



**NAME OF EVENT:** ACS Bay Area: Voting Behind Bars

**DATE | TIME | LOCATION:** October 16, 2024 | 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, Pacific Time (Zoom)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Since the mid-1970s, we have recognized the right to vote for eligible incarcerated people in our country. In practice, however, making this right real has been a challenge that persists to this day. Join the ACS Bay Area Chapter and advocates from the ACLU, Ella Baker Center, and the Office of the Alameda County Public Defender for a lunch-hour panel to discuss the history of this fight for re-enfranchisement; updates on relevant, recent changes to California law; and examples of how communities can help bring the vote to people in confinement.

**SPEAKERS' NAMES AND BIOS:**

- **Thanh Tran** is a mixed race, Vietnamese and Black documentary filmmaker and organizer from Sacramento, California. He is the co-founder and co-host of the podcast “Uncuffed” which he started while incarcerated in San Quentin State Prison. While in San Quentin, he also co-founded the incarcerated film production team “ForwardThis Productions.” ForwardThis Productions teaches incarcerated folks how to create films and utilize them as tools for advocacy. Currently he works as a Policy Associate at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights where he organizes and leads coalitions for statewide and local policy campaigns centering around criminal justice reform.
- **Brittany Stonesifer** is a Senior Staff Attorney for the Democracy & Civic Engagement Program at the ACLU of Northern California, where she advocates to expand the franchise to all Californians and to reduce barriers to voting caused by the registration process. Since joining the ACLU in 2019, Brittany has fought with a grassroots coalition to restore voting rights to people with criminal convictions, utilizing her prior expertise in reforming criminal justice policy.
- **Sascha Atkins-Loria** is the social work supervisor at the Alameda County Public Defender's Office. She co-founded the Voter Outreach Increases Community Empowerment (VOICE) project with the Alameda County Public Defender's Office in 2016, and since that time VOICE has registered over 1,800 people to vote, primarily in Santa Rita Jail.

**AGENDA OF PROGRAM (1.0 HOUR OF CLE):**

- Welcome and speaker intros
- Brief history of re-enfranchisement advocacy

- “Looking forward”
- Alameda Co. – VOICE program
- Examples of other community approaches
- Panel conversation/Q&A

#### READING MATERIALS:

- [Voting in California Jails: A Community Toolkit](#), American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, (August, 2020).
- Guy Padraic Hamilton-Smith and Matt Vogel, [The Violence of Voicelessness: The Impact of Felony Disenfranchisement on Recidivism](#), 22 Berkeley La Raza L.J. 407 (2012).
- [Thornburgh v. Abbott](#), 490 U.S. 401 (1989)
- Christina Das and Jackie O’Neil, [Democracy Detained: Fulfilling the Promise of the Right to Vote from Jail](#), Thurgood Marshall Institute, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund June 2023
- Nicole D. Porter, [Voting in Jails](#), The Sentencing Project (May 2020).
- [League of Women Voters of California v. McPherson](#), 145 Cal.App.4th 1469 (2006)
- [Berry v. Brady](#), 192 F.3d 504 (1999)
- Sameea Kamal, [Thousands In California’s Jails Have the Right to Vote — But Here’s Why Many Won’t](#), CalMatters (September 2024).
- [Title 15 Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities: Title 15-Crime Prevention and Corrections](#), State of California Board of State and Community Corrections (2017).
- Tova Wang, [Jail-Based Voting in Denver: A Case Study](#), Harvard Kennedy School Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation (July 2024).
- [Voting Rights: Persons with a Prior Felony Conviction](#), California Secretary of State (2024).