

## Mikaela Rabinowitz, PhD

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

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#### SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, San Francisco, CA

Jan. 2021 – July 2022

##### *Director of Data, Research, and Analytics*

Served as member of the senior leadership team and was responsible for establishing and implementing data practices and research projects to drive action and inform policy in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. This included the following responsibilities:

- Work with Chief of Staff and other senior management to define office priorities, oversee implementation of key policies and initiatives.
- Represent District Attorney in interagency commissions and policy bodies, meetings with state and county legislators, and at community events.
- Establish unit, division, and office-level process and outcome metrics to improve Division Chiefs and Managing Attorneys' operational and programmatic decision-making. Develop tracking tools, including data dashboards to provide up-to-date information on key issues such jail population, case processing trends, diversion programs, case resolutions, and more.
- Develop and oversee portfolio of strategic internal and external research and evaluation projects in consultation with Chief of Programs & Initiatives and Director of Policy.
- Partner with Director of Communications to design reports and fact sheets about key criminal justice issues; respond to media inquiries and Public Records Act requests.

#### MEASURES FOR JUSTICE, Oakland, CA

July 2018 – Jan. 2021

##### *Director of National Engagement and Field Operations*

Served on MFJ's executive team; led national stakeholder outreach and engagement; and co-created and coordinated legislative strategy. Below is an overview of core responsibilities:

- As a member of the executive team, establish organizational strategic direction and priorities; participate in strategic and tactical fund development; monitor progress of organizational initiatives.
- Oversee criminal justice data acquisition in 20 states, collecting data from courts, departments of corrections, prosecutors, and more as part of national criminal justice performance measurement and transparency effort. (See <https://measuresforjustice.org/portal/>.)
- Work with policymakers, practitioners, and advocates to support use and interpretation of data to inform reform. Prepare reports, fact sheets, presentations for policy, research, and lay audiences regarding criminal justice patterns and performance.
- Support legislative efforts to improve criminal justice data policy, including meeting with policymakers and advocates to discuss state-specific needs; consulting on draft and pending legislation. Specific bills include California Assembly Bill 1331; Arizona Senate Bill 1171; Florida House Bill 7109.
- Provide guidance to prosecutors, public defenders, and courts on data policy and standards, including data collection, measurement, internal and public reporting.

#### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES, Oakland CA

Sept 2011 – July 2018

##### *Justice Practice Director*

Aug 2016 – July 2018

Oversaw a \$2.5 million/year portfolio of projects that included large and small scale justice system planning, evaluation, and assessments with government and non-profit organizations across California; served as a member of the leadership team; contributed to business development. Representative projects included:

- *LA Probation Governance Study*: 18-month assessment of LA County Probation Department operations, including governance structure, fiscal processes, client service delivery, and juvenile facilities. Findings and recommendations [cited in LA Times](#).

- *Contra Costa Racial Justice Task Force*: facilitation of multidisciplinary Task Force composed of leaders of county criminal justice, health and human service agencies, and nonprofits and formerly-incarcerated community members. Collected and analyzed data to measure racial disparities in criminal and juvenile justice processes; identify practices for reform.
- *Evaluation of LA County Public Defender Holistic Juvenile Representation*: quasi-experimental evaluation of Public Defender’s Office Holistic Juvenile Defense Services; development of policy recommendations for program improvement.

**Senior Project Manager**

Jan 2013 – July 2016

- Led planning and evaluation projects with justice system agencies across California.

**Senior Associate**

Sept 2011 – Dec 2012

- Supported implementation of planning and evaluation projects with justice system agencies across California.

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW, Oakland, CA**

Mar 2010 – Aug 2011

**Juvenile Justice Policy Advocate**

- Collaborated with state and local policy makers, juvenile judges, educators, probation staff, youth, and advocates to identify local reform needs, provide research and advocacy support.
- Participated in advocacy efforts tied to reducing the prosecution of juveniles in Wyoming adult courts, reducing school-based referrals to the Arkansas juvenile justice system, increasing funding and support for community-based alternatives in Arkansas, eliminating Juvenile Life Without Parole in California.

**ILLINOIS DISPROPORTIONATE JUSTICE IMPACT STUDY, Chicago, IL**

Jan 2009 – Dec 2009

**Research Advisory Group**

- Conducted quantitative analysis of effect of pretrial detention status on racial differences criminal justice outcomes; formulated recommendations to reform State of IL bail and pretrial detention policy.

**ARRESTEE DRUG ABUSE MONITORING PROGRAM (ADAM) II, Chicago, IL**

June 2007 – Dec 2009

**Site Research Lead**

- Led on-site data collection at the Cook County Jail for Office of National Drug Control Policy funded survey research project. Managed relationships with County Jail personnel to ensure cooperation and access; designed and implemented sampling protocol; supervised research team.

**SAMPLE OF PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

**Book:**

- Rabinowitz, M., *Incarceration without Conviction: Pretrial Detention and the Erosion of Innocence in American Criminal Justice*, Routledge Press, 2021.

**Reports:**

- Rabinowitz, M., Weisberg, R., Pearce, LM. [The California Criminal Justice Data Gap](#), Stanford Center for Criminal Justice, 2019.
- Rabinowitz, M., et al. [Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Gap Analysis Report](#). 2018.

**Peer reviewed publications:**

- Rabinowitz, M., Lurigio, AJ, Lenik, J, "A Century of Losing Battles: The Costly and Ill-Advised War on Drugs in the United States" *Justice Policy Journal* Fall 2009.

**EDUCATION**

**Northwestern University**, 2010  
Ph.D., Sociology

**University of Chicago**, 2005  
M.A., Social Sciences

**Columbia University**, 2002  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
B.A., with honors in African American Studies

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- Association for Criminal Justice Research of CA (President, 2020-2022)
- American Sociological Association