

News |||| Inside

A compilation of criminal justice news from
The Marshall Project
March 2026—Issue 22

 The Marshall Project



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A Letter From Lawrence

Hey *News Inside* readers,

This is my favorite issue of the year because we get to celebrate women. I want to start by honoring one of the most inspiring women I know — Dr. Julie Faith Parker, my professor when I studied for my master's degree at Sing Sing Correctional Facility from 2013 to 2014. She taught a class called "Intro to the First Testament" in the Fall and "Intro to the Second Testament" in the Spring.

Dr. Parker is brilliant, warm, and formidable. With a caring voice that pushed us to do better, her Biblical lessons became life lessons that transcended religion. We graduated in 2014, and she still remembers each of our names in seating order and prays for us nightly. Starting in 2025, she began hosting yearly class reunion dinners. All my classmates are out and doing well, and this powerhouse of generosity insists that she and her husband, Bill, treat us to dinner to show her appreciation. It's humbling.



2026 MPS (Masters of Professional Studies) Class Reunion Photo taken on Emanuel Mena's iPhone.

Dr. Parker would sometimes refer to the divine using female pronouns, and I think she would appreciate that *News Inside* prints a yearly women's issue.

Staying with the women's theme, this issue features "The Bipartisan Push to Rethink Long Sentences for Abuse Survivors." A Georgia bill passed in April 2025 has created one of the most comprehensive laws protecting abuse survivors convicted or accused of crimes connected to their abuse. It makes presenting evidence of abuse easier at trial and sentencing while offering more resentencing opportunities. With more than 70% of incarcerated women reporting intimate partner violence, advocates hope Georgia's model inspires other states.

In "Women Are Sent to This Federal Prison for Dialysis. They Say It's Killing Them," women at the Federal Medical Center Carswell in Texas — the only federal women's prison with in-patient dialysis — describe dangerous conditions: missed treatments, broken machines, unsanitary equipment, and inadequate patient education. Despite multiple deaths and consistent testimony about substandard care, the Bureau of Prisons claims treatment is adequate while operating with little oversight and rarely granting compassionate release.

Also read "'Fear for Their Lives': Trans Women Federal Prisoners Told They Will Be Housed With Men." After President Trump's executive order barred transgender women from women's prisons, the Bureau of Prisons began transferring over a dozen transgender women to men's facilities despite extreme safety concerns. Studies show 37% of incarcerated transgender people report being sexually assaulted in prison, compared to just 3% overall for people in prison. After a judge's order only protected named plaintiffs, the administration moved the remaining transgender women — including those who've had gender confirmation surgery — while attorneys scrambled to protect them.

Your favorites are here too —The Peeps, Reader to Reader, the crossword and more. Special shoutout to incarcerated girls and ladies — this issue is dedicated to you.

Until next time.

On the cover:

Moses kisses Armour in New Orleans East. Camille Farrah Lenain for The Marshall Project



Lawrence Bartley

Lawrence Bartley is the publisher of The Marshall Project Inside. He served 27 years and was released on parole in May 2018.

Letters From Our Readers

I just wanted to write a thank you letter to you all for sending me your magazine. Getting any solid information about anything is way harder than it has to be in here. So many people have so many questions that rarely get any answers or even attention. The magazine that y'all sent is currently floating around the entire unit I'm in and being used and appreciated by almost 50 women.

—Samantha S., New York

Lawrence, you are a paradigm of positive change. You did not allow the mistake you made as a juvenile to define who you became as an adult. Your position at *News Inside* has imbued me to write essays for the general public, promulgating that there is humanity behind bars. Thank you for trying to swing the pendulum from “incarcerated individuals are incorrigible” to “rehabilitation is attainable when incarcerated individuals strive for it.” Keep up the good work.

—James C., New York

I recently learned about *News Inside* by reading Issue 9, which was just brought to my dorm. I love what you are doing (and

many of the ladies in my dorm loved the feature recipes). The article that particularly interested me was the one regarding being represented by Kim Kardashian. Be the change you want to see in the world.

—Kristen M., Florida

Good day to you and those at *News Inside* who help keep the criminal justice reform movement visible and relevant across the country.

—Ronnie P., Colorado

I am a first-time reader of *News Inside*. I have to say that I am highly impressed with the news and knowledge that y'all are exposing in these issues.

—Keith J., Texas

I found a copy of *News Inside* sitting in the dayroom one afternoon. Having never read an issue before, I picked it up and started flipping through the pages. I gotta tell you, I was blown away at the quality and professionalism. Please sign me up for a subscription to *News Inside*. I want to read MORE!

—Kenneth B., Texas

Out of the blue, I received an issue of *News Inside* from a nonprofit that sends books to incarcerated people like myself. They say things happen for a reason. I really enjoyed reading the publication. Not only was it informative, but it was laid out in a way that could be received not only by those of us sitting behind bars, but even ordinary citizens, as well. More people out there in society need to know what's going on with this broken criminal justice system day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year. Over the years, I have read my fair share of newsletters, but when I turned the page and saw a face quite like my own, I loved that. I was actually even more interested in reading it. I want to express my thanks for what you and your staff are doing.

—Desmond R., Pennsylvania

We appreciate your letters, so keep them coming! Please note that we will edit what you write to us for length and clarity.

Manager's Note

The Marshall Project provides *News Inside* to you free of charge. While we appreciate the gesture, you do not have to send stamps, money or donations of any kind.

Please note that we are unable to write back. Our *News Inside* team has been where you are now, and we understand the struggle. But we are a small team with limited capacity.

When you request a subscription, please follow the format below to ensure you receive your copy of *News Inside*:

Full name, Identification number
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City, State, Zip Code

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of *News Inside*!

Martin Garcia

Martin Garcia is the manager of News Inside. He served a 10-year sentence and was released on parole in September 2019.

Answers from Issue 21 Crossword

The crossword puzzle grid contains the following words:

- Across: IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT, PRIVILEGED CALLS, PENAL KEYNESIANISM, CENTER FOR POLICE INTEGRITY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, DORSEY NUNN, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, DETAINEEES, SHOWER.
- Down: BIRTH CONTROL.



Gloria Armour with Larry Moses at their home in New Orleans, in February 2025. Moses was wrongfully incarcerated for 29 years.

Love Beyond Bars: Larry and Gloria

Larry Moses and Gloria Armour first dated in their 20s. The New Orleans duo reunited in their 60s, after Moses was wrongfully imprisoned for 29 years.

Photographs and Interview by CAMILLE FARRAH LENAIN

Written by CARLA CANNING

Photo editing CELINA FANG

Word editing by AKIBA SOLOMON

The love story of Larry Moses and Gloria Armour began over a decade before the wrongful conviction that stole nearly 30 years of his life. The New Orleans couple met in their 20s, when his brother — who was dating her sister — secretly arranged an encounter. “We hit it off just right,” says Armour, now 68. “I just liked his disposition and the way he had about himself.” They dated for about five years before drifting apart. Then Moses’ nightmare began.

In January 1994, at a Ninth Ward intersection, Alma Causey and Daniel Ratliff were fatally shot during a robbery. Almost six months later, a man with a serious mental

illness named Frederick Stamps called the police and blamed Moses.

The state built its case on Stamps’ testimony and that of a woman who was looking out of her window during the crime. She said she’d heard the robber’s voice but couldn’t fully confirm that it belonged to Moses, whom she knew. She didn’t see the assailant’s face or even the shooting, and instead described a figure who did not match Moses’ height or build.

While no physical evidence tied Moses to the crime, and multiple witnesses testified that he had been with his family in another city, he was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced

to life in prison in 1995. He avoided a death sentence by a single vote.

Moses tried to appeal his conviction, but was unsuccessful. He contacted Innocence Project New Orleans in 2002, and the organization took his case 20 years later. Their investigation found information that hadn’t been disclosed to the defense and called into question the credibility and accuracy of the state’s eyewitness testimony. The group also revealed Stamps’ inconsistent accounts of the crime and that he’d admitted to others that he’d set Moses up due to what he described as a romantic rivalry. Moses’ conviction was vacated on May 25,

2023, and the charges against him were dropped a month later. He got out of prison at age 68, having served 29 years, and is currently pursuing compensation for his wrongful conviction. In this interview, edited for clarity and length, the divorced father of three recalls how he and Armour first connected, how they reunited, and why, as she says, “there’s never a dull moment” when they’re together.

Gloria was 25 when I met her. I was 27, driving Cadillacs and had plenty money because I used to [do] factory work in the refinery. I recall myself being a little fast because most women liked the dudes that worked and had money. I flaunted myself. But [Gloria was] never on that thing of, Oh, you got to buy me this, and you got to buy me that. We were just in love. She always was open arms when I showed up.

I ain’t gonna tell [our breakup] story, but the last time I saw Gloria [before jail] it was a nice summer day. [Laughs.] I tried to smuggle her up, and she wasn’t going for it. I said to myself, “Well, I guess I got to put in a little time coming to see her.” And then the next thing I know, I was just lifted off to jail for something I didn’t do.

What really got me in the situation was helping a friend of mine. Her boyfriend was beating her up. I stopped it and he just put the unsolved murder charges on me. The police just didn’t do a thorough investigation. I think they were just clearing the books back then. It was like, We’re just going to put you over there, and you fight your way back out.

I was a bit bitter when it first happened to me. I even had to get the doctor to give me some sleeping pills after I got convicted. But then I started thinking. I took inventory of myself while I was in prison. I needed to find God. When I [did], it made me humble.

What most people don’t understand about life is lonesomeness is good for your soul, so you can find yourself. If I sat there and pitied myself, then I [couldn’t] help myself. So I just stood strong. I walked through the war saying, “I know my God got my back.” I always kept my sanity and my morals and principles when I was in prison. I used to tell [the men], “You should be fighting the system, not him.”

I had friends getting married up in prison, but I wasn’t doing it. That would be putting my family through the same thing I was going through. They were already in jail with me, worrying any time I didn’t call. Still, I ain’t never stopped wanting to have somebody’s love. I prayed for it.

She don’t believe me, but I always thought about Gloria. When the caseworker told me I’d be getting out, I still had six months. I’d sit

on my little bunk playing music, and I’d ask myself, Who do I want to share my blessing with? It had to be Gloria. But I didn’t know where she was since I had been away, and people got displaced from the hurricanes.

When I finally got out of prison, I was living across the river in [a transitional] house [owned by Innocence Project New Orleans]. I could have taken Uber, but I wanted to ride the bus. I thought maybe I could recognize some of the people I’d grown up with. I used to catch the bus going down Broad. I’d get to American Street and think, My girl used to live right down the street. Well, God, will I ever bump into Gloria?

Then one day on the bus stop, while I was talking to two other people, this lady comes and sits right alongside me. I looked at her name tag, and it didn’t register. I kept talking, then she said, “That you, Larry?”

I turned and said, “Larry Moses!”

Then I said, “Gloria, that’s you?” right as [her coworker] was pulling up in a truck to get her. I told her, “You’re going to have to wait. I got to get your information before you leave.”

It’s hard to say exactly when this was because we were so happy, we weren’t paying attention to anything. But we’ve been back together for over a year and a half. We go to church on Sundays, and we go to friends’ churches. During the week, I come [home] from work, I take a shower, then me and Gloria

sit in them two chairs out there and look at the interstate. Even though she can be fussy a little bit, she’s cool. We be laughing and playing with each other till we go to bed. We have everything in the house we need, so this is our sanctuary. We can’t get hurt here.

We’re going to get married, [but] I don’t know exactly when. She’s set in her ways, and I’m set in my ways. Ain’t no sense in us getting married and six months later, we getting divorced or something. We’re going to make this work until the end of time. We’re like Bonnie and Clyde. That’s my baby there. That’s my all in all. God has been good to me and Gloria. ■

Camille Farrah Lenain is a French-Algerian documentary photographer who grew up in Paris. She relocated to New Orleans in 2013. Her photographs have been exhibited internationally, including at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, the Arab World Institute, Photoville and Les Rencontres d’Arles.

Carla Canning is an engagement journalist and associate editor at Prison Journalism Project. She previously worked on Life Inside as The Marshall Project’s Tow audience engagement fellow. At the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism, she created a website guide for people visiting loved ones incarcerated in New York State prisons.



Moses holds the ring he gave to Armour as a sign of being engaged, in Slidell, Louisiana, on March 10, 2025.



Armour's family and friends gathered for a photo at the birthday party. Moses was warmly welcomed by her family when the couple reconnected.



Moses was waiting at a bus stop in the New Orleans business district when Armour sat down beside him in 2023. She recognized him, and from there, they started dating again.



Moses had prayed to see Gloria again while he was in prison. "I'd sit on my little bunk playing music, and I'd ask myself, 'Who do I want to share my blessing with? It had to be Gloria."



Moses holding Armour's great-niece in Slidell.



HOKYOUNG KIM FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

Women Are Sent to This Federal Prison for Dialysis. They Say It's Killing Them.

12.16.2025

Patients at Carswell medical prison in Texas describe unsanitary conditions, missed treatments and substandard care.

By **KALEY JOHNSON**

This article was published in partnership with the **Fort Worth Star-Telegram**.

Evangelina Perez lost count of the number of times her mother, Martha Perez, called her from federal prison, gasping for breath because she had missed dialysis treatments for her kidney failure.

At 59, Martha Perez also had diabetes and congestive heart failure. She had been in various federal prisons since 2005 on money laundering and drug convictions. In 2018, the Bureau of Prisons sent her to the Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth, the country's only federal medical prison for women.

The bureau houses some of the sickest women at Carswell, and it's the only federal

women's prison with in-patient dialysis — a critical, life-sustaining treatment for people with kidney failure.

But in court documents she filed pleading for release, Perez described her worsening health and her fear of dying at Carswell. In May 2022, another incarcerated person had to help her write a final request because of her poor vision. Just over a year later, Perez died in a Fort Worth hospital. No family was with her.

"I understand the circumstances, but initially, like, there is a care that they should have been providing," Evangelina Perez said. "It got to the point where she started retaining fluid on her chest, and she ended up passing

away from a heart attack."

Perez had serious illnesses that required consistent care. But Carswell does not adequately provide the dialysis care that the Bureau of Prisons claims it does, according to lawyers, medical experts, and former bureau officials, along with court and medical records. Women at Carswell describe missed treatments, poor education for patients, dialysis machines that break down mid-treatment or that lack enough clean water, and other routine problems.

