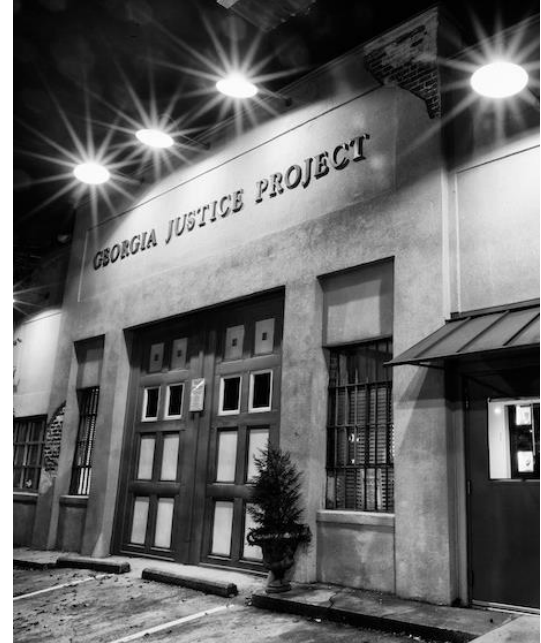


GEORGIA
JUSTICE
PROJECT

2021 Legislative Kickoff

January 6, 2021

We will begin shortly



GEORGIA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



GEORGIA JUSTICE PROJECT'S INTERVENTION

PRISON SUPPORT/ REENTRY

- Reentry lawyering
- Regular visits
- Family support

POLICY /20 LAWS CHANGED

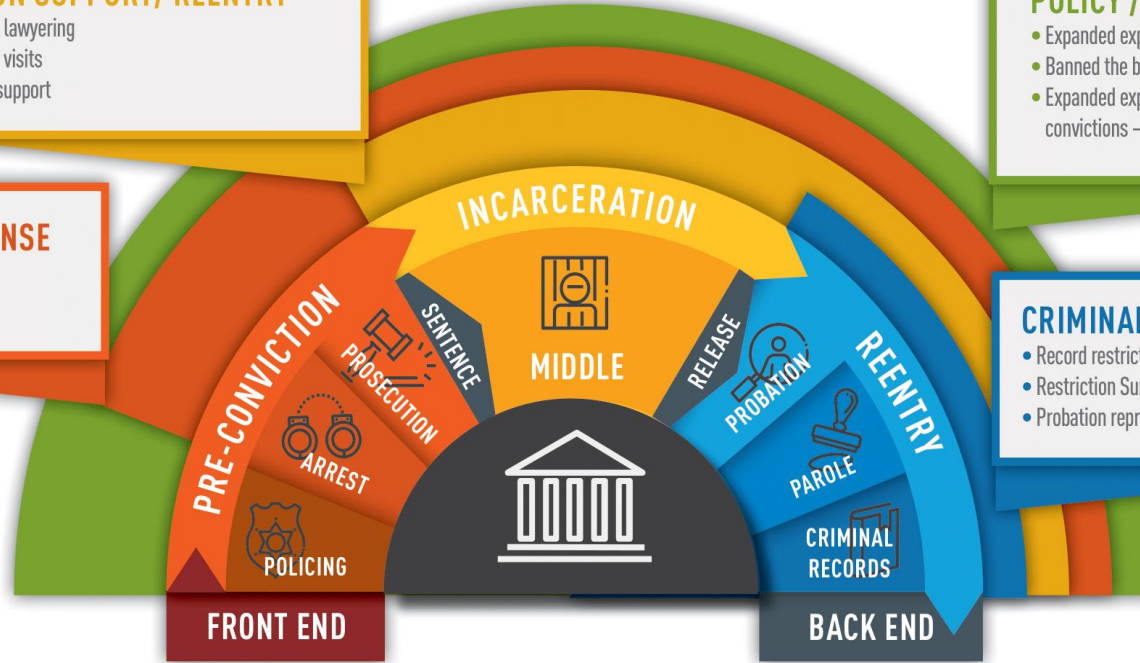
- Expanded expungement for Youthful Offenders
- Banned the box on state employment applications
- Expanded expungement to misdemeanor convictions – 1.5 million Georgians benefit

HOLISTIC CRIMINAL DEFENSE

- Legal representation with social services
- We stay with clients for life

CRIMINAL RECORDS/PROBLEMS

- Record restriction (expungement)
- Restriction Summits
- Probation representation & policy





SECOND CHANCE FOR GEORGIA

unlocking opportunity through expungement

SecondChanceGeorgia.org

What SB 288 Does: For People with a Criminal History

Provides for restriction & sealing of certain *misdemeanor* convictions

- ❖ Up to 2 convictions
- ❖ 4 years after completion of sentence
- ❖ Crime-free for 4 years
- ❖ Court process

Allows an individual who received a pardon for certain *felony* offenses to petition to restrict & seal their record

What can you do to clean up Georgia Records?

