



**Judicial  
Process  
Commission**

## *2022 Annual Report*

*May 2023*

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## Presidents Message

Dear Rochester community,

As the President of the Board of Directors for the Judicial Process Commission (JPC), I am proud to present our organization's annual report for the past year. It has been a challenging year, but our team at JPC has worked tirelessly to continue serving the needs of our community.

JPC's mission is to promote a fair and effective criminal justice system in Monroe County. We achieve this by providing support, education, and advocacy for individuals and communities impacted by the criminal justice system. Our work is centered around the principles of restorative justice, which prioritize healing and rehabilitation over punishment.

Over the past year, JPC has continued to provide vital services to the Rochester community. We have offered support to individuals who have been incarcerated and those who are currently under community supervision. Our staff and volunteers have worked with our clients to provide them with the resources they need to rebuild their lives and reintegrate into our communities.

JPC has also been active in advocating for criminal justice reform at the local and state levels. We have pushed for policies that promote fairness and equity in the criminal justice system, including the elimination of cash bail and the decriminalization of low-level offenses. Our advocacy work is driven by the belief that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their past actions.

As we look to the future, JPC remains committed to our mission of promoting a fair and effective criminal justice system. We will continue to work with our clients and communities to provide support, education, and advocacy. We will also continue to push for policies that promote equity and justice for all.

Thank you for your support of JPC and our mission. Together, we can build a criminal justice system that serves the needs of all members of our community.

Sincerely,

LaShana Boose  
President of the Board of Directors

## Executive Director's Message

Dear Community and Friends,

It is with great pleasure, that I was given this opportunity to step up and give support to an Agency that has supported the community for over 50 years. I remember the day my predecessor announced her intent to retire. Until that moment, I could never have imagined another name being attached to the role of Executive Director at JPC, aside from Susan Porter.

Daily, during my training, I would ask Ms. Porter, "are you sure you want to retire"? She would tilt her head back, smile and say "Yes, I'm sure". In her final address to the public, Susan left this message to the Board of Directors, the staff/volunteers, and, of course to yours truly. It was the same message, but she personalized it to each of us. Susan Porter said, to me "Shermond, You Got This"!

LaShana Boose, JPC current President was correct in saying that 2022 was a challenging year for the organization. However, as I look through the history of JPC, it was the challenges of an unjust justice system. And the violent outcome of the uprising in Attica that inspired the visionaries Virginia and John Mackey to start the Judicial Process Commission. Then, known as 'The Commission', our founders used this platform to gain ground in the fight for equality for those impacted by the criminal justice system. As too, shall we!

Those of us who serve at JPC will continue to fight against the injustices, of the Justice system. We are Equipped with the wisdom, insight, and the tenacity of those who proceeded us. Every JPC Staff, Board Member and volunteer has a passion, an experience, that remind us that there is reason to continue to fight. In hope, of one day being able to witness, the principles of restorative justice being promoted over punishment.

Community and friends, thank you for your continued support for the work we do. I would like to thank our funders for your continued financial support in helping expand our community reach. To our volunteers, who continue to yield themselves selflessly, thank you. To the JPC team, each one of you are vital in moving the mission of JPC forward. To the Board, thank you for entrusting me with what you all have helped to build.

In closing, I can confidently say, that the past of the Judicial Process Commission is remarkable. However, JPC present is thriving and our future is expanding.

Sincerely,

Shermond Reid  
Interim Executive Director



## Success Stories

Meet Opal, a mother and New Journey client whose felony and resulting incarceration stemmed from one ongoing harassment issue, derailing her plans and leaving her unable to follow her dream to work in the medical field. In her words:

This has been a journey for me... I was arrested and ...sentenced ... to 4 months in jail and 5 years on probation. I haven't been in trouble since. I've kept a job ever since I've gotten released and my own housing and transportation. I have not been violated while on probation either, this is not the type of person I am ... I've always wanted a successful life and within a split decision my goals went down the drain. It's been extremely hard for me to move on with my life, and this is not what I wanted for myself. I need this certificate of relief to help me gain my power back in society to put me in positions that I want to be in to have better for myself and my family, the Judicial Process program has helped me out tremendously ... through many obstacles through this program with transportation, housing, child care ...I've also completed the Judicial Process Commission's New Journey program and gained my certificate, I am also working on getting my high school equivalency diploma...I just want better for myself and want to make my life easier by obtaining this certificate of relief.