Doctors who reviewed the women's court filings and allegations say the problems described would put dialysis patients in serious danger. Legal filings by prisoners, medical records and expert court testimony raise flags about preventable — and potentially fatal — conditions arising from substandard care. The Bureau of Prisons, which is supposed to fix those problems, operates with little to no external oversight over its medical care.

A federal judge overseeing a dialysis patient's compassionate release case said testimony from seven women on dialysis was "concerning," but said he could not approve the release. Doing so, the judge said, could imply the entire Bureau of Prisons provides ineffective dialysis care.

Michele Deitch, director of the Prison and Jail Innovation Lab at the University of Texas in Austin, said people in prison "have a constitutional right to receive medical care for their serious medical needs. And dialysis is certainly an example of that."

If the federal government “cannot take care of people and meet their needs as required by the Constitution,” Deitch said, “then we have no business locking them up.”

The Bureau of Prisons declined requests for an interview. In answers to emailed questions, spokespersons wrote that the agency provides adequate dialysis care, including sufficient staffing and education for patients.

“At present, there have been no reports or claims concerning the quality of the dialysis care being provided at FMC Carswell,” wrote spokesman Donald Murphy.

Carswell has been the subject of numerous investigations calling into question its treatment of incarcerated people. In 2020 and 2021, women at the facility described negligent medical care and malicious treatment as COVID-19 spread through the prison. In 2023, a Fort Worth Star-Telegram investigation highlighted a pattern of sexual abuse by staff. In response, a state representative called for a congressional inquiry into the prison, though none was launched.

When she died in June 2023, Perez was one of about 15 women at Carswell receiving dialysis. The treatment uses a surgically installed port to connect a patient to a machine that filters their blood, removing toxins the kidneys no longer can process, before pumping the cleaned blood back into the patient. The process takes 3 to 5 hours and is usually needed three times a week — or patients may risk serious complications and death.

Kidney failure can be caused by a multitude of issues, most commonly diabetes, high blood pressure and chronic kidney disease. Perez had all three. In June 2021, Perez started dialysis after she had a stroke.

Federal medical prisons, despite their name, are not hospital-like facilities: They keep incarcerated people with medical needs, but in many cases, do not provide all of their care in-house. Carswell, which houses approximately 1,200 people, contracts with the University of North Texas Health Science Center for much of its medical care. The Health Science Center, in turn, subcontracts dialysis services to the private provider U.S. Renal Care of West Fort Worth, according to the Bureau of Prisons. Under Carswell’s contract with the Health Science Center, the bureau is still responsible for providing all dialysis equipment.

U.S. Renal Care confirmed it provides dialysis at Carswell, but did not respond to several interview requests and other emailed questions about its services there.

Dialysis is only part of the treatment for people with kidney failure. They also need a

strict diet and water intake monitoring, and blood work to closely check various chemical levels. A patient’s port must be kept extremely clean to avoid sepsis, a life-threatening infection.

According to Bureau of Prisons mortality reviews from 2015 to April 2020, at least three women undergoing dialysis at Carswell died in that time period. All three women had been transferred to Carswell specifically to receive medical treatment, and all three developed sepsis prior to their death, according to the mortality reviews. Reason Magazine obtained the documents through a records request and provided them to The Marshall Project.

Sepsis is far less common if staff follow the proper contamination protocols for dialysis machines, said Dr. Charles Howard, who has worked as a medical officer and as a medical director in federal prisons for over two decades.

There are no publicly available records of deaths in federal prisons. The Bureau of Prisons has yet to fulfill records requests for mortality reviews or the number of dialysis patients who have died at Carswell.

When asked how many Carswell dialysis patients have died since 2020, a bureau spokesman initially said zero. When asked specifically about Perez, who died in 2023,

spokesman Scott Taylor said that no one “had passed away as a result of their condition that required dialysis.” Regarding Perez’s death, Taylor said “there was no correlation between the need for dialysis and the cause of death.”

Five current or former dialysis patients at Carswell spoke with The Marshall Project and also detailed in court records the dialysis conditions there. Four others described dialysis treatments in compassionate release pleas or other court records. The women said their treatment included severe cramping during dialysis, treatment sessions cut short or missed, and poor machine maintenance, such as broken parts, discolored tubing, and machine settings that were set incorrectly. Four women said pipes in the water room would break frequently, and the machines would sit in puddles of water.

“The truth lies in the consistency of the women’s statements,” said Amber Rabon, a lawyer in one of the women’s cases, who has been a federal criminal defense attorney since 2008.

Evangelina Perez, Martha Perez’s daughter, said her mother told her she frequently missed dialysis treatments prior to her death in 2023.

“I can’t even keep track of how many times that occurred where they wouldn’t complete the dialysis on them. And that was an issue,



Evangelina Perez holds a photo of her mother, Martha Perez, down the street from her home in Prescott Valley, Arizona, on March 9, 2025. COURTNEY PEDROZA FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT



A photo of Martha Perez is found in a bin of family photos at the Perez's home in Prescott Valley, Arizona, on March 9, 2025. COURTNEY PEDROZA FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

and she would call me, she would call me panicking because she knows how she would get if she skipped one," Evangelina Perez said. "She would be so short of breath that her stomach would be tight from all the fluid she was retaining."

She said her mother would tell staff that something was wrong, but they "said she was fine, 'She's fine,' until there was fluid literally coming out of her belly button," Perez said.

Missing a dialysis session is dangerous for patients, said Dr. Rebecca Ahdoot, a kidney specialist at the University of California Irvine. Without rigorous dialysis, toxins can build up, and the person can die.

Alicia Elliott, who was on dialysis at Carswell for 15 months while incarcerated on drug charges, said in court records and interviews that she was forced to miss appointments or had her treatment cut short multiple times. In late 2022 and twice in early 2023, Elliot emailed Carswell's associate warden for medical to complain about being taken off dialysis early. In one case, she said staff wanted to leave early because of ice on the roads.

Sanjuana Garcia-Ramirez started dialysis at Carswell in November 2023. She said she had been on dialysis for two years before incarceration; comparatively, she said treatments at Carswell are less consistent and the machines are poorly managed.

"I have four kids I have to get back home to, and it frightens me that I might not make it out of here because of the way they run dialysis," said Garcia-Ramirez, who is serving a six-year sentence on a drug conviction.

Successful dialysis goes hand-in-hand with proper nutrition plans, said Howard, the

former bureau medical director.

"A patient has to be their own advocate, and they have to be very, very, very much aware of what they need and what they have to do to manage their condition," Howard said. If they're not able to do it or they're not properly educated, he said, "they will not do well on dialysis."

But Stephanie Williams, who said she was on dialysis at Carswell for 11 months, said women would start dialysis and get no education on nutrition. Some women did not know that people with kidney problems have to monitor their potassium, sodium, fluid and phosphorus levels, for example, or they risk possibly fatal complications.

"Them girls, when I said phosphorus, they said, 'What is phosphorus?' And [I was] like, 'What are you doing?'" Williams said.

She also said in interviews and court records that women were not told how to keep their port clean — or the importance of doing so. Women would shower without covering up their ports and get them wet, which increases the risk for infection, she said.

"It's a lack of education. It's not the girls' fault. But it's killing them."

While U.S. Renal Care oversees dialysis treatments and a nephrologist — a kidney specialist — visits once a month, patients rely on Carswell staff at all other times for medical needs. Doctors, lawyers and the Bureau of Prisons' own budget proposal in 2025 questioned whether Carswell has the ability and resources to provide that care

Understaffing and a depleted budget have sapped federal prisons of resources over the last few years. In a 2024 report, the Office of

the Inspector General identified providing adequate medical care as one of the primary challenges the bureau faces.

In the bureau's 2025 budget submission to Congress, the agency lamented its difficulties in hiring and maintaining medical staff. The budget cited a 2016 Office of the Inspector General report, which declared recruitment of medical professionals to be "one of the Bureau's greatest challenges."

Carswell is no exception. In 2022, Carswell then-staff union leader Jennifer Howard filed a whistleblower complaint about COVID-19 guidance and staff shortages at the facility. At the time, Howard told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that staffing levels were "unacceptable for a medical facility."

Despite understaffing, the bureau may face further cuts. In February, the agency announced it would reduce or eliminate retention pay for correctional officers, a decision that American Federation of Government Employees said would "exacerbate staffing shortages and make working conditions less safe."

A former bureau warden and administrator, Jason Terris, questioned Carswell's ability to care for dialysis patients as part of his declaration cited in a compassionate release case for Feliza Renteria, a 45-year-old dialysis patient at the facility.

Renteria arrived at Carswell in 2021. But the dialysis treatments have made her sicker, she argued in court records. In an interview, she described excruciating pain during treatment. "I did not experience what a cramp was before I was incarcerated — I did dialysis a year before this and never had cramps," she said.

Dialysis patients should not have constant cramping, Ahdoot said. Cramps can be a sign that too much fluid is being pulled out of the body too quickly, she said, and treatment should be adjusted.

Patients "certainly shouldn't be on dialysis and suffering," said Ahdoot, who has been a nephrologist for 12 years. "If you are having crazy cramps all the time, then there is certainly a problem."

Carswell's contract with the Health Science Center says a kidney doctor will be available to patients once a month for up to four hours. Ideally, Ahdoot said, a nephrologist should see patients once a week to ensure the right amount of fluid is being pulled off during dialysis.

In his declaration for Renteria's suit, Terris wrote that he did not know if the staff at Carswell could handle the "logistical and care-related challenges" Renteria's condition presented due to staffing shortages and a lack of resources.

But those statements are part of the reason U.S. District Judge Anthony Battaglia, in California's Southern District, denied Renteria's compassionate release. When he denied the request in a September 2023 hearing, Battaglia said granting her motion could have implications beyond Renteria's case because of the message it would send about the bureau's care.

"I mean, granting relief here, does that mean that every dialysis patient in the Bureau of Prisons should be similarly accommodated because the quality of care is, perhaps, ineffective?" Battaglia said, according to a court transcript. "I'm looking at sort of the greater picture here. Because some of the accounts, from some of the people, is concerning.

Last year, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals denied Renteria's appeal for compassionate release.

There is no third-party agency currently monitoring dialysis treatments at Carswell. Multiple outside agencies that used to evaluate the Bureau of Prisons' medical care no longer do so.

Carswell's contract with the Joint Commission, which provided the facility's accreditation as a health care organization, expired in October 2020 and was not renewed, according to the Bureau of Prisons spokesperson. The American Correctional Association ended its audits of the agency in 2023, after the Office of the Inspector General found the Bureau of Prisons was "in effect, paying ACA to affirm [the bureau's] own findings," and as a result, there was "no real certification or action for improvement.

The state of Texas does not monitor Carswell either. Oversight rules are built into Carswell's contract with the Health Science Center, but neither the Science Center nor Carswell has responded to requests for monitoring records.

According to its contract with the bureau, the Health Science Center is supposed to send quarterly reports about dialysis treatment at Carswell to a bureau administrator. But Health Science Center spokeswoman Paula Cobler said the hospital does not have those records; she said U.S. Renal Care is responsible for them and provides Carswell with copies. Another Health Science Center spokesman, Andy North, said the dialysis reports include "patient-care specific problems experienced during the quarter," but declined to answer questions about what those problems entailed.

U.S. Renal Care did not provide those records to The Marshall Project. The bureau has not fulfilled a records request for those quarterly reports.

The Office of the Inspector General found

evidence that the bureau's contracts are not always monitored adequately. A 2023 audit found the bureau's contract evaluations were often untimely, incomplete or for the wrong time period. This may result in the agency not getting the best services, the report noted.

In 2024, then-President Joe Biden signed the Federal Prison Oversight Act to increase independent inspections of prisons, but Congress has not approved money for the inspections. Deitch, of the Prison and Jail Innovation Lab, said the priority now is for the act to be fully funded "to provide the critical oversight role that is needed."

As her fears of dying inside prison grew, Perez filed requests for a reduced sentence or compassionate release five times between 2012 and 2022. A judge had not ruled on her final release request when she died in July 2023.

Compassionate release is a way to address deficiencies in care for some incarcerated people, but it is seldom granted. Judges look for evidence that a prison can't provide the necessary treatment, said Marc Stern, the court-appointed monitor for the State of Arizona Department of Corrections. Without that proof, most motions will be denied. Out of the nine dialysis patients at Carswell that The Marshall Project identified, eight had filed for sentence reduction or compassionate release since 2022. Seven were denied. In the remaining case, a judge initially denied the request, but reversed the decision and released the woman in 2020, citing "the abominable COVID-19 statistics at FMC Carswell." The judge said the facility's inaccurate data suggested the bureau could not be trusted to care for someone with complicated health conditions.

In a compassionate release request for one woman, who asked not to be named

due to fear of retaliation, her lawyer wrote that Carswell frequently missed her dialysis treatments, forcing her to go five to six days without. The woman's former physician wrote a letter in November 2023 in support of her release request, saying that "continued incarceration would be severely detrimental" to her health due to her complex medical issues.

Williams, the former Carswell patient, described Perez's deteriorating condition as "the scariest thing I've seen."

"She was bad off," said Williams, who was released in November 2023. "The week she died, she said, 'I need to see a doctor right now.'"

In the days before Perez's death, her family said, the bureau did not tell them that her condition had worsened or that she was in the hospital. She was admitted to John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth on July 2, 2023, for low blood pressure after a dialysis treatment, medical records show. Her admission records at the hospital indicated she had had a serious heart attack and, on July 6, she was transferred to Medical City Fort Worth Hospital for surgery.

Medical staff tried to reverse the damage and stabilize Perez, but on July 7, she lost her pulse. For one hour, staff tried to bring Perez back. A prison guard finally called the family to ask if they wanted them to continue to try to resuscitate Perez. Her daughter said the decision fell to her father as Perez's next of kin. He told them to stop.

In a letter to the family, the Bureau of Prisons said Perez died from cardiac arrest; she also had coronary artery disease. Seven months later, Evangelina Perez got her mother's death certificate from the state of Texas. The cause of death is listed as "pending investigation." ■



Members of the Perez family pose for a portrait near their home in Prescott Valley, Arizona, on March 9, 2025. From left are Francisco Perez, Francisco Perez IV, Daniel Perez, Gabriella Perez, Evangelina Perez, Cecilia Perez, and Angelica Perez. COURTNEY PEDROZA FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT



The Georgia State Capitol building. BRYNN ANDERSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Bipartisan Push to Rethink Long Sentences for Abuse Survivors

04.12.2025

A Georgia bill offers a model for other states looking to protect people who are accused or convicted of crimes stemming from their abuse.

