



# Criminal Justice Reform Panel in Columbia

Published on *Show-Me Institute* (<https://showmeinstitute.org>)

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*By: Patrick Tuohey*

On Tuesday, September 26, Columbia College hosted the Show-Me Institute's panel discussion on criminal justice reform, "Behind Bars in Missouri — Who is Paying the Price?" Panelists presented their thoughts on the state of affairs in Missouri and what reforms might address them. Panelists included:

- **Barry Langford**, Chair of the Columbia College Criminal Justice program. Langford has taught at the school since 1994.
- **Aaron Hedlund**, economics professor at the University of Missouri and visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Saint Louis.
- **Nicole Volkert**, former prosecutor and municipal judge. Volkert has served both Monroe and Montgomery Counties and a legal advisor to the Columbia Police Department
- **Jennifer Bukowski**, a criminal defense attorney with over ten years of experience. Nicole founded the Bukowsky Law Firm seven years ago after serving as a public defender for three years.
- **Eric Schmitt**, Treasurer of the State of Missouri, elected in 2016. Previously, Eric served in the Missouri State Senate

The 90-minute presentation was packed with information. Panelists discussed criminal justice theory, the process and players from arrest to parole, over-criminalization, and the deleterious role of fees and fines, along with possible reforms. Some of the latter the Show-Me Institute has discussed before, including the [cost of incarceration overall](#) and reforms such as [Raise the Age](#) and [reducing mandatory minimums](#) . Panelists even pointed out the [positive effects that education choice can have on incarceration likelihood](#) .

The entire presentation is now available online (click above). The Show-Me Institute is grateful to everyone who participated.

## Tags:

- [Criminal Justice](#)

## About the Author



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Advancing liberty with responsibility by promoting market solutions for Missouri public policy.

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