MASS IMPRISIONMENT & REENTRY INITIATIVES: Reentry Roundtable

Last Year 24,500 People Came Home from Prison in New York

What is the New York Reentry Roundtable?

Most of the 55,000 people incarcerated in New York State will be released at some point; many will return to their home communities in New York City. Once released, these men and women face discrimination in jobs, housing, credit, and other areas. The Community Service Society (CSS) formed the New York Reentry Roundtable in 2005 to address barriers that contribute to high rates of unemployment, poverty, and increased recidivism among the formerly incarcerated.

Sharing Information, Building Alliances

The New York Reentry Roundtable invites formerly incarcerated people, direct service providers, government agency representatives, family members, and other community activists to come together to develop and promote policies that support formerly incarcerated New Yorkers seeking to re-connect to family life, work, and their communities.

The Roundtable represents more than 60 stakeholder organizations, providing a unique forum for networking, information sharing, and building alliances in support of systemic change at the New York State level through a legislative agenda focused on:

- Education
- Employment
- Family connections
- Parole and sentencing
- Housing
- Voting rights

Roundtable Perspectives

Recent Roundtable guest speakers include:

Glenn Martin, Founder of JustLeadershipUSA. Formerly VP of Development and Public Affairs & Director of the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy, The Fortune Society

Jaya Vasandani, Associate Director of the Women in Prison Project, Correctional Association

Judy Whiting, General Counsel, CSS

Esmeralda Simmons, Founder and Executive Director, Center for Law and Social Justice

Barry Cambpell, Special Assistant to the CEO, The Fortune Society

Rob Carmona, Founder of STRIVE International

Camella Pinkney-Price, Special Assistant to Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

“The Roundtable is an invaluable space for the NYS reentry communities to exchange ideas and take action.”

Glenn Martin, JustLeadershipUSA
MASS IMPRISONMENT & REENTRY INITIATIVES: Albany Advocacy Day

About Albany Advocacy Day

As an outgrowth of the New York Reentry Roundtable, CSS established “Albany Advocacy Day” in 2007. Each year from 2007-2014, more than 100 participants traveled with us to the state capital to advocate for policies to help New Yorkers with conviction histories overcome tough legal barriers to rebuilding their lives.

During in-person discussions with elected officials and staff, Albany Advocacy Day attendees present the year’s legislative Agenda—a set of bills that address critical issues for people with conviction histories and those who are incarcerated.

Albany Advocacy Day legislative agenda promotes increased access to education, expanded employment opportunities, more humane parole, effective alternatives to long-term solitary confinement, and other issues of critical importance to New Yorkers with conviction histories, their families, and communities.

Removing Barriers, Rebuilding Lives

The 2014 Albany Advocacy Day Agenda includes four bills to help New Yorkers with conviction histories find stability and support in their lives after prison:

- **The Fair Application Act** would help level the playing field for formerly incarcerated people seeking employment.

- **The Safe and Fair Evaluations (SAFE) Parole Act** would make parole policies and practices more fair, transparent, and productive.

- **The Fair Access to Education Act** recognizes that access to higher education plays a critical—and proven—role in the successful and productive reintegration into society of people who have a past conviction.

- **Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act** offers effective, humane alternatives to long-term solitary confinement.

Visit [www.cssny.org](http://www.cssny.org) to learn more about the New York Reentry Roundtable, Albany Advocacy Day, and how you can join the movement for change.