

Equal Justice Initiative

Annual Report
2018





Steve Schapiro/Getty Images
Cover: Human Pictures

Your support makes our work possible.

The Equal Justice Initiative is a private, nonprofit law organization that has provided legal services to the poor, incarcerated, and condemned for nearly 30 years. From our office in Montgomery, Alabama, we have challenged mass incarceration, excessive punishment, and the abuse of children, people with disabilities, and the indigent in America's criminal justice system. We have made eliminating racial bias and discrimination against the poor a central feature of our work and have won major legal reforms and secured relief, release, or reduced sentences for over 140 condemned people on death row. Our advocacy and litigation to ban mandatory life-imprisonment-without-parole sentences for children resulted in landmark rulings by the United States Supreme Court that have impacted thousands of cases.

Over the last several years, we have engaged in new work to challenge the history of racial injustice in America with research, reports, community education efforts, advocacy, and public markers.

This year we opened two new national institutions that have drawn international praise. **The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration** and the **National Memorial for Peace and Justice** represent years of work by EJI to create new narrative spaces in the United States that document our nation's history of racial inequality. The sites have already attracted tens of thousands of visitors. The opening of our sites in April 2018 was accompanied by three days of events, talks, lectures, and performances that brought together an amazing array of voices and continue to have a great impact on the national discourse about race, poverty, and criminal justice reform.

EJI's staff and work have grown dramatically in the last year. Our work is the product of thousands of people like you who support us, donate to us, encourage us, and stand with us as we try to create a just nation more committed to fairness and equality. We are grateful for your support and thrilled to share this year's report.

Bryan Stevenson, Director



The Legacy Museum:

From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration

This year, EJI created and opened a new national institution. The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration is an 11,000-square-foot space located on the site of a warehouse that once confined enslaved black people awaiting sale. A physical site and an outreach program, the museum is designed as an engine for education about the legacy of racial inequality. Exhibits feature narrative content and videogra-



Human Pictures

phy, the nation's most comprehensive collection of data on lynching, courageous testimonies from former and current EJI clients, and new technology that brings to life previously unseen archival information about the domestic slave trade. Together, these materials and the visitors who engage with them transform the site from a space of historical trauma to one of truth and healing.

We believe that telling the truth about the slave trade, racial terror and lynching, Jim Crow segregation, and mass incarceration is critical to overcoming the division and conflict that have grown from centuries of denial and avoidance. EJI is committed to engaging communities in honest reflection that can help our nation respond more effectively to our history of racial inequality.



The National Memorial for Peace and Justice

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is the nation's first comprehensive memorial dedicated to thousands of African American victims of racial terror lynchings between 1877 and 1950. The National Memorial opened in April 2018 in Montgomery, Alabama.

The National Memorial is dedicated to educating visitors about how two centuries of enslavement of black people



©Alan Karchmer for EJI

One of the most powerful and effective new memorials created in a generation.

—The Washington Post

There is nothing like it in the country.

—The New York Times

The single greatest work of American architecture of the 21st century.

—The Dallas Morning News

evolved into decades of terror and violence following the collapse of Reconstruction. It details the violence and terror that forced millions of African Americans to flee the South and the continuing legacy of that terror through the 20th century until today.

Using investigative research, sculpture, art, design, literature, and poetry, EJI created the National Memorial as

a space for everyone to confront our nation's history of racial inequality with hope that a future of peace and justice can be achieved. The National Memorial is a beginning—an opportunity for communities across the country to claim their monuments, to confront the past with courage, and to begin a hopeful future in which truth leads to repair, restoration, and reconciliation.

Death Penalty

EJI continues to provide direct legal representation to over 100 condemned men and women on Alabama's death row. We also provide assistance, consulting, and case management to dozens more death row prisoners in the state. This year, we persuaded the United States Supreme Court to review an important constitutional issue concerning the execution of people with dementia. In *Madison v. Alabama*, EJI won a stay of execution for a man suffering from dementia after 33 years on Alabama's death row. EJI is committed to protecting people who are severely disabled or incompetent from the cruelty of an execution.



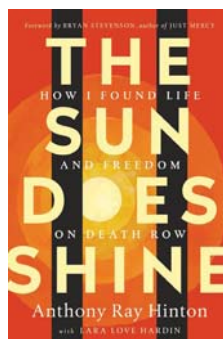
We are one of the nation's primary resources for education, training, and innovation in the death penalty area and in 2018 we produced a new capital defense manual for lawyers representing people accused of capital crimes. EJI's Alabama Capital Defense Trial Manual contains nearly 500 pages of instruction, guidance, and analysis to assist defense lawyers handling death penalty cases. EJI also provides dozens of sample motions and pleadings for capital defense lawyers. EJI staff routinely present at training conferences and convenings on capital representation.

