



# FUTURE OF **JUSTICE**

TOGETHER WE CAN FIND A **BETTER** SOLUTION



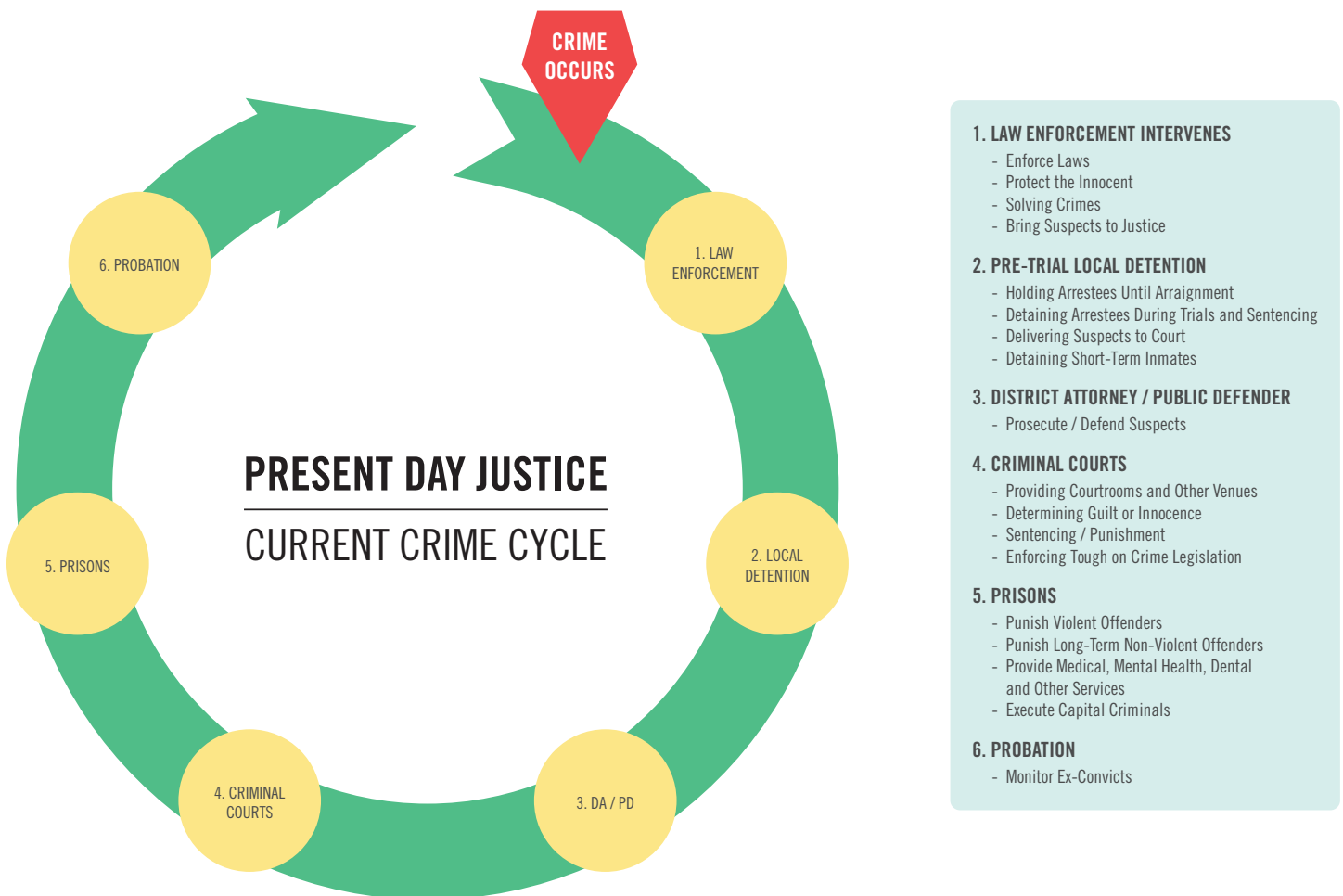
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS  
Academy of Architecture for Justice

