



Bio – Amanda Alexander

Asst Professor & Postdoctoral Scholar in Afro-American Studies and Law, University of Michigan
Collaborative Member

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Amanda Alexander is an Assistant Professor and Postdoctoral Scholar in Afro-American Studies and Law at the University of Michigan. As a lawyer and advocate, she works to reduce the impact of mass incarceration on families and build thriving communities. During her 2013-2015 tenure as a Soros Justice Fellow, Alexander founded the Prison & Family Justice Project (PFJP) at Michigan Law, which serves families divided by incarceration and the foster care system using a combination of direct representation, know-your-rights education, targeted litigation, and advocacy. PFJP recently partnered on *Who Pays?*, a groundbreaking national study on the cost of incarceration on families.

Alexander received her J.D. from Yale Law School and her Ph.D. in History from Columbia University. Previously she has worked with the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, the Bronx Defenders, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing. She worked on alternatives to stop-and-frisk policing as an Ella Baker Fellow at the Center for Constitutional Rights. Before graduate school, she was a Fellow at the Centre for Civil Society in Durban, South Africa, where she researched urban land reform and facilitated trainings for community organizers.

Alexander serves on the board of the Prison Policy Initiative, a non-profit organization that produces criminal justice research and sparks advocacy campaigns to create a more just society. She is an advisor to the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated, and regularly provides training for the legal community and broader public in support of criminal justice-involved families. Alexander co-facilitates the Inside-Out Theory Group at Macomb Prison, and is taking strides to broaden access to higher education in Michigan prisons. She earned her B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Harvard College.