By SHANNON HEFFERNAN

Manager's Note: This story relates to pending litigation, and could contain outdated information.

Latoya Dickens says she's been robbed of her life twice.

The first time, it was taken by a man who she said violently abused and controlled her for over a decade, starting when she was a teenager.

The second time, she says, the state of Georgia took it — when they put her in prison for killing him in self-defense.

Now, at age 53, she says her life is her own.

She is out on parole after about 25 years behind bars, and treasures the steps she's taken in her first few months of freedom: a driver's license, legal paperwork to start a cleaning business, a trip to see her children.

A Georgia bill, which passed the state legislature in early April 2025, might have given her back that life sooner. It was signed into law by Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp in May and is one of the most comprehensive laws in the

country offering protection to abuse survivors convicted or accused of a crime connected to their abuse.

Advocates say the success of the legislation, which passed with near-unanimous bipartisan support, suggests a path for states across the political spectrum to put laws on the books that better account for the trauma of abuse.

The Georgia legislation tries to protect survivors from long prison sentences by making changes to three key moments in a criminal case: the trial, sentencing and post-conviction. It will make it easier for survivors to include evidence of abuse — both as a defense against conviction, and as a consideration in the length of the sentence if they are found guilty. For those already behind bars, it offers more opportunities for resentencing.

Dickens hopes it will free the many women she met in prison who are “still paying for surviving.”

More than 70% of women in prison report experiences of intimate partner violence. And there are many ways that abuse can be connected to their incarceration. The most widely reported is women who kill their abusers in self-defense. In an investigation last year, The Marshall Project also identified

the related phenomenon of people who were forced to help their abusers commit crimes, and despite minimal participation, ended up with lengthy sentences.

The Georgia legislation aims to help both kinds of defendants.

Ellen Williams, a legal director with the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, said her organization became part of the larger movement pushing for the new law after years of what felt like an uphill battle in advocating for survivors caught up in the justice system.

“This is a major substantial issue across the United States,” Williams said. “[The legal system is] designed to ask the question of: ‘Did she pull the trigger?’ Yes or no. It is not built to ask why.”

Rebecca Epstein, executive director of the Center on Gender Justice and Opportunity at Georgetown Law, said that while the Georgia measure is especially comprehensive, it is not the first law attempting to solve this problem.

Last year, the center published a survey of four categories of laws in 50 states involving protection of sex trafficking victims from prostitution charges, self-defense against an abuser, shorter sentences for abuse survivors and expungement of criminal records for victims of sexualized violence.

Every state had at least one law in one of these categories, but Virginia was the only state with laws in every single category.

One of the biggest gaps, Epstein noted in the survey, was related to self-defense laws

In order to demonstrate that a person was coerced into committing a crime, or acting in self-defense, states require proof of an explicit, imminent threat. But people who have been abused may not need to have a literal gun held to their head to know that if they don’t follow orders, they will be met with violence, Epstein said.

The survey also shows that while many states have created laws to help prevent sex trafficking survivors from being severely punished for crimes connected to their exploitation, most states have yet to fully extend that same logic to domestic violence survivors.

Progress on laws to protect survivors from long prison sentences has been made in both red and blue states. New York and Oklahoma have some of the most robust laws in the country. Legislation has passed in New Jersey, and bills were proposed in Missouri and New Jersey.

Advocates said there are a few reasons that conservatives, who have been increasingly resistant to criminal justice reform in recent years, might be more open to these kinds of laws. One reason is that while the laws assist

people accused or convicted of crimes, they are, at their root, also about protecting victims.

The lead bill sponsor, Republican state Rep. Stan Gunter, is a former prosecutor and judge. “The passage of the Survivor Justice Act brings us one step closer to protecting survivors of abuse, ensuring judicial discretion in sentencing, and protecting families,” Gunter said.

While the legal landscape is rapidly changing, there are still cracks that victims can slip through.

Illinois has some of the most progressive laws to protect survivors from punishment, for example, but that hasn’t meant much for Pat Johnson.

Johnson has been in an Illinois prison since 1993 for a triple murder that even prosecutors don’t think Johnson committed. Johnson is a transgender man, but uses she/her pronouns when discussing her life before transition, including the relationship and events that led to incarceration.

Johnson said that in 1992 she watched her abusive boyfriend, Rey Travieso, beat and kill three people, including a baby. When Travieso told her to help collect jewelry and money, and keep her mouth shut, she agreed. She’d spent seven years in the abusive relationship and knew what he was capable of.

Under an “accomplice liability” law, Johnson was convicted for the same crime as Travieso and given the same sentence, because she assisted. Advocates have proposed legislation to change the accomplice liability statute, and hope to have a legislative hearing later this spring.

A different Illinois law allows survivors of domestic violence to seek resentencing. But that law doesn’t allow sentencing to be less than the mandatory minimum, which Johnson was already serving: life in prison. If Johnson has any hope of ever leaving prison, one of the few paths left is clemency. In early April 2025, nearly two dozen family members drove from St. Louis to Chicago for an 18-minute hearing in front of a clemency board.

After the hearing, they huddled together with other supporters, including women who served time with Johnson in prison and local anti-domestic violence advocates. They analyzed every clue from the hearing — even the way clemency board members smiled at the family and how often they made eye contact.

There wasn’t a lot to go on, but it didn’t stop them from trying to predict what will happen next.

It may take a year, or even longer, for a final decision. Until then, they wait. ■

These States Have Investigated Miscarriages and Stillbirths as Crimes

An arrest last year in Georgia highlights the criminal suspicion that surrounds pregnancy loss in several states, experts say.

By CARY ASPINWALL

In late March 2025, police in southern Georgia arrested a 24-year-old woman who had had a miscarriage, after a witness reported seeing her place the fetal remains in a dumpster.

The coroner in Tift County determined it was a 19-week fetus from a naturally occurring miscarriage, but some legal experts consider the arrest a bellwether for the criminal suspicion that surrounds pregnancy loss in many states in post-Roe America.

The Marshall Project previously examined how the way a person handles a pregnancy loss — and where it occurs — can mean the difference between a private medical issue and a criminal charge.

Nationally, federal data shows that about 20% of pregnancies end in a loss, but only a small number are investigated as crimes. In several states, a positive drug test after a pregnancy loss can result in criminal charges for the mother, and even prison time.

Prosecutions related to pregnancy appear to have increased since the Supreme Court decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, according to Pregnancy Justice, a nonprofit that advocates for the legal rights of pregnant people. In the first year after the Dobbs decision — from June 2022 to June 2023 — there were at least 210 pregnancy-related prosecutions, researchers for the group found.

Here are some states where miscarriages

and stillbirths have been investigated by the criminal legal system in recent years:

Alabama

Alabama has a broad “chemical endangerment of a child” law allowing prosecutors to charge someone for drug use during any part of a pregnancy, whether the mother delivers a stillborn fetus or a healthy newborn.

Our 2022 investigation with AL.com found that more than 20 women had been prosecuted after a miscarriage or stillbirth in Alabama. Some of the harshest sentences resulted from cases where a fetus was stillborn and the woman went to trial.

The Pregnancy Justice report examining nationwide prosecutions related to conduct associated with pregnancy, pregnancy loss or birth in the first year after the Dobbs ruling found that nearly half of the cases came from Alabama.

Arkansas

Arkansas is among several states that still make it a crime to “conceal” a birth or stillbirth. Such laws date back to the 17th century, and were intended to shame and accuse women of crimes if they were pregnant and unmarried.

In 2015, Annie Bynum walked into a hospital with a plastic bag containing the remains of her stillborn fetus and ended up going to jail — and eventually prison. She was accused under the concealment law.

A jury originally convicted and sentenced Bynum to six years in prison. Later, an appeals court ruled that the jury shouldn’t have been allowed to hear evidence that Bynum ingested medications to induce labor before the stillbirth or had previously had abortions — because the charge was that she had concealed the pregnancy, not tried to end it. While pregnant, Bynum had planned to quietly let a friend adopt the baby, and she eventually pleaded guilty to a legal violation for the attempted adoption.

California

In 2022, the state passed a law banning investigations and prosecutions of pregnancy loss.

But prior to that law, at least two California women had already served time in jail and prison for stillbirths that prosecutors had alleged were related to drug use.

Adora Perez had served nearly four years of an 11-year sentence before a judge ruled her plea agreement — to a charge of voluntary manslaughter of a fetus — was unlawful, and overturned her conviction in 2022.

That only happened after the case of then-26-year-old Chelsea Becker garnered international outrage. Becker was charged with “murder of a human fetus” in 2019, but the case was dismissed in 2021 and led to Perez’s case getting a second look. Anger about the prosecutions of both women led to the change in state law, to avoid punishing “people who

suffer the loss of their pregnancy.”

Georgia

At least one woman who had a miscarriage has been arrested under a state law that makes it a crime to conceal a dead body, punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

On March 20, 2025, police in Tifton, Georgia, issued a press release announcing that a dead fetus had been found in a dumpster at an apartment complex, after an ambulance was called for a woman who was found bleeding and unconscious. The next day, the Tifton Police Department announced it had arrested the woman who miscarried that fetus, accusing her of one count of concealing the death of another person and one count of abandonment of a dead body.

Two weeks later, Tift County District Attorney Patrick Warren announced that his office was dropping charges against the woman. His office determined that neither charge was applicable to her case under Georgia law, because a medical examiner determined the woman had a naturally occurring miscarriage.

Ohio

Ohio’s abuse of a corpse law allows a fairly broad interpretation, if applied to fetal remains: “No person, except as authorized by law, shall treat a human corpse in a way that would outrage reasonable community sensibilities.”



KATHERINE LAM FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

In 2023 in Warren, Ohio, Brittany Watts was arrested and charged with abuse of a corpse after experiencing a miscarriage at home in her toilet. She had been to a hospital prior to her miscarriage but left when she felt she was getting inadequate treatment, according to news reports. When she went back to the hospital after her miscarriage, a nurse called police and reported that Watts had given birth at home and did not want the baby — an assertion Watts' lawyer denied. A grand jury declined to move forward with the criminal case in 2024.

In early 2025, Watts filed a lawsuit in federal court alleging medical professionals conspired with a police officer to fabricate criminal charges against her.

Oklahoma

Criminal charges related to drug use while pregnant — in cases of pregnancy loss or infants born healthy — have become increasingly common in recent years in Oklahoma

Kathryn Green gave birth to a stillborn baby in Enid, Oklahoma, in 2017. She was struggling with meth addiction at the time and scared. She cleaned her stillborn son's body, wrapped him in a blanket and put him in a box. Police

later found the remains in the trash and arrested her. Prosecutors initially charged her with second-degree murder, alleging that the stillbirth happened because of "meth toxicity." But medical tests later showed otherwise: Green's stillborn son had an infection that had caused his death, records show.

In 2022, Green decided to enter an Alford plea — a guilty plea in which the defendant maintains innocence. At her sentencing hearing, a judge said he wasn't convinced that prosecutors had proven Green willfully and knowingly harmed her baby by using methamphetamine while pregnant, but he was bothered by her "lack of maternal instinct."

South Carolina

South Carolina was the first state to prosecute a woman for a stillbirth allegedly due to drug use. In 2001, Regina McKnight was sentenced to 12 years in prison for giving birth to a stillborn baby who tested positive for cocaine. McKnight served eight years before the state Supreme Court overturned her conviction, in part because her trial lawyer didn't present witnesses to challenge prosecutors' claim that her drug use definitively caused the stillbirth.

The state charged at least 200 women between 2006 and 2021 with unlawful neglect of a child or homicide by child abuse for alleged perinatal drug use.

In March 2023, a college student in Orangeburg, South Carolina, named Amari Marsh went from miscarrying a fetus in her bathroom to being investigated for a homicide. She told investigators she didn't realize she was pregnant until she went to an ER with severe pain. She left the hospital and miscarried later in a toilet at home (which medical experts say is common). Her boyfriend at the time called 911. Police became suspicious that she may have sought to end the pregnancy or not called 911 fast enough, records show. She was jailed and accused of homicide by child abuse — before the fetus was autopsied.

An autopsy showed later that the fetus died of natural causes due to an infection that Marsh was unaware of, her lawyer said. In South Carolina, police can arrest someone on a criminal complaint without approval from local prosecutors (called solicitors). After a grand jury reviewed all of the evidence in the case, the charges against Marsh were dismissed. ■

I Was Proud of My Gift of Gab. Then I Took a Communications Class Led by Fellow Prisoners.

07.18.2025

After 16 years in Michigan lockups, award-winning poet and writer Demetrius Buckley had to relearn how to be an active listener.

By DEMETRIUS BUCKLEY

In 2024, as part of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, students from colleges around Michigan came to G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility to take courses with students who were incarcerated there. These classrooms created an outlet for us to talk to one another on equal ground, workshop ideas, and share our points of view on political issues.

There were also classes focused on communication available, but they were a joke to me. After all, I'd de-escalated heated arguments between inmates and convinced rooms full of prisoners to agree on important issues. I was also known to be the one who orchestrated days full of activities, like Spades games and basketball tournaments. In short, my communication skills were on point, and I couldn't wait to test-drive the gab I claimed to be gifted with on the outside students.

After about a week of a workshop where we were discussing how America punishes its criminals, an outsider said Michigan needed to create more prisons and train prosecutors to be more aggressive in the courts.

The inside students got revved up, citing multiple points that went

against her claim. We, the incarcerated, explained how conditions inside were shaped by racial bias and, therefore, not corrective. I went as far as comparing prison to slavery. The young woman started crying so hard she had to excuse herself from class. And she never came back.

I didn't give much more thought to what she'd said because it went against my beliefs. But I began to notice that, in all my classes, my outlook was limited to living behind a wall

In an eight-man cube, I sat on my bunk, wondering how I would make meaningful connections in other areas of my life. In prison, most of my interactions were intense. I said little but talked with my eyes and hands. I knew that others understood what I was implying by how I stood up to be next in line for the phone or microwave. I thought this added up to being a good communicator. But I was beginning to realize that I was wrong.