# WHAT IF...

- What if everything we knew about crime and justice were wrong?
- What if tough on crime legislation lead to more crime?
- What if most crime was committed by a small percentage of individuals?
- And what if those individuals were savvy enough to avoid arrest?
- What if those individuals continued to commit crime because law enforcement lacked the manpower, technology and science to stop them?
- What if law enforcement lacked the personnel to fight crime on the streets because they were too busy managing jails?
- What if our jails were packed with non-violent offenders that could easily be managed using alternatives to incarceration?
- What if the jails were used as the de facto mental health provider even though mental health services would be more economical and effective if managed separately?
- What if jails were dangerous for inmates and staff alike and failed to prevent crime?
- What if increased jail funding required a decrease in school funding, public mental health and other programs?
- What if suicide, homicide and ADA lawsuits for jails and prisons further drained state budgets?
- What if twice as many officers could protect the streets if they weren't transporting inmates between the jail and the courthouse?
- What if technology existed for detainees to testify remotely, but they avoided it because of biases or precedents?
- What if the biases and precedents were based on an older generation; and what if a younger generation would embrace such technology?
- What if courthouses could be more efficiently utilized but were not?
- What if sentencing practices placed non-violent criminals with murderers and rapists based on their length of incarceration, not the severity of their crime?
- What if prisons were simply expensive ways to train inmates to be more efficient criminals?
- What if capital punishment was not worth the billions of dollars per year it costs us?
- What if capital punishment failed to prevent crime?
- What if we executed an innocent person or persons?
- What if we execute the wrong people because law enforcement could not afford the science and technology which would have acquitted the innocent and helped capture the guilty?
- What if inmates re-offended because they thought they had no other options?
- What if inmates were released in the middle of the night, without food and without a place to stay?
- What if the justice system we have created fails to stop crime, has become impossible to manage and has the potential to bankrupt counties and states?
- What if it could be fixed, but government, law enforcement, district attorneys, judges, prison administrators and probation departments couldn't see the bigger picture and/or failed to work together on a solution?
- What could be accomplished if we demanded a new justice system?

Some may ask, “What qualifies architects and other design professions to comment on the justice system?” As architects, it is our job to understand and document how our clients perform their jobs, which we then use to design facilities to better support their missions. Architects who are involved with projects in multiple branches of the justice system (i.e. courts, jails, prisons, law enforcement and probation) can offer a unique perspective. We are familiar enough to grasp synergies, recognize redundancy and feel the frustration our clients have over their limited project budgets. However, because we are still outside the system, we are also detached enough to offer constructive criticism.

We often hear that the system (the justice system) is broken. Criminals are released only to commit new crimes and return to the justice system; we call this recidivism. We also refer to this is the crime cycle, which looks something like this:



A crime occurs. This could be committed by a first-time perpetrator, but is often a repeat offender.



**LAW ENFORCEMENT** intervenes. Sheriffs, Police, State Patrol or Troopers and Feds are responsible for:

- Enforcing Laws
- Protecting the Innocent
- Solving Crimes
- Bringing Suspects to Justice

Unfortunately, law enforcement is generally underfunded, so they need to prioritize their services. They may lack funding for DNA and rape tests that could help arrest the perpetrator as well as avoid arrest of the wrong person. They don't have access to the crime lab which is typically available to the District Attorney - who might not have the same priorities. While there is crime-fighting technology under development, many agencies cannot afford it.

In the case of the Sheriff's Department (and sometimes other agencies) they are also responsible for running the jail. There is an important distinction to make here. There is a difference between jails and prisons. Prisons are where sentenced inmates are generally held - and with the exception of federal prisons, they are operated by the state. Jails, otherwise known as **LOCAL DETENTION FACILITIES**, are traditionally responsible for:

- Holding Arrestees Until Arraignment
- Detaining Arrestees During Trials and Sentencing
- Delivering Suspects to Court
- Detaining Short-Term Inmates

In California, however, a program known as "realignment" is changing this dynamic because short term non-violent inmates (typically serving less than 10 years), and inmates in the final stage of incarceration, are serving sentences in the local detention facilities close to the communities they come from. The advantage of this is that it gives them access to the resources that may assist with a successful re-entry. If properly organized and funded, these policies could be a big improvement over previous practices. However, this program adversely impacts local detention facilities because they now must house longer-term inmates, which fundamentally changes the mission of those facilities, as well as the services they are legally obligated to provide. This will require a major investment in each facility to avoid costly litigation because they were never designed for long term incarceration.

The **DISTRICT ATTORNEY** prosecutes criminal offenses. Right or wrong, this is generally an elected position, which means politics may affect the types of crimes that are prosecuted as well as the severity of the punishment sought for these crimes. Many DA's are elected because of their tough-on-crime reputation and are judged by their conviction rate. The district attorney typically controls the resources of the forensic lab.

