

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

SECOND CHANCE FELLOWS

ABOUT THE VISITING FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Office of Justice Programs's (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Visiting Fellows Program invests in future and current leaders in the criminal justice field to advance priority national policy issues. The purpose of each fellowship is to make important policy and programmatic contributions in a criminal justice focus area. BJA has identified six focus areas for the program, including Improving Corrections and Reintegration under the Second Chance Act. All fellows collaborate with BJA and OJP staff to provide critical outreach, data, research, and subject matter expertise to inform the development of new BJA strategies, policies, and programs to benefit the field. Second Chance Fellows possess significant reentry policy and practice experience. They have substantial expertise as a policy advocate, legal or social services provider, or academic focusing on reentry as well as having lived experience, being formerly incarcerated, to bring a valuable perspective of the justice system and community reintegration to this role.

JOHN BAE

John Bae is the director of the Opening Doors to Housing Initiative at the Vera Institute of Justice. He works to increase housing opportunities for people with conviction histories, and leads national and state efforts to advance changes in housing policy. His other professional experiences include providing direct service for formerly incarcerated college students and providing technical assistance to expand college programs in correctional facilities. Mr. Bae has also worked in philanthropy supporting criminal justice reform efforts in several states. He helped to launch grantmaking funds focused on criminal justice and supported community reinvestment efforts across the country.

Mr. Bae was selected as a BJA fellow in 2021 and created blueprints highlighting two states to strengthen the reentry continuum and elevate formerly incarcerated people's voices in national discussions on reentry practice and policy. Through this fellowship, Mr. Bae has also worked closely with the Department of Housing and



Urban Development on policies related to housing access for individuals with criminal records.

"I hoped to gain insight into how government operates through this fellowship," said Mr. Bae. "This fellowship was also an opportunity to examine BJA's funding decisions, programs and initiatives, technical assistance, and research. As a fellow, I brought the perspectives of the people and communities less proximate to BJA to inform aspects of the work."

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STANLEY FRANKART

Stanley Frankart is using his lived experience to help others. He has served as a case manager and program supervisor of the Licking County (OH) Coalition for Housing and as an advocate and peer mentor in his community.



Mr. Frankart was selected as a BJA fellow in 2023 and will work to address barriers to securing and sustaining housing after incarceration using the Rapid Rehousing model piloted by the Returning Home Ohio Community Transition Program (RHO/CTP). Currently, RHO/CTP provides permanent supportive housing for adults exiting an Ohio prison with a severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

“People impacted by their justice involvement can bring their perspective ... and collaborate with policymakers towards holistic approaches and better outcomes to foster true restoration and successful reintegration,” Mr. Frankart said.

During his time as a fellow, Mr. Frankart will work to create a scalable and replicable evidence-driven housing program using the Rapid Rehousing Model, which will help stabilize and sustain individuals released from incarceration with SPMI, HIV/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS+), and substance use disorders. He seeks to reduce systemic barriers to housing after incarceration and create more spaces at the table for returning citizens.

ANGEL SANCHEZ

Angel Sanchez is a social justice advocate who has fought for justice-involved individuals’ access to education and voting rights, most recently through his work with the Florida Rights and Restoration Coalition. Mr. Sanchez is a graduate of Valencia Community College.



After attending community college, he went on to attend and graduated with honors from the University of Central Florida, then earned his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law and passed the Washington, D.C. bar exam. Mr. Sanchez is currently pursuing his Master of Laws degree at Yale Law School.

Mr. Sanchez was selected in 2021 and is using his time as a BJA fellow to examine how models for higher education contribute to successful reintegration, increase public safety, and reduce correctional costs. Mr. Sanchez is focused on restoring and enhancing access to education for justice-involved individuals by developing training and technical assistance (TTA) that empowers the field to address gaps, implement best practices, and build corrections-to-college networks. While at the Department of Justice, Mr. Sanchez also worked with colleagues at the Department of Education to improve the post-release prospects of people in the corrections system.

“We have systems that won’t forgive. We have systems that follow you and that bar you from so much,” Mr. Sanchez said. “By working with BJA, I hope to create a reintegration system that includes men and women who have spent time in prison.”

During Mr. Sanchez’s tenure as a fellow, he has worked to establish a partnership with the Department of Education on Pell Reinstatement for higher education inside the nation’s prison system. He’s particularly proud of the Second Chance Month event in 2023 inside Everglades Correctional Institution. Mr. Sanchez brought together justice-involved individuals who benefited from Pell Grant funding with OJP and Department of Education leadership for a panel discussion. His work as a BJA fellow also helped to lay the groundwork for the development of a similar fellowship with the Department of Education. Mr. Sanchez is working on an innovative corrections-to-college pipeline report that will include best practices and policy proposals for advocates and policymakers to build upon and improve BJA’s investments in reentry and reintegration. The report would be national and comprehensive, focusing on corrections, transition support upon release, barriers at colleges and universities, and support on campus and beyond.