THE BAIL BOOK

Mass incarceration is one of the greatest social problems facing the United States today. America incarcerates a greater percentage of its population than any other country and is one of only two countries that requires arrested individuals to pay bail to be released from jail while awaiting trial. After arrest, the bail decision is the single most important cause of mass incarceration, yet this decision is often neglected since it is made in less than two minutes. Shima Baradaran Baughman draws on constitutional rights and new empirical research to show how we can reform bail in America. Tracing the history of bail, she demonstrates how it has become an oppressive tool of the courts that disadvantages minority and poor defendants and shows how we can reform bail to alleviate mass incarceration. By implementing these reforms, she argues, we can restore constitutional rights and release more defendants, while lowering crime rates.

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The Bail Book

A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT BAIL IN AMERICA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-107-13136-1 — The Bail Book
A Comprehensive Look at Bail in America's Criminal Justice System
Shima Baradaran Baughman
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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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"We can't fix our broken criminal justice system until we take on the exploitative bail industry."

– Jay Z[1]

"Bail reform could save American taxpayers roughly $78 billion a year . . . [and] more important[ly], it would help restore Americans' faith in our justice system."

– Senators Kamala Harris and Rand Paul[2]

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Acknowledgments

Judge and mentor, Judge Jay S. Bybee and Judge Alex Kozinski for introducing me to the pretrial world during my clerkship and to my co-clerk Lexie White for the great work she has done in the courts to support improvements in pretrial rights for the poor. I would like to thank Patti Beekhuizin, Baiba Hicks, and Angela Turnbow at the University of Utah law school for their excellent editing of this manuscript and general helpfulness in supporting my scholarly work.

Finally, I wish to thank Ryan Baughman for his love, support, and encouragement as well as his substantive help with "our" book, Kian Baradaran Robison, and Darian Baradaran Robison for their perpetual kindness, hard work, and independence that allowed me the time to complete this book, and Milo Baradaran Baughman for holding my hand in the last few months of drafting. Special thanks to Heather Pabst Ward, Kamla Fennimore, Katherine Jepsen, Brooke Clayton Boyer, Geidy Achecar, Gary, and Marilyn Baughman for their encouragement during this process and input on the book. I would also like to thank my parents, Narima and Asad Baradaran, and my siblings Mehrsa, Hediyeh, and Darius for their support and kindness during the drafting of this book.