

SF State Project Rebound Public Seminar

“Justice Reform Begins with us”

Thursday November 30th @ 5:30PM

Speaker Bios



Jeff Adachi has served as elected Public Defender of the City and County of San Francisco since March 2002 and has worked as a deputy public defender in San Francisco for 15 years. From 1998-2001, he served as the Chief Attorney of the office. He has tried over 150 jury trials, including numerous serious felony and homicide cases, and has handled over 3,000 criminal matters throughout his career. As the only elected Public Defender in the state of California, Mr. Adachi oversees an office of 98 lawyers and 70 support staff. The office represents more than 23,000 people each year who are charged with misdemeanor and felony offenses and is among a handful of public defender’s offices in the U.S. to provide deportation defense to detained immigrants. Mr. Adachi has received numerous local, state and national awards, most recently the 2017 Youth Champion Award, the 2016 Society of Professional Journalist’s Public Official Award, the 2015 American Bar Association Hodson Award for Public Service, 2014 SPUR Good Government Award, and 2014 California Public Defender’s Association Program of the Year Award. He serves on the Board of Directors of Cal Humanities and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Mr. Adachi graduated from Hastings College of the Law in 1985 and received his undergraduate degree from U.C. Berkeley. As a filmmaker, he wrote, produced and directed *The Slanted Screen*, a 2006 documentary film about stereotypical depictions of Asian males in American cinema. He also directed the 2009 film *You Don’t Know Jack: The Jack Soo Story* and 2016 short film, *America Needs a Racial Facial*. His latest film, *Defender*, won Best Documentary at the Independent Television and Film Festival in October, 2017.



Soumyaa Behrens is an award-winning director and producer whose projects have screened at festivals nationwide. Her work engages issues that influence the human condition and the political landscapes that shape identity and power structures within marginalized communities. She is post-production on a documentary film that chronicles the forced demise of a community-recycling center in San Francisco due to gentrification efforts. Behrens produces a range of projects at the DocFilm Institute including the Veteran Documentary Corps as well as a number of feature films. She recently appeared on CNN Dialogues in conversation about film and social justice. She has also presented work at the Tides | Thoreau Center series, *Righting Wrongs: Celebrating Human Rights in Action*.



Tamara Perkins is a filmmaker. She uses film as a vehicle for change. She focuses! Apple of Discord Productions was founded in 2006, producing such films as *Niroga*. The film profiles her work as a founder of Niroga, a program which reaches incarcerated youth through Yoga and mindfulness. As a grief support facilitator since 2001, Tamara has led grief support groups for children, youth, and adults, and organized a free grief support camp for children and youth. Continuing her community film work, she developed programs such as the Wisdom Project and San Quentin Media Project which train at-risk youth and incarcerated men in filmmaking as a tool for transformation.

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As a speaker, Tamara touches topics spanning prison issues and human rights at agencies, universities, and organizations such as Equal Justice Society, USF Law, and Stanford Law. She also served as media keynote for the Houston Institute’s Conference on Race and Inclusion. ‘Life After: Embracing our Common Humanity’, is a TEDx talk she presented. She is a recipient of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency’s Media for a Just Society Award. Tamara’s current film *Life After Life* began in her yoga class in San Quentin State Prison when the men asked her to tell their story. As a crime survivor and woman with a formerly incarcerated family member this is the most important project of her life. As a media activist and healer, Tamara envisions a future without prisons, where all trauma-impacted children, youth and adults are not met with harm but held in healing.



Pamela Price was raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She joined the civil rights movement when she was 13 years old. She is a survivor of the Ohio juvenile justice and foster care systems. She graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in Political Science in 1978. After Yale, Price attended the Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) where she received her J.D. and a Master’s degree in Jurisprudence & Social Policy in 1982. She started her career as a Criminal Defender in Bayview Hunter’s Point in San Francisco. In June 1991, she founded her own law firm in Oakland. Her firm successfully represented victims of sex and race discrimination in difficult cases and trials. Her trial victories, large money judgments and tenacity as a litigator have made her a legend in the Bay Area.

Every year since 2004, Price has been named one of the top 5% of Northern California “Super Lawyers” by San Francisco Magazine. From 2007-2016, she served with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of San Francisco (LCCR). Price has received numerous awards, including the National Bar Association’s *Heman Marion Sweatt Award*, the National Lawyers Guild Bay Area Chapter *Champion of Justice*, among several others. In 2016 she was elected into the Alameda County Democratic Party Central Committee in a historic landslide election.



Norma Salcedo is the AB 540 Dream Coordinator at San Francisco State University. In her role, she supports the academic and personal success of undocumented students. Norma helped establish the Dream Resource Center that provides services to current and prospective undocumented students with the support of students, staff, faculty and administrators. At SF State, Norma Co-Chairs the AB 540/Undocumented Students Educational Equity Task Force and is the Archivist for the Raza Faculty and Staff Association. Norma also supports the Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education’s (NASPA) Undocumented Immigrants and Allies Knowledge Community as their Social Media Coordinator.

Norma holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from California State University, San Bernardino, a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration from the University of Kansas, and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at San Francisco State University.

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