



## About the *Justice on Trial* team

### ***DIRECTOR***

**Kouross Esmaeli**

Iranian-born Kouross Esmaeli has been a member of the Big Noise Films Collective since 2007. His international and domestic news dispatches and documentary work have appeared on MTV, Current TV, Al Jazeera and *Democracy Now*, among others. A board member of the Arab and Middle Eastern Journalists Association, his co-production of the documentary on Iraq for MTV's *True Life* won the RTNDA's Edward L. Murrow Prize for Best Television Documentary in 2005. Kouross' last production with Big Noise, [\*Yo Soy el Army: America's New Military Caste\*](#), details the heightened recruitment of Latinos by the U.S. military. It debuts next month. Kouross is currently finishing his doctorate in media studies at New York University.

### ***PRODUCER***

**JOHANNA FERNANDEZ**

Johanna Fernandez has a Ph.D. in history and teaches 20th-century America, the political economy of American cities and African-American history at Baruch College of the City University of New York. She has published in the *Journal of Urban History*, in *Race and Reason*, and in field-defining anthologies on the Civil Rights movement. Her book on the history of the radical Puerto Rican organization, the Young Lords, will be published in 2011. In Spring 2011, she will travel to Jordan as a Fulbright scholar where she will teach graduate courses in American history.

The broader message of this film was inspired, in part, by the intrepid reporting of Northwestern journalism students, who in the 1990s scrutinized the work of Chicago prosecutors and police, exposed the practice of tortured and coerced confessions that sent countless innocent and predominantly black men to death row unjustly, and led to a moratorium on executions in Illinois.

### ***FILM EDITOR***

**ALJERNON TUNSIL**

Aljeron Tunsil has been editing documentaries for the past 15 years. Recently he edited several films for Firelight Media, which were presented on PBS as part of its *American Experience* series, they include: *Freedom Riders*, *Wounded Knee* (Episode 5 of the *We Shall Remain* series) and *Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple*. In addition to his work on long format historical documentaries, Aljeron has edited numerous short format films and trailers. Aljeron was as the assistant editor on several Academy Award-nominated documentaries including *The Smartest Guys In the Room: The Enron Story*, *Sound and Fury*, and *The Farm*.