

# About MFJ

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DEMONSTRATION ONLY

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## Measures for Justice (MFJ)

### Description:

Measures for Justice (MFJ) was founded in 2011 to develop a data-driven set of performance measures to assess and compare the criminal justice process from arrest to post-conviction on a county-by-county basis. The data set comprises measures that address three broad categories: Fiscal Responsibility, Fair Process, and Public Safety.

### Stakeholder(s):

#### Department of Justice :

*MFJ developed and tested its first draft set of measures with a grant from the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. MFJ gathered some of the finest measurement experts in the country with diverse expertise in the judicial system to isolate useful indicators of system performance and from them develop MFJ's initial set of measures.*

#### Milwaukee County, Wisconsin :

*These were first piloted in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, and then extended to cover the entire state. Based on the success of that pilot, MFJ received funding to measure more states.*

#### Counties :

*Data collection across a country whose records are maintained differently county by county has required some innovative and old-fashioned methods. MFJ acquires its data by approaching state and local leaders, often traveling county by county. In the process, we solicit feedback on our metrics and counsel on the limitations of the data we're acquiring.*

#### State Leaders :

*We also share with state and local leaders the purpose of our work.*

#### Local Leaders

#### MFJ Researchers :

*Back in Rochester, NY, our eighteen researchers and technologists with PhD and Master degrees in Criminal Justice, Public Administration, Cognitive Science, and Computer Science from major universities across the U.S. work on cleaning and coding the data. They also work on software automation to streamline the process of cleaning and standardizing data from disparate sources. With this combination of strategies, MFJ is able to aggregate case-level data into one central repository.*

#### Criminal Justice Stakeholders :

*MFJ's data platform is unprecedented in scale and scope. It is designed for any user—from criminal justice stakeholders to average citizens interested in how their county is performing—and, in this way, offers up a neutral language that reform initiatives can deploy.*

#### Citizens

#### Legislators :

*MFJ's goal is to ensure the platform becomes the go-to resource for legislators and advocates—for anyone in a position to initiate and catalyze criminal justice reform.*

#### Advocates

#### MFJ Supporters :

*Measures for Justice is supported by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Google.org, MacArthur's Safety and Justice Challenge, the Laura and John Arnold, Pershing Square, Draper Richards Kaplan, and Open Society Foundations, in addition to the Bureau for Justice Assistance in the Department of Justice.*

#### Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

#### Google.org

#### MacArthur's Safety and Justice Challenge

#### Laura and John Arnold

#### Pershing Square

#### Draper Richards Kaplan

#### Open Society Foundations

#### MFJ Staff

#### Alexandra Ackles :

*Research Associate*

#### Mauricio Alvarez :

*Research Associate*

#### Amy Bach :

*Chief Executive Officer*

#### Will Boyd :

*Senior Software Developer*

#### Andrew Branch :

*Director of Product*

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*Stakeholders (continued)***Jennie Brooks :***Assistant Director of Data Outreach***Stephen Byrne :***Lead Software Developer***Stephanie Cruz :***Software Developer***Shelby Davis :***Data Outreach Manager***Mason DeLang :***Senior Data Scientist***Gipsy Escobar :***Director of Innovation***Scott Gary :***Mac Systems Administrator***Holly Hastings :***Software Developer***Nathan Hawke :***Legal Research Associate***Oliver Haynes :***Web Developer***Robert Hutchison :***Director of Research Management***David Kilmer :***Director of Technology***Josh Kramer :***Senior Web Developer***Nathan LeMahieu :***Research Associate***Hillary Livingston :***Research Fellow***Fiona Maazel :***Director of Communications***David Markallo :***Data Quality Analyst***Trevariana Mason :***Research Associate***Asma Mohammadi :***Legal Research Assistant***Lauren McQueen Pearce :***Assistant Director of Data Outreach***Mikaela Rabinowitz :***Director of National Engagement and Field Operations***Sharline Rojo Reyes :***Research Intern Spring 2020***Samantha J. Silver :***Chief of Strategy and Operations***Carly Simmons :***UX/UI Designer***Ben Smith :***Senior Software Developer***Lori Szalay :***HR/Office Manager, Exec. Assistant***Sema Taheri :***Director of Research Operations***Charles Teese :***Senior Security and Site Reliability Engineer***Dominic Testino :***Research Associate***Ian Thomas :***Research Associate***Amanda Valtierra :***Data Outreach Manager***Raelynn Walker :***Senior Research Associate***Jill Wesley :***Director of People Operations***MFJ Data Fellows :**

