

ALEX FRIEDMANN

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Criminal Justice and Prison Privatization **Expert / Consultant / Journalist**

Areas of Expertise:

Criminal justice systems and practices, detention facilities, privatization of correctional services, felon disenfranchisement, recidivism and rehabilitation, public records access

Positions Held:

Associate Director, Human Rights Defense Center and Managing Editor, *Prison Legal News*. *PLN*, a project of the HRDC, is a 72-page monthly publication, founded in 1990, that reports on criminal justice-related issues on a national level. 2005-present

President, Private Corrections Institute. Non-profit citizen watchdog group that opposes the privatization of correctional services. 2005-present

Advisory board member, Prison Policy Initiative. 2012-present

Board member, Reconciliation. Reconciliation is a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of families and children of Tennessee prisoners. 2011-2013

Regional Representative, National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA). 2011-2012

Chairman of the Voting Rights Committee for Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM). Sponsored and advocated for legislation to reform Tennessee's felon disenfranchisement statute. 2005-2006

Co-chair, Restorative Justice Coalition of Middle Tennessee, 2001-2002

Steering Committee, Public Safety & Justice Campaign (a project of Grassroots Leadership). 2000-2001

Editor, *Private Corrections Industry News Bulletin*. Self-published newsletter on the private prison industry. 1998-1999 *

Resources Editor, *Prison Life* magazine. National monthly publication that covered prison-related issues. 1996-1997 *

* While incarcerated, 1992-1999, Tennessee Dept. of Correction

Testimony Presented:

Tennessee Legislature, House State Government Subcommittee. In support of HB2368 to reinstate the Select Oversight Committee on Corrections. March 2016

Tennessee Legislature, Black Caucus hearing, “Mass Incarceration and its Impact on the Community.” Concerning recommendations made by the Taskforce on Sentencing and Recidivism, re intermediate sanctions for technical violators. Oct. 2015

Tennessee Legislature, Senate Judiciary Committee. Concerning criminal justice reform and intermediate sanctions for technical violations of community supervision. Oct. 2015

Tennessee Legislature, Black Caucus hearing. Concerning recommendations made by the Taskforce on Sentencing and Recidivism. August 2015

Tennessee Legislature, Joint House/Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. Concerning the Court of the Judiciary and judicial complaints and discipline. September 21, 2011

Tennessee Legislature, House Finance Ways and Means Committee. Concerning HB 969, which would restrict ex-offenders from regaining their voting rights. March 16, 2010

Tennessee Legislature, House State & Local Government Committee. Concerning HB 52, which would mandate HIV testing for prisoners prior to release. April 2009

U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. In support of H.R. 1889, the Private Prison Information Act. June 26, 2008

Pennsylvania Legislature, House Labor and Justice Committees (joint hearing). Regarding the private prison industry. October 2007

Tennessee Legislature, Select Oversight Committee on Corrections. Regarding Tennessee’s felon disenfranchisement statute. 2005

Tennessee Legislature, Select Oversight Committee on Corrections. Testimony about the Tennessee Dept. of Correction’s pre-release program. 2000

Publications:*Book Chapters / Contributions*

Incarceration Generation (Justice Policy Institute, 2013). Essay: “The Evolution of Prison Privatization in the United States”

And the Criminals with Him: Essays in Honor of Will D. Campbell and the Reconciled (Wipf & Stock Pub., 2012). Chapter: “The Societal Impact of the Prison Industrial Complex, or Incarceration for Fun and Profit ... Mostly Profit”

* While incarcerated, 1992-1999, Tennessee Dept. of Correction

Prison Profiteers: Who Makes Money from Mass Incarceration (The New Press, 2008).
Chapter: “For-Profit Transportation Companies: Taking Prisoners and the Public for a Ride”

Capitalist Punishment (Human Rights Internet, 2003). Essay: “Juvenile Crime Pays – But at What Cost?”

Prison Nation: The Warehousing of America’s Poor (Routledge, 2003). Three essays, including “Juveniles Held Hostage for Profit by CSC in Florida”

Reports, Comments & Written Testimony

Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC. Submitted formal comments in opposition to a merger between private prison transportation companies. August 2016

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Tennessee Advisory Committee. Submitted formal comments on behalf of the Human Rights Defense Center on issues related to felon disenfranchisement in Tennessee. January 2013

U.S. Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights. Submitted written testimony on behalf of the Human Rights Defense Center for a hearing on “Ending the School-to-Prison Pipeline.” December 2012

U.S. Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights. Submitted written testimony on behalf of the Human Rights Defense Center for a hearing on solitary confinement. June 2012

Analysis of Incident Rates at Private vs. Public Prisons in Tennessee, Jan. 2009-June 2011 (Private Corrections Institute), October 2011

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Submitted formal comments on behalf of the Human Rights Defense Center regarding hiring practices that impact ex-prisoners. July 2011

“Interim Comparative Analysis of Quality Assurance / Incident Data reported by CCA and the TX Dept. of Criminal Justice” (Prison Legal News & Private Corr. Institute), Nov. 2008