For those arrestees who cannot afford a defense attorney, the **PUBLIC DEFENDER** is appointed. The Public Defender's office is typically under-funded. Since attorneys with a good acquittal record have the potential to make good money in the private sector, the Public Defender's office cannot always retain the best staff. This is not a good scenario for any low-income individual who is innocent, but falsely accused.

The **CRIMINAL COURTS** are responsible for providing for due process in a fair and transparent manner which includes:

- Providing Courtrooms and Other Venues
- Determining Guilt or Innocence
- Sentencing / Punishment
- Enforcing Tough on Crime Legislation

Court practices are based on precedent, which means innovation is avoided for fear of a mistrial. The types of technology that allow for virtual meetings in other industries are not typically employed during a trial. In general, courtrooms are assigned to a single judge for a single shift - and courts are sometimes “dark” between trials. With the exception of some video arraignment, in-custody defendants and inmate witnesses are transported to the courthouse, at a cost of billions of dollars per year. While courthouses are extremely expensive buildings to construct, evidence is also stored there; and in capital cases, a large amount of evidence is stored until the execution.

If a person is convicted of a serious crime, he / she is sentenced to **PRISON**. Prisons serve to:

- Punish Violent Offenders
- Punish Long-Term Non-Violent Offenders
- Provide Medical, Mental Health, Dental and Other Services
- Execute Capital Criminals

Unfortunately, inmates in many prisons (including California) are classified and housed by their length of sentence. Tough-on-crime legislation such as California’s Three Strikes Law have the potential to incarcerate non-violent offenders for life, which places them in the same housing facility as murderers and rapists. The cost of housing inmates in prison is staggering. Furthermore, the Death Penalty program has the potential to cost even more. In California, the Death Penalty costs the state \$200M per year which translates into \$90K per death row inmate per year. Studies show the Death Penalty fails to reduce or prevent crime.

The prison system is overburdened and difficult to manage. Because of:

- The Fire and Safety Codes Required for a Restrained Population
  - Litigation Which Arises if Any Inmate is Hurt by His / Herself or Others
  - Requirements to Protect Custody Staff
- ...inmates are essentially warehoused.

Prison inmates often return to local detention facilities towards the end of their sentence. When inmates are released, this sometimes occurs in the middle of the night. This may be done without family support, money, transportation and with few skills that would make an ex-convict employable. They now are monitored by the **PROBATION** Department. Without a well planned and executed re-entry program, many parolees have no choice but to re-offend just so they have a warm bed and food. It is a vicious cycle that begins all over again with a new arrest. We have a dysfunctional justice system where recidivism remains high and we are forced to build more jails and prisons. We already incarcerate more people per capita, for longer sentences, than the rest of the civilized world.