Later that week, in the school building, a good friend who had done 23 years showed me a flyer on the bulletin board. It was for a self-help communications course from the Chance For Life organization.



MICHELLE PEREZ FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

As we exited the building and walked back to the housing unit, we heard other incarcerated folks talking about the outside student getting upset and leaving. My friend, who I'll call G., brought up Chance For Life again.

"I'm not taking no prison program," I said. "I'm straight on that."

"It'll help," he replied. "I want to get out of this prison mindset, and you should want that, too."

In that moment, I just didn't have the strength to do any more soul-searching. I didn't see an issue that needed to be fixed. Some people just don't get along, and I could deal with that.

But then G. reminded me that we would need tools to fix and build new relationships when we got home — wife, kid and co-worker relationships. I gave the class more thought

That night, I dropped my request in the mailbox and hoped for the best. The Chance For Life class was in high demand because students get certificates at the end, and that has value with the parole board

I was accepted a few days later, but I was still skeptical. I began preparing myself for six months of prison staff and officials telling me how I should act around people who didn't share my viewpoints.

The class started on a Saturday in January 2025. About 30 incarcerated folks sat in rows facing a whiteboard. I knew most of the men from other prisons, and many were on their way home. I gave a couple of nods, sat next to G., and looked around to see which member of the administration would be running the course. He or she was late for class.

Then I saw five incarcerated men standing off to the side. They were focused on one guy at the whiteboard, and it got quiet before he spoke.

"Welcome to the Chance For Life," he said. "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind' — this is our model"

Suddenly, I realized that our teachers were prisoners! It caught me by surprise, and I leaned forward to catch every word they said. Each facilitator had a life bid and a unique story that resonated with the group — and with me. We clapped our hands after each introductory speech, then applauded the whole group for choosing to be facilitators. While they had no way out, they were trying to get us ready for the world.

One facilitator, a big, bold guy, had been teaching the class for 15 years. The others had been involved for three years to a decade. This meant they had experience in dealing with others and building meaningful connections. That was what I wanted for myself.

The lead facilitator went on to tell us that the class was a safe space; we could talk about anything without judgment. Confidentiality was

required. If anyone talked about what we said in the class with other prisoners, he would be immediately terminated. This was serious business.

Back in my cube, I started my first worksheet. The topic was one- and two-way conversations, and it asked which type of communicator you were.

I thought for a second and realized I was a one-way communicator. It was one-way over the phone with loved ones, one-way with my peers inside and one-way with the administration. I didn't necessarily

see that as a bad thing, and I was eager to discuss this in the next class.

The following Saturday, I was the first person to "pop tall," to stand up and speak loudly so everyone could hear.

One of the facilitators challenged me: "Buckley, you've been all over Michigan prisons, and with staff it's mostly a one-way conversation: 'Get on your bunk!' 'Go to chow!' It's a patdown because, if you refuse their request, it's trouble. You're only doing what's been given to you over the course of your stay. You are here to break out of your 16 years of one-way."

What he said stung. After class, I didn't stand around talking like I usually did. I just left. Back in my cube, I thought, I'm becoming what I dislike. Then I lay on my bunk and fell asleep. At 3 in the morning, I got up and started my next worksheet.

Every Saturday for the next five and a half months, I attended that class and learned all that I could about communications. I applied those skills, and people around me saw my progress.

Two years prior, I had taken a VPP (Violence Prevention Program) class that I needed to complete if I wanted to be released on my earliest out-date. It taught some of the same things as Chance For Life, but the message from VPP didn't stick. We didn't communicate about real issues, and the teacher was a CO. Maybe it was that the incarcerated taught the Chance For Life class, and our shared experience that opened me up to a better perspective.

I recently asked my homegirl K.H. what she thought about programming in prisons. She told me that we must learn the difference between compliance and surrender. "Sometimes you must comply to survive, but never surrender your inner self," she said.

I received every word. ■

Demetrius "Meech" Buckley is a contributing writer for The Marshall Project. He has earned multiple writing honors, including a 2024 Editor's Choice Award in CRAFT literary magazine's Memoir Excerpt & Essay Contest and the 2021 Toi Derricotte & Cornelius Eady Chapbook prize. He was a finalist for the 2024 Rattle Poetry Prize. Buckley's work has appeared in The Yale Review, The Boulevard, The Rumpus, PRISM, The Progressive and Resentencing Now, among other outlets. He has performed his work at the Brooklyn Museum. Buckley is also an editor for Apogee literary magazine's Freedom Meridian, and he works with Look2Justice and Empowerment Avenue. He is serving a 20- to 30-year sentence for second-degree murder.

'Fear for Their Lives': Trans Women Federal Prisoners Told They Will Be Housed With Men

After a minor change in a judge's order, the Trump administration arranged to move over a dozen transgender women to men's facilities.

By BETH SCHWARTZAPFEL

Manager's Note: This story relates to pending litigation and could contain outdated information.

In 2022, after years of legal battles, Donna Langan became the first federal prisoner ever to receive gender confirmation surgery. Her listing in the Bureau of Prisons directory says "female." Yet in February 2025, she was notified that the federal prison system was moving her to a men's facility.

For Langan, who has been incarcerated since 2016 at FMC-Carswell, a women's prison in Texas, word of her imminent transfer was terrifying, said her attorney Moira Meltzer-Cohen. "In the case of women being told that they are to be sent to a facility full of men, anybody would be reasonably in fear for their lives," Meltzer-Cohen said.

According to several sources familiar with the situation, more than a dozen other transgender women in federal prisons received word that week that they, too, would be moved to men's facilities.

In early 2025, President Donald Trump had issued an executive order that, among other provisions, barred trans women from being housed in women's prisons. After three trans prisoners sued, arguing that the order was discriminatory and cruel and unusual punishment, a judge prevented them from being moved, but the Bureau began making arrangements to transfer other transgender prisoners.

Iris Soliman's daughter is one of the transgender women who learned she was slated to be moved to a men's prison. "I'm worried about what's going to happen to her," Soliman said. "It's humiliating. It's devastating. They would destroy her. She's really beautiful. She doesn't look anything like a man ... I'm sure she'll be raped."

According to an internal list obtained by

The Marshall Project, the Bureau of Prisons has housed 22 transgender women in federal women's prisons and one transgender man in a men's prison — fewer than 0.02% of federal prisoners. Yet this tiny group of people has been the subject of intense focus from Department of Justice officials since Trump took office, according to several people familiar with discussions at the Bureau of Prisons.

Trump's executive order, titled "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government," directed federal officials to ensure that "males are not detained in women's prisons" and that federal funds are not used for prisoners' gender-confirming medical treatments. The fallout from that order has been chaos and confusion across the federal prison system, as wardens and other regional and local officials attempted to follow the order without any clear guidance from Washington. (Federal officials later released guidance.)

Several transgender women sued the officials tasked with enforcing the order, and on Feb. 4, 2025, U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth ordered the prison system not to enforce the relevant sections of the executive order temporarily while the lawsuit proceeded.

A few women who had been moved to men's prisons were moved back.

Then, two weeks later, Lamberth issued an order making his earlier ruling more permanent. It did not differ in substance from his earlier order, but added a few crucial words: He said prison officials were prevented from implementing the executive order "against plaintiffs."

Since there were only three plaintiffs, Trump administration officials appear to have seized on this small change to begin making arrangements to transfer all the remaining transgender women housed in women's prisons to men's prisons — even those, like Langan, who have already had gender confirmation surgery.

Hours after Lamberth issued his Tuesday order, a Trump appointee in the Department of Justice spoke with a top Bureau of Prisons official, according to an email the official sent to his staff, and "said to start the process of designating and moving inmates in institutions that don't match their biological sex to institutions that are consistent with their biological sex." Except for the handful of women whom a judge had specifically identified, "there are no exceptions."

The Bureau of Prisons did not respond to an emailed list of questions. Neither did officials at four of the federal women's prisons that house transgender women. An official at FCI Aliceville, a women's prison in Alabama that currently houses two transgender women, wrote in an unsigned email that they wouldn't comment on the transfer status of any single person, but that the federal prison agency "supports and will comply with all executive orders issued by the President of the United States."

Transgender people in prison are exceptionally vulnerable to abuse and assault. In one federal study, 37% of incarcerated transgender people reported having been sexually assaulted in prison, versus 3% of everyone else behind bars.

"Being a transgender inmate is going to put them at risk," said a correctional staffer who is familiar with the women's prison in Fort Worth, Texas, where Langan and 10 other transgender women are currently housed. The staffer confirmed that most of the transgender prisoners were slated for transfer to men's prisons.

"It's probably going to cause problems among the other inmate population," said the staffer, who asked not to be named because



The entrance to the Federal Medical Center Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas.

YFAT YOSSIFOR/KERA

he feared retaliation for speaking about this issue. “Probably they’ll be fighting to get close to this individual. That’s the closest thing they’ve seen to a woman in a long time. So they’re going to be extra aggressive with each other, too.”

Transgender women are moved to a women’s prison only after undergoing a lengthy process overseen by a panel of experts at the Bureau of Prisons called the Transgender Executive Council — which has since been renamed to remove the word “transgender.” The Council was so reluctant to move people that in at least one case, a federal judge said he was concerned they might be making excuses to deny a transgender woman a transfer to a women’s facility.

“These decisions were never made lightly,” said Alix McLearn, who oversaw the Council before her retirement from the bureau in 2024. “We usually required at least one year of clear conduct, program participation, hormones. No decision about housing was ever made without considering the safety of the staff and all the people in prison.”

The federal prison system has been plagued by violence and short staffing in recent years. The system is now also being asked to house thousands of ICE detainees as the Trump administration ramps up its

immigration enforcement efforts.

Late Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, attorneys representing transgender women in federal prison filed updated documents in federal court, seeking to add nine additional plaintiffs to the case. But according to Amy Whelan, an attorney with the National Center for Lesbian Rights, unless a judge specifically prohibits officials from moving them, they’re still at risk of being moved.

On Feb. 24, 2025, U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth ordered the Bureau of Prisons not to transfer nine transgender women to men’s prisons. These were in addition to the three plaintiffs identified in the judge’s earlier ruling. In emergency requests, attorneys identified these other transgender women at risk for transfer. “The same reasoning from the Court’s original [order] still applies, with nothing in the record to compel a different outcome,” Lamberth wrote.

An internal bureau memo obtained by The Marshall Project that circulated after Lamberth’s updated ruling noted that there were six transgender women and one transgender man who had not been named as plaintiffs and were still slated for transfer to new prisons. ■

How Cases Like Luigi Mangione’s Could Widen the Death Penalty Divide

12.15.2025

Even as more state leaders try to expand capital punishment, fewer jurors are choosing it.

By MAURICE CHAMMAH

Over the next few years, we can expect to see a lot of high-profile death penalty trials in the news. Luigi Mangione will soon face trial for shooting and killing UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson on a New York City street in late 2024. And the federal Department of Justice will likely seek the execution of Rahmanullah Lakanwal for the killing of National Guard member Sarah Beckstrom, in Washington, D.C., in November 2025. There could also be federal death penalty trials for the killings of Israeli embassy staffers, a Minnesota legislator, and a Ukrainian refugee. The list goes on.

Many of these famous federal cases have become political symbols and vehicles for arguments about health care, the war in Afghanistan and much else. But they will also provide insight into public views on crime and

punishment. Americans register their opinions at the ballot box, but they also do it when serving on juries, particularly when deciding whether a defendant should die. The choices jurors make over the next year will give us some hints of whether a more punitive or rehabilitative, even merciful, mindset is winning out across the country.

President Donald Trump’s rhetoric might lead one to think we are in a peak age of severity, but the trials of Mangione, Lakanwal, and others will be the true litmus tests of whether Americans are really in sync with such harsh views. In 2025, the trends actually ran in two directions at the same time. And it’s not simply the expected pattern of red states favoring the death penalty while blue states reject it.

Only 27 states still allow the death penalty to be handed down (along with the federal government and the U.S. military). In 2025,

prosecutors in just 11 of those states sought the death penalty against 51 people, according to a report released Dec. 15 by the Death Penalty Information Center. But jurors chose to send fewer than half of them to death row. In red Alabama, jurors chose death in four cases and life without parole in 16. In blue California, jurors chose death in five and life in just one.

In 1996, by comparison, jurors across the country sent more than 300 people to death row. (We don’t know how often prosecutors sought the death penalty that year.) There were more murders back then, but nowhere near enough to account for this difference. Support for the death penalty has dropped in Gallup polls over the last few decades, from 77% in 1995 to 52% this year.

Gallup has found Democrats and younger people tend to oppose the death penalty, while Republicans and older people tend to support it. Trump began 2025 issuing an executive



Luigi Mangione appears in Manhattan Criminal Court on Dec. 1, 2025 in New York. POOL PHOTO BY YUKI IWAMURA

order demanding more executions. But since then, a number of conservative state officials have questioned its use in high-profile cases. In Texas, Republican legislators argued for the innocence of death row prisoner Robert Roberson. In Oklahoma, Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt commuted the death sentence of Tremane Wood, responding to arguments that it was unfair because Wood's brother killed the victim in the case, Ronnie Wipf. There is speculation in the Ohio press that Republican Gov. Mike DeWine will come out more broadly against the death penalty before he leaves office in January 2027.

But for every Republican state official who opposes the death penalty, there is one who, like the president, champions it. This helps explain why 2025 was a boom year for executions, with 47 in total — the most since 2010. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis oversaw the most executions in a single year in the state's history by a wide margin.

The Death Penalty Information Center found that legislators from Arkansas to Idaho passed more bills to expand the death penalty in 2025 than in recent years, making more crimes eligible for the punishment and approving new execution methods like the firing squad and nitrogen gas.

But if jurors keep refusing to hand down death sentences at the rate they have in the last year, there will be far fewer people for these states to execute. That's why it's so important to watch the choices juries are making today.

Jury rooms are closed off to the public, but the story behind one death penalty case in Georgia shows just how brutal the arguments inside them can be. This one played out like the movie "12 Angry Men," in reverse.

Stacey Humphreys was convicted in 2007 of fatally shooting two real estate agents, Cyndi Williams and Lori Brown, according to The Associated Press.

