

Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) Spring 2015 Symposium Proposal: Critical Perspectives on the War on Drugs

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lauren Mendelsohn, mendelsl@lawnet.uci.edu

Ariela Rutkin-Becker, arutkinb@lawnet.uci.edu

I. Overview:

The War on Drugs is arguably the longest “war” that the U.S. has been involved in to date. President Nixon declared war on “public enemy number one: drug abuse” in 1971; but now, over forty years later and despite hundreds of billions of dollars of government anti-drug spending each year, drugs are cheaper, purer, and more available than ever before, and roughly the same amount of the population remains addicted to drugs. In other words, the War on Drugs has failed to meet its objective, and in the process it created a host of new problems. The effects of prohibition and prohibitionist policies are far-reaching in civilian life and justice. The statistics themselves are staggering: 55 percent of inmates in federal prison are incarcerated for drug offenses, contributing to the U.S. having the highest incarceration rate in the world. More Americans are arrested for marijuana possession each year than for all violent crimes combined. Over 200,000 students have been denied financial aid because they have drug convictions. 13 percent of drug users are African-American; yet this demographic accounts for 67 percent of those sentenced to jail for drug offenses. The U.S spends \$350 billion on the Drug War each year...and only 2 percent of that is spent on treatment. (Source: SSDP pamphlet “The War on Drugs Is a War On Us.”)

Recent efforts provide hope that some of these statistics will improve. New laws passed in Colorado and Washington challenge the ways that communities might be able to take control of their own view on drug criminality - from inside and outside of the federal paradigm. This year’s Student-Run Symposium on Prisoners’ Rights highlighted various ways that the fields of alternatives to incarceration and creative drug enforcement collaborations are working to combat defeatist notions of “the way things must be.”

As future lawyers, drug policies will almost certainly impact our work, regardless of our practice area. Future prosecutors and defense attorneys, for example, will be faced with the challenges of laws as they evolve and lives that they affect in the meantime. Transactional attorneys will need to work with dispensaries just like any other small business. Even if it doesn’t affect us directly, the economic and social impact of prohibition will continue to take a toll on society at large.

Our proposed symposium, “Critical Perspectives on the War on Drugs,” will bring together esteemed scholars and practitioners in various areas of criminal justice, drug policy reform, and emerging new businesses. We will include not just the law school and the Criminology, Law and Society departments, but also the medical school and other graduate programs here at UCI with at least one panel focusing on medical and scientific perspectives on the War on Drugs. We hope to synthesize various perspectives and practice areas in integrative and innovative ways, so that each participant leaves the Symposium with not just more information, but also new connections and a refined Action Plan on tangible, meaningful steps to take in his or her own work. While we envision this conference as an innovative synthesis of various practice areas, this subject area does have strong precedent in traditional legal circles. For example, the Seventh Circuit Bar Association hosted a symposium entitled “Rethinking the War on Drugs” in February of 2014.

II. Schedule:

Symposium proposed for second weekend in February, 2015.

Friday	
6-8 PM	Movie Screening: <i>The House I Live In</i> This critically acclaimed film by Eugene Jarecki, director of <i>Why We Fight</i> , takes a closer look at who gets caught in the “front lines” of the Drug War. The movie contains heart-wrenching stories and sends strong social and political messages about the threats of prohibition to individual liberty and community progress. The documentary touches on all the key problems with current U.S. drug policies: government and police corruption, a prison-industrial complex filled with mostly African American males and a system that traps immigrants and minorities in a cycle of incarceration, economic waste and the passing of moral judgment, infringement on individual rights, and violence--here in the U.S. but even more so in Mexico--arising from the black market for drugs. This film will set the stage for our speakers’ presentations over the weekend.
Saturday	
8:00 – 8:30	Welcome breakfast and registration
8:30 – 9:15	Introduction Speaker
9:15 – 10:30	Panel 1
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee/tea break!
10:45 – 12:00	Panel 2
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch and Keynote Speaker
1:15 – 2:30	Panel 3
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:00	Panel 4
4:00 – 5:00	Closing Panel
5:00 – 6:00	Courtyard Reception

III. Letters of Support/Individual Sponsors:

Please see attachments for letters of support and individual sponsors – including faculty and community members – whose insights and expertise will be invaluable components of successfully advertising this event.

