

# JEANENE L. BARRETT, PHD

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## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Community Engagement | Policy & Program Evaluation | Project Management  
Sentencing Mitigation | Qualitative Research | Stakeholder Collaboration  
Leadership & Staff Development | Strategic Planning

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## EDUCATION

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| <b>Ph.D., Criminal Justice</b><br>CUNY Graduate Center, John Jay College of Criminal Justice<br><b>Dissertation:</b> Living in a world of stop, question and frisk, and trespass enforcement: Black and Latinx youth engaging in police reform in New York City ( <a href="https://academicworks.cuny.edu/gc_etds/3780/">https://academicworks.cuny.edu/gc_etds/3780/</a> ) | <b>2020</b> |
| <b>M.Phil., Criminal Justice</b><br>CUNY Graduate Center  | <b>2017</b> |
| <b>M.A., Social Service Administration (Social Work)</b><br>University of Chicago   | <b>2008</b> |
| <b>M.S., Human Services Administration</b><br>Spertus Institute   | <b>1998</b> |
| <b>B.S., Administration of Justice</b><br>Southern Illinois University – Carbondale   | <b>1996</b> |

## EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

***Solutions Optimized, LLC*** **Jan 2026 – Present**  
**Founder and Principal**

- Founded and lead a strategic advisory and program-design consultancy translating policy, research, and individual/community insight into actionable, measurable outcomes for public sector and mission-driven organizations.
- Create and scale human-centered programs across criminal justice reform, youth development, civic engagement, and social impact, integrating lived experience, stakeholder voice, and data-informed decision-making.
- Advise executive leaders, boards, research institutions, and academic leaders on organizational strategy, accountability, systems improvement, qualitative methodologies, and leadership development – drawing on more than two decades of leadership and teaching experience.
- Founded and direct The Hope Studio™, a flagship applied learning and program-innovation initiative within Solutions Optimized, LLC, cultivating ethical, impact-driven leaders at the secondary and post-secondary levels, through experiential education, policy labs, and community-engaged problem solving.
- Design and operationalize The Hope Studio™ model, using an analysis framework – The Hope Lens™, that includes curricula and toolkits used to strengthen leadership capacity and translate insight into ethical action and measurable community impact through policy analysis.

***Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD – DOI*****Feb 2019 – Dec 2025****Inspector General | Aug 2023 – Dec 2025**

Acting Inspector General | Jan 2022 – Aug 2023

First Deputy Inspector General | Mar 2020 – Aug 2023

Deputy Inspector General, Policy Analysis | Feb 2019 – Mar 2020

- Direct executive oversight of systemic investigations and policy analysis, designed investigative frameworks, and drive the release of high-impact reports.
- Directed nine systemic reports and five Annual Reports, issuing 90 recommendations, of which 55 were adopted (2022 – 2025) (<https://www.nyc.gov/site/doi/oignypd/web/report.page>).
- Strengthened organizational efficiency during attrition/hiring freezes by redesigning workflows, staffing models, and escalation protocols.
- Increased the number of investigative reports by nearly 30% between 2022 – 2025, in comparison to the previous four years (2021 – 2018), despite attrition and hiring freezes.
- Established systemic review processes, escalation protocols, and recommendation-tracking systems to institutionalize oversight, decreasing the investigation initiation to report publication time by 50%.
- Developed professional development programs, succession planning pipelines, and mentoring structures to strengthen capacity, increasing the number of early career investigative leads.
- Cultivated partnerships with NYPD executives, City leaders, academics, and community/legal advocates to advance reform.
- Brief DOI executives regularly, providing strategic insight on staffing, policy, and systemic review outcomes.

***New York Stop & Frisk Joint Remedial Process – JAMS*****Jun 2015 – Jun 2018****Project Manager**

- Led a federally mandated reform initiative, engaging 2,500+ community members across 64 focus groups, 28 community forums, and 17 leadership meetings.
- Designed and executed inclusive community-centered engagement process prioritizing the voices of directly impacted communities.
- Delivered strategic briefings to the Federal Court-appointed Facilitator, shaping policy recommendations and reform implementation to NYPD.

***Independent Consultancy*****Mar 2008 – Feb 2019****Capital Mitigation Specialist**

- Provided defense case analysis and mitigation strategies for capital trials nationwide, ensuring fair sentencing outcomes—including as a member of the Casey Anthony defense team (<https://www.peacocktv.com/stream-tv/casey-anthony-where-the-truth-lies>).
- Trained and mentored mitigation specialists, strengthening national capacity in capital defense mitigation investigation.