Meet Maris, a 26-year-old New Journey participant and mother. Maris has coped with a host of challenges in her life, including physical and mental abuse. She has taken responsibility for the actions and decisions that led to two serious charges, incarceration and probation. In her words:

“I have one 8-year-old daughter and I work full time as Personal Aide and Temporary Nursing Assistant. Accountability is one of the first and most important steps in trying to change myself. I take full responsibility for my actions I've made in the past...

While still incarcerated, I earned my High School Equivalency Diploma and joined a women's group called New Journey program with Judicial Process Commission (JPC) for mothers like myself ...

Following my release, I continued to work with JPC as we set goals for me to find myself a stable home and obtain employment. I worked at Dollar Tree for a year before I started work as a Personal Aide in March of 2021, where I am still employed. Shortly after starting my job as a Personal Aide, I moved into my own apartment where I still reside. Aside from working, I continued attending weekly therapeutic group sessions with the New Journey program...

In October of 2021, I received my Temporary Nursing Aide Certificate and have been working as a traveling CNA in addition to working as a Personal Aide... I've seen how hard this road has made my life and the strength it took to get to this point to apply myself and disclose my truth. Prosperity and success are what I yearn for and if you give me this opportunity it will NOT be taken for granted.”

## **JPC Vision & Mission**

**Vision.** JPC envisions a transformed society, where formerly incarcerated community members are no longer marginalized and stigmatized and feel empowered to lead fulfilling lives.

**Mission.** JPC creates a just, non-violent community, striving to strengthen individuals seeking re-entry into society. We believe in and support the rights of all people affected by the criminal justice system and promote systemic changes that empower, inspire, and we provide person-centered, evidence-based, collaborative services. We advocate for positive change through mentorship, education, financial assistance, and other forms of advocacy.



## JPC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

### **Population Served.**

Women, men, non-binary individuals and LGBTQA+ participants, 16 years and older, involved in the criminal justice system living in the greater Rochester community. The majority of JPC clients are people of color, most living in poverty/extreme poverty. Some are homeless, struggling with mental health issues or substance abuse, often unemployed/underemployed. 75% of our clients have children: many parents live apart from their children and are seeking to reunite with them.

### **Services/Programs. (During Covid-19 contacts with participants were mostly virtual)**

JPC's re-entry services include: linkages with temporary and permanent housing, therapeutic support groups & counseling, case management, service coordination, mentoring, wrap-around services, legal services, employment preparation including rap sheet reviews, Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or of Good Conduct and sealing.

Since 2010, JPC has developed a specialty serving high to moderate risk mothers and children, which we hope to extend to fathers as well. New Journey and Faith Community Adult Mentoring programs serve women and men, pre and post release, incarcerated in the Monroe County Jail, Albion or Orleans Correctional Facility or federal prison.

### **Legal Action Employability Project, Enhanced and Expanded (LAEPEE)**

This first of its kind collaborative effort in NYS began in 2006 with Legal Assistance of Western New York - Rochester Office, and is designed to eliminate barriers that make it difficult for criminal justice involved women and men to rejoin the community and succeed in almost every important aspect of life, especially employment. We recently expanded our partnerships to include the Public Defender's Office and Center for Community Alternatives for services and we call this collaboration Rochester Re-entry Advocates.

### **LAEPEE services include:**

**RAP Sheets (Records of Arrest and Prosecution)** – JPC directly requests New York State/Federal Rap Sheets from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and the FBI or through a company called Identico. JPC staff review and summarize the RAP sheet and creates a conviction summary. In collaboration with legal partners, JPC determines the participant's eligibility for a certificate of rehabilitation or sealing.

**Certificates of Rehabilitation:** This term encompasses both the Certificate of Relief from Disabilities and the Certificate of Good Conduct and both are an essential resource for returning citizens who are seeking employment. They are offered in just a few states to assist in the reduction of recidivism. Certificates lift bars to employment and licensure that result

from a conviction history and may be used to demonstrate rehabilitation or a commitment to rehabilitation.