In recent court filings, Humphreys' lawyers allege that eleven jurors were prepared to sentence him to life in prison. But some of them later told the lawyers that a single juror screamed at them and vowed to stay in the room until they all voted for death — and eventually they did.

Humphreys' lawyers have since argued that this episode — along with alleged lies told by the same juror during the selection process — should be reason to throw out the sentence. A series of state and federal courts have disagreed, ruling that the juror's conduct cannot be used to question the verdict. Georgia planned to execute Humphreys on Dec. 17, 2025, but a state court issued a stay over questions around potential conflicts of interest in the clemency process. ■

How I Became an Opera Composer in a Maximum Security Prison

I learned music theory through workshops at New York's Sing Sing prison. I earned my stripes by singing for boisterous crowds of incarcerated critics.

By **JOSEPH WILSON**
With **MARTIN GARCIA**

The sounds of my natural world are cacophonous. I constantly hear the booming bass of heavy metal gates slamming against sheet metal walls, the rhythms of unintelligible loud-speaker announcements, and the volume of men yelling to one another, "Yo, you got my lighter?" This noise is distracting to most, yet I use it to write operas from a prison cell.

Nothing about me says "opera composer." I'm Black. I'm 6 feet tall, 245 pounds, and I sport thicker-than-average dreadlocks. I'm from Brownsville, Brooklyn — one of the most crime-ridden and impoverished neighborhoods in New York City. And I'm incarcerated for murder.

I fell in love with opera at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, a notorious maximum security prison located in the woods of Westchester, New York. From 2014 to 2023, I participated in Musicambia and Carnegie Hall's Musical Connections, programs that pair professional musicians and singers with incarcerated men to develop their musical talents through workshops culminating in concerts held for the incarcerated population and, since 2023, their families.

Workshops for each program were on alternating weeks. Our main gathering place was the music room, which was really a garage on the ground floor of the prison's school building. The ceilings were high. The pipes were leaky. The window panes were rusted. The microphones, music stands and electric cables were caged.

Instruction for different instruments took place in the classrooms up and down the hallway. For the first three years, I did not have an instrument; they had run out. So I would wander from room to room as men bowed cellos, strummed guitar strings and blew horns. I would sit in the corner with a pencil and manuscript paper and jot down notes about how each instrument worked, what their

ranges of sound were and what tricks they could do.

I would also play around with the harmonies and rhythms I found on the keyboard in the music room. More advanced students would often ask, "Is that what you meant to play?" Others would say, "That timing is wrong." But the sounds I was making were not wrong or off. Without knowing what the techniques were called, I was experimenting with advanced Neoclassical styles and polyrhythmic and odd meters. As I learned music theory, I was opening my ear to new possibilities.

I discovered the possibilities of opera in 2015 when Grammy-winning opera singer Joyce DiDonato attended a session as a guest artist. She was inspired to volunteer with the program because of her performances in "Dead Man Walking," an opera about a nun's encounter with a man on death row.

I expected a Rubenesque woman in a stereotypical Viking costume to walk in, but Joyce was thin and sported a blonde pixie cut and purple suede boots. She smiled broadly and sang a song to introduce herself. Her voice filled the former garage, rising and falling over and under the exposed pipes and tumbling on the half-painted concrete floor. I felt the emotion of what she was singing, even though I could not understand Italian. The music played by her personal pianist was equally dramatic, shifting and blending harmony and melody with feeling.

The piece I had written, and that she agreed to sing with me, was subdued and conventional

We performed it later that night in the dimly lit auditorium under bright stage lights. The audience was filled with boisterous incarcerated critics. I covered the microphone like rap artists do, and it caused feedback. A chorus of shrieking waves accompanied my voice each



CINDY LOZITO FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT

time I sang.

Joyce looked on, then smiled encouragingly as sweat cascaded down my forehead. But she also clenched her microphone tightly, holding it close to her stomach. “I wanted to help you so badly,” she said afterward. Before she headed out of the door, Joyce told us that she would return the following year. I promised that I would have something better for her. She gave me a weary smile.

When I returned to my cell, I pulled out my Sony Walkman and rolled the analog radio dial until I found a classical music station, WQXR 105.9 FM. I slowly walked from the bars, past the desk, and to the window that faced a brick wall until I found the best reception. I used a detached headphone wire sprouting copper threads rolled around a paperclip as a makeshift antenna. I pressed the paperclip through the wire mesh window screen and lay on the cot next to it.

In the rare quiet of the night, as faint rectangular slabs of light crept through the bars of

the window, I listened to a song that went on forever.

I was used to three-minute songs composed of a chorus, verses and a bridge

I tried to discern this song’s structure, but it kept changing.

I connected with this music, digesting what the instruments were saying. They were together in unison, then arguing in dissonance, then agreeing in harmony. After about a half hour, the jockey announced that it was a symphony. I didn’t even know what that was at the time.

As I listened to it more and more, I learned that classical music is like life — full of precious but fleeting moments. Even when you’re playing the same notes, how it sounds depends on the instrument you’re playing. I didn’t get that immediately. That took time.

Joyce lent her voice to *Sing Sing* from 2015 to 2018 and then in 2023. In 2017, as she was promoting her latest album, “In War and Peace — Harmony Through Music,” she was accom-

panied by her personal pianist and a string orchestra, including small double bass, cello, viola and violin sections.

This was the closest I was going to get to writing for a symphony orchestra in a prison, and I took full advantage of the opportunity to hear live instruments playing my version of those tricky sounds I had heard on the radio and learned about in workshops. It was not a great piece. But it went over better than the last time.

Before that evening’s performance, we all sat in the facility’s Catholic chapel, eating a catered meal of salad, penne alla vodka, eggplant parmesan and chicken and rice courtesy of Carnegie Hall. Stained-glass windows refracted sunlight. Painted religious sentinels stood watch as the musicians asked me questions about my composition choices and gave me feedback about my technique. One pointed out how the bow on a stringed instrument is but so long. Another reminded me that singers and players from the

woodwind and brass sections needed to take breaths. I had been composing on a keyboard, pressing the keys of a synthesizer. I was not taking into account the human limitations of playing the actual instruments.

That night, Joyce's voice swooshed from the front of the stage to the guards' desk in the back of the prison's auditorium as she sang selections from her album. The album was a compilation of arias — songs that reflect characters' innermost thoughts — from various operas. During that concert, I decided to write my own aria.

To start, I needed a good story. I looked around me. The story was right in my face. I wrote about a boy who was trapped in — and physically attached to — a cube made of dust containing the souls of his ancestors. The boy escapes the cube and enters a world that is hostile toward him. Unprepared to deal with the outside world and lacking conflict resolution skills, he commits murder. He pleads for mercy, but the ancestors of the murdered character want revenge.

After I sketched out the plot, I made a list of each character's gender and assigned each a vocal range — soprano, contralto, countertenor, tenor, baritone and bass. I used my keyboard to pluck out the vocal ranges and scribbled the information in a composition notebook that I would carry in my netbag — a cotton mesh bag easily searched by guards when traveling through a correctional facility.

Next, I had to write a libretto — the text of an opera — and set it to a melody. Electronic recording devices are contraband, so I had to write down lyrics as soon as they came to me.

Lyrics were simple. Melodies were a lot trickier. They were not easy to retain and inspiration would strike at any given time. I would have to hum my melodies over and over again — even during a workout or a college class — until I could get to a piano to notate them. At times like this, I didn't engage with my friends. I fist-bumped them, nodded my head and hightailed it to the cell or the music room.

Some of my friends reciprocated head nods and fist bumps. Others walked with me. "He's doing that music shit," they would announce to anyone else trying to engage me.

Musician friends would also walk with me. We would do ear training exercises, and that made it fun. My friend, Xiaobao He, would say, "1, 5, 4, 3, 6, 5, 1," calling out the pitches by number.

I couldn't focus solely on music. As a clerk for The Osborne Association, I was tasked with recruiting men to participate in their family- and accountability-centered programs. I was also an elected Incarcerated Liaison Committee member who brought population

issues to the administration. I had to reply to my peers' requests and complaints immediately and take them to the officers. I lost a lot of melodies that way.

When I made it to the cell with a melody intact, I would sit on the cot, hum the tune and search the piano for the notes. I would write out the notes on music manuscript paper. To keep a steady pace, I would tap my foot, saying "1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4," in my head. This helped me find which notes landed on the main beat.

The hardest part of keeping the beat was subdivision — breaking the time of each foot tap into three or four parts. I would make grids on ordinary writing paper to help me find the correct divisions of a rhythm that was too difficult or I was uncertain about. The most common grid was made up of four boxes of four. As I tapped my foot on the ground, I would use the pencil in my hand to tap each box on my grid. I did this while humming the melody.

I imagined composers of the past doing it this way, without recording devices or composition software. This made me feel more connected to these artists, to the roots of composition. With practice, I learned how to determine rhythms almost intuitively.

Once I'd written out all of the melodies with lyrics attached by syllable, I began to find harmonies that fit the emotion of the lyrics. I used major keys to express passion and joy. I used minor keys to display hate and pain.

Once I completed my aria, I turned it in for Joyce's inspection. She selected my piece to perform in concert, so all of my hard work paid off. A few pitches were out of her vocal range, so I made the adjustments.

Joyce and I prepared to perform separately. My program assignment, which was in the room adjacent to the music room, allowed me some time to be alone and out of earshot of other prisoners. I used that space to rehearse. Paint-chipped walls were my audience members, and clanging radiator pipes my applause.

When Joyce returned to the prison in 2018, I was prepared to sing with her, but I wasn't ready for the vulnerability I felt. This was the first time that I was allowing a group of people into my personal and emotional space, and I was petrified.

As an adolescent, I suffered physical and sexual abuse. In my bedroom, steam puffed from an open radiator valve, and the plastic taped to my broken window pane flapped in the wind. I would sit on my bed and write short stories, poems, and song lyrics about the love I longed to have and the abuse I suffered. I stashed my composition notebook in the back of a drawer, hoping it would not be found.

I listened to music constantly and wore headphones all the time. When I heard my name called, I would ignore it and swiftly make my way out of the house. Sometimes, I hightailed it down the steps. Other times, I jumped from the window two stories down.

I had to escape. Music and imagination were my guardian angels. They helped me cope with the most horrific moments of my life.

I was the boy in the cube. I was not the only one. Prison is full of people who have suffered abuse in silence. Most still suffer, transferred from one box to another, one hostile environment to another. Although trauma is at the root of a lot of criminal behavior, it doesn't make me less responsible for my actions.

And in a way, prison can make you less accountable. You never have to face the people you've harmed or endure their pain.

Onstage that night, in the same auditorium full of critical men, I saw the harm and the pain on Joyce's scowling face. I heard it when she sang, "I will not forgive, I will not forget. I want revenge."

I had written the lyrics and composed the music, but I did not anticipate the impact. Spontaneously, I prostrated myself and sang, "I can be free again, if you forgive."

After the concert, men approached me and shared how they were affected, too. "I didn't even know opera could be in English; it was dope, though. That had to be tough," one man said. He recognized it, the pain. I knew it was tough for him, too.

Even though I seemingly approached writing opera with confidence, I felt extremely inadequate throughout. I still do, at times. No other contemporary opera composer has lived experience like mine. I have access to stories that need to be told. The annals of human history are art. In 100 years, my music and the stories of people like me will be available for people to see, hear and feel because I am writing them. I only hope that we've found a better way to do justice by then. ■

Joseph Wilson is a contributing writer for The Marshall Project. He is a father, composer, librettist, singer, songwriter, pianist, art curator, writer and co-founder of the Sing Sing Family Collective. He is currently incarcerated at Green Haven Correctional Facility in New York.

Regarding the leaking pipes in the Sing Sing music room, the NYS DOCCS public information office stated that, in December 2022, "the condensate return line was abated and repaired."

LETTER FROM LOUIS

Hello readers,

In this issue of *News Inside*, the Local Focus examines failures of due process in Mississippi.

At the Hinds County jail in Mississippi, at least 60 people were incarcerated for more than three months without being indicted. Reporting by Daja E. Henry for The Marshall Project - Jackson found systemic breakdowns, including attorney shortages, inaccurate jail rosters, misspelled names, outdated records and widespread data failures. In more than 100 cases, the district attorney never received case files for unindicted people held in the jail.

We also report on an investigation in Lorain, Ohio, where hundreds of car owners had their driver's licenses suspended over minor parking violations. These parking tickets were issued by auxiliary officers who did not have police authority. The suspensions caused financial hardship and loss of mobility for many local residents. After investigative reporting by Mark Puente and The Marshall Project - Cleveland, the practice was stopped, and some affected residents are now seeing their cases dismissed.

I'd like to close by highlighting the passage of Ohio House Bill 29. The new law guarantees access to sanitary products, showers during monthly cycles, and appropriate disposal containers for incarcerated women.

Kimberly Jordan, who served more than 35 years in Ohio prisons, testified in support of the legislation. She described to lawmakers how the lack of access to hygiene affected her daily life behind bars. "Not feeling secure during my monthly cycle pushed me to use toilet paper to protect myself because of the lack of quality sanitary napkins and tampons," she told The Marshall Project.

She also described what she witnessed inside correctional facilities. "Women were forced to compromise their dignity and self-worth just to obtain basic monthly items," she said. Many were often forced to beg officers for permission to access secured areas. Over time, she said, this lack of access "chipped away at our self-esteem and our humanity."

Jordan called the passage of House Bill 29 an epic win. She said the law removes the ability for officers to deny access to women or ask demeaning or embarrassing questions. The legislation, she said, restores dignity and provides mental relief.

"Having your monthly period with dignity and with pride is a human right."

Thank you for reading, and stay strong.



Louis Fields

Louis Fields is the outreach manager for The Marshall Project - Cleveland. He served 23 years in Ohio state prisons and was released on parole in October 2021.

