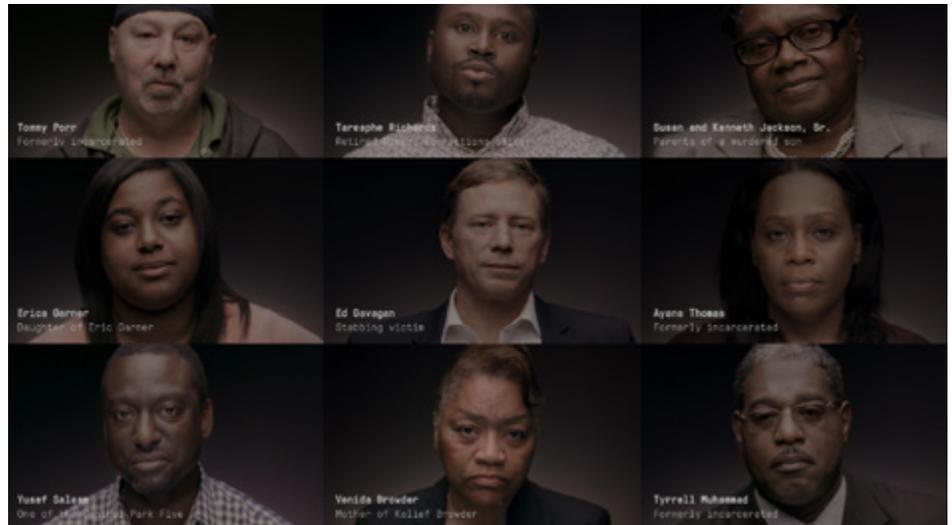


Seeing Is Believing

To reach new audiences with emotionally gripping narratives about criminal justice, The Marshall Project is producing more visual journalism. Some highlights from recent months:

BEARING WITNESS In October, The Marshall Project launched “We Are Witnesses,” a series of 18 short films capturing the huge and tragic toll that the criminal justice system takes on virtually everyone who comes in contact with it. Published in partnership with Participant Media, The New Yorker, and Condé Nast Entertainment, “We Are Witnesses” is a rare 360-degree portrait of the state of crime and punishment in the United States. It is already being incorporated into advocacy campaigns and educational initiatives, with several public events planned in the coming months.

120 AND RISING We teamed up with The Weather Channel on a video revealing the effects of extreme temperatures from climate change on one of the country’s most vulnerable populations: people behind bars. In “Cruel and Unusual?,” a 20-minute documentary about the deadly heat inside Texas prisons, our special correspondent John Carlos Frey interviewed family members of prisoners who’ve died from 100-de-



Still from WE ARE WITNESSES, a series of 18 short films released in November

gree-plus temperatures, and the inmates and guards who are fighting for livable conditions. Accompanied by additional reporting from staff writer Maurice Chammah, our story was adapted into a short video by AJ+ that’s already been viewed nearly half a million times.

VIEWFINDING In July, we launched a new series of visual commentaries — ViewFinder — that offer fresh perspectives on criminal justice issues. Our first, “Hot Chicken, Fair Chance,” profiled a popular Columbus, Ohio restaurant that hires predominantly formerly incarcerated people. We partnered the video with USA Today, reaching over 100,000 viewers on Facebook in less than two days. Our second ViewFinder, “Shawna,” profiled a young Oklahoma mother who remains on the sex offender registry for a youthful fling with a boy who was under 18. That video garnered tens of thousands of views in just a few days.

CATCHING LIGHT The Marshall Project is collaborating for a year with Brian Frank, a California-based photographer whose fellowship is underwritten by the Catchlight Foundation. We published his first photo essay with Vice, profiling the incarcerated men who worked to tame the wildfires raging in northern California this fall. Frank has published with the The New Yorker, The Atlantic, The New York Times, and Harper’s. His future work will focus on alternatives to incarceration and reentry programs, especially for California’s juvenile offenders.

IN VOGUE We teamed up with Teen Vogue and Sen. Cory Booker for a revelatory conversation with formerly incarcerated women, and a daughter who grew up with parents behind bars. We turned that conversation into short, social media-friendly films highlighting their stories that generated tens of thousands of views on Facebook.



The Marshall Project aims to produce journalism with impact. Here are some examples from the past few months:



EDUCATION In September, our gripping profile of Michelle Jones landed on the front page of The New York Times. Jones had become an accomplished historian during her twenty years in an Indiana prison for the murder of her four-year-old son, and was recruited by top graduate schools around the country. But her admission to a PhD program at Harvard was ultimately overturned by college administrators. The story reached over 1 million people in three days, becoming the most read and most shared article on NYTimes.com. It also inspired op-eds and conversations about forgiveness and violent crime across the country. At Harvard, the campus newspaper editorialized against the university's decision to rescind her admission, saying it "perpetuates a culture of

elitism," while 159 Harvard faculty members signed an open letter condemning the administration and calling for clearer policies for formerly incarcerated applications. Meanwhile, many prison education advocates were inspired by the story, with the executive director of the Prison University Project writing that it had propelled the prison higher education movement forward "by decades."

INVESTIGATION Our story last year about the private business of transporting prisoners across state lines sparked an immediate promise by the Department of Justice to investigate. But that was under Attorney General Loretta Lynch. In a rare instance of cross-administration continuity, DOJ lawyers opened a preliminary investigation this summer into allegations of abuse by the largest of the prison transport companies we profiled. We'll continue to follow developments in this story.

VISITS Joyce Davis, a mother, grandmother and cancer patient, has never been convicted a crime. But the Michigan Department of Corrections barred her from visiting her incarcerated sons because of outstanding motor vehicle tickets she couldn't afford to pay. In September, Joyce told her story for Life Inside, our ongoing series of

first-person essays from those who work or live in the criminal justice system. "Not being able to see my children, with all this hanging over me, is devastating." That's when our readers set up a GoFundMe page for Joyce—and quickly raised enough money to settle her debts.

✧ BACKSTAGE WITH THE MARSHALL PROJECT

Over the past year, we have ramped up our commitment to public programming. Working with Chicago's local NPR affiliate, WBEZ, we hosted a sold-out conversation on the role of prosecutors in mass incarceration, featuring Cook County's recently elected State's Attorney Kim Foxx and our Editor-in-Chief Bill Keller. In San Francisco, we collaborated with the Commonwealth Club on a panel on privatization and criminal justice, featuring staff writer Alysia Santo. And at the California College of the Arts, our President Carroll Bogert interviewed photographer Brian Frank about what it's like to take pictures in prisons. In New York, "We Are Witnesses" premiered to a sold-out crowd at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, followed by a panel of witnesses hosted by the New Yorker's Jennifer Gonnerman. We'll be having more events in future — please join us!