

Participatory Defense: Pathway to Freedom

Families Shoulder to Shoulder



r@outlook.com

FSTS Team/ Board



Our Founder Ginny Parham



Our President Willie Nobles



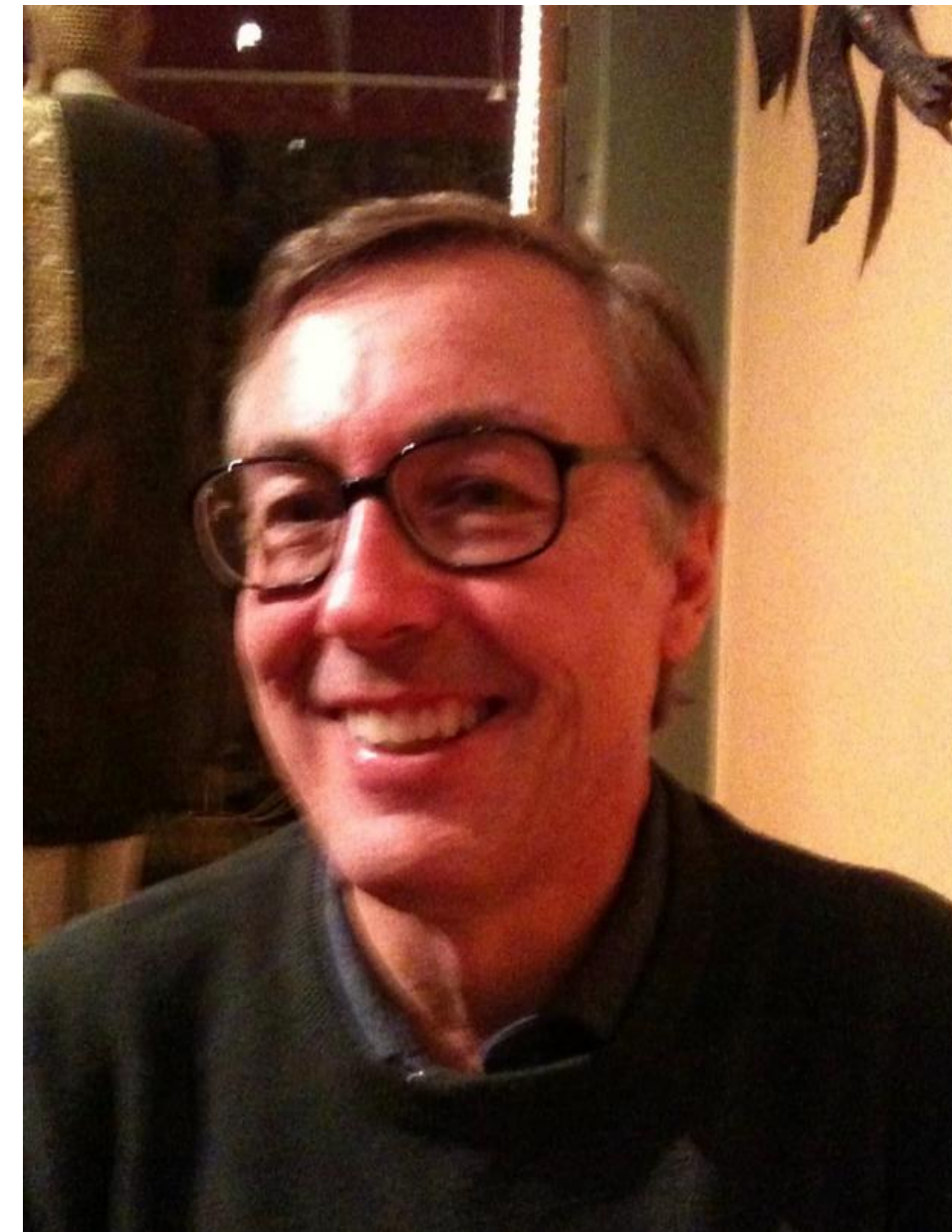
Our Accountant Rashell Lisowski

Everyone on our team is/ has been impacted by incarceration. Families Shoulder to Shoulder uplifts and those who are impacted and have lived experience in every aspect of what we do.

