



**INNOVATIONS
IN JAIL REFORM (CLE)**

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3 | 2-3:15 P.M.

Session Description: Each year, nearly 11 million people are booked into local jails—about 18 times the number of admissions to state and federal prisons. Momentum is growing in state legislatures to reexamine jail use with policies that increase equity, prioritize public safety and effectively use limited resources. Learn more about these promising local practices and how they are being implemented statewide.

Agenda	
2 - 2:10 p.m.	Laurie Garduque, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
2:10 – 2:25 p.m.	Amber Widgery, NCSL
2:25 - 2:45 p.m.	Senator Elgie Sims, Illinois
2:45 - 3:05 p.m.	Representative Barry Usher, Montana
3:05 - 3:15 p.m.	Discussion

Biographies

Laurie R. Garduque
Director, Criminal Justice
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Laurie Garduque joined the MacArthur 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. From 1980 to 1985, Garduque held a faculty position as an assistant professor in human development at The Pennsylvania State University. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology and her Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Amber Widgery*
Program Principal, Criminal Justice
National Conference of State Legislatures

Amber Widgery is a program principal in the Criminal Justice Program at NCSL. She specializes in issues relating to front-end criminal justice policy including law enforcement, pretrial release, deflection, diversion, treatment courts and forensic mental health services. She also has expertise in issues related to drug crime, sex offender registries and capital punishment. Her work at NCSL includes tracking and analyzing state legislation, providing research support to state legislatures, testifying for legislative committees, and publishing briefs, articles and reports on important legislative topics. Prior to joining NCSL, Amber worked as a student prosecutor and served as a fellow in both the Colorado General Assembly and the House of Commons in London. She earned her B.A. in political science and history from



Colorado State University, holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado Law School, and is a member of the Colorado Bar.

Senator Elgie Sims*
Illinois Legislature

Illinois State Senator, Elgie Sims is of counsel and government relations and public policy lawyer with Foley & Lardner LLP. He focuses his practice on government affairs and municipal finance as a member of the firm's Government Solutions and Public Finance Practices. He has an extensive background representing clients and spearheading complex legislative initiatives before various branches of federal, state and local governments. He currently serves as vice chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, chairman of the Subcommittee on CLEAR Compliance and as a member of the Appropriations I and II, Criminal Law and Telecommunications and Information Technology Committees. He is also a member of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, the revenue forecasting arm of the Illinois General Assembly

Representative Barry Usher
Montana Legislature

Representative Barry Usher serves on NCSL's executive committee and as vice chair of NCSL's Law, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. He represents the 40th district in the Montana Legislature. He chairs the House Judiciary Committee and has chaired the Law and Justice Interim Committee. He is a business owner, former law enforcement officer and a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard. Following his military service, Representative Usher continued his law enforcement career as a police officer in the Northern Virginia and Maryland suburbs of Washington DC. He now owns Beartooth Harley-Davidson in Billings, Mont.

*Denotes the speaker is an attorney