



Contact:  
Beth Kellman  
[bethkellman@gmail.com](mailto:bethkellman@gmail.com)  
510.910.0161  
[centerforce.org](http://centerforce.org)

Announcement  
For Immediate Release



Melissa Harris-Lacewell, Keynote Speaker at [Centerforce 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Inside/Out Summit](#) – Oct 26-27, 2009 in San Francisco, CA.

[Centerforce](#) is honored to announce that [Melissa Harris-Lacewell](#), Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University, will be the keynote speaker at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Inside/Out Summit in San Francisco, CA on October 26 – 27, 2009. Conference will be held at the San Francisco [Westin Airport Hotel](#). She will address the challenges for change in the criminal justice system.

[Cornel West](#), currently serving as the 1943 University Professor at Princeton University, says, “She has to be one of the most talented intellectuals of her generation. She brings sophisticated quantitative skills, a sense of history and a synthetic imagination. That’s rare among social scientists, and that’s why I’m so thoroughly excited and inspired that she’s here.”

Melissa is the author of the award-winning book, *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*, (Princeton 2004). And she is currently at work on a new book: *Sister Citizen: A Text For Colored Girls Who've Considered Politics When Being Strong Wasn't Enough*. Her academic research is inspired by a desire to investigate the challenges facing contemporary black Americans and to better understand the multiple, creative ways that African Americans respond to these challenges.

Melissa Harris-Lacewell is a frequent guest on the [Rachel Maddow Show](#) on MSNBC.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend keynotes, plenary sessions, workshops, exhibits, and our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Film Festival. For a complete schedule visit the Centerforce website [centerforce.org](http://centerforce.org) and make comments on our [Facebook](#) group page.



Centerforce is proud to announce that Ernie Hudson, actor, activist and scholar, will participate in the Summit. Mr. Hudson will bring his life and stage experiences to our national conversation on supporting children, families and communities impacted by incarceration. He was part of the HBO series “Oz” about life inside a prison, co-starred as one of the “Ghostbusters” in two films and has been on “Desperate Housewives.”

The **1<sup>st</sup> Centerforce Film Festival** opens with an introduction by Cameron Holmes, PA Prison Society and actor in the film “Shadows: Children, Families and The Legacy of Incarceration”. He will introduce the film and talk about his own experience with the criminal justice system. The film, “Tulia, Texas” will be screened, too. The Director/Producers, Kelly Whalen and Cassandra Herman will be on hand to introduce this important film and discuss the story of a small town's search for justice and the price Americans pay for the war on drugs.

The Conference agenda includes discussions on current state and national policy, will solicit recommendations that impact reentry and mentoring initiatives, investigate ground-breaking policy to practice initiatives, connect to mentoring and reentry funding, and discover avenues to access funding examine the Latest Trends in Health Care and Preventative Disease within the Prison and Visiting Populations.

For a list of our scheduled panelists, presenters and speakers, please check our website at [centerforce.org/summit](http://centerforce.org/summit).

Colleagues will meet from around the country for this truly unique and all encompassing program, which includes sessions on clinical issues and understanding policy. We will seek to discover positive solutions to crucial issues surrounding incarcerated populations. Over the two days, the program will provide an energetic forum for education, growth, success, discussion, inspiration, and communication.

A pre-conference on October 25 is open to anyone registered for the conference, free of charge. The pre-conference workshops for Sunday, Oct. 25 include:

**Practical Strategies for Navigating the Culture of Corrections**, Julie Lifshay, Centerforce Research and Evaluation Manager; Laura Bowman, Director of Community Partnerships at San Quentin

**Practical Strategies for Connecting Incarcerated Parents and Their Children**, Sandra Barnhill, National President, Foreverfamily, Inc.; Janie Frances Asante, Foreverfamily, Inc.,

**Practical Strategies to Address Trauma, Addiction and Mental Health**, Ann Adalist Estrin, National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated, Mark Kaufman, Career Advancement Network and David Lewis, Free At Last.

#### About Centerforce

The [Centerforce](http://centerforce.org) mission is to support, educate, and advocate for individuals, families and communities impacted by incarceration.

Centerforce provides services for incarcerated individuals, formerly incarcerated individuals, and their loved ones through direct services, its annual conference and, through consultation and training for government agencies, community-based organizations and correctional facilities across the country and internationally. Direct services for clients are provided by four service areas: Children and Families Services, Prison & Transitional Services, and Information Services.

Centerforce  
2955 Kerner Blvd. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San Rafael, CA 94925  
415.456.9980  
[www.centerforce.org](http://www.centerforce.org)