

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STATE BAR BUILDING, LANSING**

MARCH 21, 2009

PRESENT: C. Green; S. Girard; S. Gobbo; N. Holbrook; R. Johnson; B. Levine; D. Manville; M. Marutiak; J. O'Donnell; K. Schaefer; J. Shea; A. Laws-Wright; M. VanDusen.

ABSENT W/NOTICE AND EXCUSE: R. Stapleton; P Streeter

ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE: R. Beracy; D. Moffitt; A. Watts.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. with a voting quorum present and a welcome and introduction of Council members to new member John Shea.

B. Levine made a motion to adopt the meeting agenda and the February meeting minutes, seconded by J. O'Donnell. Approved.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

- **Financial Report: S. Gobbo**

The section currently has \$2,749.30 on hand. Four new members joined the Section during the last month.

- **Juvenile Justice Ad Hoc Committee: C. Green**

The first meeting of the ad hoc committee was held in February and several topics were discussed for possible referral to the respective Councils (Prisons & Corrections, Criminal Law, and Juvenile Law). The ad hoc committee will be meeting again during the next month and may present issues with notice to the Councils.

- **“Right-sizing Michigan’s Prison Population” Symposium: J. Shea**

MDOC Director Patricia Caruso, Dep. Director Dennis Schrantz, and former Director Bob Brown held a forum on where the department has been and how the prison population has increased since 1980. Lowering the prison population, length of incarceration, release upon completion of the minimum, and other topics were discussed. John Shea explained that the DOC Director reported the Department’s focus now on making the prison environment more encouraging and rehabilitative.

- **Philippines Delegation:** M. Marutiak

Volunteers are requested from select Sections of the Bar to attend a luncheon for some lawyers and judges from the Philippines on April 9th. In relation to our Section, the visitors will be interested in discussing alternatives to incarceration for juveniles and adults and best practices in corrections. C. Green and S. Gobbo will attend as representatives of our Council.

- **Discussion/Vote on Earned Credits Policy Position:** B. Levine

M. Marutiak had concerns with the statement saying that earned credits would be applied to all prisoners, which implies felony firearm and habitual offender sentences. Other Section members agreed and B. Levine changed the wording to read that only those prisoners currently serving indeterminate sentences would be eligible. Several other revisions were made after discussion.

S. Gobbo made a motion to adopt this as the final draft as our Section's public policy position as amended at the meeting. Seconded by C. Green. A roll call vote was taken of voting members pursuant to the Bar and Section bylaws. 12 voting members were in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

B. Levine will make the discussed changes and send the finished product to Chair Marutiak. He will distribute it to the Council and then circulate the position statement with a cover letter to selected legislators, DOC officials, the Criminal Law Section, and a few others. B. Levine may issue a press release.

- **Spring "Balancing Our Priorities" Symposium:** D. Manville; K. Schaefer; B. Levine; N. Holbrook; M. VanDusen; A. Laws-Wright

The Task Force now recommends a fall conference. Task Force members have set a target date of Thursday, October 1st, with an alternate date of October 8th for the symposium. Advertising was discussed and site location is still being determined. The cost will be \$35/per person and D. Manville has commitments from Wayne and Macomb counties. The plans will be discussed further at the Council's April meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

- **Newsletter:** A. Watts. [A report will be available at the Council's April meeting. A. Watts has received the suggestion of doing an electronic newsletter this year instead of a full hard copy issue and she may be recommending the same to the Council.]

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, April 18, 2009, at 10:00 am, at the State Bar. Key topics will include plans for the fall symposium, legislative and Representative Assembly initiatives for Council consideration, a program for the annual meeting in September.

J. O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by C. Green. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SECTION

Michael J. Marutiak, Chair