



Jesse Wiese, J.D. | Prison Fellowship

Jesse Wiese serves as the national director of Academy advancement at Prison Fellowship, the nation's largest outreach to prisoners, former prisoners, and their families. Wiese, who served seven-and-a-half years for robbery in the Iowa prison system and subsequently earned his law degree, is a powerful advocate for criminal justice solutions that prioritize proportionate accountability, community participation, and second chances.

In 2006 Wiese began working with Prison Fellowship as a reentry specialist, establishing community support networks for men being released from prison. He rejoined Prison Fellowship in 2012 as a policy analyst, merging his personal experience and legal expertise to advance policies based on human dignity. Wiese has advanced local and national campaigns related to second chances and collateral consequences. In 2017, Wiese shifted his expertise to manage the design, evaluation, and implementation of Prison Fellowship's premier program, the Academy. Wiese interfaces and partners with state governments to provide enriching opportunities for men and women to begin their journey to Good CitizenshipSM. Wiese frequently speaks on the importance of the intersection of prison culture and program outcomes.

Wiese shares his unique insights with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including state legislatures, prison leaders, universities, and businesses. He has testified before Congress and several state legislatures. He also served as lead amicus curiae plaintiff before the United States Supreme Court in *Holt v. Hobbs*, a case concerning religious free exercise in prison. Wiese has helped shape criminal justice dialogue through coverage in the *Wall Street Journal*, CBN, FOX News, and numerous other media outlets.

Wiese, a native of Oklahoma, graduated magna cum laude from Regent University School of Law after his release and earned his bachelor's degree with honors from Moody Bible Institute while incarcerated. He resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia with his wife and daughter.