

1. Mental Health, Pro Se litigants, and children. The marginalized Community faces traumas every day that in turn may land them in front of a judge. Pro Se litigants are often not listened to and brushed off. I would like to make sure that they are able to have their day in court and even though they may not be well-versed in the law, "right is right and it ain't gonna change." I would like to have a program that allows the youngest of children to come into the courtroom and see the day-to-day functions, so they can have a more positive outlook about the justice system and know that it is not there just to throw them in jail.

2. Implicit bias plays a role in our everyday lives so yes, I believe implicit bias plays a role in the courts. The only way to address implicit bias is to address the systemic issues that come along with it, which includes but is not limited to: media, laws, stereotypes, discriminatory practices and structures, education, miseducation, and the concept of the new Jim Crow.

3. The point of the bail system is to ensure that those jailed are released with confidence that they will return for their day in court. No, the bail system is not fair because the system is built upon procedures that are proven to yield biased results.

4. The purpose of pretrial incarceration is to protect the public from a potentially dangerous criminal who was accused of a crime but not convicted. The purpose of post-trial incarceration is to have someone convicted of a crime serve out their sentence for punishment of said crime.

5. Judges can support successful community re-entry by setting up job programs that hire those who have criminal records and letting them know that they can vote with a criminal record.

6. I believe that a judge should reject an agreement made by the District Attorney and a defendant when there is obvious inducement or duress, is against public policy and/or the best interests of the public, or when the plea seems unfitting of the crime.

7. The long-term effect of long probation could mean ultimately more people incarcerated. Furthermore, it may lead to people leaving the state of Pennsylvania and going to other states where the laws are more favorable.

8. If by technical violation you mean something like a curfew or not having a job, I would say jail or prison is not the answer for either. I would suggest more support and more direction. Furthermore, I would consider the effort that is taking place and if it's a blatant disregard of the rules or if it's just simple circumstance.

9. The number of probation detainees that make up the city's jail is alarming. The probation officer as judge and jury of another does not seem fair.

10. Judges can be more lenient on drug use convictions and sentencing. The fact is, there have been at least two other epidemics in the last 30 years that were ignored and these individuals who were in need received stiff sentencing. This led to the over population of prisons and increased the likelihood of these addicts reusing or looking for stronger fixes inside of prisons. Those with addictions are not worthy of a prison record that would affect their job and other areas of their life in the future, after possibly being helped. Judges need to have more options for rehabilitation and prevention programs, and not solely programs that are looking to cash in on court mandated treatment.

11. The long-term effects of not having a stable loving environment and being ripped from the only home you have known can be devastating. There would obviously be abandonment issues, however there are a host of new issues that can come to light after being placed in foster care, including abuse. This could lead to a generation of children that did not grow up with their families. Judges need to make sure that when made aware of a child's removal or when removing a child it is actually a last resort. The best interest of the child should always be priority.

12. "School to prison pipe line" is a saying or theory of minority children going to prison instead of school. The City of Philadelphia has one of the highest drop out rates in the country. So, there is no surprise that the city has not invested more money into education but has built new prisons and continues to build prisons. There is no need for new schools when there are fresh beds waiting to be filled with minority men who will be making someone money at the same time.

13. There are major issues with the housing here in Philadelphia. The rent continues to increase for places that are subpar at best. There are people living in houses that should have never been allowed to be rented out in the first place. There are people without proper heat, water, and electric. There are people who are living in hazardous conditions like lead and mold. This is not a judge issue. This is a city council issue. License and Inspection needs an overhaul. There needs to be stricter regulation and enforcement for developers, especially those who are renting. Judges can enforce the laws that are already on the books to ensure that renters are protected as best they can. Judges can ensure that the landlord is not strong-arming deals out of tenants, so that any deal made is as fair possible. Paying too much to live in a house that is not safe and proper is duress and stressful within itself, and the court system can ensure that the landlord's attorneys are not forcing renters into unbalanced, one-sided agreements.

14. Yes, people should be allowed to come and fight for an injustice without the fear of being hauled away by ICE. The problem is that other people know that ICE could come. So, they then treat the person poorly knowing that they would be less likely to speak out because of the fear of being found out by ICE. This kind of policy would help the courtroom keep the interest of justice as a priority.

15. The judicial branch can suggest such policies be put in place like the one mentioned above. Judges can also ensure that those policies in place are enforced to allow everyone to have counsel and interpreters as necessary.

16. You must take into consideration the mitigating circumstances, especially trauma. The crime would determine how the mitigation of trauma would be used and how much further harm or damage would be prevented. The alternatives to incarceration would also depend on the crime, however I would always suggest therapy/counseling services. When there is trauma it needs to be unveiled so the person can begin to heal. Otherwise the trauma will continue to fester and continue to grieve the person, ultimately landing the woman right back in prison.

17. Yes, I do believe that some, a small percentage, of children should be treated as legal adults. This depends on the type of crime. Murder within itself is not enough. The heinous nature of the crime would determine if the child should be tried as an adult. Statistically there are signs of serial killers and they start as children. If we can look at the highest probability of someone becoming a serial killer and ultimately eliminate the possibility of them creating terror and panic within society at large, that would be a good thing. Those cases are not typical and therefore children should not typically be treated as adults.

In general terms, there is no need to charge children as adults. There are also case studies that prove the part of the brain that makes rational, adultlike, choices does not develop until after 25 for women and even later for men. Therefore, to hold a child at 13 years of age to a standard his/her mind is not capable of reaching is wrong and inhumane. As we continue to incarcerate children and place them with adults we are putting their youth and health adulthood in danger. We are putting them at a disadvantage for proper healing and growth. We do not want to end up as a society filled with adults with criminal records who do not know how to live in society because they were robbed of their youth for making mistakes that children should be allowed to make.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized first letter followed by a surname, appearing to read 'L B'.