IV. Other Funding Sources/Potential Organizations:

The following is a list of potential organizations with whom we can partner in supporting and promoting this event. If chosen for the Spring 2015 Symposium, we will reach out to these organizations to see if they can help offset costs for various aspects of the weekend:

- Marijuana Policy Project (MPP): MPP is a prominent marijuana lobbying organization. Founded in 1995, it has been instrumental in passing legislation around the country. It envisions a model where marijuana is legally regulated similarly to alcohol.
- All of Us or None: All of Us or None is a grassroots civil rights organization fighting for the rights of formerly- and currently- incarcerated people and our families. We are fighting against the discrimination that people face every day because of arrest or conviction history. The goal of All of Us or None is to strengthen the voices of people most affected by mass incarceration and the growth of the prison-industrial complex.

Through our grassroots organizing, we will build a powerful political movement to win full restoration of our human and civil rights.

- **A New Way of Life Re-entry: A New Way of Life Reentry Project** provides housing and support services to formerly incarcerated women in South Central Los Angeles, facilitating a successful transition back to community life.
- **Common Sense for Drug Policy (CSDP):** CSDP provides advice and assistance to individuals and organizations and facilitates coalition building. CSDP advocates the regulation and control of marijuana in a manner similar to alcohol and subject to local option. CSDP favors decriminalizing the use of hard drugs and providing them only through prescription. CSDP also advocates clear federal guidelines for the practice of pain management so that physicians need not fear unwarranted law enforcement scrutiny of medical practices. (Source: <http://www.csdp.org/cms/about#sthash.GkT7Igy0.dpbs>)
- **Criminal Justice Policy Foundation (CJPF):** CJPF's mission is to educate the public about the impact of drug policy and the problems of policing on the criminal justice system. CJPF provides information and advice to policy makers, criminal justice professionals, and the public through consultation, education programs, conferences, publications, the news media and the Internet. The foundation assists drug policy reform organizations with advice on legal organization, management, outreach, research, media relations, and coalition building. CJPF also provides speakers to educational institutions and organizations of all kinds. President Eric Sterling is nationally recognized expert on drug policy reform. (Source: <http://www.cjpf.org/about>)
- **A new PATH: A New PATH** works to reduce the stigma associated with addictive illness through education and compassionate support, and to advocate for therapeutic rather than punitive drug policies. The California nonprofit advocates "Therapeutic Justice." (Source: <http://www.anewpathsite.org/>)
- **Harm Reduction Coalition (HRC):** Harm Reduction Coalition is a national advocacy and capacity-building organization that promotes the health and dignity of individuals and communities impacted by drug use. HRC's efforts advance harm reduction policies, practices and programs that address the adverse effects of drug use including overdose, HIV, hepatitis C, addiction, and incarceration. The organization recognizes that social inequality and injustice magnify drug-related harm and limit the voice of our most vulnerable communities, and works to uphold every individual's right to health and well-being and their competence to participate in the public policy dialogue. (Source: <http://harmreduction.org/about-us/mission/>)
- **Homeless Healthcare of Los Angeles (HHCLA):** Los Angeles is the homeless capital of the nation. HHCLA provides a variety of services including housing, case management, individual therapy and support groups, referral to treatment, family services, primary medical care, and an array of additional holistic services. Clients are referred from the HHCLA Harm Reduction Center or outreach team, hospitals, community clinics, or temporary shelters. (Source: <http://hhcla.org/what-we-do/>)
- **LA Department of Public Health:** The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health protects health, prevents disease, and promotes the health and well-being for all persons in Los Angeles County. Our focus is on the population as a whole, and we conduct our

activities through a network of public health professionals throughout the community. (Source: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/index.htm>)