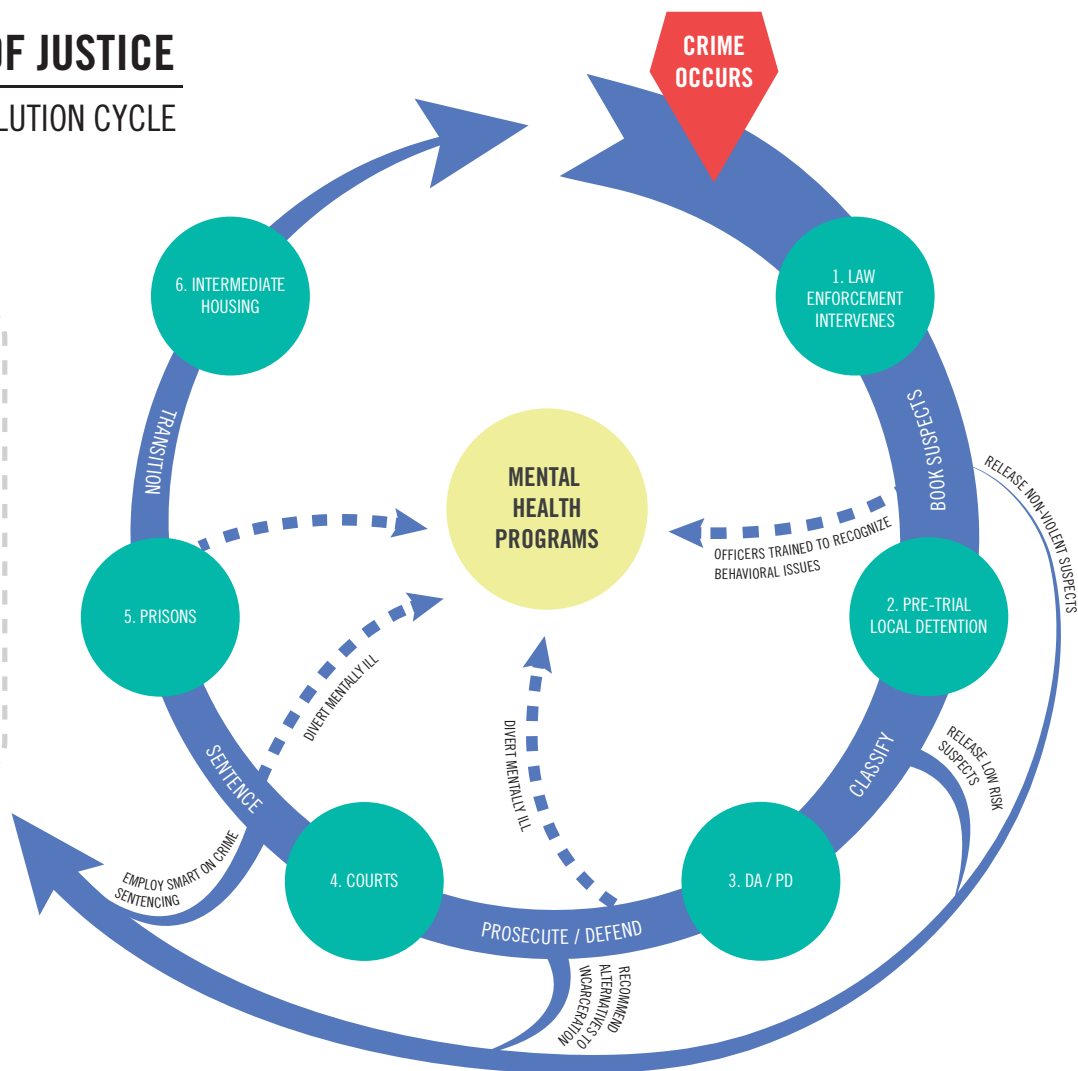
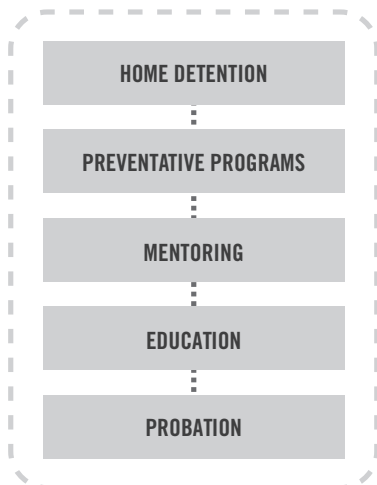
Maybe you believe these people deserve to be in prison. Maybe you believe their situation is a direct result of their poor choices. Maybe you blame it on their environment, their culture, or a failing public school system. Whatever you believe, you have to understand that each of us still pays dearly for this nation’s crime and punishment policies. We pay with our taxes and with our insurance rates...with our fears and quality of life... and sometimes with our very lives. I hear people say all the time that we need to lock up the criminals and throw away the key, but those very same people would not choose to pay more in taxes to make this a reality. Moreover, lawsuits are requiring better conditions and services for inmates than ever before which is rapidly increasing the per capita cost of each inmate. The expense of incarceration is staggering. The reality that most people fail to recognize, is that the overwhelming majority of inmates will someday be released.

However, this paper is not only about stating a problem, it is about a proposal. You cannot expect a quick and easy solution to such a gargantuan problem, but if we could step back and involve all of the justice partners in a dialog, I believe we can **BREAK THE CYCLE**.