The Big Picture as of January 1, 2021

Felony convictions

- ❖ Retroactive First Offender
- ❖ Restrict & seal pardoned convictions
- ❖ Survivors First Act

Misdemeanor convictions

- ❖ Retroactive First Offender
- ❖ Restrict & seal up to 2 misdemeanor convictions
- ❖ Survivors First Act

First offender cases

- ❖ Discharge & seal

Pending cases

- ❖ Restrict & seal dead dockets

Non-convictions

- ❖ Restrict & seal

What SB 288 Does: **For Employers**

Limits what employers see on a background

Provides **liability protection** by limiting the admissibility of evidence, if...

- ❖ Info is not relevant
- ❖ Info was restricted & sealed or pardoned
- ❖ Arrest did not result in a conviction

Upcoming Events & Ways to Get Expungement Help

Job Seekers Event TOMORROW at 12 noon: <http://bit.ly/OpportATLSB288>

(GJP & Metro Atlanta Chamber)

- ❖ Learn more details about SB 288 eligibility & how you can apply to GJP for help

First Friday Presentations at GJP: Feb. 5, Mar. 5, April 2, etc. 10:00-11:30 AM

- ❖ **Must register in advance.** See GJP.org/first-fridays/
- ❖ Learn about what can be done about your criminal record & then talk with an attorney.

