

Letter from the Chairman

We are witnessing - and indeed we are all a part of - history in the making! We have the privilege of living through a fairly tumultuous period of change that will be discussed, analyzed, deliberated, documented and portrayed from a variety of perspectives for generations to come! There has been widespread civil unrest across our nation following a number of recent deaths of African Americans and other people of color while interfacing with the front end of our criminal justice system. These incidents have evoked a range of public reactions including anger, sadness, disgust, and fear. As a result, the level of grassroots activism we are witnessing now is reminiscent of that during the civil rights era which eventually led to major shifts in public opinion, corporate policy, and legal precedent that improved how the systemically disenfranchised were treated in our society. A similar opportunity is before us now. However, as has happened in the past, those of us living through these times of social and political turbulence are at a distinct disadvantage in appreciating the potential long-term impact of this moment in history. It is with this historical perspective that I urge everyone to take some definitive action, individually or as part of a group, to further our local efforts toward criminal justice system reform.