VERDICT VIEW

WHO WE ARE

Khadidah Stone brings a deeply personal perspective to judicial accountability reform stemming from their father's sixty year incarceration for marijuana sales, a sentence that revealed the stark disparities in our justice system. This experience ignited her passion to create transparent oversight mechanisms that hold judges accountable for fair and equitable sentencing practices.

Bryanna Siguenza is a dedicated advocate for judicial accountability and systemic transformation, leading Court Watch LA and Rate My Judge through her role at La Defensa. Grounded in an abolitionist framework, she blends data-driven research, grassroots organizing, and policy advocacy to make courts more transparent and less oppressive. Her leadership is defined by a strategic, creative approach to shifting power back to the people, and she lives in Los Angeles with her beloved Sphynx cats, Luna, Lilith, and Leviathan.

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JUSTICE REIMAGINED
Bringing accountability to the bench

Judges hold immense power over people's lives but remain largely unaccountable. While others in the criminal legal system face scrutiny, judges operate with little transparency —eroding public trust and escaping consequences for harmful decisions.

Why it matters:

- Judges decide who gets bail, who goes to prison, and for how long.
- Similar cases often receive drastically different outcomes based on who the judge is.
- There's no consistent public data on how judges actually rule.
- Existing oversight bodies rarely discipline judges, even for serious misconduct.
- Communities have no accessible way to evaluate judicial behavior or demand change.

Verdict VIEW.

(02)

ABOUT
VERDICT VIEW

Mission: We evaluate judicial decisions using comprehensive data analysis to promote transparency and accountability within the justice system.

Vision: We envision a justice system where judicial decisions are consistently fair, demographic disparities are eliminated, and the public has access to clear information about how courts serve their communities.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

(03)

DISMANTLING THE SYSTEM
Judicial Report Cards for Community by Community

At **Verdict View**, we believe judges should be accountable to the communities they serve. Our grading system sheds light on how judges exercise their power—highlighting patterns of fairness, bias, and the use of alternatives to incarceration.

What We Evaluate:

- Sentencing consistency – Are similar cases treated similarly?
- Bail decisions – Are pretrial release decisions equitable?
- Diversion program use – Are alternatives to incarceration offered when appropriate?
- Demographic parity – Are outcomes consistent across racial and ethnic groups?

Why It Matters:

- Increases transparency in judicial decision-making
- Identifies disparities and areas for reform
- Empowers the public with data to hold judges accountable

ORDER IN THE *METRICS*

BAIL DECISION EQUITY (45%)