MFJ's Data Fellows provide technical assistance to Florida's 6th Judicial Circuit (Pinellas and Pasco counties) on the implementation of the Criminal Justice Data Transparency Bill passed by the state's Legislature in 2017. With their expertise in Criminal Law and Computer Science, the Data Fellows are helping streamline work and strengthen the data culture within the criminal justice agencies in the two counties. Their work will inform the process in other Florida counties and other states that want to follow Florida's example and bring transparency to the criminal justice system.

**Ariel Fonticiella :***Data Fellow***Sam Harden :***Data Fellow***DeSean Lewis :***Data Fellow***MFJ Board of Directors :**

The board is a governing body responsible for devising policies and procedures that support best practices for MFJ. Our board comprises some of the best thinkers out there on the subject of legal reform and policy. Current Directors include:

**Amy Bach :***Chief Executive Officer, MFJ**— continued next page*

Stakeholders (continued)

**Rosemary Barkett :**

*Iran-United States Claims Tribunal*

**Justin Erlich :**

*Vice President of Strategy, Policy & Legal at Voyage*

**Jim Kohlenberger :**

*President of JK Strategies*

**Kirsten Levingston :**

*Wellspring Advisory LLC*

**Richard J. Morello :**

*Family Reach Foundation and CND Life Sciences*

**Edwin G. Schallert :**

*Debevoise & Plimpton*

**David Shipley :**

*Bloomberg View*

**MFJ Methods and Measurement Council :**

*The Methods and Measurement Council comprises some of the brightest and most talented people in the field of criminal justice research and measurement who help revise and ratify MFJ's measures, which were originally developed by MFJ's Data Council. Current Methods and Measurement Council members include:*

**Christopher Fisher :**

*Chief Strategy Officer, Seattle Police Department*

**Brian Johnson :**

*Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park*

**Jim Parsons :**

*Vice President and Research Director, Vera Institute of Justice, New York*

**Andres F. Rengifo :**

*Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, Newark*

**Jessica Saunders :**

*Director of Research, Council for State Governments Justice Center, Austin*

**Don Stemen :**

*Council Chair — Associate Professor, Chairperson and Director of Sociological Studies Minor, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Loyola University Chicago*

**Min Xie :**

*Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park*

**MFJ Benchmarking Council :**

*The Benchmarking Council is a senior advisory group comprised of well-known and highly respected criminologists, all of whom have had an important impact on criminal justice theory and practice in the past few decades. The group also includes a member who pioneered the field of pain measurement in medicine. The Benchmarking Council vets MFJ's measures and*

*methodology, but the main focus of their work is on devising ways to help people better understand what the data mean. To this end, they are developing benchmarks MFJ will test with stakeholders across all our states. Current Benchmarking Council members include:*

**Todd Clear :**

*Council Chair — University Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, Newark*

**Bob Dworkin :**

*Professor, School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Rochester, Rochester*

**Michael Jacobson :**

*Executive Director, Institute for State & Local Governance at the City University of New York*

**Jim Lynch :**

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**William Sabol :**

*Professor, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Georgia State University, Atlanta*

**Cassia Spohn :**

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**MFJ Policing Council :**

*The Measures for Justice Policing Council is a senior advisory group comprised of some of the most experienced minds in the area of policing in the United States. The MFJ Policing Council provides guidance on the integration of policing measures into MFJ's platform. Current Policing Council members include:*

**Art Acevedo :**

*Chief of Police, Houston Police Department (TX)*

**Jim Burch :**

*President, National Police Foundation*

**Clarence Wardell III :**

*Director of City Solutions, Results for America*

**Chris Magnus :**

*Chief of Police, Tucson Police Department (TX)*

**Sylvia Moir :**

*Chief of Police, Tempe Police Department (AZ)*

**Abdul D. Pridgen :**

*Chief of Police, Seaside Police Department (CA)*

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Stakeholders (continued)

