



COURTWATCH PG

Injustice Happens In Empty Courtrooms

ABOUT: CourtwatchPG is a community-powered movement -- led by Life After Release -- documenting bond review hearings to hold prosecutors and judges in Prince George's County accountable for unjust pretrial detention of our incarcerated loved ones and community members being detained because of their inability to pay cash bail or being held without bond before their trial.

We believe that injustice happens in empty courtrooms and only through fierce witness and documentation can we tell the truth about what's happening to our incarcerated loved ones being held pretrial.

Total Cases Reviewed	Total Flags to Chief and Administrative Judge	Total volunteers	Active volunteers
Over 2500	111	117	43



FROM CAGES TO COMMUNITY CARE: Courtwatch PG volunteers have witnessed and documented thousands of bond review hearings over the past two years. Black and Latino Prince Georgians -- especially Black mamas and caretakers, young people, and those living with mental health diagnoses -- represent the overwhelming majority of those arrested and held pretrial in Prince George's County although Black, Latino and white Prince Georgians commit harms at approximately the same rates.

Although Maryland underwent cash bail reform in 2017 through an administrative judicial ruling (4-216.1) Courtwatch PG has witnessed prosecution and judges use cash bail as a tool to separate loved ones from their freedom, The Maryland Court of Appeals adopted new Rule 4-216.1 in February 2017 to provide guidance to judges regarding pretrial release of arrested individuals. The rule was designed to encourage courts to release more defendants on PR and unsecured bonds, according to the rules.

We have 6 committees in court watch as well:

- a) Accountability Letter Committee
- b) Social Media and Website Committee
- c) Base Building Committee
- d) Newsletter Committee
- e) Orientation & Training Committee
- f) Database Committee

Who Makes Up Courtwatch PG



Life After Release is women based, formerly incarcerated led organization We vow to provide at risk and formerly incarcerated women of Prince George's County with an opportunity to overcome the barriers that often plague women of color after being released from incarceration.

Prince George's Office of the Public Defender provides legal support to Prince George's County communities as they exercise their civil liberties protesting against injustices rooted in structural racism and economic inequality.

Law Students (list of Law Schools are growing)

- a) Georgetown University
- b) Howard University
- c) University of the District of Columbia
- d) American University
- e) Berkeley College

Retired workers

Family members whom have loved ones going through the injustice system

Criminal Injustice Reform Network

National Mass Liberation Project

National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

Civil Rights Corp,

Black Lives Matter DC

Out for Justice

Free Black Mamas DMV

Grasping for Justice

Washington Lawyers Community for Civil Rights

L4BLDC - Law for Black Lives DC

Color of Change

Institute For Constitutional Advocacy & Protection, Georgetown University Law Center