***DePaul University College of Law*****Mar 2008 – Aug 2011****Capital Mitigation Specialist & Trainer**

- Supported capital defense teams by conducting investigations, preparing life-history narratives, and training future mitigation specialists.

***Jane Addams Hull House Association***  
**Child Welfare Supervisor****Mar 2003 – Sep 2006**

- Supervised case managers, ensuring quality service delivery to children and families in foster care systems. Introduced training and performance monitoring systems to strengthen staff accountability and service impact.

***South Central Community Services***  
**Child Welfare Supervisor****Nov 2000 – Feb 2003**

- Oversaw child welfare teams managing high caseloads of at-risk youth and families. Implemented risk assessment and service coordination processes to improve permanency outcomes.

***PSI Services, Inc.*****May 1996 – Nov 2000****Quality Assurance Manager, Training Coordinator, Case Manager**

- Managed compliance, training, and case management systems for youth and family services. Built quality assurance frameworks that improved organizational efficiency and service outcomes.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE****JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE****Aug 2011 – Aug 2013*****Research Assistant***

- Provided wide range of research, data collection, data management and analysis for complex capital trial database covering 13 years of death penalty trials.

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY – SUNY****Dec 2008 – Jun 2011*****Research Coordinator – Capital Jury Project***

- Multi-institutional liaison managing communications and joint research initiatives involving consortium of multiple universities.
- Trained and managed research assistants providing broad range of research support and data analysis support.
- Arranged and conducted primary research including face-to-face interviews with capital jurors and secondary research involving literature searches and various sources.
- Managed database coding and entry of collected data and handled data quality controls to ensure accuracy of complex files and records.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE****BROOKLYN COLLEGE****Jan 2015 – Present*****Adjunct Assistant Professor – Department of Child and Youth Studies***

- Teach required program courses: Perspectives on Childhood, Children in Crisis, Children and the Law

**JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE****Aug 2012 – Present*****Adjunct Assistant Professor – M.S. in Criminal Justice Program, 2019 - Present******Adjunct Faculty – Department of Law and Police Science, 2012 – 2018***

*Chair for Teaching & Professional Development – Doctoral Student Association, 2012 – 2015*  
*Executive Committee – Criminal Justice Ph.D. Program, 2013 – 2014*

- Currently teaching graduate level criminal justice courses: Issues in Criminal Justice, Policy Analysis in Criminal Justice
- Taught the following courses as part of the Bachelor of Science program: Introduction to Criminal Justice and Principles & Methods of Statistics.
- Named to serve on and /or chair various committees and improvement working groups as a student within the PhD Program.

**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE****Jan 2012 – Dec 2018**

*Adjunct Faculty – Department of Criminal Justice*

- Taught the following courses: Criminology, Research Methods, Introduction to Criminal Justice, and Corrections

**WESTWOOD COLLEGE****Oct 2003 – Aug 2011**

*Adjunct Faculty – Department of Criminal Justice*

- Taught the following courses: Juvenile Justice, Criminal Justice Administration, Policing in America, Comparative Criminal Justice, Introduction to Criminal Justice, Corrections, Criminology

## **GRANTS**

**Roach, K.** (Principal Investigator), **DiSanto, K.** (Co-I), **Sridharan, A.** (Co-I), **Barrett, J.** (Consultant), & **LaMar, M.** (Consultant). Bridging the Gap: Focus-Group–Informed, Feasibility and Acceptability of an Equity-Centered SCD Transition Program for Emerging and Young Adults. Center for Health Equity and Systems Research (CHESR) Pilot Grant. \$10,000. February 1, 2026–January 31, 2027.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Strauber, J. & Barrett, J.** (October 15, 2025). *Update on NYPD's Implementation of DOI's 2023 Criminal Group Database Recommendations*. NYC Department of Investigation, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD.

**Strauber, J. & Barrett, J.** (January 28, 2025). *An Assessment of NYPD's Use of Social Media*. NYC Department of Investigation, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD.

**Strauber, J. & Barrett, J.** (December 18, 2024). *An Assessment of NYPD's Compliance with the POST Act*. NYC Department of Investigation, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD.

**Strauber, J. & Barrett, J.** (November 26, 2024). *A Review of NYPD's Community Response Team*. NYC Department of Investigation, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD.

