

MSBA CORRECTIONAL REFORM SECTION COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of November 15, 2011

Members Present: Michael Berlin, Khelani Clay, Christopher Flohr, Arnold Hopkins, Walter Lomax, Stephanie Lane-Weber, Dana Middleton, Scott Oakley, and Booth Ripke.

Guests Present: Tracy Velasquez, Roopesh Vijayan

Call to Order/Introductions: Vice-Chair Booth Ripke called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm.

Meeting Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting of October 11, 2011 were approved.

Presentation by Tracy Velasquez: Tracy Velasquez, Executive Director of the Justice Policy Institute, gave a presentation on a recent report published by the JPI: "When Treatment is Punishment," concerning individuals committed to forensic psychiatric facilities operated by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, by Maryland courts for a determination of their competency to stand trial. Ms. Velasquez also addressed a joint project with the Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative concerning possible legislative efforts designed to remove a gubernatorial approval requirement for the parole of "lifers" who were juveniles at the time they committed the crime for which they were sentenced to life. Extended discussion of these issues ensued.

Mental Health Court: Dana Middleton reported on efforts to present a joint program on Baltimore's Mental Health Court with the Criminal Law Committee of the Bar Association of Baltimore City in the evening (5:30 or 6:00pm) of January 24 or 31, 2012, in the 5th Floor Library of the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. There was discussion of the possible content of the program.

Council Membership: After a determination that a quorum was present, Roopesh Vijayan was elected to membership on the Council, filling the vacancy and term left by the resignation of Judge Angela Eaves.

Correctional Reform Issue of the Maryland Bar Journal: Arnold Hopkins voiced his objection to the failure of the editors of the Maryland Bar Journal to recognize by name the members of the "Aging Inmate Committee" that authored the article "Aging Inmates: Correctional Issues and Initiatives," the failure of the editors to provide a link to the source materials on the Section's website, and the failure of the editors to acknowledge and thank Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services Gary Maynard. Booth Ripke indicated that he would explore the matter with MSBA staff.

Presentation at Coppin State University: Mike Berlin reported on the successful presentation to students at Coppin State University, with Khelani Clay, of the "Aging Inmates" article.

Drug Court Graduation: Chris Flohr reported on the Drug Court graduation he attended (with Mike Berlin and Scott Oakley) at the invitation last meeting of Judge Jamey Hueston, describing it as a powerful experience.

Richmond v. District Court: Chris Flohr reported on the Court of Appeals argument in Richmond v. District Court, the Baltimore City Circuit Court case in which Judge Alfred Nance determined that a criminal defendant has a 6th Amendment right to counsel at an initial bail hearing.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55pm.