# FUTURE OF JUSTICE

## CRIME RESOLUTION CYCLE



### 1. LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENES

- Prevent Crime
- Protect Innocent
- Solve Crimes With Technology & Science
- Bring Suspects to Justice
- Divert Mentally Ill
- Advocate Alternatives to Incarceration
- Build Partnership with Communities

### 2. PRE-TRIAL LOCAL DETENTION

- Detain Violent Suspect During Trials
- Provide Video Access for Trials
- Deliver In-Custody Defendants to Court
- Recognize Behavioral Health Issues
- Plan for Successful Re-Entry

### 3. DISTRICT ATTORNEY / PUBLIC DEFENDER

- Work with Justice Partners to Restore Harmony to Communities
- Recommend Alternates to Incarceration

### 4. CRIMINAL COURTS

- Ensure Due Process / Equal Justice
- Provide Courtrooms for In-Person Trials
- Operate Virtual Trial
- Facilitate Guilt or Innocence
- Facilitate Evidence Based Sentencing
- Manage Alternatives to Incarceration

### 5. PRISONS

- Punish Violent Offenders Only
- Divert Mentally Ill
- Provide Medical / Behavioral Health / Dental
- Provide Rehabilitative Programs
- Planning for Re-Entry

### 6. INTERMEDIATE HOUSING

- Provide for Resources that will Improve Potential for Successful Re-entry
- Facilitate Successful Re-entry
- Socialization
- Food / Lodging

This is an alternative vision of what is possible if we only work together. It begins in a similar fashion, with the potential for crime. Let's assume it is the first-time offense.

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.** A critical justice partner, which is currently underfunded was not shown in the “Current Crime Cycle” is mental health services. Jails and prisons are the de facto mental health service provider according to many published reports, including the Stanford Law School Three Strikes Project found here: [https://www.law.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/child-page/632655/doc/slspublic/Report\\_v12.pdf](https://www.law.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/child-page/632655/doc/slspublic/Report_v12.pdf)

Many more mental health programs were present before they were cut in the early 1980's. The result of mental health services reductions directly correlates with an increase in jail and prison populations. The first step is to once again fund these programs, which are less costly than jail and prisons to operate. While they require an initial investment, they will quickly pay for themselves.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT** intervenes. Sheriffs, Police, State Patrol or Troopers and Feds are still responsible for:

- Enforcing Laws
- Protecting the Innocent
- Solving Crimes
- Bringing Suspects to Justice

Now, as an aside, I personally used to think that courts were the key link in the justice system. Maybe it is because courts are my favorite project type or maybe it is because the courts have a great deal of influence over law enforcement, the jails and prisons. However, law enforcement is potentially the key to solving a struggling justice system. Consider for a moment that we commit to more funding of law enforcement agencies and explore how to pay for this later.

With better funding, law enforcement has a greater presence on the streets, which in itself should prevent crime. However, with greater funding, law enforcement agencies can employ technologies such as Palantir, which can analyze, solve and even prevent crime. This software can understand patterns in criminal behavior, link information from other agencies and even recommend where crime will occur. By placing law enforcement personnel in the right location, they can prevent crime and respond quicker. The program has the potential to leverage other agencies to work together in the most efficient manner, exploiting synergies and avoiding redundancy.

Law enforcement must also be trained to recognize when a person is mentally ill so that those people can be diverted to mental health facilities and not transported to the jail where their condition is only exacerbated. New York City is employing such a strategy. Their action plan can be found here: <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/criminaljustice/downloads/pdf/annual-report-complete.pdf>

Another tool that can assist law enforcement agencies is greater access to **CRIME LABS**. Greater access would allow for the forensic testing of rape kits, DNA testing and quicker analysis of evidence. More on crime labs later. Ultimately, technology and science would not only increase arrest rates, but it would minimize false arrests. Most crime is perpetrated by a few individuals who elude arrest while the majority of arrestees are inexperienced offenders. If law enforcement resources can lead to the arrest of those individuals responsible for the majority of crime, this will have the greatest impact on all other justice partners (courts, jails and prisons) which should recognize significant reductions in new criminals entering the system. This cost savings is how we fund additional law enforcement resources.

In closing, Law Enforcement agencies are still responsible for:

- Enforcing the Laws
- Protecting the Innocent
- Solving Crimes
- Bringing Suspects to Justice

...but now they also:

- Diverting Mentally Ill
- Advocating for Alternatives to Incarceration
- Prevent Crime by Building Partnerships with Communities

Now we can examine the impact to **LOCAL DETENTION FACILITIES**. If law enforcement can minimize their jail population by avoiding unnecessary arrests, diverting the mentally ill, and providing air-tight cases against the people they do arrest, they can invest fewer staff in the jail and more staff tending to the community. When officers have time to build relationships with each community, they can prevent crime from occurring. In addition, if we can reserve local jails for the incarceration of violent offenders during trial, use out-of-custody arrangements for non-violent offenders and send long-term inmates back to prison, we have reduced the jail population further. Once again, this savings can be used for law enforcement rather than jail operations. Local jails might still be used for short-term violent offenders after sentencing. Custom designed programs in jails could focus on the special needs for rehabilitating these detainees. Successful re-entry programs, customized for each inmate, are planned at admission which include opportunities for work, education, job training and therapy.

