embracing-human-dignity>

## Policy Issue Resources

April 30, 2019

On April 29, 2019 justice reform leaders and supporters joined the Vera Institute of Justice for our 13th Annual Gala, *Embracing Human Dignity*. Vera was proud to honor **Loretta Lynch**, 83rd Attorney General of the United States, and our Board Chair **John F. Savarese**, Partner at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. Special thanks to **Zachary Carter** for his presentation of our award to Attorney General Lynch; to **Shyquinn Dix**, whose story highlighted the important work that Vera is doing to improve life behind bars; and to NBA Champion **Caron Butler**, for his introduction of Shyquinn. Thanks as well to our emcee, **Lester Holt**, and lastly, to **The Musicambia Ensemble**, **Samora Pinderhughes**, and **Cameron Holmes**, for their performances.

Thank you to everyone who supported and attended this special evening.

*If you didn't have a chance to make a gift to support our Gala, or if you'd like to make an additional contribution to support Vera's work, please donate now.*

Prison in America causes individual, community, and generational pain and deprivation. Built on a system of racist policies and practices that has disproportionately impacted people of color, mass incarceration has decimated communities and families. But the harsh conditions within prisons neither ensure safety behind the walls nor prevent crime an ...

### The Disparate Treatment of Black Americans in the Criminal Justice System

The evidence for racial disparities in the criminal justice system is well documented. The disproportionate racial impact of certain laws and policies, as well as biased decision making by justice system actors, leads to higher rates of arrest and incarceration in low-income communities of color. However, there is no evidence that these widely disp ...

### The Harmful and Lasting Effects of Pretrial Detention

The pretrial populationthe number of people who are detained while awaiting trialincreased 433 percent between 1970 and 2015. This growth is in large part due to the increased use of monetary bail. But pretrial detention has far-reaching negative consequences. This evidence brief presents information on the way that pretrial detention is currentl ...

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