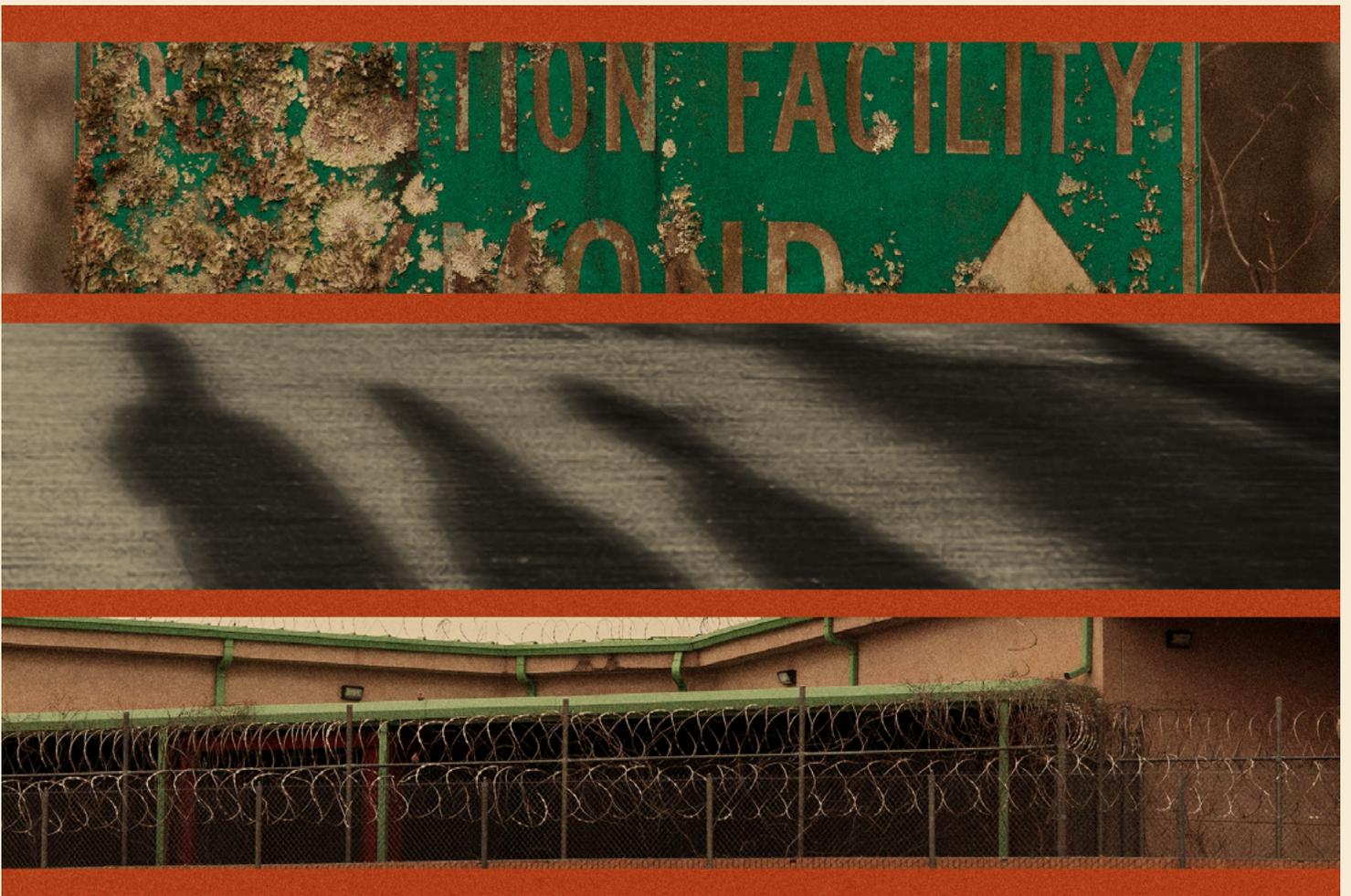


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOVELLE TAMAYO/THE MARSHALL PROJECT. SOURCE IMAGES: RORY DOYLE FOR THE MARSHALL PROJECT, NOEMÍ GONZALEZ

Dozens Locked in Hinds County's Jails Without an Indictment — Some for Over a Year

12.05.2025

The newly appointed federal receiver has asked the county's district attorney to move more cases, while the DA has asked the county for more money.

By **DAJA E. HENRY**
Additional reporting contributed by **CALEB BEDILLION**

At least 60 people arrested in Hinds County have been jailed in its detention facilities for over three months — including at least five for more than a year — with no indictment filed against them and no pathway to a trial in sight.

One man has been in jail for 20 months on drug charges without an indictment and has no attorney to move his case along, according to court records reviewed by The Marshall Project - Jackson.

Mississippi is one of the few states where people can be jailed indefinitely without indictment, a critical step to send a case to a judge or a jury. This gap has deepened the overcrowding,

violence and dysfunction that put Raymond Detention Center — the county's primary jail — under federal control in the first place.

The lengthy detentions in Hinds County have been caused by multiple issues, including an increased Capitol Police force in Jackson, an overwhelmed state crime lab, and a shortage of prosecutors and public defenders to handle the backlog of cases.

The federal receiver operating the Raymond Detention Center has warned the county district attorney that the jail cannot be fixed while people remain locked up without a way to get to court.



In a letter obtained by The Marshall Project - Jackson, federal receiver Wendell M. France wrote to Hinds County District Attorney Jody Owens telling him that holding so many people is costly for county taxpayers and is impeding France's ability to fix the jail's problems. France, who took over the jail on Oct. 1, 2025, asked Owens to address the delays in prosecution immediately.

"Overcrowding affects housing, safety, and services," France wrote. "Staff and funding that should be directed toward facility improvements are instead consumed managing extended pretrial stays."

As part of the court's receivership agreement, France is barred from making public statements about his work.

More than half of the unindicted detainees were arrested on violent crime charges, including rape, murder and aggravated assault. Others were charged with nonviolent offenses, including burglary and drug possession.

One detainee, LaDarius Moore, was arrested more than eight months ago and is being held on a \$7.5 million bond, one of the highest in the county's history. As of Dec. 1, 2025, he had not been indicted.

In a handwritten note to Judge Debra Gibbs, Moore asked for his day in court. "I have lost my job after being in here for 6 months. My kids mother can't afford to feed them without SNAP benefits on her own and they really need me to take care of them. I respectfully ask you to consider my family responsibilities."

Moore faces charges of aggravated assault, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and 12 counts of armed robbery. His court file showed no response from the judge and no upcoming court date.

Hinds County's indictment delays reflect a statewide problem, said André de Gruy, the state public defender. The Marshall Project - Jackson previously reported on a case in Pike County, in which a man was incarcerated for nearly 18 months before being indicted.

A federal judge appointed France in 2022 after the county repeatedly failed to comply with a Justice Department agreement to address rampant violence, understaffing, a steady flow of drugs into the facility, and poor record-keeping that kept detainees there long past their court-ordered release dates. Appeals delayed France's start until October 2025.

More than a decade after the Justice Department first brought its case, reports

of inhumane conditions still abound. Detainees at Raymond reported living in darkness, being extorted to use the restrooms and sleeping on filthy floors. Earlier in 2025, a man was killed inside the jail and two others died of drug overdoses. In October, the Hinds County Board of Supervisors approved an emergency declaration because of overcrowding at the facility, which held about 450 people at the beginning of that month.

"You're risking life and limb in the Hinds County jail. That is a serious proposition of someone who hasn't been indicted of any crime, much less convicted," said Hernandez D. Stroud, a senior fellow in the Justice Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, who has studied jail receivership. "That's scary."

Typically, after a person is arrested, law enforcement turns the case over to the district attorney, who brings the case before a grand jury. If the grand jury returns an indictment — a formal criminal charge — the case moves to a judge and potentially a jury.

Already burdened with a backlog of cases, the county's legal system has been inundated with arrests since the Capitol Police began expanding in July 2021, in response to what Gov. Tate Reeves called a "never-ending cycle of violent crime." The Capitol Police force previously guarded state property, but its jurisdiction, the Capitol Complex Improvement District, has since grown to more than 20 square miles in the city. The force has also grown from 81 officers in 2021 to more than 150. By the end of 2023, the number of indictments had risen 33% from the previous year.

A receiver is "not going to be able to address those problems until you reduce the population to be more in line with the staffing levels you have, and the bed capacity," de Gruy said. "Trying to do that in an environment where you're now seeing a lot more people being arrested, it just makes his job that much harder."

Lengthy waits for case files from arresting agencies and reports from an overwhelmed crime lab also drag cases out, said de Gruy.

In response to France's letter, Owens wrote that he had not received case files from law enforcement on more than 100 of the approximately 240 unindicted detainees, including those held for more than three months. He also cited delays in receiving final autopsy reports, a need for

mental health evaluations of defendants and “the sheer volume of crime plaguing our community.”

Owens’ office indicted 1,264 cases in 2024 and resolved 1,135, leaving 129 open. In 2023, grand juries returned indictments in 1,696 cases and his office resolved just 989. Cases are resolved by guilty pleas, trials, dismissals or pretrial diversion programs.

Owens also told France that the jail roster contained misspelled names and outdated information. In some cases, people listed as unindicted had already been indicted or released.

“This just has layers of institutional incompetence and dysfunction, such that even when you have a receiver, it is hard to disentangle everything to get to the constitutional violations,” Stroud said. “It’s

stunning.”

Hinds County Sheriff Tyree Jones, who used to run the jail and also serves as the Jackson Police chief, said he was not aware of any delays in forwarding cases to prosecutors.

“When it comes to the jail, I think everybody has their own individual opinion, and everybody has their own professional responsibility,” Jones said. “There’s probably a little bit more room for correction on all levels.”

Owens and Hinds County Public Defender Gail Wright Lowery have asked the county Board of Supervisors for \$700,000 in emergency funds, split between their offices, to fund six to eight staff members to focus on reducing the jail population.

“The only way the system works is that

... as many people are getting out of our system as fast as we’re bringing them in,” Owens said at the Nov. 3 board meeting. “Our current volume doesn’t allow us to do that.”

Wright Lowery said five attorneys have recently left her office. She requested the funds to boost her staff’s salaries and to hire experienced attorneys to work part-time to help move cases through the system.

“Every time I lose an attorney, you have an average of over 100 people in detention who lose their attorney,” she said. Her office is funded for 14 lawyers.

Hinds County Board of Supervisors President Robert Graham said the board would consider the request for the \$700,000. ■

Getting a Single Parking Ticket in Lorain Led Hundreds to Lose Their Driver’s Licenses

08.21.2025

A Marshall Project - Cleveland investigation has prompted city officials to stop issuing parking citations that, for years, led to license suspensions.

By MARK PUENTE

Additional data analysis by AARON SANKIN

For years, hundreds of car owners had their driver’s licenses suspended in Lorain for minor tickets like parking too far from a curb.

Now, Lorain Mayor Jack Bradley has paused the ticket-writing practice, and a municipal court judge began dismissing cases on Nov. 25, 2025.

The action came days after The Marshall Project - Cleveland began asking about the thousands of parking violations issued in Lorain neighborhoods.

At issue are the parking tickets and who’s been writing them. In Lorain, the city allowed auxiliary officers — who don’t hold police powers — to target parking violators with criminal summonses for minor infractions such as parking more than a foot from a curb or on a lawn.

The parking citations and license suspensions that followed have cost Lorain residents and others thousands of dollars in court fines and state license reinstatement fees, a Marshall Project - Cleveland investigation has found.

Bradley, a longtime defense attorney, said he opted to pause the program after meeting on Nov. 24 with the city’s law director

and police chief. He said he has concerns about the volume of suspensions and the financial toll on people, especially those who don’t even know their licenses are suspended.

The city needs to “fully evaluate the program to make sure it is following the law fairly for our citizens,” he said.

The news outlet reviewed thousands of parking cases, spent hours in court, and talked to more than 25 people about their citations and suspensions.

In some cases, people were ordered to appear in Lorain Municipal Court within days of being cited for receiving a parking violation. For those who didn’t come to court, suspension orders soon followed, records show.

During a court session on the morning of Nov. 25, Judge Thomas Elwell kept a large crowd waiting about two hours to have their cases called. Those with parking tickets left the courtroom with their cases dismissed.

One case involved Bonnie Burns, 71, who limped to the front of the courtroom with a cane after Elwell called her parking case.

“There have been issues with these parking tickets,” Elwell told Burns. “It is being dismissed. You are free to go. Have a good day.”

Elwell declined to answer questions from The Marshall Project - Cleveland about the ticket-writing practice and the flood of suspensions.

Lorain resident Mary Haviland, 48, received a parking ticket in August. She said she did not know about her license suspension until The Marshall Project - Cleveland called her in mid-November. She said she was never notified by the court. Haviland planned to pay \$75 for fines and fees this week to get her license back.

"This saves me a whole lot of money," Haviland said Nov. 24 about the dropping of cases. "This costs people a lot of money that they don't have. It is a tough time right now."

While most large Ohio cities issue only token fines, in recent years, Lorain Municipal Court judges ordered almost 600 license suspensions from parking tickets, according to court records. That's on top of the fines that can range from \$50 to \$100.

The citations also often required car owners to stand before a judge in a packed

courtroom as if they had committed theft, disorderly conduct or driving while intoxicated.

Attorneys with The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland said The Marshall Project - Cleveland's reporting shines a light on what it calls "unlawful license suspensions" that can impact housing eligibility, employment opportunities and financial stability for some people.

"Unfortunately, individuals impacted by these judgments will likely need to file motions with the court to vacate their convictions and suspensions, and to have fines and fees refunded," Jennifer Kinsley Smith, managing attorney of the organization's office in Lorain County, wrote in a statement.

The organization planned to post information on its website to help people who were ticketed. Individuals seeking help can also call The Legal Aid Society at 888-817-3777.

Lorain is one of the 10 biggest cities in Ohio. But The Marshall Project - Cleveland found the city is the only one that suspends driver's licenses for a single

unpaid parking violation.

None of the other large cities requires violators to appear for criminal arraignments in court. Each city classifies the tickets as civil infractions.

