

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Law Enforcement Leaders and Prosecutors Defend DACA as Critical Tool for Public Safety, Effective Community Policing Across Country**

*63 Top Law Enforcement Officials Argue DACA Program Increases Cooperation with Police and Improves the Safety of Local Populations*

**Over 60 prominent national law enforcement leaders**, including current sitting Police Chiefs, Sheriffs, District Attorneys, State’s Attorneys, and Prosecuting Attorneys from **28 jurisdictions** representing **over 25 million people** around the country are **defending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program**, highlighting the essential benefits it provides to public safety by **encouraging cooperation between immigrants and law enforcement**, while warning of the damage to public trust rescinding the program would bring.

This group of prominent prosecutors and law enforcement leaders filed a friend-of-the-court (amicus) brief supporting a federal district court injunction to preserve DACA after the Trump Administration began unwinding the program in September 2017. The Department of Justice is challenging that nationwide injunction, which went into effect on January 9, 2018, and has appealed that order to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The case occupies an influential spot in the larger national debate on immigration policy, with the lives of 800,000 individuals brought to the country as children hanging in the balance.

“DACA protects individuals who have lived, worked, and studied as continuous residents of the United States for over a decade,” said [Miriam Aroni Krinsky](#), Executive Director of [Fair and Just Prosecution](#) and a signatory on the brief. “These individuals are active members of our workforce and our social circles, and prosecutors and law enforcement leaders understand their importance to the rich and diverse fabric of our community. Beyond its cruel significance for those the program directly protects, an end to DACA would threaten a serious loss of public trust and cooperation between immigrant populations and law enforcement. These developments could set off a dangerous chain reaction that would jeopardize public safety.”

**Twenty eight current prosecutors and law enforcement leaders** from diverse jurisdictions across the country were among the **63 signators** on the brief, including **District Attorneys Diana Becton** (Contra Costa County, California), **Mark Dupree** (Wyandotte County (Kansas City), Kansas), **Sim Gill** (Salt Lake County, Utah), **Eric Gonzalez** (Kings County (Brooklyn), New York), **Mark Gonzalez** (Nueces County (Corpus Christi), Texas), **Larry Krasner** (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), **Beth McCann** (2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit (Denver), Colorado), **Raúl**

**Torrez** (Bernalillo County (Albuquerque), New Mexico) and **Cyrus Vance** (New York County (Manhattan), New York), **State Attorney Aramis Ayala** (Ninth Judicial Circuit (Orlando) Florida), **State’s Attorneys Sarah George** (Chittenden County (Burlington), Vermont) and **Marilyn Mosby** (Baltimore City, Maryland), **Prosecuting Attorneys Dan Satterberg** (King County (Seattle), Washington) and **Carol Siemon** (Ingham County (Lansing), Michigan), **Police Chiefs Art Acevedo** (Houston, Texas Police Department), **Charles Beck** (Los Angeles, California Police Department) **Kenneth Ferguson** (Framingham, Massachusetts Police Department), **Ronald Haddad** (Dearborn, Michigan Police Department) **Chris Magnus** (Tucson, Arizona Police Department), **Abdul Pridgen** (Seaside, California Police Department), **Celestino Rivera** (Lorain, Ohio Police Department), **Michael Tupper** (Marshalltown, Iowa Police Department), **Sheriffs Jerry L. Clayton** (Washtenaw County, Michigan Sheriff’s Office), **Mark Curran** (Lake County, Illinois Sheriff’s Office), **Tony Estrada** (Santa Cruz County, Arizona Sheriff’s Office), **Bill McCarthy** (Polk County, Iowa Sheriff’s Office), **Joe Pelle** (Boulder County, Colorado Sheriff’s Office), **Richard Wiles** (El Paso County, Texas Sheriff’s Office), **and Commissioner Charles Ramsey** (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Police Department, retired). A full list of signators is below.

The brief lays out the multitude of advantages DACA provides to law enforcement officials and reflects the perspectives and experiences of leaders in jurisdictions heavily impacted by immigration. The signatories hail a community policing approach based on trust and engagement between law enforcement and those they protect, and consider DACA to be crucial to maintaining that trust. Its absence, they argue, would inflame fears that neither undocumented immigrants nor their lawfully present family and neighbors could turn to the police without facing drastic consequences.

“Rescinding DACA would be a devastating step backwards as my officers work to build trust with immigrant communities,” said **Chief Chris Magnus**, of the **Tucson, Arizona Police Department**. “Without that trust, we lose valuable lines of communication, witnesses to crimes, and information needed to protect populations that face heightened risks of crime and exploitation.”

DACA’s guarantee of protection from deportation encourages helpful communication with law enforcement, without which community policing cannot thrive. Destruction of that public trust would hamper the capabilities of law enforcement and prosecutors while fostering crime-friendly conditions in at-risk communities, the brief’s signatories argue.

The amicus brief was authored by the Chicago law firm of [Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd.](#), in conjunction with [Georgetown Law’s Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection](#) (ICAP). [Fair and Just Prosecution](#), a national network of newly elected prosecutors committed to change and innovation, coordinated the amicus effort. In November of last year, the same organizations filed an [amicus brief](#) on behalf of prosecutors and law enforcement leaders in support of a lawsuit by the State of California resisting Trump Administration efforts to entangle local police in federal immigration enforcement.

“This brief represents the expert opinions of leaders who interact with immigrant communities and work to preserve public safety on a daily basis,” said [Joshua Geltzer](#), ICAP’s executive

**director and visiting professor at Georgetown Law.** “At this critical juncture for resolving issues of immigration law and policy, their voices need to be heard. And they are clearly and definitively standing behind DACA.”

The amicus brief is available [here](#).

