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Contact:

Jane Hillhouse

Hillhouse Video Works LLC

249 De Lee Dr.

Kingsport, TN 37663

423-239-5431, fax 423-239-9733

[jane@hillhouse4design.com](mailto:jane@hillhouse4design.com)



## **“Outcasts” Documentary Recognized in National JPI Publication**

**KINGSPORT, Tenn.** – The importance of a newly released documentary “Outcasts: Surviving the Culture of Rejection,” produced by Hillhouse Video Works LLC of Kingsport, Tennessee, was cited recently in an article appearing in the Justice Policy Institute’s spring 2014 newsletter.

The article, titled “Increasing Awareness Through Film,” highlighted three newly released documentaries that address mounting concerns surrounding our nation’s criminal justice system.

“To have ‘Outcasts’ cited in such a notable resource is gratifying and suggests the timeliness and importance of our film’s content,” said Stephen Newton, who wrote and directed the documentary.

The Justice Policy Institute is an independent research, public policy and communications organization, based in Washington, D.C., that is dedicated to reducing incarceration and promoting juvenile and criminal justice policy reforms.

JPI’s Research and Grants Coordinator Paul Ashton was among more than 100 individuals interviewed for the “Outcasts” documentary, which more broadly examines the history and causes of the high rate of recidivism or repeat offending in the state of Tennessee. Notably, more than 50 percent of all released prisoners in the state return to jail or prison within three years. Nationwide, recidivism is a \$50 billion problem.

The film also discusses how the rising number of private prisons in our country has led to exploitation of prisoners as free labor for industry. Known as the criminal industrial complex, the system perpetuates incentives to lock people up with little or no attention given to individual cases or prisoner rehabilitation.

“Outcasts” will also be aired on East Tennessee PBS, Knoxville, later this year. Proceeds from rentals and sales of the 71-minute DVD and the soundtrack by noted composer Paul Vanderbeck go toward developing teaching kits to be used in public schools and at colleges and universities.

To purchase or rent the film or to find out more about the making of “Outcasts,” go to [www.cultureofrejection.org](http://www.cultureofrejection.org).

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