- **Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP):** LEAP is a nonprofit organization of current and former law enforcement officials who believe, from first hand experience, that U.S. drug policies are unsound and should be reformed. LEAP's goals are: (1) To educate the public, the media and policy makers about the failure of current drug policy by presenting a true picture of the history, causes and effects of drug use and the elevated crime rates more properly related to drug prohibition than to drug pharmacology and (2) To restore the public's respect for police, which has been greatly diminished by law enforcements involvement in imposing drug prohibition. (Source: <http://www.leap.cc/about/vision-mission/>)
- **Orange County NORML:** OC NORML is the local chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. NORML has been working to legalize marijuana for responsible adult recreational use since 1970, and the Orange County chapter was voted the best chapter of the year in 2012. (Source: <https://orangecountynorml.org/>)
- **Legal Services for Prisoners with Children:** San Francisco-based nonprofit LSPC does work in four main areas: public policy, public education, grassroots organizing, and legal advocacy. In each of these areas the organization strives to realize its core belief that incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people have the right and the responsibility to speak and be heard in their own voices, transform their lives and communities, and fully participate in all aspects of society. (Source: <http://www.prisonerswithchildren.org/what-we-do/overview/>)
- **National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA):** NCIA is the nation's only industry-led organization engaging in legislative efforts to expand and further legitimize the legal cannabis market in the U.S. NCIA publicly advocates for the unique needs of the emerging cannabis industry and defends against threats to the legal market for cannabis and cannabis-related products. (Source: <http://thecannabisindustry.org/about/mission-values/>)
- **Youth Justice Coalition:** The Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) is working to build a youth, family and prisoner-led movement to challenge race, gender and class inequality in Los Angeles County's and California's juvenile injustice systems. Its goal is to dismantle policies and institutions that have ensured the massive lock-up of people of color; widespread police violence, corruption and distrust between police and communities; disregard of youth and communities' Constitutional and human rights; the construction of a vicious school-to-jail track; and the build-up of the world's largest network of juvenile halls, jails and prisons. The YJC uses direct action organizing, advocacy, political education, transformative justice and activist arts to mobilize system-involved youth, families and our allies – both in the community and within lock-ups – to bring about change. (Source: <http://www.youth4justice.org/about-the-yjc/history>)
- **Americans for Safe Access (ASA):** As one of America's leading medicinal marijuana lobbying organizations, ASA (and ASAF, Americans for Safe Access Foundation) works to ensure safe and legal access to cannabis for therapeutic uses and research. ASA uses grassroots organizing and advocacy to affect change at the local, state, and federal level. ASAF trains and educates patients, advocates, health care professionals and other

stakeholders, and also provides direct legal support and uses impact litigation to protect and expand patients' rights. (Source: http://www.safeaccessnow.org/about_asa)

V. Potential Panels and Panelists

Note: If chosen, we would select four out of the five following panels.

Keynote:

- *Michelle Alexander* - Ms. Alexander is an associate professor of Law at the Ohio State University and is the author of the book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (2010). She has been a civil rights lawyer and activist for years, and was formerly the director of the Racial Justice Project at the ACLU of Northern California. She has worked on many class action suits and discrimination issues. In 2005 she was named an Open Society Institute Fellow.

Speaker Overview:

Local Orange County/Los Angeles/San Diego Speakers:

Diane Goldstein, Board Member, LEAP (Santa Ana, CA)
Alex Kreit, Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law (San Diego, CA)
Daniele Piomelli, Department of Pharmacology, UC Irvine (Irvine, CA)
Judge Wendy Lindley, Former Judge with Orange County Superior Court (Santa Ana, CA)
Aaron Justice, President, Buds n Roses (Studio City, CA)
Armando Rodriguez, Los Angeles Deputy Public Defender (Los Angeles, CA)
Mona Lynch, Ph.D., Vice-Chair, UCI Department of Criminology, Law and Society (Irvine, CA)
Don Duncan, California Director, Americans for Safe Access (Hollywood, CA)
Susan Barton, Executive Director, A New Way of Life Reentry Project (Los Angeles, CA)

Out of Town Speakers:

