

Here are the biographies of the three panelists, Esther Lim, Dr. Ronda Hampton, and Michael Gennaco, who will discuss the Los Angeles County Jail Study Consensus Questions on January 6, 2011 at the League of Women Voters-Pasadena League Day at the Women's City Club, Pasadena. More information is on the flyer under Jail Study.

The LWV-Pasadena Area League members will do consensus on the eight questions after hearing from our panel of three experts. Representing the ACLU, the Office of Internal Review (OIR), and the mental health field are:

ESTHER LIM is the ACLU's Jails Project Coordinator in Los Angeles County. Esther received her Master in Social Work from USC with an emphasis on community organizing, planning and administration while concurrently working at the Southern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic in Norwalk and Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility until their closure in 2009. In both facilities, Esther worked with adolescent sex offenders focusing on individual and group therapies and re-entry. She has a B.S. in Criminal Justice, which she received from CSU Long Beach; while there she worked for the Orange County Probation Department's Adult Sex Offender Unit.

She has mainly focused on her educational and occupational experiences on working with those in and out of incarceration and with those whom our society looks down on. Esther, as a change agent, wants to empower individuals to take more control over their lives and work to not recidivate.

We thank ACLU's Peter Eliasberg for forwarding these links for your information:

<http://www.aclu-sc.org/documents/view/182>

<http://www.aclu-sc.org/documents/view/173>

<http://www.aclu-sc.org/documents/view/259>

<http://www.aclu-sc.org/documents/view/273>

MICHAEL GENNACO came to the Office of Independent Review (OIR) from the Office of the United States Attorney, where he served as Chief of the Civil Rights Section. In that position, Mr. Gennaco was responsible for overseeing all police misconduct, hate crimes, and involuntary servitude investigations and prosecutions for the Central District of California. He also served as the federal civil rights liaison for community and public interest groups and federal and local law enforcement agencies. As Chief of the Civil Rights Section, Mr. Gennaco also oversaw prosecutions of officers from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, and the Adelanto Police Department. Mr. Gennaco is a graduate of Dartmouth College and received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Stanford Law School.

Mr. Gennaco is the eldest of five children born to Mr. Armand Gennaco and Ms. Marie Padilla. Prior to becoming an attorney, Mr. Gennaco taught elementary and high school in Arizona public schools. Largely as a result of his multi-ethnic upbringing and the encouragement of his family and his mentor, the Hon. Thomas Tang, for whom Mr. Gennaco served as a law

clerk, Mr. Gennaco has dedicated his entire legal career to the protection of civil rights.

Ronda L. Hampton, PhD is a practicing Clinical Psychologist in Diamond Bar. Dr. Hampton obtained her B.A. in psychology from Cal. State Fullerton (1990), a Masters degree in counseling from the University of LaVerne (1993) and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Multi Cultural Mental Health from the California School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles (1998). Her areas of expertise are in the areas of multicultural mental health and chronic/severe mental illness. Dr. Hampton will discuss the "5150", the 72-hour hold for mental evaluation, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Correctional Services Division guide for family members, "Mental Illness Arrest, What do I do?" as well as the NAMI-CALIFORNIA references for what family members of the mentally ill should do in each county to assist their loved ones if they are in jail.

Dr. Hampton was thrust into a public role when her former intern and graduate of California State University, Fullerton, Mitrice Richardson, was arrested at a restaurant in Malibu for non-payment of a \$89.00 bill and then was released a few hours later after midnight on September 17, 2009 from the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station without cell phone, money, or transportation. Her car had been towed to a storage area from the Malibu restaurant.

Persons in the custody of law enforcement agencies are frequently released between midnight and 3:00 a.m. without money, transportation or a way to call someone to pick them up. This practice, while legal, fails to ensure the safety of persons who have been released and puts the released person at potential risk of harm. Orange County Sheriff's Department does not follow this practice. The question of custodial night time release is one of the consensus questions.

It was later determined from journals found in Mitrice's car that she had been experiencing a severe bi-polar episode at the time of her arrest.

Nearly one year later, on August 9, 2010, Mitrice Richardson's skeletal remains were discovered about eight miles from the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station deep in a ravine.