National Prison Rape Elimination Commission. Submitted multiple formal comments on behalf of *Prison Legal News* concerning the Commission’s proposed PREA standards for reducing sexual abuse in detention facilities. 2008-2012

U.S. Civil Rights Commission Hearings on the Religious Rights of Prisoners. Submitted formal comments on behalf of *Prison Legal News* concerning the U.S. Dept. of Justice’s accommodation of federal prisoners’ religious rights. April 2008

Federal Communications Commission. Submitted multiple comments on behalf of *Prison Legal News* concerning prison phone services. 2007-2014

Selected Published Articles

“Apples-to-Fish: Public and Private Prison Cost Comparisons,” *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, December 2014 (Vol. XLII, No. 2), pp. 503-568

“Lowering Recidivism through Family Communication,” *Prison Legal News*, April 2014

“FCC Order Heralds Hope for Reform of Prison Phone Industry,” *Prison Legal News*, Dec. 2013 (cover story, co-authored with John Dannenberg)

“Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards Finally in Effect, but Will They be Effective?” *Prison Legal News*, Sept. 2013 (cover story)

“Slowly Closing the Gates: A State-by-State Assessment of Recent Prison Closures,” *Prison Legal News*, June 2013 (cover story, co-authored with Christopher Petrella)

“Abuse in Los Angeles Jails Leads to Investigations, Lawsuits and Eventual Reforms,” *Prison Legal News*, March 2013 (cover story, co-authored with Mike Brodheim)

“Solitary Confinement Subject of Unprecedented Congressional Hearing,” *Prison Legal News*, October 2012 (cover story)

“State-by-State Prisoner Rape and Sexual Abuse Round-Up,” *Prison Legal News*, April 2012 (cover story, co-authored with Matthew Clarke)

“Improbable Private Prison Scam Plays Out in Hardin, Montana,” *Prison Legal News*, Dec. 2009 (cover story)

“Judge Not: Judges Benched for Personal Misconduct,” *Prison Legal News*, Aug. 2009 (cover story, co-authored with Gary Hunter)

“For-Profit Transportation Companies: Taking Prisoners, and the Public, for a Ride,” *Prison Legal News*, Sept. 2006 (cover story)

Presentations & Speaking Events:

Volunteer State Community College. Presented on private prisons, by invitation, as part of a series of speakers on criminal justice topics. February 2018

The Corporatization of Criminal Justice symposium. Presented on a panel about problems that stem from prison privatization. Phoenix, AZ. April 2017

NAACP Tennessee State Conference, Race Relation and Advocacy Summit. Spoke about prisoners’ rights and advocacy. Jackson, TN. March 2017

Financial Market Strategies for Prison Reform, co-presenter. Discussed private prison contract procurement as part of a panel discussion. New York, NY. Feb. 2017

Out of the Shadows conference, co-presenter. Was one of two presenters for a session on private prison oversight. Austin, TX. Nov. 2016

AFL-CIO Criminal Justice Reform conference, speaker. Presented on a panel on prison privatization, criminal justice reform and suggested solutions. Washington, DC. Oct. 2015

Vanderbilt University, Contemporary Philosophy class, speaker. Presented as part of class discussion on “Critical responses to mass incarceration.” Nashville, TN. Oct. 2015

Vanderbilt University, Re-Visioning Justice in America conference, speaker. Presented on the private prison industry. Nashville, TN. April 2015

Lipscomb University, speaker at “Rethinking Prisons: Justice, Punishment, and Incarceration in America” Lifelong Learning course. Nashville, TN. April 2015

University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, speaker for the American Constitution Society. Memphis, TN. March 2015

University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, panelist. Spoke about issues related to felon disenfranchisement in Tennessee. Memphis, TN. August 2014

Federal Communications Commission workshop, panelist. Presented on cost drivers of prison phone services in facilities of different sizes. Washington, DC. July 2014

University of Georgia at Athens, School of Law, Working in the Public Interest conference, panelist. Spoke on prison privatization. Athens, GA. March 2014

Loyola College of Law Prisoners’ Advocates conference, panelist. Participated in two panel presentations on private prisons. New Orleans, LA. February 2014

Public Safety & Justice Campaign annual meeting. Gave three presentations on issues related to prison privatization. Washington, DC. December 2013

Federal Communications Commission workshop, panelist. Presented on prison phone-related issues. Washington, DC. July 2013

Vanderbilt University’s “Rethinking Prisons” conference, panelist. Presented on the political and societal impact of the private prison industry. Nashville, TN. May 2013

National Conference for Media Reform, panelist. Discussion of prison phone-related issues and the Campaign for Prison Phone Justice. Denver, CO. April 2013

National Lawyers Guild Southern Conference, panelist. Presented on two panels: prison privatization and felon disenfranchisement. Nashville, TN. May 2013

Society of Professional Journalists' Sunshine Week event, speaker. Presented at the First Amendment Center on open government and public records-related issues. Nashville, TN. March 2013

Appellate Litigation Clinic, Vanderbilt University, speaker. Presented on pro se prisoner litigation. Nashville, TN. Sept. 2012