How often judges impose bail compared to their peers — exposing wealth-based detention.
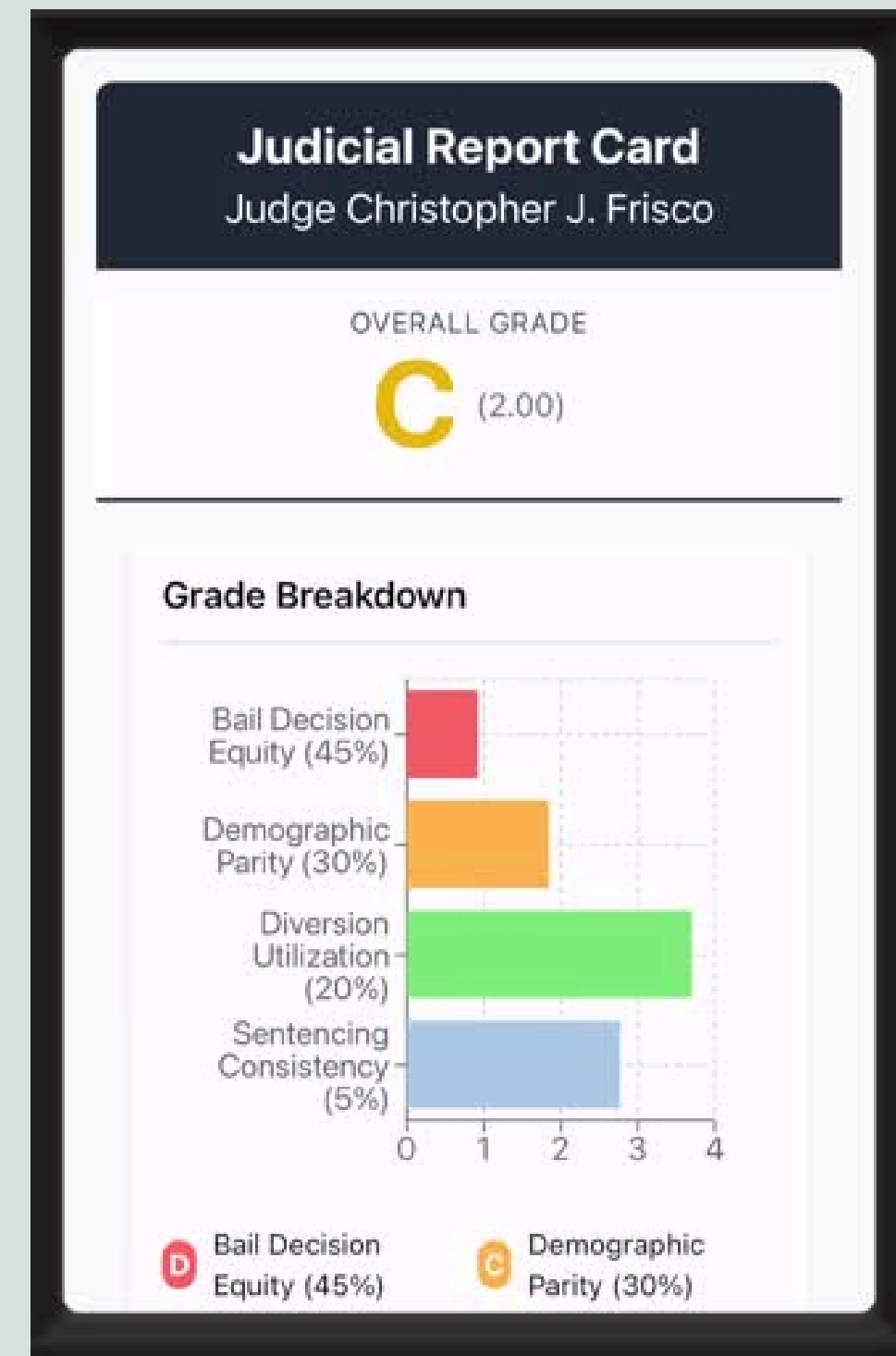
DEMOGRAPHIC PARITY (30%)

Whether judges' decisions vary by race, gender, or other identities — controlling for legal factors.

DIVERSION PROGRAM UTILIZATION (20%)

How often judges offer alternatives like mental health or drug diversion programs.

SENTENCING CONSISTENCY & SEVERITY (5%)

Whether similar cases get similar sentences — and how harsh those sentences are compared to norms.

Judicial Report Card
Judge Christopher J. Frisco

OVERALL GRADE

C (2.00)

Grade Breakdown

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BENCHMARKS AND BEYOND
OUR PLAYBOOK FOR GRADING JUDGES

- **4 Key Metrics:**
  - Bail Decision Equity – 45%
  - Demographic Parity – 30%
  - Diversion Program Utilization – 20%
  - Sentencing Consistency – 5%
- **Scoring Process:**
  - Each category is assigned a letter grade → converted to a numeric score
  - Scores are weighted, totaled, and converted back into an overall grade (A–F)
  - If data is missing, weights are adjusted or an "N/A" is issued
- **Goal:** Highlight fairness, reduce incarceration, promote alternatives, and expose disparities

*JUDGES ARE GRADED BASED ON HOW THEIR PRACTICES COMPARE TO DATASET AVERAGES

HOW WE COLLECTED THE DATA:
COURT WATCH LA

Court Watch LA is a grassroots initiative using trained volunteers to observe and document courtroom proceedings. By centering the experiences of impacted communities, we bring public oversight into spaces that are typically shielded from accountability.

