

## **JAMES BELL**

### **Biography**

James Bell has been a Staff Attorney at the Youth Law Center in San Francisco, California for 20 years, representing incarcerated youth. Currently, he is the Director of the W. Haywood Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness and Equity. Mr. Bell is working extensively on issues involving disproportionality of young people of color in the juvenile justice system. Currently he and his colleagues are working in 9 jurisdictions--Seattle, WA, Phoenix, AZ, San Francisco and San Jose, CA , Kansas City, MO and 4 Illinois sites-- with government officials and community based organizations to achieve actual reduction of disproportionality of youth of color while maintaining public safety.

He is currently co-director of the Community Justice Network for Youth, a national network of programs working successfully with young people of color.

Mr. Bell is piloting work on the unique impact of policies and practices on young people of color regarding: the imposition of the death penalty for children, mental health issues, and school disciplinary policies.

Internationally, the Burns Institute is involved with restorative justice jurisdictions around the globe. Mr. Bell continues to assist the African National Congress in the administration of the juvenile justice system in South Africa. Similarly, he has trained lawyers on the human rights of children in Cambodia and worked closely with officials in New Zealand.

Mr. Bell is the recipient of a Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship, the Livingstone Hall Award for Outstanding Juvenile Advocacy of the American Bar Association and the Clinton White Attorney of the Year Award from the Charles Houston Bar Association and the Advocate of the Year from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the Justice Department and the Moral Leadership Against Injustice Award of the Delancey Street Foundation.