Michelle Alexander, Author, *The New Jim Crow* (Columbus, OH)
Neill Franklin, Executive Director, LEAP (Silver Spring, MD)
Amanda Reiman, California Policy Director, Drug Policy Alliance (Oakland, CA)
Jeff Miron, Economist and Senior Lecturer, Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)
Paul Armentano, Deputy Director, NORML (Oakland, CA)
Julio Calzada, Secretary-General, Uruguay's National Drug Council (Montevideo, Uruguay)
Khurshid Khoja, Founder, Greenbridge Corporate Counsel (San Francisco, CA)
Chris VanHook, Founder, Clean Green Certification Program (Crescent City, CA)
Troy Dayton, CEO and co-founder of ArcView Group (San Francisco, CA)
Steve DeAngelo, Founder, Harborside Health Center (Oakland, CA)
Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Public Defender (San Francisco, CA)
Rick Doblin, Founder and President, MAPS (Boston, MA)
Brad Burge, Communications Director, MAPS (Santa Cruz, CA)
Ronald Griffiths, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD)
Aaron Smith, Executive Director, National Cannabis Industry Association (Denver, CO)
Karen O'Keefe, Director of State Policies, Marijuana Policy Project (Washington, DC)
Jim Parsons, Director, SUMH Program, Vera Institute of Justice (New York, NY)
Kris Nyrop, Director, Racial Disparity Project (Seattle, WA)
Vanita Gupta, Deputy Legal Director, ACLU (New York, NY)

Michael Romano, Director, Three Strikes Project (Stanford, CA)
Brian Vicente, Esq., Founding Partner, Vicente Sederberg LLC (Denver, CO)

Panel 1: The “New Jim Crow:” Racism and the Drug War

Description: Although statistics show that black individuals use drugs at a lower rate than white individuals do, they are arrested, prosecuted and jailed for drug offenses at a much higher frequency than whites. Why is this, and what can be done about the disproportionate number of blacks and Hispanics in prison, most of whom are there for nonviolent drug offenses? This panel will expose the discriminatory impact the War on Drugs has had on minorities, especially African American males, and why scholars in the area believe that drug laws have become a way for society to hold certain members of society lower down on the social chain.

Speakers:

- Neill Franklin - Lieutenant Neill Franklin is the Executive Director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP). He worked for the Baltimore Police Department and the Maryland State Police Force for over 30 years as part of the anti-narcotics unit, until tragic events changed his mind about the War on Drugs. He became a fierce advocate for ending prohibition, and has appeared on several news shows and occasionally writes for the Huffington Post.
- Diane Goldstein - Diane is a member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) and is currently on the organization’s Board of Directors. She is a former lieutenant officer from the Redondo Beach Police Department. She has spent the majority of her life in Southern California and is familiar with the impacts of policing methods on individuals involved in drug offenses.
- Armando Rodriguez – Armando is the Deputy Public Defender for Los Angeles. He has been a public defender for two decades, and has served as President of the Latino Public Defender’s Association. Armando also traveled to El Salvador with a delegation of American prosecutors to assist in the development of a system of criminal justice in El Salvador.
- Kris Nyrop – Kris is the director of the Racial Disparity Project, Kris Nyrop is the LEAD Program Director for the RDP. He was the Executive Director of Street Outreach Services in Seattle from 1997-2007. Prior to that he worked for the Washington State Department of Health, Public Health - Seattle & King County, and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute at the University of Washington. He has been an instructor in Anthropology at the University of Washington and Tacoma Community College and in 2008 was the O'Donnell Visiting Professor at Whitman College. Kris was the project ethnographer for the Vancouver Injection Drug User Study from 1997 to 1999. He has worked as an outreach worker, researcher, and trainer in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention, hepatitis C prevention, syringe exchange, harm reduction, and drug policy reform. Additionally, he has consulted with projects throughout the U.S. as well as in Canada, Russia, and the Republic of Georgia.

- Mona Lynch, Ph.D. – Mona is a faculty member and researcher at UCI in the School of Social Ecology. She is also the Co-Director of the UCI Center in Law, Society and Culture and is vice-chair of the Department of Criminology, Law and Society. Her research focuses on the social, psychological, and cultural dynamics of contemporary criminal adjudication and punishment processes. Mona's specializations include law and society; psychology and law; criminal procedure in practice; punishment and society; race, institutional bias, and criminal justice. She has published numerous papers on discrimination and punishment in the context of the drug war.
- Michael Romano – Michael is the Director and Co-Founder of Stanford Law School's Three Strikes Project. The Stanford Three Strikes Project is the only legal organization in the country devoted to addressing excessive sentences imposed under California's Three Strikes sentencing law. The Project represents individuals currently imprisoned under the law for petty crimes and also worked with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund Inc. to reform the harshest aspects of the Three Strikes law. Recently, the Project collaborated with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund to pass the Three Strikes Reform Act of 2012 (Proposition 36).