What We Do:
- Train volunteers to document judge behavior, case outcomes, and courtroom conditions
- Create real-time public records of court proceedings across LA County

Data Source & Scope:
- Observations collected over one year in multiple LA County courthouses
- Includes a range of case types, demographics, and judicial practices
- Reflects trends—not a full census of all court activity

Limitations of Observational Data:
- Subject to human error and incomplete visibility
- Observations may be influenced by what volunteers could see/hear
- Still offers rich, qualitative insights often missing from official court records

CALCULATION METHOD PER METRIC

BAIL DECISION EQUITY (45%):
- **FORMULA:** COMPARE EACH JUDGE'S BAIL RATES TO THE DATASET AVERAGE BY CHARGE TYPE.
- **SCORING:**
  - WITHIN ±10% = C
  - EVERY ADDITIONAL 10% DEVIATION = ONE GRADE SHIFT UP OR DOWN (E.G., 10–20% BETTER = C+; 10–20% WORSE = D+).

DIVERSION PROGRAM UTILIZATION (20%):
- **FORMULA:** COMPARE EACH JUDGE'S DIVERSION RATES TO THE DATASET AVERAGE FOR SIMILAR CHARGES.
- **SCORING:**
  - 15% ABOVE AVERAGE = A
  - 5–15% ABOVE AVERAGE = B
  - WITHIN ±5% = C
  - 5–15% BELOW AVERAGE = D
  - 15% BELOW AVERAGE = F.

DEMOGRAPHIC PARITY (30%):
- **FORMULA:** MEASURE DISPARITIES IN OUTCOMES ACROSS RACE/ETHNICITY WITHIN SIMILAR CHARGES.
- **SCORING:**
  - <5% DISPARITY = A
  - 5–15% DISPARITY = B
  - 15–25% DISPARITY = C
  - 25–35% DISPARITY = D
  - 35% DISPARITY = F.

SENTENCING CONSISTENCY (5%):
- **FORMULA:** ASSESS CONSISTENCY OF OUTCOMES ACROSS SIMILAR CASE TYPES USING PLEA RESULTS AS A PROXY.
- **SCORING:**
  - DUE TO LIMITED SENTENCING DATA, WE USE PLEA CONSISTENCY AS A PROXY
  - PRIMARILY A QUALITATIVE JUDGMENT BASED ON OBSERVED CONSISTENCY WITHIN CATEGORIES.

Verdict
VIEW.

FINAL SCORE CALCULATION

STEP 1: ASSIGN EACH LETTER GRADE A NUMERIC VALUE

STEP 2: MULTIPLY EACH GRADE VALUE BY ITS METRIC WEIGHT.

STEP 3: ADD ALL WEIGHTED SCORES TOGETHER.

STEP 4: CONVERT THE FINAL WEIGHTED SCORE BACK TO A LETTER GRADE.

EXAMPLE:

- JUDGE X RECEIVES:
    - B FOR BAIL (3.0)
    - B FOR DEMOGRAPHICS (3.0)
    - A FOR DIVERSION (4.0)
    - C FOR SENTENCING (2.0)

CALCULATION:

(3.0 × 0.45) + (3.0 × 0.30) + (4.0 × 0.20) + (2.0 × 0.05) = 3.15 →

FINAL GRADE: B

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Final Weighted Score	Final Grade
3.5–4.0	A
2.5–3.4	B
1.5–2.4	C
0.5–1.4	D
0.0–0.4	F

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VERDICT VIEW

FROM COURT CONTROL TO COMMUNITY POWER

BRINGING TRANSPARENCY, TO THE VERDICT

VERDICT VIEW AIMS TO

Promote public awareness of judicial behavior, biases, and decision - making patterns.

STATE OF THE COURTS

[LEARN MORE]