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Contact: Ashley Bender, Interactive Marketing Manager  
Email: [ashley@okjusticereform.org](mailto:ashley@okjusticereform.org) Phone: (918) 938-8961

**Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform Names Mike Shelton as New Executive Director**

**TULSA** – Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) is proud to announce the appointment of **Mike Shelton** as its new Executive Director. A forward-thinking executive and strategic leader with more than 25 years of experience in public service, education, and community advancement, Shelton brings a wealth of expertise and a lifelong commitment to justice and equity to the role.

Guided by his personal motto, “first of all, service to all,” Shelton has built his career around aligning vision with action to create lasting impact for diverse communities. He served 12 years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, where he championed policies in education, healthcare, and economic development and rose to the position of Assistant Minority Floor Leader. His leadership was recognized with numerous honors, including the Friends of Justice Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association, the Angie Debo Award from the ACLU, and Legislator of the Year from both the Oklahoma Public Employees Association and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

In executive roles at Metro Technology Centers, Shelton directed career services and community initiatives serving thousands of Oklahomans annually. He built strategic partnerships with public and private stakeholders, launched large-scale community engagement campaigns, and mobilized resources to advance workforce development and community growth. Known for his ability to bring people together across sectors, Shelton has consistently fostered collaboration to drive measurable results.

His appointment comes at a pivotal time, as Oklahoma continues to grapple with one of the highest incarceration rates in the nation despite recent progress. OCJR has been at the forefront of efforts to reverse these trends through data-driven policy, coalition building, and advocacy for alternatives to incarceration. With Shelton’s proven leadership, the organization is poised to expand its impact and strengthen the foundation for long-term change.

“I am excited to work alongside the dedicated team at OCJR and our valued partners as we continue advancing our mission of meaningful criminal legal reform,” Shelton said. “Together, we will build on the significant impacts OCJR has already achieved, ensuring that our work creates lasting change and expands opportunities for justice, equity, and community well-being across Oklahoma.”

*Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to serve as a catalyst for systemic change in Oklahoma's criminal legal system to promote just and appropriate accountability while reducing mass incarceration and its long-term harm to families. For more information, visit our [website](#).*

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