

The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc.

Presents

Bond and Bail, Fines and Fees: **A Community Forum on Decriminalizing Poverty**

August 20, 2016

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

NO CHARGE, but please reserve your seat at: <https://ecidecriminalizingpoverty.eventbrite.com>

The program is a timely discussion on the continued criminalization of poverty in Houston and throughout Texas. Specifically, this forum will cover the excessive use of fines and fees in the Houston Municipal Courts, along with unjust bail practices that impact the poor.



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, TX 77004



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Did You Know?

1. In 2014, less than 2% of defendants in the Houston Municipal Courts were offered an alternative to paying their fees and fines.
2. Texas law requires a 30% collection fee to be added to any delinquent fine owed to the state.
3. There are over 60 different fees, totaling over \$1,200, which can be assessed by the Harris County criminal courts.
4. Over 62% of the inmates housed in county jails across Texas have not been convicted of the crimes they are being jailed for.
5. 75% of Harris County Jail population has not yet been convicted. They are awaiting trial.
6. National Association of Counties found that 60% of the detained population presents a low-risk of pretrial misconduct

Confirmed Panelist

1. Attorneys from Equal Justice Under Law (currently suing Harris County over bail practices)
2. Professor Sandra Thompson, U of H Law Center
3. Tarsha Jackson, Texas Organizing Project
4. Dr. Gerald Wheeler, Project Orange Jumpsuit
5. Barbara E. Hartle, Municipal Courts Director and Presiding Judge

Invited Speakers

1. Office of Senator Rodney Ellis

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For more information call 713.313.1321

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