



**For Immediate Release
March 17, 2017**

**ALLIANCE OF ORGANIZATIONS SUBMIT
AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF RELEASE OF
NAMES OF 300 L.A. COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES
WITH HISTORY OF MISCONDUCT**

*Dignity and Power Now and The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in LA Jails
submit brief with over 7,000 petition signatures*

Los Angeles, CA – On Friday, Mar. 17, **Dignity and Power Now (DPN)** and **The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in LA Jails**, an alliance of organizations who have significant interest in protecting the human and civil rights of the accused in criminal proceedings and the roughly 16,500 people held in the L.A. County jail system, filed an amicus brief with the California Court of Appeal Second Appellate District, Division Eight, in support of a trial court's order allowing the **Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department** to release a list of **300 deputies'** personnel files containing a history of misconduct to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (Case No. B280676).

Along with the brief, over **7,000 petition signatures** were submitted urging the Los Angeles Superior Court to allow the Sheriff Jim McDonnell to release the 300 personnel records of abuse and misconduct to the District Attorney's Office. The

petition signatures were gathered through DPN, an organization that houses The Coalition to End Sheriff Violence in LA Jails.

“The systemic violence and misconduct committed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department have deeply impacted marginalized communities, causing harm and trauma for many families and their loved ones,” **said Dignity and Power Now founder Patrisse Cullors**. “There is a long legacy of police violence against vulnerable communities in Los Angeles and officers who act irresponsibly are rarely held accountable or prosecuted for their misconduct. The L.A. County Sheriff has a constitutional right to provide relevant information about deputies to the prosecutors’ offices.”

“Denying disclosure of the list of deputies of who have a history of misconduct damages the safety of the community the County is entrusted to protect,” added **Dignity and Power Now Health and Wellness Director Mark-Anthony Johnson**. “The Prosecution has a constitutional duty to disclose the names of officers with *Brady* material in their file, and the sheriffs’ union’s argument to suppress disclosure contravenes the California Supreme Court’s holding in *Johnson*. The issue before the Court is not merely a departmental personnel issue, but a public safety crisis that impacts millions of county residents, whose safety is entrusted to the Sheriff’s Department.”

DPN is a Los Angeles based non-profit civil and human rights organization. Its work over the last five years has and continues to be dedicated to supporting currently and formerly incarcerated people as well as their families who have experienced Sheriff misconduct in the jail system or in their neighborhoods. Specifically, DPN built a county-wide coalition responsible for proposing, creating, and implementing civilian oversight of the Sheriff’s Department to ensure greater transparency and accountability for LASD personnel. This case has a direct impact on the policies and practices of transparency and accountability of the Sheriff’s Department, which has been at the center of DPN’s

work, and is a primary concern to its members, their families, and communities across Los Angeles County.

[Click here to read the brief.](#)

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DIGNITY AND POWER NOW (DPN) is a grassroots organization based in Los Angeles that fights for the dignity and power of incarcerated people, their families, and communities. In doing so, DPN wages a fight for everyone because the prison industrial complex forms an imaginative limit on everyone's capacity to envision freedom and liberation. More at www.dignityandpowernow.com

THE COALITION TO END SHERIFF VIOLENCE IN LA JAILS is an alliance of over a dozen Los Angeles County community organizations that are building a movement to end state violence and mass incarceration. Since its inception the Coalition has had four demands:

- Implement independent civilian oversight of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Decarcerate the L.A. County jail system
- Stop jail expansion
- Respect the civil and human rights of incarcerated people