



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For media inquiries, contact:
Peter Van Dyke
Van Dyke Horn Public Relations
O: 313.872.2202
C: 313.530.7882

**Hudson-Webber Foundation Convenes Michigan Leadership for Safety
and Justice Roundtable on Sept. 6, 7**

Two-day forum in Detroit seeks to co-create effective and equitable solutions for justice-involved youth and adults in Michigan

DETROIT – The Hudson-Webber Foundation, in partnership with The Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Michigan League for Public Policy, will host the Michigan Safety and Justice Roundtable on Sept. 6 and 7 at the Book Cadillac Hotel in Detroit.

The two-day forum will assemble leaders and decision-makers from across the state to engage in a nonpartisan conversation that advances fair and equitable youth and adult justice system approaches that promote positive youth development, effectively address crime and promote safety in Michigan’s communities.

“The Hudson-Webber Foundation focuses on helping ensure that Detroit’s recovery is inclusive and enduring, supporting and investing in initiatives that expand access to employment, housing, and other opportunities,” said Melanca Clark, president and CEO of the Detroit-based Hudson-Webber Foundation. “But, progress on these fronts is hindered because so many Detroiters have had contact with the criminal justice system, which affects their ability to access employment, housing, and other opportunities. Our reliance on overly punitive justice system interventions as a tool to address persistent social ills disproportionately affects low-income communities of color and is trapping large swaths of Detroiters in cycles of poverty and crime.”

“By bringing together practitioners, experts and advocates with diverse perspectives from across the political spectrum, we have an incredible opportunity, not only to share promising practices and common challenges, but to craft commonsense policy recommendations that move the state forward,” said Clark.

Participants at the roundtable will help create issue briefs that will be available to the public following the convening. Organizers expect these issue briefs to help inform policy on a range of topics impacting residents across the state.

Roundtable participants will include experts in juvenile and criminal justice from local and state government, members of the judiciary, law enforcement, academics, advocates and philanthropic funders. Expected participants include Justice Clement, Justice McCormick, State Representative Martin Howrylak, State Senator Ian Conyers, Ronald Simpson-Bey of JustLeadershipUSA, Dean of the Wayne State University School of Social Work Sheryl Kubiak, Detroit Chief of Police James Craig, Chief of Kalamazoo Public Safety Department, Karianne Thomas, Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clayton, Alcona County Prosecuting Attorney Thomas Jay Weichel, and Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Executive Director, Lauren Khogali. Both days of this interactive convening will include plenary presentations and work-group sessions designed to identify promising work underway, and opportunities for further progress.

- On Thursday, Sept. 6, the conference will focus on effective youth justice strategies, with topics of discussion including prevention and diversion, expanding community-based care, and effectively collecting accurate and comparable data across the state.
- On Friday, Sept. 7, the conference will focus on the adult system, with topics of discussion including community policing, alternatives to incarceration, bail reform, and expanding opportunities for returning citizens.

Keynote speakers will be Vincent Schiraldi, professor at Columbia University School of Social Work, and Mark Holden, general counsel and senior vice president of Koch Industries.

- Schiraldi, speaking on Thursday, Sept. 6, is the founder of the Justice Policy Institute, former director of juvenile corrections in Washington DC, and former commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation, and is a nationally recognized leader in community-based alternatives to incarceration for youth.
- Holden, speaking on Friday, Sept. 7, has witnessed the devastating results of overcriminalization on the lives of others throughout his life, and is building bridges between traditional political opponents on both left and right to advance criminal justice reform.

The plenary sessions, which will take place each day from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and the lunchtime keynote addresses at 12:30 p.m., will be livestreamed Hudson-Webber Foundation's Facebook page.

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ABOUT The Hudson-Webber Foundation

The Hudson-Webber Foundation's origins date back to 1939 with major contributions from Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Webber, other members of the Webber family, and The J.L. Hudson Company. The foundation is governed by a 17-member board of trustees, with assets of approximately \$180 million, and has contributed over \$200 million to improve the quality of life in Detroit. The mission areas of the foundation include support of community and economic development, the built environment, safe and just communities, and arts and culture.

To learn more about The Hudson-Webber Foundation, visit www.hudson-webber.org.