

Equal Justice for Juveniles

June 15, 2016

James Bell Introduction

James Bell is the Founder and Executive Director of the W. Haywood Burns Institute. The Burns Institute has worked in over 140 counties in 20 states, and have been awarded the prestigious *John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions*. This award is presented to select organizations worldwide that have made a “remarkable impact in their fields.”

Mr. Bell has spearheaded the adoption of an equity framework in the administration of public sector human services. He and his colleagues at the Burns Institute are challenging jurisdictions to move beyond custody, control, and suppression, and to instead embrace the notion of well-being.

Mr. Bell has also worked in youth justice issues internationally. In that regard, he assisted the African National Congress in the delineation of rights in the South African Constitution prior to the election of Nelson Mandela. He went on to assist the Nelson Mandela Foundation in their philanthropy work. Additionally, he worked with Chinese officials on governmental responses to large migrations from the countryside to the metropolitan areas, and worked closely with officials in New Zealand and Australia on restorative responses to law violations.

Mr. Bell is the recipient of a Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship, the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award, and the Livingstone Hall and Distinguished Service Awards from the American Bar Association. He received his law degree from Hastings College of the Law.