

## MSBA CORRECTIONAL REFORM SECTION COUNCIL

### Minutes of Meeting of June 8, 2010

Members Present: Michael Berlin, Phil Dantes, Angela Eaves, Wendy Hess, James Johnston, Alison Leonard-Leach, Walter Lomax, Scott Oakley, and Paulette Wirsching.

Guests Present: Magistrate Judge Susan Gauvey, Magistrate Gauvey's Law Clerks (names?), Moges Abebe, and Dana Middleton

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wendy Hess at the Maryland Bar Center in Baltimore at approximately 6:30pm.

### Presentation by Magistrate Judge Gauvey

Magistrate Gauvey gave a presentation on an upcoming conference for female inmates at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (providing materials from a past conference), and on state legislation pertaining to discharge planning for state inmates.

The conference for female inmates will be the third such conference presented, and it will involve speakers, clinics, workshops, and a fashion show. Magistrate Gauvey seeks the support of the Correctional Reform Section.

Magistrate Gauvey also seeks the Section's support for state legislation mandating discharge planning for state inmates being released from DOC custody. She gave her assessment that DPSCS and DOC commitment to discharge planning is not great. She further indicated that the organization spearheading support for this legislation will be meeting June 22. Section members are invited to attend.

Following the presentation, the Section Council reaffirmed its previously adopted position that the Section should not award cash grants to such efforts, however worthy, but instead should express its support and encourage Section members and others to contribute in a variety of ways.

### Review of Minutes of Meeting of May 11, 2010

The minutes of the meeting of May 11, 2010 were reviewed. Angela Eaves made a motion that they be approved without change, Michael Berlin seconded, and the motion carried.

### Storybook Project

Dana Middleton and Moges Abebe gave a further presentation on the Storybook Project, otherwise known as "Stories from my Father: Preserving Maryland Families Through Literacy Despite Incarceration," a public service project developed by the 2009-2010 MSBA Leadership Academy Fellows. They clarified that they were asking the Section to assume full responsibility for the continuation of the project. There was some discussion of a sorority assuming some level of responsibility for the project as well.

Following additional discussion it was the sense of the Council that the Council is not well-suited to assuming full responsibility for this project. It was agreed that the Section should place a “program link” on its website and otherwise be receptive to the needs of the project as may from time to time be communicated to the Council.

#### Paul Davis Award

The Council formed an *ad hoc* committee to plan and provide for the Annual Meeting and the awarding of the Paul Davis Award on August 31 at an MSBA approved restaurant in Baltimore City, including the procurement of an appropriate commemorative plaque for the Paul Davis Award. The committee will consist of Angela Eaves, Scott Oakley, Phil Dantes, and Alison Leonard-Leach.

#### MSBA Bar Journal Correctional Reform Issue

The September, 2011 issue of the Maryland Bar Journal will be dedicated to Correctional Reform. There should be 5-9 articles 2100 to 3000 words in length. The Council agreed to put out a general “call for articles” soliciting the submission of articles from appropriate individuals and organizations with the understanding that the Section was not committing to passing along for publication all articles received. The Council agreed to an October 1 deadline for the submission of article outlines. The MSBA has imposed a May 15, 2011 deadline for the submission articles. A number of potential articles were discussed: Stephanie Lane-Weber (no topic indicated), Ivy Finkenstadt (federal PLRA and state PLA), Joe Tetrault (good time credits), Monique Dixon (Reentry), Mike Berlin (Overview of Corrections), James Johnston (no topic indicated), Moges Abebe (solitary confinement), Wendy Hess (no topic indicated), Scott Oakley (will make inquiries with DPSCS to determine whether the Secretary might write an article on Reentry and Integrated Program Services), Arnold Hopkins (federal legislation sponsored by Senator Webb?), James Johnston (Evidence Based Sentencing) and Scott Oakley (40th anniversary of the IGO, and maybe another on the Sundry Claims Board). Other ideas included an overview of Maryland corrections, parole, and probation; youth tried as adults; and drug treatment.

#### Section Council Membership

Scott Oakley made a motion that the Section’s Bylaws be amended to increase the number of members of the Section Council from 15 to 17. Phil Dantes seconded and the motion carried. This amendment to the Section’s Bylaws should be reported to the MSBA Executive Director. It was decided that the Nominating Committee should nominate individuals for the three vacancies from among the six individuals who have expressed an interest.

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.