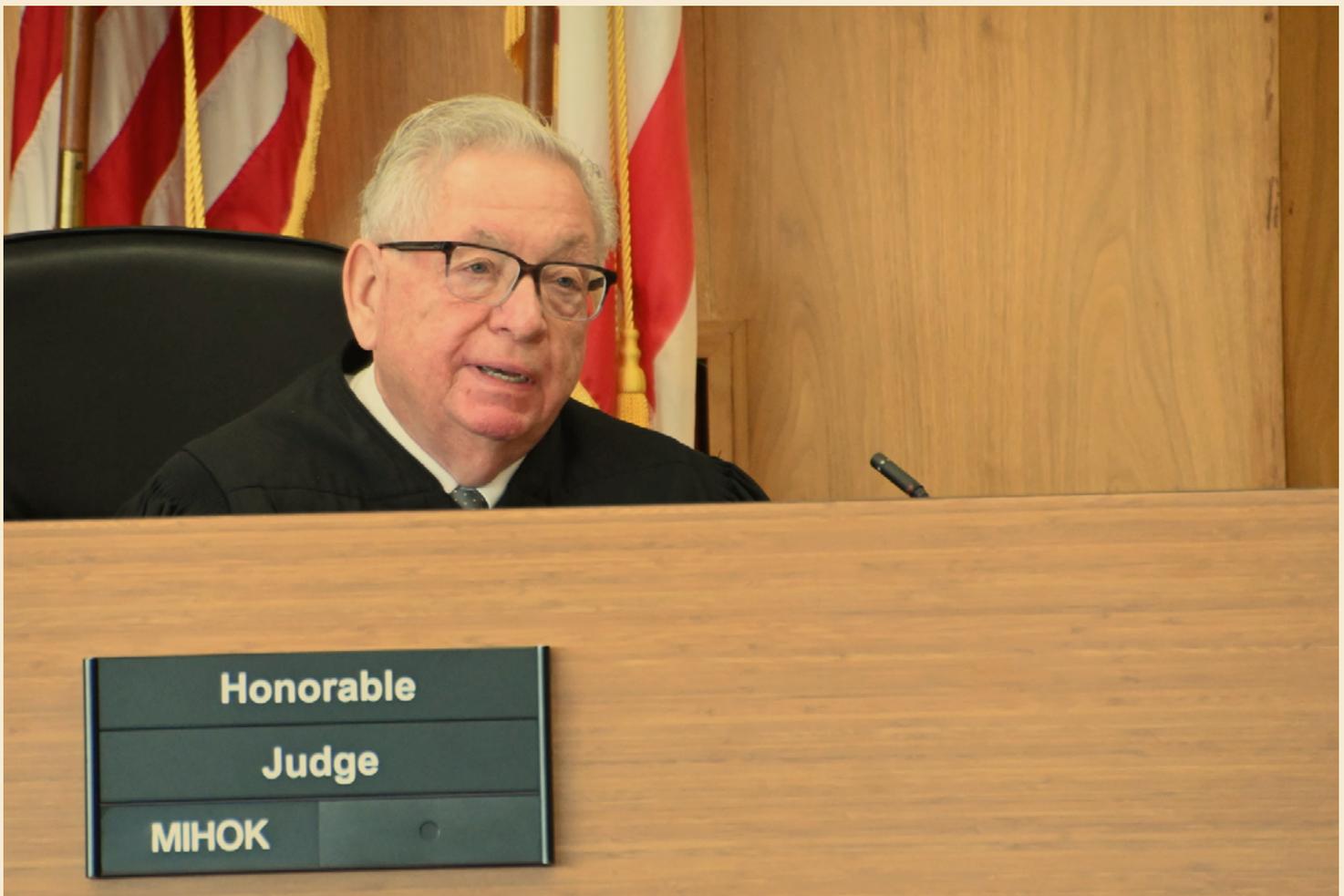
Lorain Police Chief Michael Failing said individuals should not have a license suspension over a parking ticket.

"I'm not sure how the courts can correct that, but obviously that's something I cannot correct," said Failing, who became chief in September 2025. "That's a court problem."

When auxiliary officers sign the tickets, the citations state that they personally gave the tickets to the violators — when in reality, they only placed them on the car windshield. Failing was not aware of problems with the citations until The Marshall Project - Cleveland showed him during an interview.

"That would be a valid claim for them to dismiss the ticket," Failing said.

The policy dates back to 2008, when the Lorain City Council passed an ordinance authorizing the Police Department's auxiliary unit to issue handicap parking



Judge Mark Mihok presides at a Lorain Municipal Court hearing. MARK PUENTE/THE MARSHALL PROJECT



Judge Thomas J. Elwell Jr. BRUCE BISHOP/ELYRIA CHRONICLE-TELEGRAM

citations. Auxiliary officers are often used for traffic assignments, court security and helping with crowd control at parades and festivals.

The ordinance also criminalized all parking infractions, making them minor misdemeanors.

A 2019 ordinance update raised parking fines to \$50 if paid within 72 hours, and \$100 if paid after 72 hours. The legislation also stated that people who did not pay within 72 hours should be notified by certified mail and ordered to appear in court. But that practice was not happening, and vehicle owners were not notified, court records show.

Other cities give parking violators time to pay the civil infractions. In Cleveland, violators have 15 days to either pay the fine or dispute the ticket. Failure to pay or dispute the ticket will result in an additional \$10 penalty, records show.

The Lorain ordinance was tweaked again in November 2024 when the City Council gave the auxiliary unit the expanded power to write citations for all parking violations.

Between that time and late November 2025, 1,155 citations were issued, and judges ordered 303 license suspensions, court records show.

Deliana Perez of Lorain received a ticket in October 2025 and paid the \$50 fine. But, she said, properly enforcing city laws is needed to build trust between the community and police.

"This is amazing news," Perez said about dismissing tickets. "I am so happy."

Judge Mark Mihok said he did not know the ordinance required letters to be sent to violators. He said the Lorain Clerk of Courts should have sent the letters, but a clerk's employee said they were never instructed to send letters.

Mihok said he will order the clerk of courts to issue refunds to people who request it. Elwell's bailiff said the judge is waiting for guidance from the Law Department on refunds.

Mihok said he has felt pressure from the Lorain City Council and the mayor's office to get money, especially after the state legislature passed a new law aimed at helping people with debt-related suspensions.

He called traffic and parking tickets "a moneymaker, so we enforce tickets." Mihok said state lawmakers never lumped parking tickets into the new law.

"We were all worried that if we can't do anything, collections are gonna go way down, which they, in fact, are," Mihok said. "Our conclusion was the state didn't amend that section and that we can still do it." ■

Reader to Reader

Our latest callout asked how you stay hopeful and keep a sense of direction while serving a long sentence, and what advice you would give to someone entering prison.

Your answers highlighted the importance of daily choices. Many of you described building routines so the days don't blur together. You talked about going back to school, reading, writing, learning trades or setting small goals that give each year a clear shape instead of letting it slip by unstructured. Others pointed to faith, cultural practices or recovery programs as steady anchors.

Helping each other was a common thread in the responses: mentoring, tutoring or choosing to spend time with those who also want to grow. Family was also a source of strength for some, while others focused on personal development or learning to notice small moments of calm in an otherwise chaotic environment.

Here's how you described getting through the time.

For me, it was finding hope living within a hopeless situation - life without parole (LWOP) - by involving myself in a 12-step recovery program. I didn't give in to the social norms of prison criminal behaviors and instead found my purpose through service. Service to my community inside prison and making "indirect amends" through helping others find a different way of life. I seek out opportunities to mentor others, sharing my experience, strength, and hope with anyone willing to listen. My advice: Live as if you could get out tomorrow. Model that behavior and others will follow. Honor your responsibility while incarcerated. Taking the road less traveled, I chose in the beginning to live my life on my terms. Living as best I can inside, the life I would live outside. Clean and sober, giving back!

FROM A READER IN WA

I've been here now [for] 15 years. What keeps me going is my kids and my grandchildren. I look for the little things. A bird singing in my window, a squirrel running from tree to tree, stray cats roaming the yard. I use my tablet for education to keep learning and growing. My biggest challenges in here are staying out of the way, like all the drugs and violence that goes with it. My best advice if you come in on a long sentence is to remember this is not your home, nothing lasts forever and always look for a positive person to hang with.

FROM A READER IN AL

I've done my first 27 years in stages. [During] the first fifteen I analyzed and over-analyzed myself, did my artwork and handled my appeals — to no avail. Then I transferred out of state to be closer to family and that is where all the growth and maturity began to reveal itself. I cultivated and maintained strong family relationships, went back to school where I am currently pursuing my bachelor's degree in applied psychology, I'm also supplementing that degree with correspondence courses. I have just three years left on my sentence. Before I'm done I'll have my degree along with certifications that will land me a job as a Forensic/Reentry Peer Recovery Support Specialist where I will begin developing the tools, traits and contacts necessary to start my own nonprofit. To you youngsters just starting out, sometimes you have to go through the mud to get through to the other side, but it's worth it. No matter how late in life you start, don't let anyone tell you your worth.

FROM A READER IN RI

I am serving a 20-year sentence for the crime of leaving the scene of an accident involving death. [The advice] I would give anyone is this: Develop a routine early on and you have to learn how to discern when to focus on things outside the fence and when to focus on things inside the fence. The balance will differ from person to person. Try to be forward-thinking in a realistic manner. By this I mean set goals that are realistic and achievable. Don't shortchange yourself by what you can't see because life's path is filled with many twists and turns. We see in a linear fashion or straight lines. Our vision doesn't see around curves or corners. Here is the proof: When you were a kid, did you see prison as your future? If so, why didn't you take the other turn?

FROM A READER IN FL

I have learned not to look to my parole or end-of-sentence date but to look to tomorrow. Every day is a milestone. To keep purpose, I try to learn something new each year. [The year] 2023 was learning prison, 2024 was spent learning to crochet and excel at it. [In] 2025 I spent time writing; I did it daily to improve prose and clarity. [In] 2026 I'm buying a book to learn origami. Learning how to live inside the prison and accepting that I cannot change things on the outside was hardest to learn. I still struggle with it. My advice to anyone starting a long sentence is to focus on today, improve yourself, and know that they can cage your body but not your mind.

FROM A READER IN AL

I have been in prison since 2009. Somewhere along the way it started to make sense to develop, or at least discover, a dream. It's only over if you want it to be over.

FROM A READER IN

First, know you're going to make it, and do your time a day at a time; not "I got all these years to do." You just got to do today. You are the author of your life. What do you want to be? Who do you want to be? Pursue this. Observe and find others who are likewise pursuing a better them. I have completed a GED, an associate's, and bachelor's degree. I'm now working on an MBA. I am deciding to pursue excellence as I enter my 25th year of constant incarceration. Who are you going to be?

FROM A READER IN NC

I use this time to strengthen my mind in education. This not only keeps your mind strong, it allows you to have time you didn't have before. My hardest thing about this experience is losing family members unexpectedly. Acceptance is key. As for anyone just coming in, know thyself. You must know your qualities, good or bad, and mold yourself. Learn to budget. Managing money will always come in handy.

FROM A READER IN KY

For me it has been an uphill battle meaning every day is a learning experience and some days are going to be more difficult than others.

FROM A READER IN NC

When I was younger, nothing brought me greater joy than learning something new, lending a hand to a friend, making my mother proud, or causing my dad to explode with laughter. I actually had to unlearn procrastination, fear, hopelessness, and shame — and I had to retrain myself by creating a routine but not monotony. I have formed structure for myself but within that I have adventure and excitement. I cook exotic meals, I'm working to teach myself a rare language, and I am always assisting someone. Adjusting to a long sentence in prison means [being relegated] to a life with few to no meaningful or sincere relationships, but I have discovered that internal joy is not only possible but enduring. I am excited to wake up every day, even with a 67- to-life sentence, and that's not because of any program offered. It's because I remembered what was important to me as a kid.

FROM A READER IN NY

You have to accept that the world is going to be very different when you get out. Friends are going to have families. Loved ones will have passed. Technology will be unbelievably more advanced. You might feel like an alien on another planet. The one advantage is you have all this time to better yourself, so make each day count.

FROM A READER IN WA

Accepting that I did what I did to land myself in prison and trying to find positive things to do and better myself as a man. I stay hopeful by knowing that I have a set out date and hoping that a law might be passed that would give me the opportunity to cut off some of my time. I take programs from time to time and I am a peer supporter in the mental health department. I try to help others that may be struggling with mental health issues. I would tell someone just starting out to stay strong mentally and find a circle of positive people to help build you up and that you can help when they need it.

FROM A READER IN OH

Having served the last 34-plus years incarcerated, I can attest that you have to face reality. You cannot live in what was, but what is. Decide that you will not just serve time but that you can and will make time serve you. Determine your interests. Is there a hobby, art, writing, crafts, learning a foreign language you've always wanted to practice? Do you have an education? Is there an issue(s) you need to address? Now is the time for it! Find your footing. Greet each day as an opportunity for growth and one day closer to freedom, no matter how long your sentence may be.

FROM A READER IN SC

I've learned how to control what I can control. I've found that if I do stuff to keep my mind occupied then I tend to stay calm and time tends to go by faster.

FROM A READER IN UT

It took me a while to adjust to prison and use programs and classes to break the monotony of prison. But the one thing that saved me is writing. I went to a writing class and ended up getting a piece published. It was wonderful to sit in a room with other writers and discuss our pieces and rewrite and discuss again. Using my brain helped with my mental health and my overall spirit. Consider something you wanted to do on the outside but did not have the time, and use your time in prison to rediscover your passion or find a new one.

FROM A READER IN NC

ALL classes that offer help, take advantage of [them]. Participate in giving back and helping others. Don't lose yourself as just a number in the system. Keep your wants and needs separate and save all you can. Once you're released, [life is] so different. Find a good Bible study to participate in. Open yourself to change.

FROM A READER IN OR

Get to know your friend before you can say he's a friend. If things are not yours don't touch them or move them. Don't borrow unless you have good means or ways to pay it back. If you need to borrow, check around to find someone that's straight up and not about games. Keep your eyes open at all times, especially when in your personal belongings box, or coming from the store. If you get a job or go to trade school your time will pass a lot quicker. [In your] spare time, read or get into book courses. Keep your mind busy and enhance your learning.

FROM A READER IN AL

Our next Reader to Reader is about ...

MENOPAUSE BEHIND BARS

Facing the permanent end of your menstrual cycle — commonly known as perimenopause and then menopause — can be a confusing and stressful time. Even people with access to trusted doctors and reliable information can feel overwhelmed managing their symptoms. In prison, this transition can be even harder. Limited health care and unclear guidance can make symptoms like hot flashes, sleep problems and mood changes harder to handle and harder to talk about.

