



## ABA Criminal Justice Section E-News June 2011

### CHAIR'S MESSAGE

#### ***CRIMINAL JUSTICE LAUNCHES 10-STATE CAMPAIGN TO REFORM CRIMINAL JUSTICE***



As you know, the ABA Criminal Justice Section is truly the unified voice of our profession on criminal justice issues. It promotes high professional standards and best practices through its Standards on Criminal Justice and other writings and trainings. It encourages improvements in the criminal justice process by developing ABA policies, by conducting studies (such as our collateral consequences projects and our racial justice improvement project), by drafting amicus briefs, and by convening some of the country's best thought leaders as we did on May 6 when we hosted a ***Dialogue on Strategies to Save States Money, Reform Criminal Justice and Keep the Public Safe***.



The May 6 dialogue highlighted a criminal-justice-reform campaign aimed at changing laws and practices on topics including pre-trial release, decriminalization of minor offenses, prisoner re-entry, an increased use of parole and probation, and community corrections in 10 states. The campaign is currently in operation in California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont. The ABA has assembled a committed team of prosecutors, defense lawyers, and allied organizations to push for change in these states. Pictured left to right: A

delegation from the state of Georgia participated in a ***Dialogue on Strategies to Save Money, Reform Criminal Justice and Keep the Public Safe***, on Friday, May 6 in Washington, DC: **Russell Sewell and Tom Boller** of the Capitol Partners Public Affairs Group; Policy Advisor to the Governor **David Werner**; State Representative **Wendell Willard** (R); State Bar of Georgia President-elect **Kenneth L. Shigley**; Governor's Executive Counsel **Todd Markle**; Maloy Jenkins Parker Partner **Buddy Parker**; and Deputy Attorney General **Mary Beth Westmoreland**.

Key Presenters and Speakers at the event included Kentucky Chief Justice **John D. Minton Jr.**; Kansas State Representative **Pat Colloton**; **Mark Earley**, Former Virginia Attorney General & President and CEO of Prison Ministries; **Richard Jerome**, Project Manager for the Public Safety Performance Project; **Inimai M. Chettiar**, Advocacy & Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union; and **Marc Levin**, Texas Public Policy Foundation. The program featured success stories from states that have implemented exemplary criminal justice procedures and practices.

The success of this event could not have been achieved without the help of many. I especially want to thank the representatives of state agencies and not-for-profit organizations from around the country who gathered to discuss innovative approaches to criminal justice. The Section is proud of our role in convening this meeting and promoting improvements that will serve the public well and that can be embraced by lawmakers and officials from every end of the political spectrum. The campaign's next steps include gaining momentum in the additional forty states to commit to implementing cost-effective strategies to promote public safety and fairness. This is where we need your help.

Please take a moment to review the following policies and success stories. Reach out to your state legislators and other state leaders and let them know the importance of implementing criminal justice reform along similar lines.

## **ABA URGES STATES TO SAVE MONEY, REFORM CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND KEEP THE PUBLIC SAFE**

The American Bar Association has chosen to focus on five key issues where states can implement changes that will promote public safety, reduce recidivism, and save money. These five issues cover a range of criminal justice topics, but the goal is the same: to create an effective, low-cost system that improves our current justice system. Below is a brief description of each policy.

### **Overview on Saving States Money**

#### **Pre-Trial Release Reform [Success Story]**

#### **Decriminalization of Minor Offenses [Success Story]**

#### **Effective Reentry Programs [Success Story]**

#### **Increase the Use of Parole and Probation [Success Story]**

#### **Create Community Corrections Programs [Success Story]**

### **Dialogue on Strategies to Save States Money, Reform Criminal Justice & Keep the Public Safe [Resource]**

[http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/events/criminal\\_justice/dialogpacket.authcheckdam.pdf](http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/events/criminal_justice/dialogpacket.authcheckdam.pdf)

### **For more information on the Strategies to Save States Money visit**

<http://www2.americanbar.org/sections/criminaljustice/CR203800/Pages/statepolicyproject.aspx>

### **[NEW PUBLICATION FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTION!](#)**

***The State of Criminal Justice 2011*** can be ordered at

<http://apps.americanbar.org/abastore/index.cfm?fm=Product.AddToCart&pid=5090133>.

Warm regards,

*Bruce Green*