On May 15, 2017, Jean Jimenez-Joseph was the second ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) detainee to commit suicide in the last 3 weeks at Georgia State Penitentiary. Stewart, a for-profit facility run by the private prison company, CoreCivic, has been featured in recent reports because of its maltreatment of detainees. This is not a recent trend. Since 1980, the private prison industry has been profiting off of the incarceration of individuals. Currently, the federal government contracts with private corporations to house 12% of federal prisoners and 72% of detained immigrants. Corrections Corporation of America, the country’s biggest and most notorious private prison contractor, reported a revenue of $1.27 billion dollars in 2013 alone. Law students, attorneys, and advocates have been actively voicing their opposition to such practices. However, with the current administration, these efforts might need to be heightened. How do we, as the legal community, stop these kinds of facilities from being utilized?

Moderated by Seth Church, Emory Law Class of 2018, Criminal Law Practice Society

Chris Joyner
Atlanta Journal Constitution Watchdog Blog Reporter

Courtney O’Donnell
Georgia Federal Defender’s Office

Marie Williams
Civil Rights Attorney

Alexander Volokh
Associate Professor of Law
Expert on the Law and Economics of Privatization

Moderated by Seth Church, Emory Law Class of 2018, Criminal Law Practice Society

In March of 2017, the President signed an Executive Order which blocked the citizens of 6 predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States: widely known as the Muslim Ban. Attorneys from around the nation flooded airports to provide free legal services to those affected by the order and were applauded for their swift and dedicated efforts. The New York Times called the Order, “the most significant hardening of immigration policies in generations.” As a result, lawsuits have arisen, questioning the constitutionality of the Order. The political climate is potent with questions about immigration and legality. Immigration attorneys and public advocates alike are being referred to in order to answer such questions. These are massive challenges which are rising that the legal community must come together to face.

Moderated by Christina Zeidan, Emory Law Class of 2018, Immigration and Refugee Assistance Project, International Law Practice Society

Anna Gunderson
Doctoral Candidate in Political Science, Emory University

Danny Robbins
Atlanta Journal Constitution Investigative Reporter

Brad Gersdorfer
Georgia Capital Defender

Leticia Latia
Latina Legal Group

Moderated by Creighton McMurray, Emory Law Class of 2018

This panel will delve into the issues surrounding the privatized healthcare provided to prisoners, whether they are placed within private or public facilities. Our panelists will discuss access and quality of care, issues of liability when dealing with private providers, and mental health treatment in prisons.

Moderated by Creighton McMurray, Emory Law Class of 2018

Breaking Down the Private Prison Industry and the Public Emory Public Interest Committee (“EPIC”) Conference 2017

Event Agenda

Emory University School of Law
October 7, 2017
9 am - 2:45 pm