In NYS they are approved by a judge or the parole board and serve as legal evidence of rehabilitation. They may be required by an employer or by NY law for employment and licensure in over 100 professions.

**Job Discrimination Education and Litigation:** This service ensures that the employment rights of criminal justice involved persons are understood and enforced in New York. JPC staff obtain and correct the RAP sheets, call or write letters to employers and refer cases to LawNY Rochester Office for further advocacy and/or litigation.

**LawNY Rochester Office** activities include: assistance in obtaining back wages for participants that were illegally terminated/denied employment based on their criminal records; advocacy that permits suspended participants to continue to work or accept full time employment and preparations of applications for sealing a person's criminal history.

**Monroe County Public Defender's Office**, our newest partner is preparing and submitting applications for sealing of criminal history.

**Center for Community Alternatives:** spearheads Rochester Re-entry Advocates collaborative partnership coordinating our work including public speaking engagements and cooperatively writing a how-to manual for attorneys and advocates to use when obtaining, reviewing, and correcting records, preparing certificates and sealings, and advocating for clients.

#### **Faith Community Adult Mentoring Project (FCAMP).**

Trained volunteer mentors assist individuals returning from incarceration at the Monroe County Jail, Albion or Orleans NYS Correctional Facility or federal prison. Female and male volunteer mentors are matched with a mentee pre and/or post release. Mentors serve as a guide and coach to support the participant's successful return to our community.

#### **New Journey.**

New Journey continues the effort of the 2010-12 federally-funded Women's Re-entry Project. The program works in collaboration with Monroe County Probation and the Jail, SAFE Court, Albion NYS Correctional Facilities or federal prisons to serve 50 high to moderate risk women with children post release each year.

Women receive intensive supports and case management services that may include: housing, family reunification, weekly therapeutic support groups, 1-on-1 counseling with a masters level licensed social worker, service coordination, mentors, legal services including preparation for employment, safe and affordable housing, wrap around services including:



identification, used household items/baby items/furniture, first month's rent/back rent, referral and advocacy for additional services such as: primary care, mental health, substance abuse treatment and welfare benefits.

### **JPC Housing for the Homeless.**

Since 2010 the Rochester Housing Authority and JPC have partnered to provide permanent supportive housing to women and men with past criminal justice system involvement. JPC staff provide a variety of support services including face to face meetings and wrap-round services. Seventeen vouchers are provided for safe, affordable and permanent housing for homeless women and men. Participants for this program must be homeless, at least 18 years of age and have a long-term disabling condition.



## Judicial Process Commission Outcomes for 2022

Female/Blk 200                      Male/Blk 173  
Female/Cau 56                      Male/Whi 51  
Female/Hispanic 4                      Male/Hispanic 8  
Female/other 1 (Asian)  
Male/other 4  
LGBTQ: 28  
Declined:5    Lesbian:10              Gay:4    Bi/ Sexual: 13    Trans:1

**Total amount of people served: 538**

NYS 369  
FBI 80  
Total amount of Rap Sheet: 450  
LawNY 96  
COR 194  
CGC 80  
Sealing  
DOH 40  
DOJ 3  
DOE 6

**Total approvals :203**

Total referrals (out-207) (in-274)  
No Criminal History 18

### **Employment**

Participants Working Fulltime 283    Part-time 25    Retired 5  
Unemployed/SSI/SSD 87              School 8  
Total LGBTQ: 33  
Declined:5    Lesbian:10              Gay:4    Bi/ Sexual: 13    Trans:1  
**referred out for additional services :33**

## *A lot of people make JPC's work happen!*

### *8 Essential Community Partners*

City of Rochester  
MC Collaborative  
Rochester Re-entry Advocates: Center for Community Alternatives, Legal Assistance of Western New York - Rochester Office, Monroe County Public Defender's Office

Rochester Housing Authority, Permanent Supportive Housing  
RAWNY (Reentry Association of Western New York)  
Women in Reentry Collaborative: UR WISH, Exercise Express, Center for Economic Opportunity, CEO