**Strauber, J. & Barrett, J.** (May 30, 2024). *An Assessment of NYPD's Compliance with the POST Act*. NYC Department of Investigation, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD.

**Strauber, J. & Barrett, J.** (June 28, 2023). *Statement of Findings Regarding NYPD's Technical Assistance and Response Unit and the Revised Handschu Guidelines*. NYC Department of Investigation, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD.

**Strauber, J. & Barrett, J.** (May 3, 2023). *Overtime Under Review: NYPD Overtime and the Increased Risk of Negative Policing Outcomes*. NYC Department of Investigation, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD.

**Strauber, J. & Barrett, J.** (April 18, 2023). *An Investigation into NYPD's Criminal Group Database*. NYC Department of Investigation, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD.

**Strauber, J. & Barrett, J.** (November 3, 2022). *An Assessment of NYPD's Response to the POST Act*. NYC Department of Investigation, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD.

## **PRESENTATIONS & PANELS**

**Furthering Police Accountability – Bronx, NY.** (November 21, 2024). Panel Discussion. In collaboration with the Office of the Community Liaison.

**Furthering Police Accountability – Brooklyn, NY.** (August 20, 2024). Panel Discussion. In collaboration with the Office of the Community Liaison.

**NYPD National Night Out – Brooklyn, NY.** (August 6, 2024; August 1, 2023).

**Police Athletic League (PAL).** (April 24, 2024). Panel Discussion.

**Seeing Yourself in Careers Talk Series – Manhattan College.** (November 29, 2023). Featured Presenter.

**Crossroads of Criminal Justice – John Jay College of Criminal Justice.** (September 22, 2023). Panel Discussion.

**Understanding Police Oversight in New York City – LaGuardia College.** (June 1, 2023).

**Barrett, Jeanene.** (2015). *Miller v. Alabama: Developing Mitigation for Juveniles with Life Sentences*. Presented at Darrow Baldus Defense College, University of Iowa Law School, Iowa City, IA.

**Barrett, Jeanene.** (2014). *Samantha Spade to the Rescue: Cracking Cases with Practical Defense Investigation*, NACDL's 2014 Defending Sex Cases Conference – "Zealous Advocacy in Sexual Assault & Child Victim Cases", Las Vegas, NV.

**Barrett, Jeanene and Mortimer Smith** (2014). *Developing Your Client's Life Story*, Capital Litigation Training Conference, Wilmington, DE.

**Barrett, Jeanene.** (2013). *Developing the Case for Life: Interviewing Techniques for Mitigation Specialists*. Presented at Clarence Darrow Death Penalty Defense College, Chicago, IL.

English, Jodie; Sider, Holly and **Barrett, Jeanene.** (2013). *Representing the Difficult Capital Client*. Presented at Darrow Death Penalty Defense College, Chicago, IL.

**Barrett, Jeanene.** (2012). *U.S. Death Penalty: comparison to Indonesia*. Invited presentation for John Jay College Bali Study Abroad Program, Ubud, Bali.

West, Valerie; Gentry, Kendra and **Barrett, Jeanene**. (2012). Spatial Dependency in American Capital Sentencing, 1977 – 2008. Paper presented at meeting of Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, New York, NY.

**Barrett, Jeanene**. (2012). Presumed Guilty: Media's Impact on the Presumption of Guilt for Female Capital Defendants. Paper presented at meeting of Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, New York, NY.

**Barrett, Jeanene & Smith, Mort**. (2010). Interviewing Techniques for Investigators and Mitigation Specialists. Presented at Darrow Death Penalty Defense College, Chicago, IL.

**Barrett, Jeanene**. (2010). Overview of Capital Mitigation and the Importance of Mitigation in Capital Case. Presented at Clarence Darrow Death Penalty College, Chicago, IL.

Moss, Tony; **Barrett, Jeanene** and McClain, Kevin. (2009). Developing the Capital Team. Presented at Darrow Death Penalty Defense College, Chicago, IL.

**Barrett, Jeanene**. (2009). Developing Strong Documents (affidavits, status reports, and supplemental status forms). Presented at Darrow Death Penalty Defense College, Chicago, IL.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**

*Chi Omega Omega Chapter – Chartering Member, 2005*

*Xi Nu Omega Chapter – Initiation, 1999*

Active member since 1999. Has held several leadership positions within Chi Omega Chapter.

**National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement**

**The American Society of Criminology**

**Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences**