

Julie Abbate is the National Advocacy Director for Just Detention International, where she works with corrections officials, policymakers and prisoner advocates to address custodial sexual abuse and conditions of confinement. She also leads JDI's federal and state policy work. Julie has focused most of her 30-year legal career on corrections cases and matters. Prior to joining JDI, she spent 15 years in the United States Department of Justice as a senior trial attorney and then Deputy Chief in the Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division, where she was responsible for enforcing the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act. She was a member of the Attorney General's Prison Rape Elimination Act Working Group, which promulgated the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape. She is also a certified PREA auditor. Ms. Abbate received her Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Women's Studies from the University of Michigan, and her JD from the Howard University Law School magna cum laude.