Learn and Do More

Thank you for tuning in with us to hear Pitt Chancellor Emeritus Mark A. Nordenberg and President Judge Kim Berkeley Clark discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the criminal justice system, Allegheny County’s response to address it, and how these actions might influence ongoing or future reform in Allegheny County. The following document provides resources mentioned during the interview and suggested action items.

Video References:

- Judge Kim Eaton said that Judge Clark’s leadership advanced Allegheny County’s juvenile court to become the “gold standard.” Read more about Kim Berkeley Clark.
- Learn about the importance of Trauma-informed Courts Allegheny County’s participation in the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges’ Model Courts project.
- Check out the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania’s website to stay up to date on COVID-19 operations and read the official order detailing COVID-19 emergency operations online.
- The Brennan Center for Justice provides an overview of federal and local responses to COVID-19 in jails and prisons. You can also keep track of COVID-19 cases in PA Prisons with this interactive map.
- Check out research from The Marshall Project on public safety and decarceration.
- Chancellor Emeritus Nordenberg highlights the American Civil Liberties Union’s petition for relief under the special kings bench powers of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Read the full King’s Bench Petition online.
- Learn about the murder of Emmett Till and “The Talk.”
- Incarceration costs all of us financially and socially. Read the Prison Policy Initiative’s Following the Money of Mass Incarceration and the American Bar Foundation’s Social Costs of Incarceration.
- Learn about the MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge and read about the criminal justice work of the Institute of Politics criminal justice made possible by the Heinz Endowment.
- Check out the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette’s article to understand what calls to defund the police mean.
- Read about the Voter Rights Act and its reauthorization.
- See how distrust of police comes from The Long, Painful History of Police Brutality in the U.S. and dive into the history of racism with resources from Racial Equity Tools

Take Action:

- Vote in 2020 Presidential Election. Apply for a mail-in ballot today or check your election ballot status.
- Locate local criminal justice reform allies with the Sentencing Project’s state contacts locator.
- Learn how to advocate with the Prison Fellowship’s Advocacy Tips
- Support successful reentry at the Allegheny County Jail through the HOPE Mentoring Program
- Host a virtual watch party of the Innocence Files, Just Mercy or When They See Us.
- Find and contact your federal, state, and local elected officials using this online directory.
- Support organizations addressing people’s needs as a result of COVID-19. Check out COVID-19 Top Nonprofits.
- Engage in conversation with a friend or family member over the phone.

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