

Fines and Fees Consortium Expert Organizations

American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA)

- Lead contact: Brian Ursino, bursino@aamva.org
- AAMVA is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization developing model programs in motor vehicle administration, law enforcement and highway safety. The association also serves as an information clearinghouse in these areas, and acts as the international spokesman for these interests.

UC Berkeley School of Law Policy Advocacy Clinic (PAC)

- Lead contact: Stephanie Campos-Bui, scamposbui@clinical.law.berkeley.edu
- The PAC is a teaching law office that partners with organizations and provides education opportunities to UC Berkeley law and public policy students. In PAC, interdisciplinary teams of law and public policy students pursue innovative, multimodal, and systemic strategies on behalf of underrepresented individuals and groups to advance social justice, equity, and inclusion.
- Expertise within Fines and Fees policy
 - For the past six years PAC has provided nonpartisan research, education, litigation, policy advocacy, and technical assistance support to local, state, and national partners to abolish fines and fees imposed on youth and their families in the juvenile legal system. They have furnished policymakers with sound evidence about the legal, social, racial, and economic impact of fines and fees, and assisted multiple jurisdictions—state and local—in eliminating regressive and racially discriminatory juvenile fee laws, policies, and practices that harm families and undermine youth rehabilitation and public safety.

Civil Rights Corps

- Lead contact: Thea Sebastian, thea@civilrightscorps.org
- Civil Rights Corps is a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing systemic inequity within the U.S. criminal-legal system. Their litigation and/or policy work addresses a wide array of issues, including criminal-legal fees and fines, debt-based driver's license suspension, conflicts-of-interest within indigent defense, prosecutorial accountability, wealth-based pretrial detention, and debt-based barriers to voting. The organization is available to provide policy support and other guidance as states, counties and other public entities work to build more equitable and humane criminal-legal systems.
- Expertise within Fines and Fees policy
 - Civil Rights Corps has pioneered much of the landmark litigation that relates to fees and fines. On the policy side, Civil Rights Corps has leveraged this experience to provide policymakers, advocates, and judges with technical assistance and thought leadership. Policy projects have ranged from co-launching the Free to Drive coalition to address debt-based driver's license suspension to helping various District Attorneys craft their fees and fines policies.

Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSGJC)

- Lead contact: Carl Reynolds, creynolds@csg.org
- CSGJC's goals are to break the cycle of incarceration, improve health, opportunity and equity, and expand what works to improve public safety. They are committed to: being independent and nonpartisan in every aspect of our work; providing rigorous, trusted, high-quality analysis; developing practical and innovative solutions informed by data and research; promoting collaboration and building consensus; and being inclusive and respectful of diverse views and experiences.
- Expertise within Fines and Fees policy
 - The Justice Center was instrumental in elevating this topic with the 2007 publication of [Repaying Debts](#). Carl is the primary author of the 2011-2012 COSCA Policy Paper "[Courts Are Not Revenue Centers](#)."

Institute for Justice (IJ)

- Lead contact: Bill Maurer, wmaurer@ij.org
- IJ is a public interest, not-for-profit law firm dedicated to advancing liberty, including the right of individuals to own property and pursue their livelihoods without unreasonable governmental interference. In 2018, IJ argued and won a unanimous decision from the U.S. Supreme Court in *Timbs v. Indiana*, concerning the application of the U.S. Constitution's Excessive Fines Clause to state and local governments. IJ has also brought challenges to unconstitutional systems of fines and fees across the country.
- Expertise within Fines and Fees policy
 - IJ has challenged fines and fees systems in direct litigation, amicus briefs, activism, legislatively, and in the media. IJ participated in conferences held at the White House and the Department of Justice on the issue and IJ attorneys regularly write and speak about fines and fees issues across the country.

National Association of Counties (NACo)

- Lead contact: Vernon Smith, vsmith@naco.org
- NACo is a membership organization committed to creating healthy, safe and vibrant counties across America. NACo strengthens America's 3,069 counties, including nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. NACo focuses on legislative advocacy, disseminating best practices and providing educational programming on a range of issues with the goal of helping counties more effectively and efficiently use public dollars.
- Expertise within Fines and Fees policy
 - NACo, in partnership with PFM, is creating a series of resources focused on reducing and eliminating criminal justice fines and fees at the county level. They will focus on Dallas County, Texas, Davidson County, Tenn., and Ramsey County, Minn., which are working with PFM to find innovative strategies to reduce the use of fines and fees for justice-involved individuals.