Panel 2: Legalization Efforts

Description: Colorado and Washington legalized in 2012; what's on the horizon for 2016? Activists and lobbyists from the front lines of the marijuana movement will share their thoughts on how things got to where they are and where California's prospect stands. They will also discuss nationwide trends and provide an insider's view on how you can work to change the law.

Speakers:

- Amanda Reiman - Amanda is the California Policy Director for the Drug Policy Alliance. The DPA is currently formulating a bill to introduce to legalize marijuana in CA in 2016. Amanda is affectionately known as the "marijuana guru" around the office. She has conducted several studies on dispensaries and the use of marijuana to curb other drug addictions. She has a long interesting history but currently serves on the Cannabis Regulatory Commission for Oakland, CA.
- Jeffrey Miron - Jeff Miron is a well-known economist who is currently a Senior Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies at Harvard University, as well as a Senior Fellow at the CATO Institute, a Libertarian think-tank. Prior to that he served as chairman of the Economics Department at Boston University. He is a vocal advocate for libertarian policies including the legalization of drugs, which he believes could have major economic benefits.
- Paul Armentano - Paul Armentano is the Deputy Director of NORML and the NORML Foundation. He is an expert in many areas of marijuana policy and speaks at conferences and events around the nation. He is also a faculty member at Oakland University in Oakland, CA, where he teaches.
- Alex Kreit - Alex is an Associate Professor of Law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. He is the author of the first drug law casebook, *Controlled Substances: Crime, Religion, and Policy*. He is currently President of the San Diego chapter of the American Constitution Society. He was previously appointed by the San Diego City

Council to chair the city's Medical Marijuana Task Force. Prior to his career in San Diego, Alex clerked for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and then worked as a litigator in San Francisco. He was also one of the founding members of SSDP nearly two decades ago.

- Karen O'Keefe – Karen is the Director of State Policies at the Marijuana Policy Project, where she manages MPP's grassroots and direct lobbying efforts in state legislatures. Karen played a significant role in MPP's successful medical marijuana campaigns in Montana (2004) and Rhode Island (2006). Karen has managed MPP's state legislative department during medical marijuana victories in Delaware, New Hampshire, and Illinois, and during successful decriminalization campaigns in Rhode Island and Vermont. She is responsible for updating MPP's model legislation, which formed the basis for medical marijuana laws in Arizona, Delaware, Illinois, Montana, Michigan, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. In 2011, she was appointed by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley to serve on the state's medical marijuana work group.
- Julio Calzada – Mr. Calzada was instrumental in writing Uruguay's new cannabis legalization law. He is now the Secretary-General of Uruguay's National Drug Council, in charge of the law's implementation. (It is unlikely that he will be able to come, but we want to extend an invitation anyway)

Panel 3: Drug Policies: Medical and Scientific Perspectives

Description: This panel will consist of medical and scientific experts who have studied the effects of marijuana, MDMA, psilocybin, and other substances as possible healing agents. The experts will also talk about the human endocannabinoid system, and why marijuana has the medicinal effects that it does.

Speakers:

- Rick Doblin – Rick is Founder and President of the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS). He is very prominent within psychedelic research community. MAPS has conducted several groundbreaking studies using psychedelics; they recently had success using MDMA-assisted therapy to treat veterans with PTSD.
- Brad Burge - Brad is the Director of Communications at the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS). In graduate school his work focused on the political and cultural changes needed to turn illegal drugs into legitimate medicines.
Note: We will invite Brad if Rick Doblin cannot attend.
- Daniele Piomelli, Ph.D. - Dr. Piomelli is a faculty researcher and professor at UC Irvine, and is the Director for the UCI Department of Pharmacology NIDA Training Grant and the Center for Drug Discovery. He teaches anatomy & neurobiology at the Medical School. Dr. Piomelli is well-known around the world for his research on the human cannabinoid system, and his lab is right here on campus.
- Ronald Griffiths, Ph.D. - Dr. Griffiths was the primary researcher in several Johns Hopkins medical research studies involving psilocybin, or "magic mushrooms," to create mystical experiences that give people a sense of meaning and self-actualization.