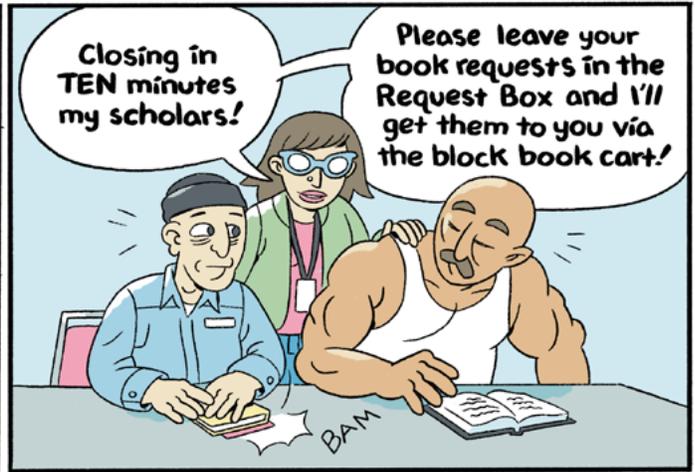
If you've gone through menopause while incarcerated, or think you might go through it, send us your questions or tell us what helped you. Your experiences can help others who may be dealing with the transition right now. What was this time like for you inside? How did you manage the physical or emotional changes? Did you find small routines or comforts that helped you get through the day? What do you wish you had known at the beginning?

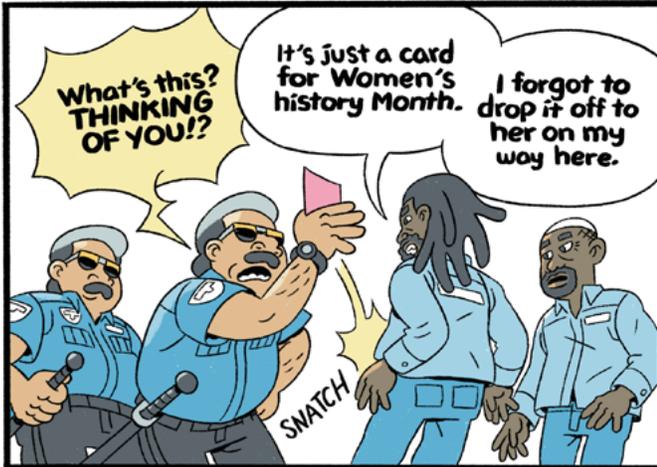
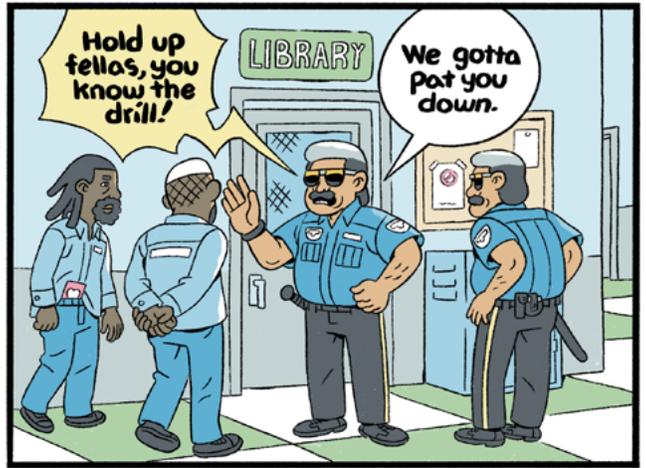


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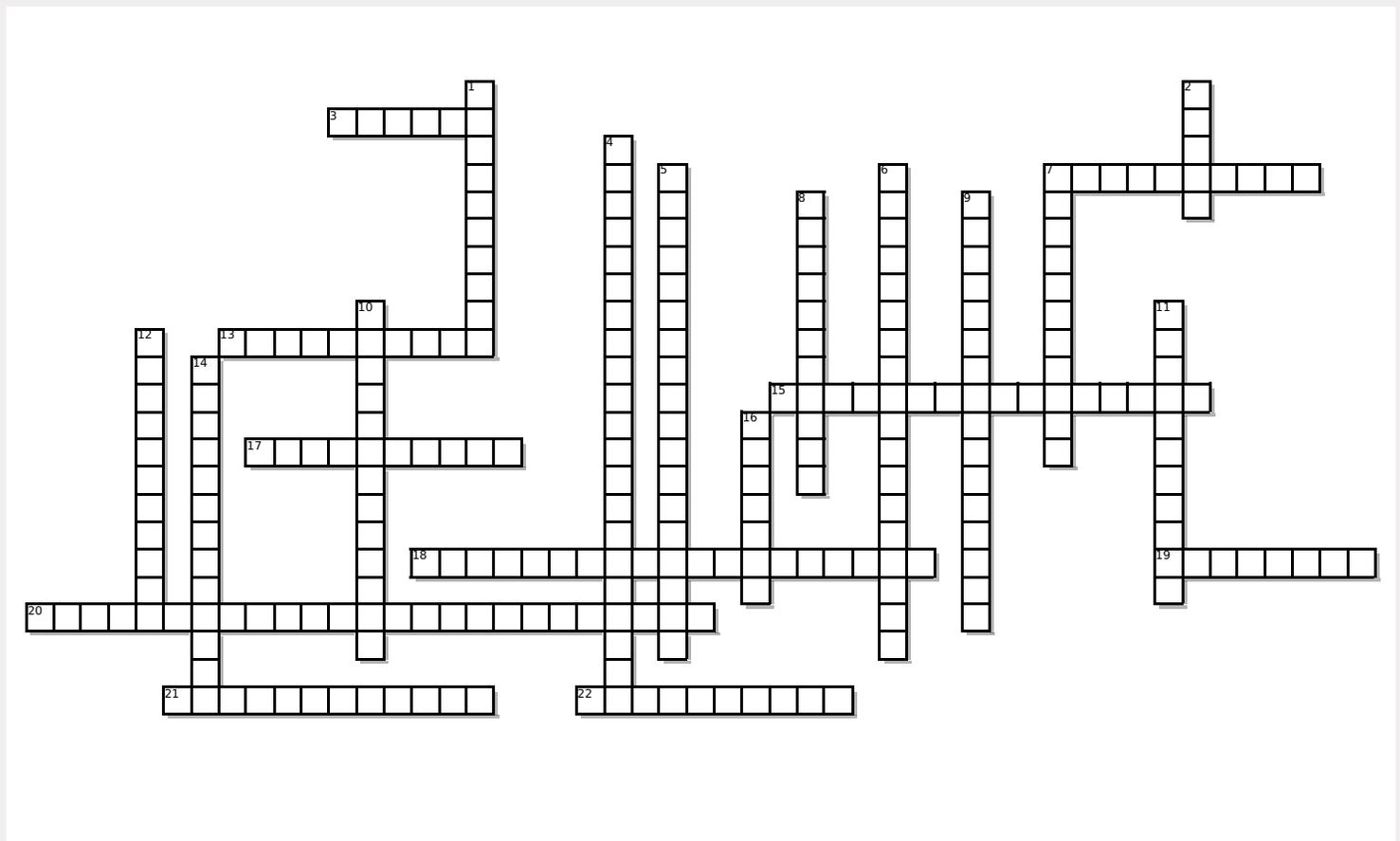
Peeps

Appreciation





Crossword



ACROSS

- 3** City in Ohio that suspended driver's licenses for a single unpaid parking violation. **(1 word)**
- 7** One of the programs that pairs professional musicians and singers with incarcerated men to develop their musical talents through workshops culminating in concerts held for the incarcerated population and, since 2023, their families. **(1 word)**
- 13** Gloria Armour says, "there's never a _____" when she and Larry are together. **(2 words)**
- 15** National organization that fights to free innocent and wrongfully convicted people and has chapters in New Orleans and other cities. **(2 words)**
- 17** "In South Carolina, police can arrest someone on a criminal complaint without approval from local prosecutors (called _____)." **(1 word)**
- 18** Law that holds a person criminally responsible for assisting someone else who commits a crime. **(2 words)**
- 19** The text of an opera. **(1 word)**
- 20** In 2024, then-President Joe Biden signed this law to increase independent inspections of prisons. **(4 words)**

- 21** "Only 27 states still allow the _____ to be handed down (along with the federal government and the U.S. military)." **(2 words)**
- 22** Prison program, in which students from colleges around Michigan went to G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility to take courses alongside students who were incarcerated there. **(2 words; hyphenated)**

DOWN

- 1** A formal criminal charge. **(1 word)**
- 2** Songs that reflect characters' innermost thoughts. **(1 word)**
- 4** Joseph Wilson was a clerk for this organization that facilitates family- and accountability-centered programs in several New York State prisons. **(3 words)**
- 5** "The passage of the _____ brings us one step closer to protecting survivors of abuse, ensuring judicial discretion in sentencing, and protecting families." **(3 words)**
- 6** Larry Moses is pursuing compensation for this. **(2 words)**
- 7** Woman who died at FMC Carswell. **(2 words)**
- 8** The first federal prisoner to ever receive gender confirmation surgery. **(2 words)**
- 9** Nonprofit that advocates for the legal rights of pregnant people. **(2 words)**
- 10** The first state to prosecute a woman for a stillbirth allegedly caused by drug use. **(2 words)**
- 11** The only federal women's medical prison in the U.S. **(2 words; 1 acronym)**
- 12** "In one federal study, 37% of incarcerated _____ people reported having been sexually assaulted in prison, versus 3% of everyone else behind bars." **(1 word)**
- 14** A self-help communications course at the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility, facilitated by incarcerated people. **(3 words)**
- 16** Demetrius Buckley realized he was a _____ communicator. **(2 words; hyphenated)**

In the Spotlight



COURTESY OF CLOVER A. PEREZ

While incarcerated, I witnessed brilliance overshadowed by trauma, potential silenced by stigma, and hope dimmed by a lack of opportunity. Those experiences reshaped my purpose. I was released in 2018, carrying my dreams and the untold stories of countless women I left behind. My time inside led me to found A Beautiful HEART Ministries. Every program we create is designed to restore dignity, inspire self-worth and prove that transformation is not only possible, but inevitable when someone believes in your humanity.

During my incarceration, *News Inside* did not yet exist. Had it been available, it would have served as a vital bridge, connecting women inside to the world beyond the prison walls. It would have reminded us that our voices still matter, that we are part of the broader narrative of justice and change. *News Inside* brings visibility, hope and credible information into spaces where silence once prevailed. Its presence behind prison walls now does what so many of us pray for while incarcerated. It tells people that they are seen, valued and capable of rising above adversity.

Clover A. Perez is the founder and executive director of A Beautiful HEART Ministries, a reentry organization dedicated to helping women and girls rebuild their lives post-incarceration through education, empowerment and healing. She is the CEO of Clover A. Perez LLC, holds a PhD in philosophy and is a Justice-in-Education Scholar at Columbia University's Center for Justice. Dr. Perez sits on multiple boards and has been featured on NBC, CBC and various radio programs for her advocacy and leadership in criminal justice reform. She has received numerous awards recognizing her tireless work to uplift justice-impacted women and girls and restore hope to communities affected by incarceration. **All social media @cloveraperez**

If you are interested in being featured in "In the Spotlight," please mail your response to the address on the back of the magazine or send us an electronic message at newsinside@themarshallproject.org. If you are chosen to be featured, we will contact you to request a picture of you and discuss your response if needed.

Last Issue's Answers

1 The use of these [artificial intelligence] tools has led to serious breaches of attorney-client privilege. **TRUE** **2** According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, after [George] Floyd's murder in 2020 and the rise of DEI in policing, the number of Black officers hit its high-water mark in 2022, constituting 17% of the nation's rank-and-file cops before falling to 14% last year, which is about the number of Black Americans in the country. **TRUE** **3** Over the past 15 years, formerly incarcerated people have greatly benefited from expansions to Medicaid health care coverage. Those gains are now at risk in the face of an estimated \$1 trillion in federal spending cuts outlined in [the] One Big Beautiful Bill Act. **TRUE** **4** In New York, regular mail from family and friends was already photocopied before the strike. **TRUE** **5** Dorsey Nunn and the Legal Services for Prisoners with Children helped bring an end to the shackling of incarcerated pregnant women and to indefinite long-term solitary confinement in California prisons. **TRUE** **6** According to the anti-sexual violence organization RAINN, people who are high or "manipulated into saying yes" cannot give consent. **TRUE** **7** [The] dynamic, where taxpayer spending on prisons is pitched as economic activity for prison towns, has been dubbed by some academics as correctional or "penal Keynesianism," a nod to the economic theory that promotes government spending to boost growth. **TRUE** **8** Raymond and Cassandra met when Raymond was released from prison. **FALSE** *Correct answer: Raymond and Cassandra were friends before Raymond's incarceration.* **9** [Volunteer] immigration court observers are tasked with informing immigrants of the possibility that ICE will detain them following their court hearing, regardless of the outcome. They also collect their loved ones' [emergency] contact information; connect them with legal resources and provide emotional support. **TRUE** **10** Poor sanitation in jails has been the subject of civil rights lawsuits for decades. **TRUE** **11** In 2015, Honesty Bishop was placed in solitary confinement because she was HIV positive and had been classified as "sexually active" following her cellmate's attempt to sexually assault her. **TRUE**

? Thinking Inside the Box

Give these questions a try after you've read the stories in this issue. We'll include the answers in the next issue.

1 T or F: Physical evidence and the testimony of multiple witnesses tied Larry to the crime.

2 T or F: Federal Medical Center Carswell is the only federal women's medical prison in the country.

3 T or F: More than 70% of women in prison report experiences of intimate partner violence.

4 T or F: Prosecutions related to pregnancy appear to have increased since the Supreme Court decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022.

5 T or F: The Chance for Life class, at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility, is taught by DOC staff.

6 T or F: In 2022, after years of legal battles, Donna Langan became the first federal prisoner ever to receive gender confirmation surgery.

7 T or F: Only 27 states still allow the death penalty (along with the federal government and the U.S. military).

8 T or F: Joseph Wilson fell in love with opera at Sing Sing Correctional Facility.

9 T or F: For years, hundreds of car owners had their driver's licenses suspended in Lorain, Ohio, for minor tickets, such as parking too far from a curb.

10 T or F: Mississippi is one of the few states where people can be jailed indefinitely without indictment, a critical step to send a case to a judge or a jury.

is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization that seeks to create and sustain a sense of national urgency about the U.S. criminal justice system. We achieve this through award-winning journalism, partnerships with other news outlets and public forums. In all of our work we strive to educate and enlarge the audience of people who care about the state of criminal justice.

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