

Sample National Voices

- Regressive** *Fines and fees are regressive payments that disproportionately impact the poor.*
—President's Council of Economic Advisers: Fines, Fees, and Bail (2015)
- Unjust** *Not only does such a [juvenile fee] policy unfairly conscript the poorest members of society to bear the costs of public institutions, operating “as a regressive tax,” but it takes advantage of people when they are at their most vulnerable.*
—In re Maria G. Rivera (9th Cir. 2016)
- Recidivistic** *[The] total amount of fines, fees, and/or restitution imposed at disposition significantly increase[s] the odds of a youth recidivating ... even after controlling for relevant youth demographics and case characteristics variables.*
—Journal of Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice (2017)
- Harmful** *...[fees] can result in serious and long-term consequences for youth and families including further penetration into the juvenile justice system, increased recidivism, difficulty engaging in education and employment opportunities, civil judgements resulting in wage garnishments, exacerbation of existing racial and ethnic disparities and increased financial burdens for impoverished families, all for reasons unrelated to public safety and counterproductive to the rehabilitative aims of the juvenile court.*
—National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (2018)

Views from Nevada's Juvenile Probation Administrators

- Resources** *From my experience, we spend a lot of money on postage and clerical time trying to collect money, resulting in very little revenue for our City and Department. At some point, it becomes a waste of time and resources.*
—Dr. Ali Banister, Carson City Chief of Juvenile Services (2018)
- Outcomes** *The families who are assessed juvenile fees are struggling enough, and we do not need to add to their burden. With my experience in the field, families cannot afford these fees. Given that, they can negatively affect youth outcomes.*
—Heather Plager, Elko County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer (2018)
- Youth first** *In dealing with kids, relationships come first. The fees color those relationships with the kid and with the families. We don't want the decision-making process to be what is this going to cost me, instead, we want it to be what will benefit the child and get a kid to change their behavior.*
—Eric Smith, Lyon County Chief Juvenile Probation Officer (2018)
- Best practice** *I don't care if the fees generate revenue; they're just not part of our practice. Fees cause undue harm to struggling families—we have better ways of getting their attention than hitting their pocketbook.*
—Jack Martin, Director, Clark County Dept. of Juvenile Justice Services (2018)