- Don Duncan – Don Duncan is the California Director of Americans for Safe Access, the nation’s largest and most prominent medicinal marijuana lobbying organization. ASA works both directly with patients on campaigns and with lawmakers on legislative issues. ASA has been instrumental in setting industry standards for medical marijuana products, and Mr. Duncan is an expert on the wide range of health benefits attributable to the cannabis plant. As California Director, Don is coordinating the grassroots and grasstops campaign to fully implement the states medical cannabis laws, respond to federal interference, and build a broader and more powerful coalition for medical cannabis in California. He is a leading consultant in the field of medical cannabis and has been featured in major media coverage.

Panel 4: Emerging Cannabusinesses

Description: This panel will bring together successful entrepreneurs in the cannabusiness field, from dispensary owners to market researchers to corporate counselors-at-law. There are many exciting career possibilities in this industry, and this panel is designed to teach about the developments and opportunities. The panelists will also talk about the laws and regulatory structure surrounding their business.

Speakers:

- Aaron Smith - Aaron Smith is the founder and executive director of the National Cannabis Industry Association. Before that, he worked for a California medical marijuana advocacy group, Safe Access Now, and served as California’s policy director with the Marijuana Policy Project in Washington, D.C. His work has bridged political gaps and his writing has appeared in several prominent news sources.
- Khurshid Khoja - Khurshid is the founder and Principal at Greenbridge Corporate Counsel, a law firm based in San Francisco that does transactional work for dispensaries and cannabusinesses. Before that, he was an associate for a corporate firm doing energy policy work.
- Aaron Justice - Aaron Justice is the president Buds n Roses collective. He is a successful cannabis entrepreneur and has been featured at similar panels.
- Chris VanHook - Chris VanHook is a lawyer who founded the Clean Green Certification program, a legal and farming program. The organization works as a non-biased third party agricultural certification program, and growers can choose to have their product CG Certified. Clean Green also has a products licensing program and provides legal services for cannabusiness clients. (Source: <http://cleangreencert.com/home/>)
- Troy Dayton - Troy is the CEO and co-founder of ArcView Group. Troy was formerly the Marijuana Policy Project's top fundraiser and lead liaison to the legal cannabis industry, and he was recently elected to the MPP board. He co-founded Students for Sensible Drug Policy, and helped launch and serve as the first sales director at Renewable Choice Energy (recently named the #1 green power provider by the EPA). He is a founding board member of the National Cannabis Industry Association. The ArcView Group is a San Francisco-based investing and market research firm for high-net-worth investors, and is the brainchild of two visionary cannabis pioneers, Steve DeAngelo and Troy Dayton. The ArcView Group is ushering in the next generation of legal ancillary cannabis-related businesses with the creation of The ArcView Angel Investor Network,

Cannasure Insurance Services, See Change Research, WeCanna (crowd funding platform), MyDispensary Mobile App, and other ground-breaking ventures.

- Steve DeAngelo - Steve DeAngelo is an activist, educator, and entrepreneur who has been one of the pioneers of the medical cannabis movement. He started the landmark Harborside Health Center (HHC), which became a model for other collectives throughout California. He is also involved in several other endeavors including Steep Hill Laboratory, a medical cannabis safety and screening lab, and the ArcView group. In 2011, the Federal Government attempted to shut Harborside down, but DeAngelo was determined to use all possible legal means to stay open and care for his patients. He and Harborside successfully won several court decisions, one of which has widespread impact on dispensaries throughout the state.
- Brian Vicente, Esq. – Brian is a partner and founding member of Vicente Sederberg LLC, an important marijuana law firm in Colorado. Brian served as the co-director of the Amendment 64 campaign, which resulted in Colorado becoming the first state in the nation to make the possession, use, and regulated distribution of marijuana legal for adults. Brian also serves as executive director of Sensible Colorado, the state's leading non-profit working for medical marijuana patients and providers. Brian is the chair of the Denver Mayor's Marijuana Policy Review Panel, serves on the Colorado Department of Revenue Medical Marijuana Oversight Panel, and coordinates the Colorado Bar Association's Drug Policy Project. He was awarded the prestigious Gideon award for his free speech advocacy during the 2008 Democratic National Convention. In 2010, Brian was elected the first-ever chair of the National Cannabis Industry Association. He serves on the board of directors for a number of state and national non-profit organizations including the SAFER Voter Education Fund and the Harm Reduction Center. Brian graduated from the University of Denver Law School where he clerked for outspoken social critic, Senior Federal Judge John L. Kane.