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**Dennis Rosenbaum :**

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*Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University*

**Sean Smoot :**

*Director and Chief Counsel, Police Benevolent & Protective Association of Illinois, and the Police Benevolent Labor Committee*

**Henry "Hank" Stawinski :**

*Chief of Police, Prince George's County Police Department*

**Darrel Stephens :**

*Former Chief of Police, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (NC), and former Executive Director, Major Cities Chiefs Association*

**Perry Tarrant :**

*Former Assistant Chief of Special Operations, Seattle Police Department (WA), and former National President, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)*

**MFJ Data Council :**

*The Data Council, established in 2011, was comprised of measurement experts with diverse expertise in the judicial system (experts on the judiciary, the bench, indigent defense, race in the courts, etc.) who helped isolate useful indicators of system performance and from them developed MFJ's initial set of measures. Data Council members included:*

**Amy Bach :**

*Chief Executive Officer, MFJ*

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*District Attorney, Milwaukee County*

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**Jim Parsons :**

*Vice President and Research Director, Vera Institute of Justice, New York*

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**Valerie West :**

*Assistant Professor, John Jay College, New York*

**MFJ Advisory Committee :**

*The MFJ Advisory Committee provides crucial strategic guidance for the organization with a particular focus on fundraising and developing a model to expand the Measures and generate revenue.*

**Josh Knauer :**

*President and CEO of Rhiza, Pittsburgh, PA*

**Josh Mailman :**

*Philanthropist and Founder of Social Venture Network, New York*

**Lenny Mendonca :**

*Director Emeritus, McKinsey & Company*

**Ellen Miller :**

*Cofounder, Sunlight Foundation, Washington, DC*

**Richard J. Morello :**

*Family Reach Foundation and CND Life Sciences*

**MFJ California Advisory Council :**

*To assist its efforts in California and ensure that they are responsive to local issues, MFJ has formed an Advisory Council comprised of respected stakeholders from and experts on the California criminal justice system (judiciary, law enforcement, public defender, prosecution, administrative offices of the courts, academics, etc.). The Council will support MFJ's California work by: helping with outreach out to data owners; sharing key thoughts and concerns regarding the data and Measures; speaking on behalf of the constituencies it represents and; serving as a liaison, answering questions others may have about Measures for Justice.*

**Jim Bueermann :**

*President, Police Foundation*

**Justin Erlich :**

*Vice President of Strategy, Policy & Legal at Voyage*

**Harlan G. Grossman :**

*Judge, Ret., Contra Costa County Superior Court*

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Stakeholders (continued)

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**MFJ Partners :**  
Measures for Justice would like to acknowledge and thank a few  
of our partners below for their generous support.

**Ballmer Group :**  
Ballmer Group supports efforts to improve economic mobility  
for children and families in the United States who are dispropor-  
tionately likely to remain in poverty. We envision a country  
where every child, regardless of background and circumstance,  
has an equal chance to achieve the American Dream.

**Bureau of Justice Assistance :**  
National Training and Technical Assistance Center — The  
Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of  
Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice  
Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile  
Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of  
Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring,  
Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

**Chan Zuckerberg Initiative :**  
The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative is a new kind of philanthropic  
organization dedicated to advancing human potential and pro-  
moting equal opportunity through engineering, grant making,  
impact investing, policy and advocacy work.

**Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation :**  
The Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation provides funding and  
business mentoring to social entrepreneurs as they begin their  
non-profit organizations.

**The Ford Foundation :**  
The Ford Foundation supports visionary leaders and organiza-  
tions on the frontlines of social change worldwide.

**Google.org :**  
Google.org. A better world, faster. Tech entrepreneurs are  
using innovation to tackle some of the world’s biggest chal-  
lenges. We invest in teams with bold ideas that create lasting  
global impact.

**Laura and John Arnold Foundation :**  
The Laura and John Arnold Foundation’s Criminal Justice  
initiative aims to reduce crime, increase public safety, and  
ensure the criminal justice system operates as fairly and  
cost-effectively as possible.

**MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice  
Challenge :**

Supported by the MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice  
Challenge, an initiative to address over-incarceration by  
changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

**Ash Tree Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable  
Foundation :**

The Ash Tree Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foun-  
dation is investing in four proven focus areas to increase  
opportunity for New Hampshire’s kids — from cradle to career.

**Open Society Foundations :**

The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and  
tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable and  
open to the participation of all people.

**Pershing Square Foundation :**

The Pershing Square Foundation supports exceptional leaders  
and innovative organizations that tackle important social issues  
and deliver scalable and sustainable impact.

**The William H. Donner Foundation :**

The William H. Donner Foundation embraces the judicious use  
of incentive grants to advance thoughtful, creative projects.

**MFJ Contributors :**

We would very much like to thank the following people:

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*State Attorney 8th Circuit State Attorney*

**Zena Dorsey :**

*Consultant*

**Peter Grossman and Lawrence Timmins  
Charitable Fund**

**Vision**

Our criminal justice system performs properly

**Mission**

To facilitate reform by making available comprehensive and reliable criminal justice data.

## Values

**Goals:** Framework - We believe that the proper functioning of our criminal justice system depends on the achievement of three goals.

**Fairness:** Fair Process: defendants should be treated fairly through the protection of due process rights.

**Safety:** Public Safety: a well-functioning society needs to protect all of its members from the harm of crime.

**Fiscal Responsibility:** Fiscal Responsibility: the criminal justice system needs to be accountable to the taxpayers in terms of investing resources on effective and proven practices where they are needed.

**Excellence:** Sound evidence must come from rigorous measurement and adhere to the principles of social science inquiry. To that end, above all else, we pursue excellence in data collection aimed at improving the justice system.

**Nonpartisanship:** MFJ was created to provide data and measurement for county-level criminal justice systems. Our goal is to present facts and figures, not to agitate for reform that extends beyond improving data collection and recording at the county level. We do not implement or advocate for policies and programs. We leave this process to others.

**Collaboration:** Every data point is tagged to someone's experience with the criminal justice system, be it defendants, prosecutors, judges, or defense attorneys. Thus we are invested in making sure your voices, feedback, and input are a part of our process. We work with a broad network of researchers, statisticians, and policymakers, following a science-based, collaborative approach.

**Rigor:** Developing performance measures that make sense is no easy task. Likewise, collecting county-level data from multiple sources. This is why we have made it a priority to ensure our data are as valid, meaningful, and accurate as possible via a robust audit system.

**Debate:** Measuring justice has to be a communal effort. We want to ignite a dialogue among stakeholders and practitioners about how best to measure performance. Debate breeds improvements and better data.

**Innovation:** Innovations in measurement can help find ways to develop new tools and services that speak to the needs of people who interact with the justice system. Measurement can have an impact only if it reaches the people who will benefit from it. Thus we are always striving to refine and advance our process.

**Transparency:** [The] data repository is paramount to MFJ's mission because transparency in the criminal justice system is paramount to more informed discussions about how it's working.

**Data:** MFJ does not advocate any specific reforms, but we do acknowledge that transparency provides a basis for positive, change-focused dialogue as needed. With this in mind, MFJ has developed a web-based platform that convenes all its data and analyses and offers them free to the public. The platform is searchable and can be configured to break down performance data across multiple factors including race/ethnicity; sex; indigent status; age; and offense type. The platform also allows for county-to-county comparison within and across states.

## Justice Metrics

*Measure every stage of the criminal justice process across the 3,000+ counties in the United States.*

### Stakeholder(s)

**Counties**

**Criminal Justice System**

#### 1. Trends & Baselines

*Show trends and establish baselines*

Plans - To recollect data every two years to show trends and establish baselines. This is a living website meant to be updated and developed over time to ensure it remains helpful to stakeholders.

#### 2. Criteria

*Show how counties are faring on fairness, public safety, and fiscal responsibility*

Output - A Data Portal that shows how counties are faring in three areas: Fair Process, Public Safety, and Fiscal Responsibility.

#### 3. Context & Interpretation

*Provide sufficient context to enable interpretation*

Promise - To provide as much context as possible so that data can be interpreted responsibly.

### Administrative Information

**Start Date:**

**End Date:**

**Publication Date:** 2020-06-27

**Source:** <https://measuresforjustice.org/about/overview>

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