Our public education work also reached

new levels in 2018 with the release of EJI Community Educator and former death row prisoner Anthony Ray Hinton's new book, *The Sun Does Shine*. The book documents Mr. Hinton's 30 years on Alabama's death row for a crime he did not commit. His account of his ordeal and EJI's effort to win his freedom has drawn national attention and became a New York Times Best Seller in June after it was selected by Oprah Winfrey's Book Club. Ms. Winfrey described the book as one of the most moving memoirs she has ever read. Mr. Hinton has spoken all over the country and addressed thousands of people at EJI as part of our community education efforts.



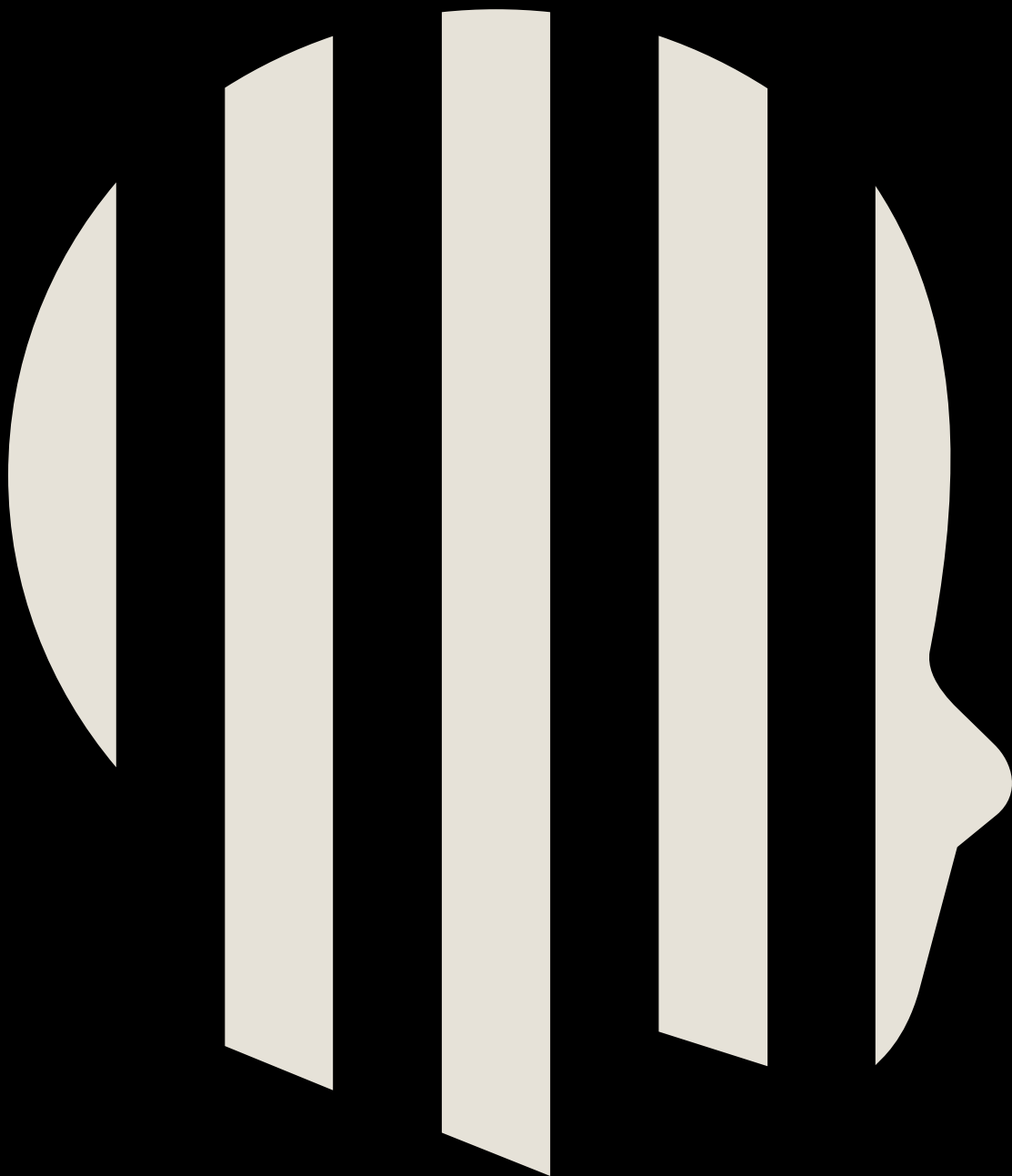
Associated Press



He is a remarkable storyteller. You will be swept away into this unbelievable, dramatic true story.

