



Through NLC's role as a strategic ally with the [MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge](#), we will engage city leaders to reduce the overuse of jails and the racial and ethnic disparities that exist within local justice systems. Notably, we will convene three groups to navigate three distinct areas of justice reform.

- **The Young Adult Justice Community of Practice**, a joint effort with the [Loyola University Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy, and Practice](#), will meet once annually in person and virtually between convenings. This group aims to highlight, document, and spread strategies to reduce the disparate incidence of jail use, traumatic experiences, and development of criminal records for those in the 18-25 age range.
- **The Criminal Justice Policy Advisors Network** will convene at least once each year, to create a forum with several purposes. This network will provide ongoing in-person and virtual opportunities for city leaders to inform and refine justice reform and public safety strategies, policies, and best practices. Some of the preliminary goals are to develop opportunities for mayoral engagement on justice policy issues, build strong peer learning ties across cities and advance effective strategies to reduce the use of jails and racial/ethnic disparities.



NAMC Judges presenting at the [NLC City Summit](#) in San Antonio (Honorable A. Sparks, Honorable S. Day, Honorable P. Zamora & Honorable L. Cooke)

- **The National Association of Municipal Courts** (NAMC), NLC will provide ongoing policy support as well as research aimed at better understanding the connections between municipal courts' sentences, fines and fees, and jail overuse. Formed over the past two years with NLC support, NAMC consists of a progressive group of municipal court judges drawn from states as diverse as Colorado, Texas, and Alabama who seek increased opportunities for peer sharing and practice improvement.

During NLC's City Summit, the founding judges of NAMC held a workshop titled, '*Order in the Court: Ensuring Your municipal court is using best practices*', providing an overview of the innovation within their courtrooms. In addition, a mobile workshop at the [San Antonio Municipal Court](#) shed light on various practices and strategies the city is using to improve/streamline systems within their court.

If you or someone you know is a good fit for one of these groups, email Kirby T. Gaherty at gaherty@nlc.org for more information.

Resources

-NLC released a brief [Reducing the Use of Jails: Exploring Roles for City Leaders](#), which details the lessons learned through a year-long jail reduction technical assistance project that NLC conducted in 5 cities; Savannah, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Gainesville, Florida; Madison, Wisconsin and St. Louis, Missouri.

- *Two blogs accompanied this release, [the first](#) providing a general overview and [the second](#) written by Andra Sparks, Presiding Judge in Birmingham Alabama's Municipal Court.*

- NLC and Arnold Ventures released a [series of briefs](#) showcasing innovative local on-the-ground strategies to address mental health, substance use, and homelessness. In addition, NLC conducted a [briefing on Capitol Hill](#) urging the federal government to play a role.

- [Pennington County's Care Campus](#) is an innovative strategy and was highlighted at NLC's City Summit.

-The Prison Policy Initiative published ["How many people in your state go to local jails every year?"](#), a briefing outlining the impact that jails have on people in states across the country.

-NLC and NaCo worked together on [Addressing the Overrepresentation of Young Adults in the Justice System](#), a blog that highlights the outcomes of the five sites involved in the Intergovernmental Policy Academy.

-Vera Institute of Justice released [Broken Ground: Why America Keeps Building More Jails and What it Can Do Instead](#), a brief that discusses the jail population boom in rural areas, suburban areas and midsized cities.

-SAMHSA's GAINS Center is currently accepting applications from communities interested in participating in Sequential Intercept Model ([SIM Mapping Workshops](#)) as well as [Trauma informed Training \(Train-the Trainer\) events](#). **Applications are due by December 20, 2019.**



"Reducing the flow of people into our local jails is absolutely part of my PEACE plan – a public health approach to reduce violence,"- Mayor Woodfin (Birmingham, AL)