



## April 24, 2017

### Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America

Time: 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Location: Golkin 100, Michael A. Fitts Auditorium

In recent years, America's criminal justice system has become the subject of an increasingly urgent debate. Critics have assailed the rise of mass incarceration, emphasizing its disproportionate impact on people of color. As James Forman, Jr., points out, however, the war on crime that began in the 1970s was supported by many African American leaders in the nation's urban centers. In *Locking Up Our Own*, he seeks to understand why.

Penn Law, the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice, the Center for Africana Studies, Penn Political Science, Penn DCC, Penn Social Policy and Practice, and Penn Urban Studies present

An Author-Meets-Readers and Book Signing with

James Forman, Jr.

Yale Law School

Moderator:

Camille Z. Charles, Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor in the Social Sciences, University of Pennsylvania

Commentators:

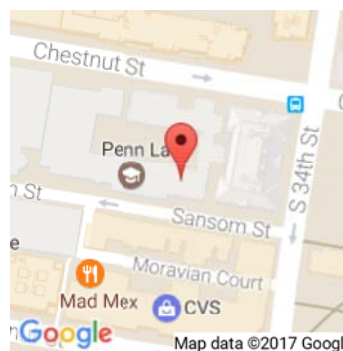
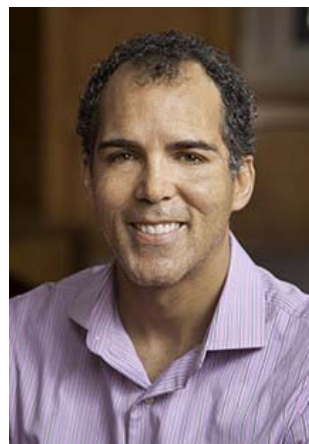
Regina Austin, William A. Schnader Professor of Law, Penn Law School

Michael Javen Fortner, Department of Urban Studies, City University of New York

Marie Gottschalk, Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania

In recent years, America's criminal justice system has become the subject of an increasingly urgent debate. Critics have assailed the rise of mass incarceration, emphasizing its disproportionate impact on people of color. As James Forman, Jr., points out, however, the war on crime that began in the 1970s was supported by many African American leaders in the nation's urban centers. In *Locking Up Our Own*, he seeks to understand why.

Forman shows us that the first substantial cohort of black mayors, judges, and police chiefs took office amid a surge in crime and drug addiction. Many prominent black officials, including Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry and federal prosecutor Eric Holder, feared that the gains of the civil rights movement were being undermined by lawlessness—and thus embraced tough-on-crime measures,



Contact Info:

Professor Marie Gottschalk  
University of Pennsylvania  
Department of Political Science  
[mgottsch@upenn.edu](mailto:mgottsch@upenn.edu)

Anna Gavin  
[agavin@law.upenn.edu](mailto:agavin@law.upenn.edu)

including longer sentences and aggressive police tactics. In the face of skyrocketing murder rates and the proliferation of open-air drug markets, they believed they had no choice. But the policies they adopted would have devastating consequences for residents of poor black neighborhoods.

A former D.C. public defender, Forman tells riveting stories of politicians, community activists, police officers, defendants, and crime victims. He writes with compassion about individuals trapped in terrible dilemmas—from the men and women he represented in court to officials struggling to respond to a public safety emergency. *Locking Up Our Own* enriches our understanding of why our society became so punitive and offers important lessons to anyone concerned about the future of race and the criminal justice system in this country.

James Forman Jr. is a Professor of Law at Yale Law School. He is a graduate of Atlanta's Roosevelt High School, Brown University, and Yale Law School, and was a law clerk for Judge William Norris of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the United States Supreme Court.

After clerking, he joined the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C., where for six years he represented both juveniles and adults charged with crimes.

Professor Forman taught at Georgetown Law from 2003 to 2011, when he joined the Yale faculty. At Yale, he teaches Constitutional Law, a seminar on Race and the Criminal Justice System, and a clinic called the Educational Opportunity and Juvenile Justice Clinic. In the clinic, Professor Forman and his students represent young people facing expulsion from school for discipline violations, and they work to keep their clients in school and on track towards graduation.

Professor Forman teaches and writes in the areas of criminal procedure and criminal law policy, constitutional law, juvenile justice, and education law and policy. His particular interests are schools, prisons, and police, and those institutions' race and class dimensions. Professor Forman's book, titled *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*, will be published in the spring of 2017 by Farrar Straus and Giroux.