Children's Defense Fund conference, panelist. Discussion of the private prison industry with an emphasis on privately-operated juvenile facilities. Cincinnati, OH. July 2012

Communications Workers of America (CWA) conference, panelist. Presented on issues related to prison privatization. New Brunswick, NJ. June 2012

Belmont University, student convocation, speaker. Discussion of the private prison industry. Nashville, TN. April 2012

Presbyterian Criminal Justice Association, organizing meeting, speaker. Spoke on private prison-related issues and served as a consultant to the PCJA. Stony Point, NY. February 2012

Beyond the Walls: 9th Annual Prison Health Care & Reentry Summit, speaker. Discussion of prison phone issues and the prison phone justice campaign. Philadelphia, PA. June 2011

Congressional briefing sponsored by U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, panelist. Discussion of HR 2450, the Private Prison Information Act. Washington, DC. January 2010

Critical Resistance 10, panelist. Discussion of prison privatization's role in the criminal justice system. Oakland, CA. September 2008

National Lawyers Guild annual conference, panelist. Discussion of privatized immigration detention facilities. Washington, DC. November 2007

ACLU Right to Vote conference, "Breaking the Chains: From Jail Cell to Voting Booth," panelist. Discussion of felon disenfranchisement issues. Nashville, TN. May 2007

Yale University, GESO presentation, speaker. Discussion of prison privatization. New Haven, CT. March 2006

Critical Resistance East, panelist. Discussion of an attempt to privatize Tennessee's entire prison system. New York, NY. March 2001

Congressional Correctional Officers Caucus meeting, speaker. Discussion of empirical experiences with prison privatization. Washington, DC. May 2000

Litigation – Selected Cases:

Friedmann v. CCA, Chancery Court of Davidson County, Tennessee, Case No. 08-1105-I. Plaintiff in public records suit against Corrections Corp. of America, with representation by attorney Andy Clarke. The trial court held that CCA was subject to Tennessee’s Public Records Act; aff’d in part on appeal, 310 S.W.3d 366 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2009), *review denied*; affirmed following remand at 2013 Tenn. App. LEXIS 150. Case settled in 2013

Johnson v. Bredesen, U.S.D.C. (MD Tenn.), Case No. 3:08-cv-00187. Co-plaintiff in a voting rights suit re felon disenfranchisement, with representation by the Tennessee ACLU. Case settled with reinstatement of voting rights; other plaintiffs’ claims were dismissed. See: 579 F.Supp.2d 1044 (M.D. Tenn. 2008), *aff’d*, 624 F.3d 742 (6th Cir. 2010)

Friedmann v. Marshall County, Chancery Court of Marshall County, Tennessee, Case No. 17017. Plaintiff in a suit against the Marshall County Sheriff’s Office for failing to comply with the state public records law. The court ruled against the defendants on June 13, 2014; attorney fees granted on appeal at 471 S.W.3d 427 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2015)

Friedmann v. Scott, U.S.D.C. (MD Tenn.), Case No. 1:96-cv-00087. Plaintiff in a pro se civil rights suit against Corrections Corp. of America and CCA employees alleging retaliation and due process violations. Obtained injunctive relief and a jury award of \$3,000 in compensatory and \$3,000 in punitive damages against a former CCA unit manager following entry of default judgment. Dismissal of other defendants aff’d on appeal at 191 F.3d 451 (6th Cir. 1999) *

Richardson v. McKnight, 521 U.S. 399 (1997). Provided plaintiff’s counsel with a legal argument that was included in their Supreme Court brief. The Court held in *Richardson* that private prison companies could not raise a defense of qualified immunity *

Media Consultations:

Consulted with a senior researcher for “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver,” in October 2015, for an episode on prisoner reentry that aired November 9, 2015

Consulted with the production team for the Netflix TV series “Orange is the New Black” in May 2015, for a story line on private prisons

Consulted with a writer for the ABC TV series “Boston Legal” in July 2008, on issues related to prison privatization for an episode on private prisons

* While incarcerated, 1992-1999, Tennessee Dept. of Correction

Volunteerism:

Coordinator, Tennesseans Against Puryear (successful opposition campaign against the federal judicial nomination of CCA's general counsel), Nashville, TN. 2007-2008

Participant, Inside/Out Program at the Charles Bass Correctional Complex Annex, Nashville, TN. 2006

Trained mediator/conducted mediations, Mediation Works!, Nashville, TN. 2003-2004

Established and coordinated an in-prison Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and served as a certified VITA volunteer, Clifton, TN. 1994-1995 *

Director and founder, The Pledge Program (inmate organization that pooled donations from prisoners to make charitable contributions), Clifton, TN. 1993-1996 *

Memberships:

Society of Professional Journalists

Investigative Reporters and Editors

National CURE

American Mensa

Awards / Honors:

Tennessee Alliance for Progress, Long Haul Award, 2014

PEN American Center Prison Writing Awards, first place drama, 1998-99 *

* While incarcerated, 1992-1999, Tennessee Dept. of Correction