End Mass Incarceration Project



Washington Association of
Criminal Defense Lawyers



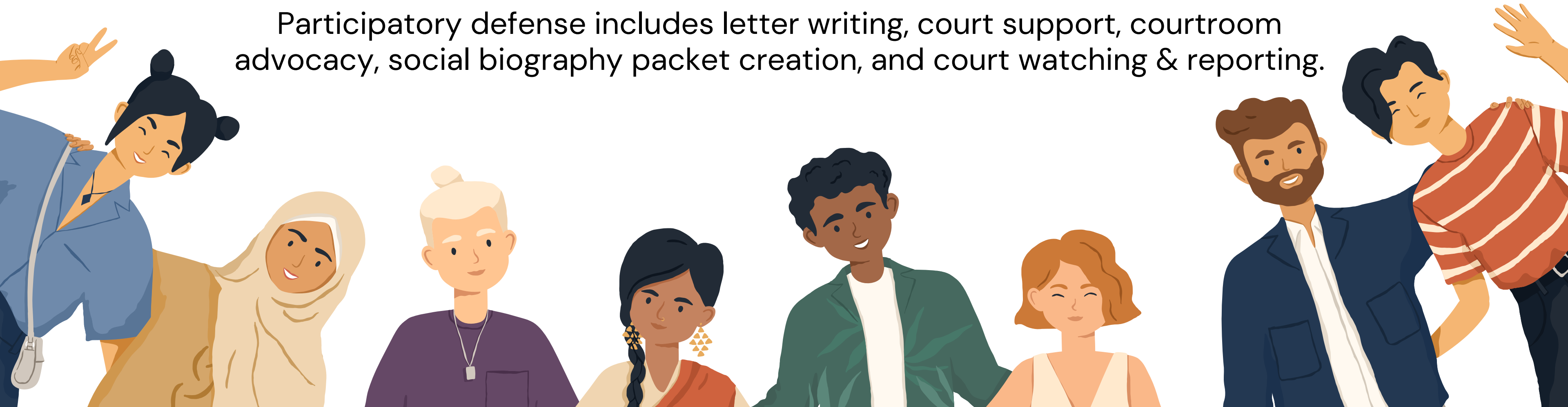
David Trieweiler is a trial attorney with over 30 years of experience both defending and prosecuting persons accused of crimes in the State of WA. He is a member of the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL), and serves as the Chair of WACDL's End Mass Incarceration Project.

What is Participatory Defense?

Participatory defense is a community organizing model for individuals facing charges. Families, friends, and community members work together to support individuals facing charges or resentencing and advocate for their rights, restorative justice, and fairer sentencing.

PD helps families and communities navigate the criminal justice system and play a vital role in their loved one's defense. It also holds judges, prosecutors, and attorneys accountable to our community.

Participatory defense includes letter writing, court support, courtroom advocacy, social biography packet creation, and court watching & reporting.



The Legacy of Families Shoulder to Shoulder

How did it start?

Ginny Parham created a coalition of impacted family members and organizations who wanted to support individuals in returning to their communities and being resentenced.

Who does it help?

The Impact: 120+ families supported; 650+ support letters written; 386 years of time saved from incarceration 2022; 354 years of time saved from incarceration 2023; 419 years of time saved from incarceration in 2024.

Participatory Defense in 2025:

Our goal is to get back more than 400 years in 2025. Help us by: signing up to volunteer to court watch and write letters, become a Securus “pen pal” with incarcerated individuals we support, donate, or throw a house party fundraiser to support our work!



Our Founder Ginny Parham

The Impact of Participatory Defense

Judges read letters submitted on the individual's behalf, listen to testimony in the court room, and notice when people show up in support. PD allows judges to better understand an individual's transformation and see the existing family and community support they have.

Example: Willie Nobles



Our President Willie Nobles

Court Support Programs

Arraignment and Bail



Court Hearings



Clemency



Sentence Review Boards



Past Letter Writing Campaign:

Teddy J. McKay Support Letters



External



Inbox x

G

familiesshouldertoshould... Wed, May 29, 10:28 AM (7 days ago)



to me ▼

Happy Wednesday -- Today we will be starting support letters for Teddy J. McKay Bryan. Teddy is a 27 year old man that went to prison at age 16 charged with 2nd degree homicide. Teddy will be 28 years old on July 1st. Teddy has already been in prison for 11 years and he has an opportunity to be Resentenced based on the age he was when he committed this crime. Teddy's traumatic history includes his father passing away on April 20th 2012 because of cancer. Also his aunt unexpectedly passed away on April 8th 2012 . It was on July 16th 2012 that Teddy killed Favro. Teddy has completed incredible programming and betterment achievements while being incarcerated . Teddy's mother Elizabeth is his main support. I will send you his incredible programming and his plans upon release if you would like to write a support letter for Teddy. Please address letters to Presiding Judge and then when completed send to familiesshouldertoshoulder@outlook.com. Letters should be completed by June 17th 2024-- Ginny P.



How to Get Involved

Become a Letter Writer! We always need more letter writers.

Become a Court Supporter, and show up in person and on zoom to make sure the court knows community is present.

Become a Securus Pal, and get to know/ befriend incarcerated individuals we support.

Donate! We are currently in the process of acquiring our 501c3 status, so individual donations are REALLY important, and are the main way we are able to do this work.

Reach out to
Rashell@familiesshouldertoshoulder.org to learn more and get involved.



Q & A

Let us know your questions!

