About us

The Vera Institute of Justice demonstrates to policy-makers and citizens, regardless of their party affiliation or political orientation, that changing our justice system is better for American society, and for our shared future. Vera advances creative solutions by working directly with public leaders to reform our public institutions: our police departments, our courts, the immigration system, and our jails and prisons. We drive practical, concrete, and far-reaching change. Our goal is a justice system that holds substantially fewer people in jail, prioritizes restoration and socialization over retribution, and delivers access, safety, and fairness to the diverse communities that make up America.

For more information, visit www.vera.org.
Program

Introduction
TANYA ACKER, Master of Ceremonies
Hot Bench, CBS Television Distribution

Welcome
NICHOLAS R. TURNER
President, Vera Institute of Justice

Presentation
MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Former Speaker of the New York City Council and Senior Advisor, Latino Victory Fund

Award presented by LUIS MIRANDA, with a special video presentation by LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

Video
Safeguarding Justice

Remarks
JUSTIN ROSLONEK
College Student, The New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons Consortium (NJ-STEP)

Introduction by KAREN PATTON SEYMOUR
Trustee, Vera Institute of Justice
Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Dinner

Presentation
MARK SHELTON
General Counsel, Barclays International, Barclays PLC

Award Presented by THOMAS C. BAXTER JR.
Of Counsel, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Presentation
GOOGLE

Award Accepted By DAVID DRUMMOND
Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, Alphabet

Award presented by VERNON E. JORDAN

Remarks
JOHN F. SAVARESE
Chair, Board of Trustees, Vera Institute of Justice
Partner, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

Dessert reception

Special performance by the World Famous Harlem Gospel Choir
Gala Committee

CO-CHAIRS

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KAREN PATTON SEYMOUR*  Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.
NICHOLAS TURNER  President, Vera Institute of Justice
ALAN VINEGRAD*  Covington

*Trustee, Vera Institute of Justice
Honoring

GOOGLE
Award accepted by

DAVID DRUMMOND
Senior Vice President of Corporate Development, Alphabet

MARK SHELTON
General Counsel, Barclays International, Barclays PLC

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Former Speaker of the New York City Council and
Senior Advisor, Latino Victory Fund
Our work

Played a leadership role in the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform, which recommended the closure of Rikers Island jail. We are now working to make this closure a reality.

Worked with 66 colleges and 100 prisons in 27 states to develop high-quality college-in-prison programming.

Launched a network of more than a dozen cities and counties to provide universal legal representation for immigrants facing detention and deportation.

Partnered with six public housing authorities across the country to develop reentry programs and/or improve admissions policies for formerly incarcerated people.

Piloted an innovative housing unit for incarcerated young adults in Connecticut that focuses on family partnership, peer support, accountability, and career readiness.

Helped Oklahoma City develop safe and effective alternatives to jail, reducing their local jail population by over 40%.
Safeguarding Justice
April 23, 2018