**For additional questions, or to speak with amici, please contact Miriam Krinsky at [krinskym@krinsky.la](mailto:krinskym@krinsky.la) or 818-416-5218.**

## **EXHIBIT A: LIST OF AMICI**

**National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)**, an organization committed to Justice by Action, with nearly 60 chapters and representing over 3,000 members worldwide, including chief executive officers and command level law enforcement officials from federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies, and other criminal justice practitioners;

### **Art Acevedo**

Police Chief, Houston, Texas

### **Roy L. Austin**

Former Deputy Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity, White House Domestic Policy Council

Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

### **Aramis Ayala**

State Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit (Orlando), Florida

### **Chiraag Bains**

Former Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Former Trial Attorney, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

### **Diana Becton**

District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California

### **Charles Beck**

Police Chief, Los Angeles, California

### **Hillary Blout**

Former Assistant District Attorney, San Francisco, California

**Chris Burbank**

Former Police Chief, Salt Lake County, Utah  
Director, Law Enforcement Engagement, Center for Policing Equity

**Jerry L. Clayton**

Sheriff, Washtenaw County, Michigan

**Brendan Cox**

Former Police Chief, Albany, New York

**Mark Curran**

Sheriff, Lake County, Illinois

**Ronald Davis**

Former Director, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services  
Former Police Chief, East Palo Alto, California

**Stephen Downing**

Former Deputy Police Chief, Los Angeles, California

**Mark A. Dupree, Sr.**

District Attorney, Wyandotte County (Kansas City), Kansas

**George C. Eskin**

Former Judge, California Superior Court  
Former Chief Assistant City Attorney, Los Angeles  
Former Assistant District Attorney, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, California

**Tony Estrada**

Sheriff, Santa Cruz County, Arizona

**Kenneth Ferguson**

Police Chief, Framingham, Massachusetts

**Shelley Fox-Loken**

Former Corrections and Parole/Probation Officer, State of Oregon

**Neill Franklin**

Former Major, Baltimore City and Maryland State Police Departments

**Randy Gaber**

Assistant Police Chief, Madison, Wisconsin

**Brian Gaughan**

Former Officer, Davenport, Iowa and Chicago, Illinois Police Departments

**Sarah F. George**

State's Attorney, Chittenden County, Vermont

**Michael Gilbert**

Former Corrections Officer, Alaska and Arizona Departments of Corrections

**Sim Gill**

District Attorney, Salt Lake County, Utah

**Diane Goldstein**

Former Lieutenant Commander, Redondo Beach Police Department, California

**Eric Gonzalez**

District Attorney, Kings County (Brooklyn), New York

**Mark Gonzalez**

District Attorney, Nueces County (Corpus Christi), Texas

**Ronald Haddad**

Police Chief, Dearborn, Michigan

**Michael Haley**

Former Sheriff, Washoe County, Nevada

**Michael Hilliard**

Former Major, Baltimore Police Department, Maryland

**Lawrence S. Krasner**

District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Miriam Aroni Krinsky**

Executive Director, Fair and Just Prosecution

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Central District of California

Former Criminal Appellate Chief and Chief, General Crimes, Central District of California

Former Chair, Solicitor General's Criminal Appellate Advisory Group

**Chief William Landsdowne**

Former Police Chief, San Diego County, California  
Former Police Chief, San Jose County, California  
Former Police Chief, Richmond, California

**Chris Magnus**

Police Chief, Tucson, Arizona

**John Matthews II**

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Puerto Rico

**Gordon D. McAllister, Jr.**

Former Judge, District Court of Tulsa, Oklahoma

**Beth McCann**

District Attorney, 2nd Judicial Circuit (Denver), Colorado

**Bill McCarthy**

Sheriff, Polk County (Des Moines), Iowa

**Steve Miller**

Former Sergeant, Canton Police Department, Michigan

**Teri Moore**

Former Patrol Officer, Los Angeles Police Department, California

**Marilyn J. Mosby**

State's Attorney, Baltimore City, Maryland

**John Padgett**

Former Sergeant, City of Augusta Police, Richmond County Sheriff's Department, Georgia

**Corey Pegues**

Former Deputy Inspector, New York City Police Department, New York

**Joe Pelle**

Sheriff, Boulder County, Colorado

**Titus Peterson**

Former Lead Felony Investigator, Fifth Judicial District, Colorado

**Channing Phillips**

Former Acting U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Former Senior Counselor to the Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

Former Deputy Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

**Abdul Pridgen**

Police Chief, Seaside, California

**Mark Prosser**

Director, Department of Public Safety, Storm Lake, Iowa

**Charles Ramsey**

Former Commissioner, Philadelphia Police Department, Pennsylvania

**Ira Reiner**

Former District Attorney, Los Angeles County, California

Former City Attorney, Los Angeles, California

**Celestino Rivera**

Police Chief, Lorain, Ohio

**Dan Satterberg**

Prosecuting Attorney, King County (Seattle), Washington

**Ronal Serpas**

Co-Chairman, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration

Former Superintendent, New Orleans Police Department, Louisiana

Former Chief, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Tennessee

Former Chief, Washington State Patrol

**Carol A. Siemon**

Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County (Lansing), Michigan

**Norm Stamper**

Former Police Chief, Seattle, Washington

**Ray Strack**

Former Special Agent, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement

**Carl Tennenbaum**

Former Sergeant, San Francisco Police Department, California

**Raúl Torrez**

District Attorney, Bernalillo County (Albuquerque), New Mexico

**Michael Tupper**

Police Chief, Marshalltown, Iowa

**Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.**

District Attorney, New York County (Manhattan), New York

**Allison Watson**

Former Assistant District Attorney, 13th Judicial District, Tennessee

**Richard Wiles**

Sheriff, El Paso County, Texas