

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

Bar Year: 2007-2008

Section Name: Prisons & Corrections Section

Mission Statement:

PURPOSES. The purposes of the Prisons and Corrections Section are to:

- a) study and debate
 - 1) the operation of the criminal justice system as it affects incarcerated persons, their families, and the public;
 - 2) alternatives to incarceration;
 - 3) the functioning of jails, prisons and parole; and
 - 4) post-incarceration issues;
- b) educate its members and the general public; and
- c) make recommendations to the State Bar, public officials, the Legislature and the Judiciary regarding the adoption of rational, effective and fair policies in these areas.

The Section will seek to achieve these purposes by publishing a newsletter, sponsoring and conducting conferences and training programs, educating the public, adopting positions on public policy decisions affecting matters within its jurisdiction, and promoting the development of a cohesive corrections policy through empirical research and cross-professional dialogue.

Officers and Council Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Michael J. Marutiak	1131 Vail Court Lansing, MI 48917	517-242-4792	mjmarutiak@comcast.net
Chair-Elect	Patricia Streeter			pas@patstreeter.com
Secretary	Rachel Waterbury (non-attorney)			
Treasurer	Steve Gobbo			sgobbo@aol.com

Member	Term	Member	Term
Mike Barnhart	2008	Kevin Thom	2010
Patricia Streeter	2008	Cassandra Green (interim appointment)	2008
Michael Marutiak	2008	Richard Stapleton – Agency Liaison Department of Corrections	
Adrienne Watts	2008	Robert Beracy – Agency Liaison Michigan Sheriff's Association	
Sandra Girard	2009	Michelle VanDusen – Agency Liaison Michigan Corrections Association	
James O'Donnell	2009	Rachel Waterbury – Associate Non-attorney	
Steve Gobbo	2009	Kathleen Schaefer – Associate Non-attorney	
Joseph Niskar (interim appointment)	2008	Natalie Holbrook – Associate Non-attorney	
Barbara Levine	2010		

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4. Statement Regarding Extending Parole Terms for Parolees Who Owe Restitution (see report on Section's web page).

Recommendations for next Council: Establish goals and objectives for the Council at the beginning of the year.

Other Information:

The Section focused on three general topics during the year: medical paroles, mental health issues and the criminal justice system, and merit or incentive credits. The conference cosponsored by the Section in May focused on possible solutions to the budgetary issue of corrections spending. Numerous public officials and other guests with expertise in these areas addressed the Council at regular business meetings during the year.

The Section newsletter will be published and distributed in June of 2008. The Council's meeting minutes, Section bylaws, and additional information is available on the Section's web page.