Law enforcement agencies can further conserve staff resources by using video arraignment and video testimony for all pre-trial matters, eliminating costly transportation of the violent offenders housed in the jail. During the trial, it may be necessary for the in-custody defendant to be in the courtroom to ensure a fair trial in the direct presence of a jury of peers. However, the detachment sometimes associated with video conferencing may be less of a factor in the future. This will be addressed further under the courts discussion. However, in order for remote testimony from jail to be viable, it will be important to recreate the dignity and decorum of the courtroom inside the jail - at least in those areas used for video arraignment or remote trial proceedings.

In closing, **LOCAL DETENTION** will primarily be reserved for:

- Detaining Violent Suspects During Trials
- Providing Video Access to Detainees for Trials
- Delivery of the Remaining In-Custody Defendants to Court
- Recognizing Behavioral Health Issues
- Planning for Successful Re-Entry



For the most part, the **DISTRICT ATTORNEY** and **PUBLIC DEFENDER** will continue to operate as they have before prosecuting and defending suspects. However, tough-on-crime practices that have dominated the agendas for D.A.s should be replaced by evidence-based smart-on-crime practices. Incarceration should not be the answer for non-violent crimes. It is costly, dangerous, introduces unnecessary liability and has the potential to make marginal offenders worse. Out-of-custody programs should be employed which help to re-focus low-level offenders and set them on a path towards becoming responsible members of society. These programs could be administered for less money than incarceration.

In addition, it may be logical to pass legislation which decreases the severity of some crimes. Consider Proposition 47 recently passed in California, which reclassifies low level, non-violent crimes as a misdemeanor instead of a felony. While some have criticized the law, others support it because it reduced the burden of crimes such as marijuana possession on taxpayers. In addition, by reclassifying these crimes as misdemeanors, those individuals who committed the crime are still able to find employment. Until now, many people who made mistakes in the past were not able to build a career due to the felony on their record. When these people can't get a job, they often have little choice but to turn to less honest means to earn a living.

In addition, keeping low level offenders out of jail reduces the burden of medical and dental on Counties who would otherwise be required to pay for these services for all incarcerated individuals. One local jail commander related to me that one of his out-of-custody offenders had multiple surgeries while on home detention. Had this offender been in jail, it could have bankrupted his County.

The **CRIMINAL COURTS** should see a decrease in their caseload as law enforcement becomes more efficient at fighting crime. Along with the District Attorney, the courts should begin to employ evidenced-based sentencing practices that provide alternatives to incarceration for non-violent criminals and incarceration only for violent offenders. Furthermore, the courts still have potential to be more efficient within the space they already occupy. Cities like New York are already sharing courtrooms and providing more than one shift, i.e. night court. While this not effective when only a few random courtrooms in a building are used in this manner, there is the potential for significant savings if the building is designed and planned to be divided into sections of the courthouse to accommodate night court.

The courts can also recognize savings by embracing technology. Over the past decade, there has been a lot of talk about **virtual trials**. This goes beyond the cost savings from not delivering in-custody defendants to courts; it includes all courtroom participants. Judges, clerks, court reporters, witness, counsel and the litigants might all attend court proceedings from remote locations. Judges could attend court from the comfort of their chambers and the trial could be broadcast to attorney conference rooms and to the public via webcast. This practice could save billions of dollars in this country by eliminating the need to build more courthouses and preventing many key participants from unnecessary travel.

***“Virtual Trials” employ the use of audio and video technology which allows for some participants of a trial to attend from remote locations.***

As previously mentioned, video arraignment is typically the extent of remote trials, even though many modern courtrooms have been designed with AV equipment (cameras and displays arranged through the litigation well) that would make remote trials possible. The fear is that any trial held in a virtual environment would be appealed, because the constitution does not yet address whether or not a jury by peers can occur via video camera. However, not all criminal trials require jury participation. Furthermore, even in jury trials, there are many preliminary efforts that occur before the jury is involved, and therefore all of the pre-trial and procedural hearings can occur virtually. While many prosecuting attorneys believe virtual trials (at least partially virtual trials) are inevitable, they would prefer to let someone else fight this battle all the way to the Supreme Court.