—Oprah Winfrey

Children Prosecuted as Adults



In 2018, EJI actively provided legal representation to scores of people who were condemned to die in prison for crimes they committed when they were children. In Pennsylvania, we won a reduced sentence for Trina Garnett, who was 14 when she sentenced to die in prison for a felony murder. Ms. Garnett has been incarcerated for 42 years. In Nebraska, we won a reduced sentence for Darren McCracken, who was also sentenced to life imprisonment without parole when he was 14.

In Alabama, we have now won reduced sentences for 40 juveniles originally sentenced to life imprisonment without parole. In Louisiana, during the last year, we secured the release of three more people who had been condemned to die in prison.

Joe Sullivan was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole for a nonhomicide crime at age 13 that we do not believe he committed. Joe's case was the first case we took to the United States Supreme Court, which resulted in a 2010 ban on life-without-parole sentences for all children convicted of nonhomicide offenses. This year, Joe was released from a Florida prison after 25 years of confinement.



Robert Caston (left) and August Williams were sentenced to die in prison in Louisiana as teenagers. Mr. Caston was one of the first clients to win release after the Supreme Court's decision in *Graham v. Florida*. EJI won Mr. Williams's release in 2017 after 49 years in prison.



Boris Wilson was sentenced to die in prison for a juvenile nonhomicide crime. EJI won his release in 2017 after over 35 years at Louisiana's notorious Angola prison.



Willie Leason spent over 50 years at Angola prison after being convicted of a nonhomicide offense when he was 17. He celebrated the two-year anniversary of his release this summer.

Criminal Justice Reform

EJI is actively pursuing relief from America's tragic over-incarceration, which has made us the most punitive nation on Earth. EJI works to obtain parole for people who have been incarcerated for decades. We educate policymakers about best practices and the need for sentencing reform and alternatives to incarceration. We advise courts and oth-

er decision-makers on ways to reduce reliance on jails and prisons. We litigate on behalf of individuals to challenge excessive punishment and harsh sentences. We believe that there are thousands of people currently incarcerated who are not a threat to public safety and should be released.



Orange is the New Black author Piper Kerman with Anthony Ray Hinton, who spent 30 years on death row for a crime he did not commit, and Steve Bright, President of the Southern Center for Human Rights, discussing criminal justice reform at the Peace and Justice Summit in April.



Bryan Stevenson and John Legend speak at a community meeting in Los Angeles about the need for criminal justice reform. *Hadas for Into Action/Los Angeles Review of Books*

Re-Entry Services

EJI provides re-entry services to clients coming out of prison by providing a range of support. Job training, education, housing, transportation assistance, support services to obtain benefits, life skills coaching, counseling, and therapy are among the services we provide to clients who become part of our Post-Release Education and Preparation program. PREP has served scores of formerly incarcerated people over the last 12 years and has a near-perfect record of preventing clients from re-offending.



Joe Sullivan was 13 when he was wrongly accused of a sexual assault in Florida. He was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole, becoming one of the youngest children condemned to die in prison in America. In 2009, EJI took Joe's case to the United States Supreme Court and ultimately won a ban on sentencing children convicted of nonhomicide offenses to life without parole. This year, after 25 years of incarceration, Joe Sullivan was released and admitted into EJI's re-entry program, which provides intensive assistance to people coming out of jail or prison who are especially vulnerable.



EJI provides a range of services to formerly incarcerated clients, including residential assistance, employment, job training, mental health services, life skills education, benefits assistance, transportation, medical assistance, and rigorous counseling and support services.

Prison Conditions



With over two million people in jails and prisons in America, conditions of confinement in many states have become abusive, violent, dangerous, and unconstitutional. EJI challenges inhumane prison conditions and abusive treatment of incarcerated people through education, litigation, and advocacy. This past year, we settled a class action lawsuit against one of Alabama's most dangerous prisons, which has one of the

highest homicide rates in the nation. We have filed dozens of complaints with the Justice Department and state and local officials documenting abuse, violence, and unconstitutional conditions. A 2018 documentary EJI prepared about conditions of confinement has been seen by thousands of visitors to our new Legacy Museum and has become a powerful tool for educating people about the need to improve prison conditions.



Prison overcrowding in some states is near 200 percent capacity, which has resulted in increased violence, suicide, and corruption. *Getty/Los Angeles Times*



John Legend



From Left Jacqueline Woodson, Common, Senator Cory Booker, Brittany Packnett



Mamie Kirkland, a 109-year-old survivor of a lynching in Mississippi is honored.



