

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/gala2018-safeguarding-justice>

Policy Issue Resources

April 24, 2018

On April 23, 2018 justice reform leaders and supporters joined the Vera Institute of Justice for our 12th Annual Gala, *Safeguarding Justice*. We heard from the legendary civil rights leader Vernon Jordan, Alphabets David Drummond, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Mark Shelton of Barclays PLC, and Justin Roslonek, a formerly incarcerated student whose amazing story highlighted the important work that Vera is doing to bring college education to incarcerated people. Thank you to everyone who supported and attended this special evening.

Held at Cipriani Wall Street, the event honored:

DAVID DRUMMOND

Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, Alphabet

Award presented by **VERNON JORDAN**

MARK SHELTON

General Counsel, Barclays International, Barclays PLC

Award presented by **THOMAS C. BAXTER JR.**

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO

Former Speaker of the New York City Council and Senior Advisor, Latino Victory Fund

Award presented by **LUIS MIRANDA**, with a special video presentation by **LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA**

Master of Ceremonies

TANYA ACKER

Hot Bench, CBS Television Distribution

Special performances

THE WORLD FAMOUS HARLEM GOSPEL CHOIR

JON BATISTE

To see videos of Tanya Acker, Karen Seymour, Luis Miranda, Thomas C. Baxter, Mark Shelton, John Savarese, The World Famous Harlem Gospel Choir, and Jon Batiste, please [visit our YouTube playlist](#).

Developing Quality Postsecondary Education Programs in Prison

With its July 2015 announcement of the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program, the U.S. Department of Education ushered in what could be a new era of expanded opportunities for postsecondary education in our nations prisons. The Second Chance Pell Pilot makes students incarcerated in state and federal prisons eligible for need-based financial aid in a l...

Lifting a nearly 30-year ban on Pell Grants for people who are incarcerated, Congress passed the FAFSA Simplification Act, which restores their Pell Grant eligibility starting in 2023, allowing them to affordably pursue postsecondary education in prison. The Second Chance Pell (SCP) Experiment has highlighted the success of prison education program ...

A First Look

New Yorks recent bail reform law, which was passed in April 2019 and amended on July 2, 2020, was expected to reduce the footprint of jail incarceration by limiting the use of money bail. The new law mandated pretrial release for the vast majority of nonviolent charges and required that judges consider a persons ability to pay bail. A comprehensi ...

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