Sooner or later, however, the benefits to virtual trials will trump the legal roadblocks we face and our legal system will realize a fundamental change in operations. In closing, **CRIMINAL COURTS** will evolve to:

- Ensure Due Process / Equal Justice for All
- Provide Courtrooms for In-Person Trials
- Provide Infrastructure for Virtual Trials
- Facilitating Guilt or Innocence
- Facilitating Evidence Based Sentencing
- Manage Alternatives to Incarceration

There is one additional hindrance to virtual trials that has not yet been recognized, however: evidence display. Here is where I want to elaborate on a new justice partner: **THE SHARED CRIME LAB / EVIDENCE STORAGE FACILITY**. Some evidence is relatively easy to share in the virtual world, such as photographs. However, seeing a murder weapon up close and personal can provoke a greater reaction than simple photos. In addition, there is the question of where evidence would be stored and displayed during a virtual trial. Initially, you might think that the courthouse is the best place for evidence to be stored. Certainly, the court can afford some level of security and prevent evidence tampering. There are also legal precedents that must be overcome if evidence is not stored in the courthouse.

However, consider this: courthouse construction in California is running \$600-\$1,000 per square foot. Evidence storage creates higher live loads on the building structure than office space or courtrooms, and therefore many upper floors in courtrooms are not designed for this heavy use. Some evidence items are quite large and in death penalty cases, must be held in storage until execution. In Modesto, California, there is a canoe classified as evidence in a death penalty case, that will be in storage for years to come. Due to size and weight requirements of evidence, the ground floor or basement is the appropriate location for evidence storage. However, the ground floor and basement are also ideal locations for high volume court functions such as jury assembly, clerks' space, other storage needs or the lunch room. Locating these high volume spaces on upper floors of a courthouse begins to tax the elevator system.

Furthermore, evidence storage may have specific HVAC requirements. Some evidence may be contaminated by excessive heat, cold or moisture. Very few courts have a dedicated mechanical unit to serve evidence storage, which does not shut off on weekends. Finally, security for evidence must be maintained. Since courthouses are often unguarded on evenings and weekends, there is always a danger of evidence tampering in high-profile trials. Now, consider this: there are companies who specialize in the storage of evidence. These companies currently store evidence for federal and local law enforcement agencies. They don't currently store evidence for courts, but this transition would make sense. In an ideal world, I envision centrally located storage facilities administered by the justice system, or by private entities, and leased to the court and law enforcement agencies. These facilities would be designed as secure facilities that could be guarded and/or monitored 24/7/365. They could be specially designed with forensic labs built-into them, so that evidence from crimes scenes can be examined where they are stored. These facilities would have state-of-the-art video conferencing capabilities so that forensic scientists could give testimony from the lab or from where the evidence is stored. 3-dimensional, high resolution scanning software could be used to transmit ultra-fine details of evidence such as murder weapons to virtual trials located anywhere in the world. This would afford forensic scientists the ability to testify from their workplace and allow for instant access not only to the evidence they have studied, but to any data they have assembled supporting their testimony.

Guest space would be available for forensic scientists from opposing counsel to view evidence. Large pieces of evidence would have ample space for examination and the mechanical systems can be designed specifically for ensuring the stability of evidence. It may also be necessary to include space for a morgue. In fact, this would benefit smaller jurisdictions where Sheriffs also serve as the coroner - and few have a medical background. While this may sound expensive, consider that evidence storage, forensic labs and morgues are already present in each

jurisdiction. However, when state or regional courts can share resources between jurisdictions, employ fewer staff and provide for the possibility of virtual trials, it begins to make economic sense. In addition, privatizing such functions may allow for a pay-as-you-need service. While security would be a concern, it could be overcome. In fact, it may be possible to co-locate such a facility with a law enforcement agency, but not necessarily operated by that agency. Sheriffs can relinquish coroner responsibilities and focus on law enforcement. Evidence space which currently resides in courtrooms can be repurposed for other functions.

