

Fall 2021



Greetings from PAC!

In spite of the many challenges and hardships in 2021, I am delighted to report that clinic staff, students, and partners helped to move the needle on racial and economic justice, including the passage of juvenile fee abolition bills in five states and an adult fee repeal bill in California (much of it covered in this wonderful law school [feature story](#)).

In addition to the state and local abolition work, we partnered with groups across the country and political spectrum on several major initiatives, including launching a Debt Free Justice campaign to end monetary sanctions in the juvenile legal system, urging the U.S. Department of Justice to issue guidance supporting the repeal of juvenile fees and fines, and intervening in a significant fines and fees case in the Idaho Supreme Court.

Much of our success is thanks to the amazing clinical teaching fellows who joined PAC in [2020](#) and [2021](#). Along with the incredible generosity of donors large and small, new Deputy Directors [Stephanie Campos-Bui](#) and [Devan Shea](#) have been instrumental in supporting this growth. In a chef's kiss this fall, PAC's prior fee abolition work in California and Nevada was recognized with the [2021 Paul H. Chapman Award for Justice](#).

We've shared more details about all of this below, but most importantly, we hope this finds you and your loved ones well. On behalf of the whole PAC family, we wish you warm and peaceful holidays and a happy and healthy new year.

Peace and love,

Jeff



After two years of work, clinic alumni Marcos Mocine-McQueen '21 (holding son) and Emma Atuire '21 (in yellow) stand behind Gov. Jared Polis as he signed a law in July abolishing juvenile fees in Colorado.

Juvenile fee abolition on the march across the country

In 2021, PAC staff and students supported local partners in Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oregon, and Texas to abolish regressive and racially discriminatory fees and fines imposed on thousands of vulnerable youth and families in the juvenile delinquency system. See this [interactive map](#) for more details.

Adult fee abolition picks up steam in California

On behalf of [Debt Free Justice California](#) — and building on the coalition's success in ending 23 fees in the criminal system and discharging an estimated \$16 billion in outstanding fees in 2020 — PAC supported efforts to [repeal another 17 adult fees](#) and discharge an additional \$534 million in onerous debt.

Asking Biden D.O.J. to support juvenile fee and fine abolition

With the [Juvenile Law Center](#) and [National Center for Youth Law](#), PAC submitted a [letter signed by more than 180 organizations](#) across the country and political spectrum calling on the U.S. Department of Justice to reissue and update guidance to states on ending juvenile fees and fines.

Fighting fees and fines in the courts

With [Fines and Fees Justice Center](#) and other national groups, PAC submitted an [amicus brief](#) in the Idaho Supreme Court in a key fines and fees case. A [unanimous ruling](#) from the court in June prohibits judges from issuing arrest warrants for failure to pay court fines

and fees before establishing a defendant's ability to pay, which will have major implications in other states that still permit this form of debtors' prison.

Campaign for Debt-Free Justice launches



Alongside Juvenile Law Center and the National Center for Youth Law, the clinic launched [Debt Free Justice](#), a national campaign to abolish fees and fines imposed on youth in the justice system. The campaign will bring together the people, expertise, and resources necessary to

ensure that fees and fines charged to youth are the exception and not the norm.

Welcome to our new teaching fellows!



We are delighted to welcome [three new teaching fellows](#) to the clinic this year.

[Cameron D. Clark](#) is a 2018 graduate of Harvard Law School and joins PAC following post-graduate fellowships with the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Texas Civil Rights Project. Cameron is supporting fee abolition campaigns in Illinois and Hawaii and implementation of a fee abolition bill in their home state of Texas.

[Delaney Green](#) is a 2021 graduate of Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and a clinic alumna, where she worked on juvenile fee abolition in the Deep South. Delaney is supporting fee abolition campaigns in Mississippi and Alabama and implementation in her adopted state of Louisiana.

[Yasmine Tager](#) is a 2018 graduate of Berkeley Law, after which she served for two years as the East Bay Community Law Center's inaugural Brian Lewinstein Equal Justice America Fellow. Yasmine is supporting fee abolition campaigns in Montana, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Clinical Program releases second annual report

It's been another busy year in Berkeley Law's clinical program, which welcomed the largest class ever of incoming clinic students this fall. To meet this growing demand, plans are underway to



expand the program with five new tenure-track faculty over the next five years and to launch new clinics. [View our Annual Report](#) to learn how clinical students and faculty have continued to fight for racial, economic, and social justice.

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