Session Description: Jails are intended to hold people who are dangerous or pose a flight risk before trial, but have instead become de facto warehouses for people with serious mental illness and those who are too poor to meet financial conditions of release. Six of every 10 people in local jails have not been convicted of a crime, but are held awaiting trial, and most are accused of property, drug or other nonviolent offenses. Find out the latest on what states are doing to change the front end of the justice system.

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>2:15 – 2:25 p.m.</td>
<td>Statement of Session Purpose and Introductions</td>
<td>Moderator: Susan Parnas Frederick, senior federal affairs counsel, NCSL</td>
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<td>2:40 – 2:55 p.m.</td>
<td>The Conservative Case for Pretrial Justice &amp; A National Overview</td>
<td>Speaker: Marc Levin, director of the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation and Director of Right on Crime</td>
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<td>2:55 – 3:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Reforming California’s Pretrial Process</td>
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<td>3:10 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Time for Q&amp;A and Panel Discussion</td>
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Biographies

Susan Parnas Frederick, Esq.
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Susan Parnas Frederick joined NCSL in 2000 and currently holds the title of Senior Federal Affairs Counsel. She is the Washington, DC staff to NCSL’s Law, Criminal Justice, and Public Safety Committee and Task Force on Cybersecurity. She works to promote NCSL’s policy positions in the areas of criminal and civil justice, elections, homeland security and federalism generally before the U.S. Congress, the Administration and federal agencies. She also prepares and files amicus briefs in cases of state interest in the U.S. Supreme Court and U.S. Courts of Appeals. Before coming to NCSL, Parnas Frederick was a senior legislative counsel at the National League of Cities and an attorney in private practice in Alexandria, Virginia. She received her B.A. from the University of Virginia and her J.D. from the American University, Washington College of Law.
Robert Hertzberg is a California State Senator representing nearly 1 million residents of the San Fernando Valley, or about one-quarter of the population of the city of Los Angeles. A lawyer for 37 years, Senator Hertzberg was elected to three terms in the California State Assembly, where he was chairman of the Public Safety Committee and rose to become Assembly Speaker 2000-2002. After term limits forced him from office, he spent 12 years working in the private sector, traveling the globe as a clean-energy entrepreneur and developing bipartisan, good-government reforms, such as measures to improve California’s initiative system and its redistricting process. Hertzberg was elected to the state Senate in 2014. In December 2016, Hertzberg introduced legislation to reform California’s cash bail system and replace a pretrial process that often forces people of modest means to remain in jail until a court can determine their innocence or guilt but allows the wealthy to go free. The legislation, SB 10, was passed by the Senate and is currently being considered by the state Assembly.

In the Senate, Hertzberg has focused on the courts and the judicial branch and worked to create equal access to justice for all Californians. Along with Governor Jerry Brown, Hertzberg helped establish a traffic amnesty program in 2015 that has given more than 205,000 Californians fine and fee reductions and returned more than 192,000 suspended driver's licenses. He also helped persuade Brown to stop the practice of automatically suspending driver’s licenses for people who are unable to pay their traffic fines.

Laurie Garduque
Director of Justice Reform
The John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Chicago, IL

Laurie joined the Foundation in 1991 after serving as director of the National Forum on the Future of Children and Families, a joint project of the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine. From 1984 to 1987, she was the Director of Governmental and Professional Liaison for the American Educational Research Association in Washington, D.C. This position followed the year she spent, from 1983 to 1984, as a Congressional Science Fellow in the U.S. Senate.


She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology and her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Marc Levin
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Marc A. Levin, Esq., is the director of the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation and Policy Director of its Right on Crime initiative. In 2010, Mr. Levin developed the concept for the Right on Crime initiative, which has become the national clearinghouse for conservative criminal justice reforms. In 2014, Levin was named one of the “Politico 50” in the magazine’s annual “list of thinkers, doers, and dreamers who really matter in this age of gridlock and dysfunction.” Levin has testified on criminal justice policy on four occasions before Congress and has testified before legislatures in states including Texas, Nevada, Kansas, Wisconsin, and California. He also has met personally with leaders ranging from President Barack Obama to Speaker Paul Ryan to share his ideas on criminal justice reform. In 2007, he was honored in a resolution unanimously passed by the Texas House of Representatives that stated, “Mr. Levin’s intellect is unparalleled and his research is impeccable.” He served as a law clerk to Judge Will Garwood on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Staff Attorney at the Texas Supreme Court. He received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.