### *28 Community Collaborators*

Action for a Better Community  
Access VR  
Bethany House  
Catholic Family Center: Restart, Freedom House, Liberty Manor, Sanctuary House  
Delphi Rise  
Foodlink  
Health Homes, Unity Health System  
Hope House-Salvation Army  
Hope Initiatives  
Huther Doyle  
Jennifer House, Spiritus Christi Church  
Monroe County Probation & Community Corrections Department  
Monroe County Office of the Public Defenders  
Monroe County Reentry Task Force

NYS Commission for the Blind  
NYS Division of Parole  
Out of Darkness  
Pathstone: Employment Programs & Wilson Commencement Park  
Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC)  
RochesterWorks!  
Saint Joe's House of Hospitality  
Salvation Army – Hope House  
Strong Ties, University of Rochester  
Urban League  
Volunteers of American  
Women's Community Residence, Rochester Regional Health  
YWCA housing programs

### *Organization Funders/In-kind Support*

#### **Religious Organizations (12)**

Artisan Church  
Downtown United Presbyterian Church  
Episcopal Diocese  
First Presbyterian Church  
First Unitarian Church  
Lake Avenue Memorial  
Mountain Rise UCC  
Presbytery of Genesee Valley  
Rochester Friends-Quakers  
St Charles Borromeo  
St. Peter's Church

Third Presbyterian Church

#### **Foundations (10)**

Canandaigua National Bank  
Center for Community Alt.  
Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation  
ESL Charitable Trust  
ESL Community Impact  
Clover- Crask  
Rochester Area Community Foundation:  
LGBTQ &  
Rochester Women's Giving Circle  
Fred & Floy Willmott Foundation

Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation

#### **Other Organizations (3)**

Driver Awareness Training  
Monroe Community College  
Roberts Wesleyan College

#### **Government (2)**

Monroe County  
EFSP/FEMA/CARES Funds





## Current Board & Advisory Board Members

**LaShana D. Boose**  
City of Rochester  
**Board President**

**Helen Jae Cheves**, Adjunct Faculty,  
SUNY Brockport  
II Steps Ahead, President Chair  
**Communications  
Committee**

**Sara R. Hughes**  
Consultant  
**Communications Committee**

**Karen A. Jones**  
Avangrid Service Company  
IT Contracts Manager  
**Board Secretary**

**Terrell Brady**  
Community Development Officer  
Action for a Better Community

**Wyman Harris, Attorney**  
Monroe County Public Defender's  
Office

**Joshua Wilcox**  
Foodlink Strategic Initiatives  
Manager

**Communications Committee**  
**Cherie Wright- Banda**  
Monroe County  
**Governance Committee**

**Advisory Board**  
**John M. Klofas, Ph.D.**  
Director Emeritus, Center for Public  
Safety, RIT

## Current Staff and Volunteers

### STAFF

**Shermond D. Reid**  
Interim Executive  
Director.  
**Annette Montstream**  
LAEPEE, Program  
Director  
**Myril Stoudemire**  
Service  
Coordinator

**Lamont Phillips /**  
Service /Mentor  
Coordinator

### CONSULTANTS

**Colin Fleming -**  
**Stumpf**  
Grant Writer  
**Bernardi &**  
**Company LLC**  
Bookkeeper

**Jeanette Gartland**  
**Creighton,**  
**LMSW CASAC**  
Therapist/Case  
Manager

### VOLUNTEER STAFF

**Robert Conklin**  
**and Alex Hrabko**  
Information Tech.

Admin. Support  
**Edward Johnson**  
Notary and **Judy**  
**Johnson**

Website  
**Matthew Weeg**

### IN-KIND LEGAL STAFF

**Scott Forsyth,**  
Esq.  
**LawNY Rochester**  
**Monroe County**  
**Public**  
**Defender's Office**  
**Center for**  
**Community**  
**Alternatives**

## Active Mentors

**Marco DiGiovanni**  
**Krystal Ellis**  
**Barbara Grosh**  
**Michelle Horman**

**Tim Hinton**  
**Deborah Glee**  
**David Kotak, MD**  
**Geneva McLain**

**Stephen Metildi**  
**Danny Mitchell**  
**Robert Picco**  
**Timothy Rawlins**

**Brenda Rivera**  
**Ervin Vereen**  
**Randy Williams**

**Monday Night**  
**Workshop & Men's**  
**Group Facilitator**  
**Clyde Williams**



