

From Guantanamo to Rikers...

Do Prisons work?

Useful Resources

Websites

ACLU National Prison Project, www.aclu.org/prison

Litigates nationally on behalf of prisoners. Cases and issues have included conditions in Los Angeles County Jail, religious freedom, shackling of female prisoners

Bureau of Justice Statistics on Prisons, www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/prisons.htm

California Office of the Inspector General, www.oig.ca.gov

Unique state office in United States, charged with independently and regularly investigating and reporting on conditions in California's prisons

Center for Court Innovation, <http://courttinnovation.org/>

A public-private partnership that works to reduce crime, aid victims and improve public trust in justice.

Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons, www.prisoncommission.org

Commission convened in 2005-2006 to address systemic issues in prison system. Report issued -- "Confronting Confinement" focused on dangerous conditions of confinement; challenges facing labor and management; weak oversight of correctional facilities; and serious flaws in the available data about violence and abuse. It also offered recommendations for follow-up

Federal Bureau of Prisons, www.bop.gov/

Federal agency of the Department of Justice that runs federal prisons throughout the United States

Human Rights Watch, www.hrw.org/united-states

Domestic campaigns focusing on prison issues

National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009, <http://webb.senate.gov/email/criminaljusticereform.html>

Prison Law Office of California, www.prisonlaw.com

Litigates on behalf of California state prisoners on a variety of major conditions issues including health and psychiatric care, overcrowding, disability rights and access

Prisoners' Rights Project of the New York City Legal Aid Society www.legal-aid.org/en/whatwedo/civilpractice/prisonersrightsproject.aspx

Protects and enforces the legal rights of New York City and New York State prisoners through litigation, advice, and assistance to individual prisoners



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Blogs

“*Blog of Rights*” by Ben Wizner (BYFI ’88): <http://blog.aclu.org/author/bwizner/>

Bronx Community Solutions blog, includes directory of legal and law enforcement blogs, <http://changingthecourt.blogspot.com/2007/12/public-defender-protecting-right-to.html>

Center for Court Innovation blog: <http://courttinnovation.blogspot.com/>

Family Justice Center, http://www.familyjustice.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&id=7&layout=blog&Itemid=82

“*Rethinking Reentry*” a post-prison specific blog by Harlem Community Justice Center, <http://rethinkingreentry.blogspot.com/>

Upcoming Event

Beit Midrash: “Rethinking the American Criminal Justice System from a Jewish Perspective,” May 18th, 2009, 7:30-9pm, hosted by Uri L’Tzedek (<http://uriltzedek.webnode.com/>)
Congregation Ramath Orah (110th and Broadway)

Is punishment about revenge, retribution, or rehabilitation? Together we will probe the Jewish tradition for ethical and humanitarian counter-models to the American system. To explore these pressing issues, join Mital Friedman Baldachin, who works at CASES (The Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services), and Laurie Parise, executive director and founder of Youth Represent, a non-profit that spearheads an innovative holistic client-centered model of legal representation and advocacy for youth age 24 and under in New York City.