Patti LaBelle

Peace and Justice Opening

**April 26—27, 2018
Montgomery, Alabama**

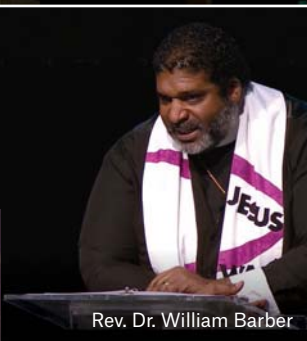
In April, we celebrated the opening of EJI's new Legacy Museum and National Memorial. Over 25,000 people came to Montgomery to participate in two days of exciting talks, lectures, performances, and a rousing final concert at the Montgomery Riverwalk, featuring performances from The Roots, Dave Matthews, Usher, Kirk Franklin, Brittany Howard, Common, Jon Batiste, Kirk Franklin, and an unforgettable finale by Stevie Wonder. Before the concert, thousands of people packed the Montgomery Performing Arts Center to hear from Michelle Alexander, Sherrilyn Ifill,



From Left Elizabeth Alexander, Anna Deavere Smith, Ava DuVernay



Andra Day



Rev. Dr. William Barber



Alfre Woodard



The Roots and entire line-up joined Stevie Wonder for the finale at the Peace and Justice Concert. Taylor Hill

Jelani Cobb, Rev. Dr. William Barber, Gloria Steinem, Marian Wright Edelman, Michel Martin, Ava DuVernay, Elizabeth Alexander, Anna Deavere Smith, Former Vice President Al Gore, Piper Kerman, Steve Bright, Anthony Ray Hinton, Senator Cory Booker, Brittany Packnett, Dr. Howard Stevenson, Dr. Margaret Beale Spencer, Dr. Walter Gilliam, Catherine Flowers, Jacqueline Woodson, and Common.

The pre-opening featured remarks from Darren Walker, Kim Taylor-Thompson, Laurene Powell Jobs, and Michel Martin

and performances by John Legend, Andra Day, Brandie Sutton, and BeBe Winans. Over 10,000 people attended our opening ceremony, where Congressman John Lewis spoke and we honored civil rights pioneers, including Fred Gray, Mamie Kirkland, Claudette Colvin, Ruby Sales, Dr. C.T. Vivian, Elizabeth Eckford, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Congressman John Lewis, Mary Louise Ware, Bernard Lafayette, Dr. Regina Benjamin, and Elaine Jones. The ceremony included performances by Sweet Honey in the Rock, Ailey II, and Patti LaBelle.

Photos by Gary Hunter, unless otherwise noted

Community Remembrance Project

EJI has continued to erect markers at lynching sites across the country during the last year. In several new states, EJI staff worked with community leaders to honor African Americans who were victims of racial terror lynching. Our community remembrance efforts have

increased dramatically since the opening of the new memorial. We have already heard from close to 300 counties about collecting their monuments as part of our ongoing effort to engage communities in important conversations about our nation's history of racial inequality.



EJI has organized dozens of events where community members honor victims of racial terror lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites and erecting markers that document the history of lynching. *Opposite* Kiara Boone from EJI unveils a marker in Selma, Alabama, with civil rights legend Dr. Bernard Lafayette, who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the 1968 Poor People's Campaign.



LYNCHING IN SELMA

The jail in Selma, Alabama, was a repeated site of racial terror that devastated the African American community. In February 1944, a mob of white men moved him to the jail in Selma under three hours after Mr. Webb arrived in Selma, before he could be released. He was killed by a mob of white men. The next year, a black man named Daniel Edwards from the Selma area was lynched. His body was found with bullet wounds. On July 11, 1935, Joe Spina Johnson was directly into the hands of a white mob that lynched him. Mr. Johnson's mutilated body was found in a ditch. The Sharecroppers Union that operated from 1936 to 1944 was also targeted and destroyed. Racial violence in Selma was a part of the history of the American South.

Public Education



FOR THE HANGED AND BEATEN.
FOR THE SHOT, DROWNED, AND BURNED.
FOR THE TORTURED, TORMENTED, AND TERRORIZED.
FOR THOSE ABANDONED BY THE RULE OF LAW.