Panel 5: Alternatives to Incarceration

Description: Although the US contains only 5% of the world's population, we hold 25% of its prisoners. The majority of these individuals are serving time for nonviolent drug sentenced. How can we change this? This panel of experts will discuss new ways to handle the mass incarceration epidemic that has swept our nation and become what seems like an unavoidable consequence of the War on Drugs.

Speakers:

- Jennifer Johnson - Ms. Johnson is currently the Deputy Public Defender of San Francisco. She was instrumental in founding the city's mental/behavioral health courts, which serve as a model for other cities and states (although SF's is still seen as very liberal). She also teaches a Mental Health and Law seminar at Berkeley Law.
- Hon. Judge Wendy Lindley - Judge Lindley worked at the Collaborative Court within Orange County Superior Court for 20 years. She has first hand knowledge of the Drug Court, Juvenile Court, Homeless Outreach Court and Veteran's Affairs court in OC, and thinks the mentally ill need to be treated better by the criminal justice system.
- Susan Burton – Susan is the founder and Executive Director of A New Way of Life Reentry Project, a Los Angeles-based organization that provides services and support for formerly incarcerated women. Susan saw that women coming home from prison faced

tremendous institutional barriers —rules, laws, policies, and attitudes— that operated to deny them access to employment, student loans, permanent housing, public assistance and many other benefits. She dedicated her life to helping other women break the cycle of incarceration, homelessness, addiction and despair, and became a recognized leader in the criminal justice reform and reentry rights movements.

- **Jim Parsons** – Jim Parsons is the Director of the Substance Use and Mental Health (SMUH) Program at the Vera Institute of Justice. The Vera Institute is a nonprofit center that conducts empirical research for justice policy and practice. SUMH conducts research on the impact of drug policy, such as the use of treatment-based alternatives to incarceration in lieu of lengthy prison sentences. SMUH is also currently working with jail administrators and communities in New York City and Los Angeles to design more accessible and effective reentry services.
- **Vanita Gupta** – Vanita is Deputy Legal Director for the American Civil Liberties Union and Director of the ACLU’s Center for Justice. She is currently leading the ACLU’s National Campaign to End Overincarceration and previously worked on the ACLU’s Racial Justice Program. She has led many successful efforts to reduce harsh drug sentences and overturn wrongful drug convictions.

Budget

Item	Cost
Travel	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airfare for out of town speakers ($\\$400 \times 21$) 	\$8,400
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas reimbursement for local speakers (traveling 20 miles or more) ($\\$60 \times 7$) 	\$420
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel ($\\$119$ per night at the Radisson – including meals, parking, internet. 2 nights per panelist = $\\$119 \times 2 \times 30 =$) 	\$7,140
Conference Meals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast (coffee, tea, juice, bagels, fruit) (100 attendees x $\\$5 = \\500) 	\$500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch (catered boxes) (100 attendees x $\\$10 = \\$1,000$) 	\$1,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daylong supply of coffee, tea, water, etc 	\$300

(100 attendees x \$3 = \$300)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-conference reception (wine and hors d'oeuvres) (100 attendees x (\$3 wine + \$5 food) = \$800) 	\$800
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-conference dinner with student organizers (30 panelists + 10 organizers [including guests] = 40 total attendees x \$50 for food, drink, tax and tip = \$2,000) 	\$2,000
Supplies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you gifts for speakers (\$15 x 29 speakers + \$35 for keynote speaker) = 435 + 35 = \$470 	\$470
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative costs (special paper for posters and program, cardstock) = \$250 	\$250
Parking & signage \$400 total	\$400
Movie Screening Movie cost for screening, for non-commercial and educational use where no admission fees are charged	\$150
TOTAL	\$21,830

Law Review/Alternative Publication:

We would be happy to ask our legal colleagues and fellow academics to prepare written work appropriate for a Law Review submission. In addition, we like the idea of giving graduate students the opportunity to submit papers on related topics before the event and having the best ones presented at the symposium. This would encourage discussion between graduate students, law students, attendees, and panelists, and would facilitate interdisciplinary learning.