

Adam Foss

2017 ANNUAL MEETING KEYNOTE SPEAKER



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Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Charlotte Convention Center

Sponsorship information:

Susan Gray
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A dynamic speaker and respected thought leader in his field, Adam J. Foss is a former Assistant District Attorney in the Juvenile Division of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in Boston, and a fierce advocate for criminal justice reform and the importance of the role of the prosecutor in ending mass incarceration. Foss believes that the profession of prosecution is ripe for reinvention and that prosecutors need better training to view each case through a lens of cultural competency, integrity, compassion and concern for the safety of the public, well-being of the victim and the betterment of the person charged with the crime.

After initially considering a career as a public defender, Foss quickly realized becoming a prosecutor would allow him to make more of a positive difference in his community. He co-founded the Roxbury CHOICE program to turn probation from a punitive sentence into a beneficial relationship with the court, the probation department, and the District Attorney's Office. He also founded the SCDAO Reading Program to bridge the achievement gap of area elementary school students. Currently, Foss is developing a new diversion program for first-time juvenile offenders in the Suffolk County Juvenile Court, is designing training and curriculum for prosecutors to reframe their role in the criminal justice system, and is creating plans for new software that will provide prosecutors with the data to make decisions that are more just and ensure long-term safety.

In 2014, Gov. Deval Patrick appointed Foss to his administration's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, a position he holds to this day. In both his professional and personal capacities, Foss volunteers his time to the community he works in. As much time as he spends in the courtroom, he also spends visiting schools, community meetings and speaking engagements to hear what his community needs from their local law enforcement. In recognition of his impact, *The Root* recently named him to its list of 100 most influential African Americans.



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