National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC)

- Lead contact: Christina Gilbert, cgilbert@njdc.info
- NJDC was created in the late '90s to respond to the critical need to build the capacity of the juvenile defense bar and to improve access to counsel and quality of representation for children in the justice system. It gives juvenile defense attorneys a permanent and enhanced capacity to address practice issues, improve advocacy skills, build partnerships, exchange information, and participate in the national debate over juvenile crime. NJDC is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting justice for all children by ensuring excellence in juvenile defense. It provides support to public defenders, appointed counsel, law school clinical programs, and non-profit law centers to ensure quality representation in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal areas. NJDC also offers a wide range of integrated services to juvenile defenders, including training, technical assistance, advocacy, networking, collaboration, capacity building, and coordination.
- Expertise within Fines and Fees policy
 - NJDC addresses fines and fees policy as it relates to access to and quality of juvenile defense counsel, including, but not limited to, such issues as a lack of a presumption of indigence for youth in juvenile court; having to pay for a public defender; juvenile cash bail; and other fees and costs in the juvenile justice system; and how those impact youth's decisions such as waiver of counsel, pleas, etc., as well as the long-term harm caused to youth and families. NJDC does this specifically through its assessment work, campaign to reduce the use of juvenile cash bail, project looking at the collateral consequences of juvenile court, developing resources, and by providing training and technical assistance to juvenile justice stakeholders across the country working to fight or reduce or eliminate the costs and fees in their juvenile court systems.

PFM Group Consulting LLC Center for Justice & Safety Finance (CJSF)

- Lead contact: Sarah Schirmer, schirmers@pfm.com
- CJSF stands at the intersection where policy, operations, and finance meet – building a 21st Century criminal justice and public safety system for cities, counties, and communities across the country. CJSF has worked with cities and counties to drive fiscal and operational innovation, sustainability, and affordability for complex public safety and justice issues. CJSF takes a thoughtful and innovative approach, considering the specific challenges impacting clients. Their clients enjoy this distinct advantage because of their professionals' expertise and ability to tackle issues simultaneously as prior operational practitioners in public safety and justice, as well as budget and finance.
- Expertise within Fines and Fees policy
 - With funding from Arnold Ventures, CJSF is providing technical assistance to three large, urban counties to develop plans that will reduce or eliminate criminal fines and fees as a revenue source. The final report for each county will identify every fine and fee assessed within their criminal justice system and provide recommendations to reduce or eliminate those that are within the County's authority. The PFM team is developing plans to implement those changes and will offer cost savings and alternative revenue sources that will allow each county to offset the fiscal impact of changing its fines and fees system.

Vera Institute of Justice

- Lead contact: Chris Mai, cmai@vera.org
- Vera is a policy, research and reform organization with the mission to build justice systems that are fair, promote safety, and strengthen communities.
- Expertise within Fines and Fees policy
 - Vera produced a report titled *Past Due* examining the costs and consequences of relying on financial bail, fines, and fees in New Orleans. Vera's new Justice Fines and Fees project will explore fines and fees collections in five states to understand how much is collected, who benefits, and how those revenues could be replaced with fair alternatives.

Worth Rises

- Lead contact: Bianca Tylek, btylek@worthrises.org
- Worth Rises is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to dismantling the prison industrial complex and ending the exploitation of those it touches. Partnering deliberately with directly impacted people, we work to expose the commercialization of the criminal legal system and advocate and organize to protect and return the economic value extracted from affected communities.
- Expertise within Fines and Fees policy
 - Worth Rises has worked on campaigns on a variety of issues related to fines and fees, including the cost of prison and jail phone calls, commissary markups, bail payment fees, and more. Recently, they have been leading efforts to eliminate or significantly reduce the cost of telephone calls from prisons and jails, successfully making phone calls free from New York City and San Francisco jails. They also work to challenge the industry that drives fines and fees, blocking an estimated \$400 million prison telecom deal last April that would have led to higher service rates and preventing pension fund investments that fuel and finance the exploitative prison service industry.

Other Expert Organizations

Fines and Fees Justice Center

Juvenile Law Center

Harvard Law School Criminal Justice Policy Program

National Center for Youth Law

Justice Action Network

National Center for State Courts

Reason Foundation