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Women's Prison Association, nation's first organization for justice-involved women, welcomes a new class of board members.

*New York, NY* – The Women's Prison Association (WPA), the nation's first service and advocacy organization dedicated solely to assisting justice-involved women, recently welcomed five new board members. The class of board members brings expertise from the fields of media, finance, fashion, healthcare, and government. New members of the WPA Board of Directors include:

- **Celine DeCarlo**, Director of Business Strategy & Brand Communications, Head of Environmental & Social Affairs, Mara Hoffman
- **Ifeoma Ike**, Partner, Think Rubix, LLC
- **Sarah Sheffield**, Executive Director of NYCRx
- **Knute Walker**, SVP Production & Executive Producer, Peacock Productions
- **Marla Willner**, Vice President Credit Risk Management, TD Securities

**Celine DeCarlo** began her career with CNN International in London, U.K. as a global senior executive developing tailored strategies for companies across Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the CIS. In 2015, Celine joined Mara Hoffman Inc., a privately owned apparel company. In her recent work, Celine has concentrated on special projects focused on social engagement and community organizing, while supporting the company and the industry's shift towards more sustainable practices.

Celine is originally from Buffalo, NY, grew up in Edinburgh, UK, and graduated from Vassar College. In addition to proudly sitting on the Board of the Women's Prison Association, she also sits on the Advisory Council of the social enterprise program, the New Standard Institute. She once practiced with the Norwegian national curling team and a professional repertory dance company in Buffalo, NY, neither of which led to a career change. Don't stand between her and a good burger.

**Ifeoma Ike** is a first-generation activist, artist and attorney with experience in both private and public sectors, as well as grassroots and movement organizing. Ike is the former Deputy Executive Director of New York City's Young Men's Initiative, and has championed several equity strategies including co-leading the creation of New York City's Disparity Report, co-drafting the Mental Health Council Executive Order, and designing a male teacher recruitment effort, NYC Men Teach. Ike also serves as a liaison to the City's first ever Young Women's Initiative, and has ensured young girls, LGBTQ youth, and families have been prioritized in citywide efforts. She is currently a Partner at the global strategic firm, Think Rubix, LLC.

Ike is co-creator of Black and Brown People Vote; creative director of #Vote4BlackFutures, and has served as a movement lawyer throughout the country, including as a member of the Ferguson Legal Defense Committee. She is a member of the first cohort of "Change the Game," an initiative to increase the number of civic data experts. Ike's work has been awarded by the National Bar Association, Black Enterprise, and Huffington Post, among others. She is also a Lehman College professor.

**Sarah Sheffield** is the Executive Director of NYCRx, a 501c3 that works to increase access to prescription medications for the medically underserved. Prior to joining NYCRx, Sarah served as the Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives for the Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the New York City

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She worked mainly with the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, where she helped launch their first citywide public health detailing campaign, and worked on the health task force on the Mayor's Commission for Economic Opportunity (CEO). Before joining the Health Department she worked in the policy department at the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, where she wrote their policy brief on the economics of vaccine R&D. She received her Master's in Public Administration at NYU's Wagner School of Public Service.

**Knute Walker** is an award winning-producer, writer and executive bringing 25 years of production and editorial experience to his current role as SVP Production/Executive Producer at NBC Peacock Productions. He is responsible for all aspects of production including editorial oversight, content development, sales and client relations, and financial performance. Under his watch, productions have ranged from large-scale live or event Specials (Skywire Live with Nik Wallenda & Shark vs. Phelps), multi-episode crime dramas, (Disappeared, Deadline Crime with Tamron Hall, Hate in America), breaking news specials and traditional long-form documentary (1968 with Tom Brokaw, The President's Gatekeepers).

Before joining Peacock, Walker served as Executive Producer of NBC News Productions and as Editorial Producer at Dateline. He has written and produced for a variety of networks including CBS, NPR, CNN and ABC where he was head writer at Good Morning America. His awards include an Emmy, Armstrong, and Corporation for Public Broadcasting Award.

**Marla Willner** is Vice President Credit Risk Management at TD Securities. Prior to returning to TD, Ms. Willner was Head of Investments at Brightwood Capital Advisors where she ran origination and underwriting for the Firm. Before Brightwood, Ms. Willner was with TD Bank Financial Group for 15 years in different parts of the firm, including Investment Banking, Capital Markets, Sales & Trading, and most recently as Head of Credit Management for Corporate Banking TD Bank, N.A. Ms. Willner is a graduate of Wesleyan University with a Master's degree from The John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

***“We are excited to welcome this new class of distinguished leaders to WPA. Their shared commitment to helping women make positive changes for themselves and their families is inspiring and energizing.”***

*- Georgia Lerner, Executive Director, Women's Prison Association*

## ABOUT WPA

The Women's Prison Association (WPA), founded in 1845, is a service and advocacy organization committed to helping women with criminal justice histories realize new possibilities for themselves and their families. Our services make it possible for women to obtain work, housing, and health care; to rebuild their families; and to participate in law-abiding lives within the community. Each year, WPA provides services to 1,500 women and 500 children.

WPA operates from three community sites in Manhattan and Brooklyn, as well as prison- and jail-based offices in Bedford and Taconic Correctional Facilities, and Rikers Island. WPA works with women at all stages of involvement with the criminal legal system. We promote alternatives to incarceration and help women avoid arrest or incarceration by making positive changes in their lives. Inside prison and jail, we are a source of support to women and a resource to them as they plan for release. After incarceration, women come to WPA for help to build the lives they want for themselves and their families in the community.

Learn more at [www.wpaonline.org](http://www.wpaonline.org).