Pardon Training: Learn how to apply for a pardon

- ❖ **Thursday, Jan. 28th 4:00-5:30 PM**
- ❖ Register at: BIT.LY/GJPPARDON21

GJP Intake Questions? Intake@GJP.org or 404-827-0027 ext. 238

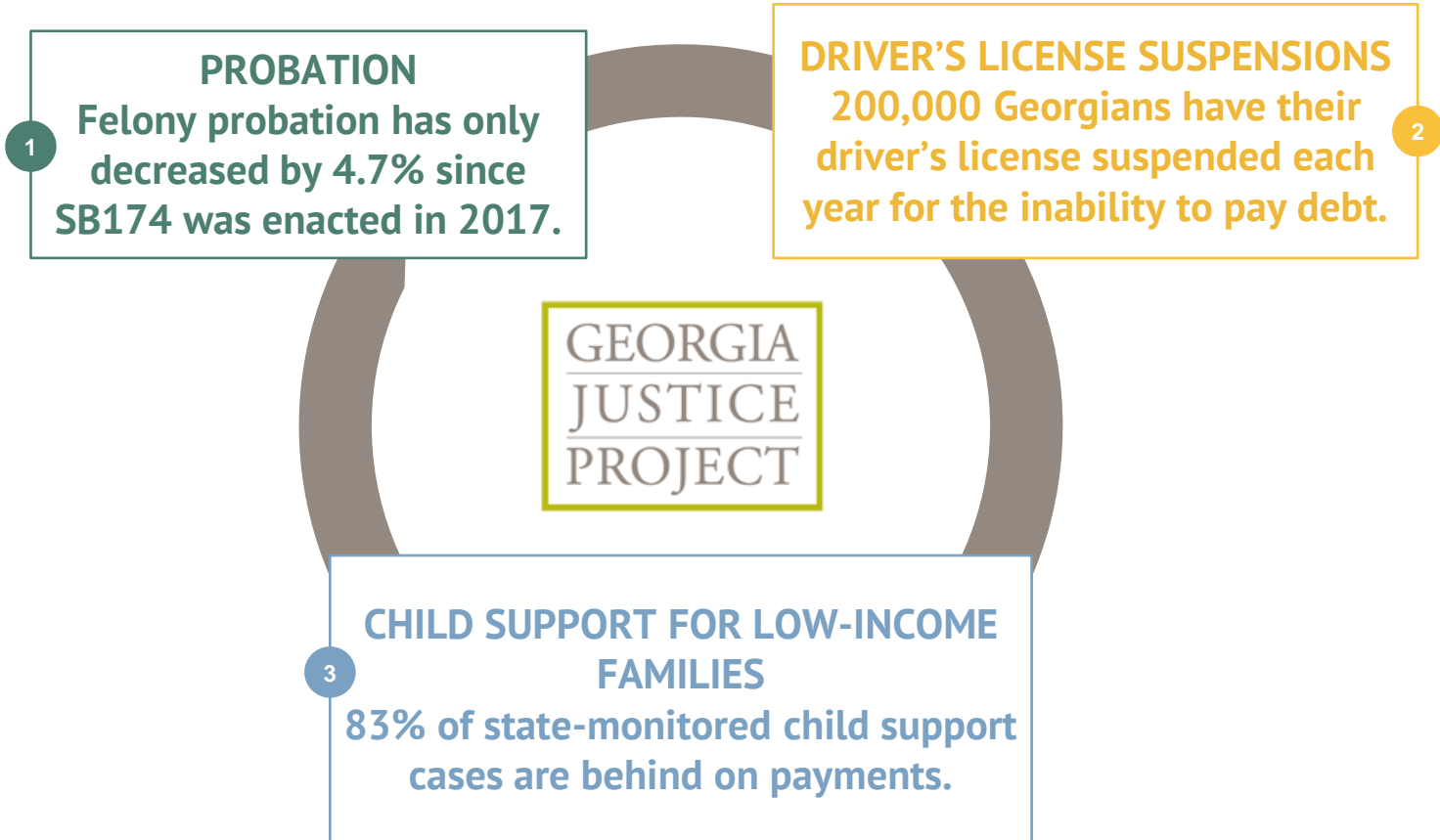


Ms. Marilyn Winn, Executive Director, Women on the Rise
(404) 948-2197 Marilynn@womenontherisegea.org WomenontheRiseGA.org

Second Chance for Georgia Campaign—endorsing partner organization



2021 Policy Agenda



Problem: Probation needs to be reformed in Georgia



433,000 people

are on probation and parole in Georgia.



1 in 18 adults

is under community supervision compared to 1 in 58 nationally. **More than three times the national average.**

Average of 6.3 years on probation

Individuals in Georgia spend more than twice as long on probation than individuals in the rest of the country - **national average of 3 years.**



40% of sentences exceed 10 years

Many states have a cap on the amount of years an individual can be sentenced to probation, but not Georgia.

Problem: Driver's license suspensions need to be reformed



Every year **Georgia suspends over 200,000 driver's licenses for unpaid debt** (traffic tickets and child support debt).



In GA, 87% of jobs require a driver's license. Almost **half of the people whose licenses are suspended lose their jobs.**



Driving on a suspended license is the **#1 reason for arrest, wasting police time and resources.**



Once a driver's license is suspended, there is a nonwaivable \$100 reinstatement fee, adding **additional financial burdens to individuals already struggling to make a living.**

Over 50,000 people are arrested for driving on a suspended license each year. Black drivers are 7 times more likely to be arrested than White drivers in some counties. The penalty is 2 days to 12 months in jail and a fine of \$500-\$1,000.



Problem: Child support for low-income families needs to be reformed



Georgia's Basic Child Support Obligation (BCSO) amounts for low-income families are the highest in the US and do not protect self-sufficiency income.

Parent accountability courts are aimed at strengthening Georgia's families. The program has only been available to 3,900 parents since its inception in 2008

The Fatherhood Program connects parents with employment and training opportunities. However, less than 10% of eligible parents were allowed to enroll in this program, last year.



Over \$2.5 billion of unpaid child support money is currently owed to Georgia's children and 83% of state monitored child support cases are behind on their payments.

Incarcerated parents continue to owe child support payments while incarcerated and unable to earn income. Debt continues to build up so when they complete their sentence they often have tens of thousands in debt and a suspended driver's license for it.

How to get Involved & Get Assistance from GJP

GJP Intake Questions?

- ❖ Intake@GJP.org or 404-827-0027 ext. 238

DJ Sims, Criminal Records Specialist & Reentry Organizer

Formerly incarcerated or impacted by the justice system in Georgia?

- ❖ Interested in joining GJP's Community Advisory Group to help shape our policy goals going forward?
- ❖ Contact DJ Sims at DJ@GJP.org or 404-827-0027 ext. **????**

Sign up to receive action alerts: <https://www.gjp.org/advocacy/>

How you can Advocate for Change

Sign up to receive action alerts: <https://www.gjp.org/advocacy/>

- ❖ Call or email your state legislator. They work for you!
- ❖ Templates/Script provided.
- ❖ Quick and easy.
- ❖ Georgia General Assembly: State Representative in the House and State Senator in the Senate.
- ❖ All bills start in a committee and then move to the Floor for a vote.

Share your story.

- ❖ So elected officials know how this affects Georgia citizens.

Spread the word on social media.

- ❖ Follow Georgia Justice Project on FB, Twitter & Instagram.

Questions? Contact Ann Colloton, Ann@GJP.org or 404-827-0027 ext. 248

Thank you for joining us today! We hope to connect with you again.

Sign up to receive action alerts: <https://www.gjp.org/advocacy/>

Advocacy Questions? Contact Ann Colloton, Ann@GJP.org or 404-827-0027 ext. 248

Join Community Advisory Group? Contact DJ Sims at DJ@GJP.org or 404-827-0027 ext. **????**

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