

ABA CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTION **E-NEWS**

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAIR **JANET LEVINE**



In our council meeting last week at the ABA Annual Meeting, we concluded our work for last year and honored one of our past-chairs, Robert Johnson, for his many contributions to the criminal justice system with the Charles English Award, and Sue Burrell with the Livingston Hall Juvenile Justice Award. Our year-end report reflects the work of our Section, including sponsoring and co-sponsoring numerous resolutions to the House of Delegates; providing local and national CLE programs that are timely, varied and extraordinarily well-regarded; and initiating projects that address criminal justice issues from racial disparities in criminal justice to collateral consequences to reforms of state criminal justice systems designed to be cost effective while maintaining the states' commitment to public safety and to fairness to individuals.

I am very excited about beginning my year as Chair of the Section and building on the work of the last several years. The Section now has more than 20,000 members, including judges, academics, prosecutors, defense attorneys, victim witness advocates, law students, and other criminal justice professionals and associates. The Criminal Justice Section's membership reflects its motto – "The Unified Voice of Criminal Justice."

I am extremely proud our membership has increased in the last year, and I look forward to increasing the membership further and, especially, the continued robust participation of our members in our discussions, and the development of policy, projects, and initiatives.

My predecessor and our immediate past-chair, Bruce Green, accomplished much in his year as Chair, completing projects begun in earlier years and undertaking a wealth of new projects. His tireless efforts, extraordinary knowledge of criminal justice issues, and dedication to the interests of justice, while impossible to replicate, have provided a broad foundation for this coming year. The Section will continue the work of our task forces, including the Task Forces on Comprehensive Representation of Criminal Defendants, Corporate Monitors, Forensic Instructions, Global Anti-Corruption, and Parallel Proceedings.

I also look forward to our new projects, especially two new task forces (now being formed): One designed to develop standards for "electronically stored information" and e-discovery in criminal matters, and another for studying the increased enactment of criminal laws that have no intent requirement.

In addition to this monthly electronic newsletter, the CJS publishes a quarterly magazine, which monitors emerging trends in criminal justice. Contributions are encouraged. Our book publishing committee has completed an accomplished year as well, including several new books, and is excited about a new book, "Federal Criminal Discovery," due for release this month.

I have asked different groups within the Section to continue to develop writings, present programs, and propose policies to foster more comprehensive understandings and practices in the criminal justice process. As my predecessor Bruce Green did, I will also continue to encourage greater participation by academics and law schools in our work; as Bruce expected, this teaming proved to be tremendously successful.

The Section will continue its focus on education and its sponsorship of our many successful Institutes. The Section's [Fourth Annual Sentencing/Reentry Institute](#) will be held October 27-29 in Washington, D.C. and will include the [Criminal Justice Legal Educators Colloquium](#), on October 28, which will serve as a special component for academics.

The conference will provide continuing legal education on a broad range of sentencing issues with a focus on reentry, white-collar crime, and collateral consequences. But the new colloquium, designed to increase academics' participation, will primarily focus on additional cutting-edge topics of criminal law and procedure designed to enhance academics' teaching and scholarship.

The [National Institute on Foreign Corrupt Practices Act](#) will be held October 27-28 in Washington, D.C. and the [Sixth Annual National Institute on Securities Fraud](#) will be held November 3-4 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Early registration has also begun for the Section's [26th Annual National Institute on White Collar Crime](#), which will be take place February 29-March 2, 2012 in Miami Beach, Florida. (See other CJS events at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/criminal_justice/events_cle.html.)

The Section will continue its NIJ-funded work chronicling the Collateral Consequences of criminal convictions and begin disseminating the results. Supported by a BJA grant, the Section will work with Racial Justice Task Forces in four locales to ameliorate the disparate racial impact of the criminal justice system. The CJS will provide training and technical assistance.

I hope for a dynamic and productive year in which we will continue to inform the national discourse on criminal justice issues and further the cause of justice. I look forward to working with the entire membership and staff to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

Janet