As I mentioned earlier, these labs are also accessible to local law enforcement so no matter the size of the jurisdiction, everyone has equal access to the best technology. The same forensic results used to fight crimes can be used in court. Finally, these labs would all report findings to a central database which could serve to solve crimes across jurisdictional boundaries. In closing, **CRIME LAB / EVIDENCE STORAGE** facilities can provide:

- Pay-As-Needed Services for All Jurisdictions - Large or Small
- Shared Resources Across Multiple Jurisdictions
- Access to Crime Lab for Law Enforcement, District Attorney and Public Defender
- Secure Evidence Storage Meeting Proper HVAC Requirements
- Evidence Display Capabilities Required for Virtual Trials
- Hotel Space for Opposing Counsel's Experts
- A Central Database of Evidence and Results Which Can be Shared Across the Country

This brings us once again to **PRISONS**. In a utopian society, prisons would not house non-violent offenders. They would focus only on the incarceration of long-term violent offenders - rehabilitating inmates if possible. Programs would include opportunities for work, education, job training, behavioral health and substance counseling. Prisons also would not punish those inmates with significant mental health issues. Separate facilities specially designed to serve these individuals will better treat mental health inmates. With fewer detainees overall, many of the older, penitentiary style facilities can finally close their doors. They do not function well, are costly to operate and only serve to derail efforts to improve detention conditions in this country. Ultimately, what is best for improving conditions is also best for reducing the amount of money taxpayers have to invest in a dysfunctional prison system.

Planning for successful re-entry begins at admission. Programs supporting education, counseling and job skills should commence then and intensify as release nears. Ideally, release occurs at a halfway house where former inmates can transition back to society and gain responsibilities for their own care and support incrementally. A good example is a transitional housing project planned for Napa, California. That facility would house non-violent inmates in their final year of incarceration; it might also be used as an alternative to incarceration for some non-violent offenders. It will provide secure dormitories for males and females, but also allow for free egress into a central courtyard. Residents can leave the facility and return as necessary to go to work or to attend classes at the junior college across the street. There are programs spaces in the facility to instruct residents on basic life skills such as paying bills and balancing a checkbook. There will be counselors available for group or individual therapy. Residents will learn to take care of themselves and to deal with other people in a non-prison setting. Basically, this program serves to un-institutionalize former inmates. Without programs like this, inmates without family support will reoffend as their only option. Intermediate housing, mentoring, education and training opportunities are paid for by a reduced prison program and will reduce recidivism and hopefully stop the revolving door.

Once inmates are released from transitional housing, they should be monitored by a new and improved (and better funded) Probation system which follows up with former inmates to check on their progress and remind them of support programs which remain available to them. Furthermore, probation policies need to allow for more failures, and not remand people for minor faults. Video probation officer visits can help facilitate continued observation and support of former inmates.

The role of Prisons evolves to:

- Punish Violent Offenders Only
- Divert Mentally Ill
- Provide Medical, Behavioral Health, Dental and Other Services
- Provide Rehabilitative Programs
- Planning for Re-Entry

The overwhelming majority of inmates in prison will be released one day. That said, each and every one of us must consider these questions:

- Shouldn't we do more to ensure that parolees can be productive once they are released?
- Haven't we learned that without skills and training, we give these people no other choice but to re-offend?
- Can't we, as a society, realize that it would be less costly to provide programs to these inmates than to incarcerate them?

In conclusion, in a perfect world, we should be proactive when dealing with crime - not reactive. That means spending money wisely up front.

- Training law enforcement to recognize mentally ill offenders and redirecting them away from jails to facilities that can treat them properly.
- Funding programs that solve crime, much of which is committed by a small percentage of individuals, will have the greatest impact on reducing crime rates.
- Offenders will be less likely to commit crimes when law enforcement agencies have access to cutting-edge technologies and services.
- For crimes that are committed, these programs can minimize the number of trials required by improving success rates because evidence is based on superior scientific and technological data.
- By the same argument, this technology also reduces the number of innocent persons who are incarcerated - or even brought to trial.
- This greatly reduces the burden on the court system which can find additional efficiencies by embracing technology.
- We use alternatives to incarceration for non-violent inmates, which are less costly and more likely to prevent future offenses.
- We then focus on housing only violent offenders, and rehabilitating these inmates, especially those inmates with the potential to return to society.

Are there challenges to this proposal? Absolutely! This is the purpose of gathering designers and justice partners together at the 2015 Academy of Architecture for Justice conference in Miami. We hope to uncover potential issues and start a dialog between the justice partners and designers of the facilities they use. If we work together to see the big picture, we can uncover inefficiencies and synergies alike. We can also build a new future together that not only provides for better justice, but also reduces the burden on the taxpayers so monies can be invested on programs which prevent the need for crime in the first place. That money would be better spent on education, which not only reduces crime further, but is a much better use of taxpayer money and a far better investment in our future.

Thank you.