



FACING LIFE: FEATURING THE VISITING ROOM PROJECT

EXHIBIT AT THE LILLIAN GOLDMAN LAW LIBRARY

"Many questions were troubling the explorer, but at the sight of the prisoner he asked only: "Does he know his sentence?" "No," said the officer, eager to go on with his exposition, but the explorer interrupted him: "He doesn't know the sentence that has been passed on him?" "No," said the officer again, pausing a moment as if to let the explorer elaborate his question, and then said: "There would be no point in telling him. He'll learn it on his body."

— Franz Kafka, In the Penal Colony

The Lillian Goldman Law Library invites you to view an exhibit that accompanies [a Symposium titled Facing Life: Featuring The Visiting Room Project](#) organized by the Law and Racial Justice Center at Yale Law School. The exhibit, prepared by Lucie Olejnikova, Julian Aiken, Ariane Lewis, Kayla Vinson, and Evelyn Ma, features memoirs, collections of poetry, art, and magazine articles written by currently and formerly incarcerated persons, or their relatives. The display also includes scholarly publications that focus on the impact mass incarceration has had on families and our society at large.

Visitors can view work by several of the ambassadors and symposium panelists, including Dwayne Betts, Ra'sun Allah (Ray Boyd), Daniel Boone Mills, Kimathi Khama (Audley Watson), Tyrone Harvey, L.O.R.D. (Gaylor Salters), and Maurice L. Williams, among many others. The exhibit features *The Angolite*, a prison news magazine, which began in 1953 as a weekly eight-to twelve-page tabloid newspaper, and by some called "America's boldest experiment in journalism and freedom of expression in the world behind bars". A print-out of the inaugural 1953 issue is included as part of the exhibit. If you are interested in learning more about the world behind bars, you may fill out [The Angolite Subscription Form](#).

A highlighted feature of the exhibit is [The Visiting Room Project](#), a "digital experience that invites the public to sit face-to-face with people serving life without the possibility of parole to hear them tell their stories, in their own words." Visitors are invited to enter The Visiting Room Project online by scanning the QR code located on the main poster of the exhibit and experience first-hand the world behind bars through the experiences and in the words of those serving life sentence without the possibility of parole.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following is a selected bibliography compiled by the creators of the exhibit. The list includes works written by formerly or currently incarcerated authors (memoirs, autobiographies, biographies, collection of poems, letters, art, magazines, and more), works written by relatives of those detained in prisons or jails, and a sample of scholarly works mainly focusing on the impact of mass incarceration on the families (parents, siblings, children), our society (economic, sociological, and psychological), and the unsustainable nature of the culture of punishment. To discover additional titles, search the library [catalog](#) or explore the collection using subject headings, including for example:

- [Prisoners' Writings, American](#)
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- [Prisoners' Families – United States](#)
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- [Death Row Inmates – United States – Biography](#)
- [Capital Punishment – United States](#)
- [Life Imprisonment – United States](#)
- [Prison Sentences – United States](#)
- [Parole – United States](#)
- [Prisoners – Deinstitutionalization](#)
- [African American Prisoners – Biography](#)
- [Discrimination in Criminal Justice Administration – United States](#)

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