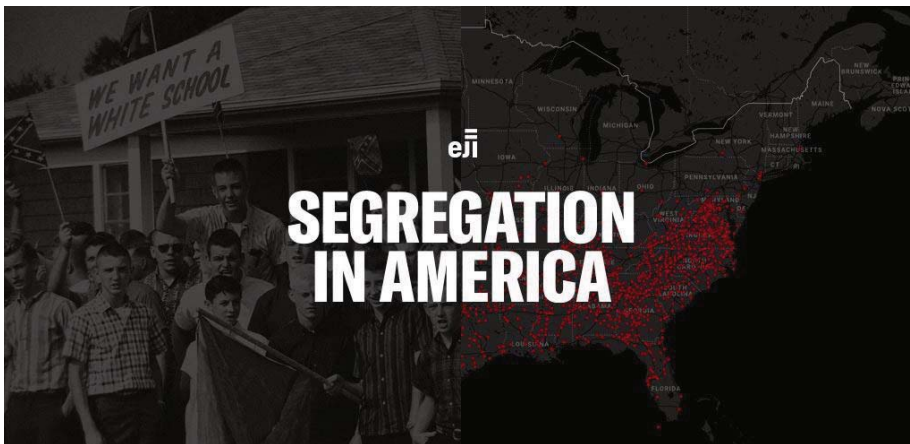
WE WILL REMEMBER.

WITH HOPE BECAUSE HOPELESSNESS IS THE ENEMY OF JUSTICE.
WITH COURAGE BECAUSE PEACE REQUIRES BRAVERY.
WITH PERSISTENCE BECAUSE JUSTICE IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE.
WITH FAITH BECAUSE WE SHALL OVERCOME.



In the last year, EJI has increased its public education work dramatically. Staff have done hundreds of presentations for schools, faith communities, and policymakers about the need for criminal justice reform. We also have been very actively educating communities and the nation about the need to confront our nation's history of racial inequality. Our reports on slavery, lynching, and segregation have been distributed to thousands. We have two new websites on lynching and segregation that present unique information to users all over the world and we created a curriculum for teachers and educators to use in the classroom. Our new museum and memorial have attracted over 200,000 visitors in the first four months of operation. We have received extremely favorable coverage of both sites worldwide since our opening, including powerful reviews in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, CBS's "60 Minutes," and *TIME Magazine*. We are committed to changing the narrative in America about over-incarceration, excessive punishment, and racial and economic injustice.

Thousands gathered for the opening of EJI's National Memorial for Peace and Justice. A faith dedication was held at the site on April 26, 2018. *Human Pictures*



Segregation in America is a new report and companion website that documents how millions of white Americans joined a mass movement of committed, unwavering, and often violent opposition to the Civil Rights Movement. EJI believes that understanding this mass opposition to racial equality, integration, and civil rights is central to confronting the continuing challenges of racial inequality today.

Opposite EJI's new memorial and museum staff gather for training and preparation to open our new sites in April 2018.



EJI Staff



Executive Director Bryan Stevenson and Deputy Director Randy Susskind meet with staff. *DiAnna Paulk for EJI*

EJI's staff has grown dramatically in the last year. The addition of over 40 new museum and memorial staff and the expansion of EJI's legal work has brought a group of extremely talented and dedicated people to our team. Our law fellowships, justice fellowships, racial justice internships, social work fellowships, and a range of other programs have attracted hundreds of applicants to help continue EJI's important work.



From Left Senior Attorney Jennifer Taylor with EJI staff Gabrielle Daniels, Kiara Boone, and Jonathan Kubakundimana



Community Educator Anthony Ray Hinton and Deputy Director Tera DuVernay



Site Manager Josh Cannon



From Left EJI staff Jonathan Kubakundimana and Elliot Spillers (Florian Koenigsberger)



Senior Attorney Sia Sanneh



Law Fellow Evan Milligan



EJI's new Gift Shop opened at 121 Coosa Street, next to the Legacy Museum.



In April 2018, EJI was featured on “60 Minutes” in a segment hosted by Oprah Winfrey, who posed with staff. *Keith Walker*



Clockwise from Left EJI staff Menna Elsayed, Kari Nelson, Elliot Spillers, Chris Keough, Eugene Harris, and Miriam Ashley-Smoke



2018 student interns

EJI has an ambitious plan to add to our renowned museum and memorial a new Center for Peace and Justice, which we plan to open in 2019. We hope to raise \$10 million in campaign revenue for the new spaces and sites and expect to have an operational budget of \$13 million in the coming fiscal year. We are grateful for the support of so many people and are proud that the overwhelming majority of our support comes from individual donors. EJI devotes 89 percent of

revenue to program services, with the remaining support going to administration and development. EJI is a top rated human and civil rights charity by Charity Navigator, earning a perfect score for Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency.

We are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible. We greatly appreciate your support and contributions to our work.

