



# JustUs

## Stories from the Frontlines of the Criminal Legal System

National Tour

"I love these monologues because they shift the narrative that has enabled systems of oppression in the U.S."

- Bryan Stevenson, ED of the Equal Justice Initiative

**Motus Theater** is collaborating with district attorneys' offices across the country in 2023-2024 to present **JustUs** performances for their staff and communities to support criminal legal reform. These presentations share poignant personal stories of leaders who were formerly incarcerated, interwoven with powerful music, to expose the devastating impact and racial bias of the criminal legal system and inspire action toward a vision of true justice.

The U.S. has the highest rate of incarceration in the world, with nearly two million people behind bars. While Black people are only 13% of the U.S. population, they disproportionately make up 40% of our nation's prisons. Prosecutors are the most powerful players in stopping this racial disparity and the increase in imprisonment. They alone decide who to prosecute, whether to file charges or give a second chance, and how stiff a sentence will be. Motus' presentations with district attorneys' offices will bring an unprecedented strategic impact to the national criminal legal reform movement.



Boulder County DA Michael Dougherty reading JustUs monologist Derek Bell's monologue. © Rick Villarreal



Retired judge Martin Gonzales reading JustUs monologist Brandon Wainright's monologue. © Will Prosper



Estes Park Police Captain Corey Pass reading JustUs Brian (CB) Lynch's monologue. © Rick Villarreal



Spirit of Grace singing at JustUs performance. © Michael Ensminger



The ReMINDers singing at JustUs performance. © Will Prosper.



"Justice and mercy require us to walk in the shoes of others."

- Dean Williams, ED of Colorado DOC about reading a JustUs Monologue

"Motus' performances will make a difference in decisions made by DAs across the country and, as such, in the willingness to rethink punitive approaches that simply waste more lives."

- Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of Fair & Just Prosecution

Motus' JustUs presentations pair monologists with an elected district attorney and other leaders in the criminal legal system who read aloud the monologists' personal stories as a means to stand in their shoes. Through this transformative experience, readers and audiences learn from people who are impacted by the injustices of the criminal legal system and reflect on choices that support public safety for all.

JustUs is already supporting the momentum of eight district attorneys across the U.S., and has inspired two new laws in Colorado to prevent injustice in juvenile and adult court practices. **Now, more reform-minded district attorneys are calling Motus to put artful and strategic storytelling at the service of national criminal legal reform. We need to seize this moment!**

Please help us raise \$100,000 by December 31st to respond to the calls from 13 district attorneys requesting Motus JustUs performances to drive the culture change in their offices and communities. Consider making your contribution today by doubling your annual gift and/or setting up a three-year pledge to support this strategic project for years to come. Contact Caroline Grinnell at [caroline@motustheater.org](mailto:caroline@motustheater.org) to set up your pledge today.

