



The Digest

2015 Annual Conference

We are excited to announce that our 7th annual conference will be held in Dallas Texas, June 25-27. To our knowledge, RSOL is the only organization that brings together key players from the entire criminal justice system. Our great featured speakers and workshops are chosen to help you become better informed on the issues, including new and current developments. This is invaluable regardless of the number of years you've been involved.

We plan to have motivational speakers, treatment professionals, and attorneys, providing you an opportunity to become familiar with the enormous obstacles we face as we seek more rational sentencing for those convicted of sexual related offenses and restoration of constitutional rights after they have paid their debt to society. Putting together a national con-

Continued on page 5

In the News

~~by Sandy

If the number of articles written and the degree of divisiveness created is the deciding factor, the news of this past month revolved around a charge of a horrific gang rape at the University of Virginia reported in *Rolling Stone*. (www.rollingstone.com/culture/features/a-rape-on-campus-20141119) When the fall-out was almost through falling--it may never end--the facts support the strong, strong likelihood that the event did not occur, most likely not at all, and definitely not in the fashion described by the accuser and reported in R.S. by an investigative reporter who apparently did not investigate nor do any fact-checking before she reported.

At the extreme ends of the issue are,

Continued on page 4

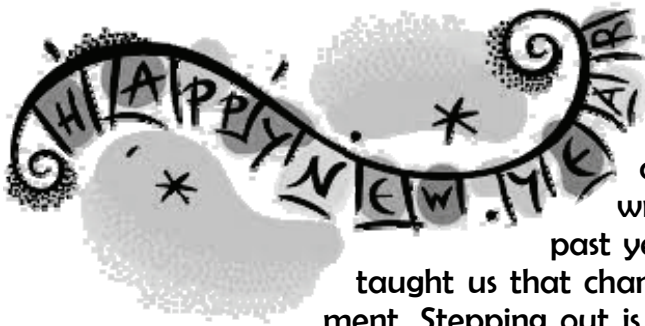
Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2015

Calendar of Events

- 1/5 LEO Project
- 1/6 Steering Committee
- 1/6 Admin Team
- 1/14 RSOL Review
- 1/27 Advancing Advocacy

Details available from our online Calendar at nationalsol.org.



From our Board of Directors

New beginnings are always exciting but also challenging. We have a brand new page to write on, a future that we can shape. If the past years have taught us nothing else, they have taught us that change only comes through action and involvement. Stepping out is difficult; it is scary; however, if change is to come, it is necessary. Please look deep into your heart and take the challenge now. Find a way to get involved and help make a difference. At the very least, join and support RSOL in our efforts to create meaningful change for all of us.

Advancing Advocacy — a Look Ahead

National RSOL's Advancing Advocacy program, which normally meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m., has an exciting selection of programs for 2015. This is a preview of the January and the February offerings. All serious advocates and activists in our movement are welcome. Please go to the RSOL calendar (nationalrsol.org, "Take Action") to register, which is free; the phone number and code will be available upon registration. The preview gives the name of the presenter, the title and a brief description of the presentation, and a summary of the presenter's credentials. Please join us.

January 27- Chrysanthi Leon: The impact of sex offender laws on family members and friends of registered sex offenders.

Through the use of surveys and interviews, our research (in progress) examines the consequences current

sex offender policies and laws--such as residency restrictions, registration requirements, and community notification--have had on the family members of the individual convicted of the sexual offense in the areas of social/family relationships, employment, housing, and community involvement. Telling these stories can help advocates reach policy makers and the public.

Chrysanthi (Santhi) Leon, JD, PhD, is an associate professor of Sociology & Criminal Justice with appointments in Women & Gender Studies & Legal Studies at the University of Delaware. Leon received her graduate degrees from UC Berkeley and is a research fellow at the Criminal Justice Research Program, Institute for Legal Research, at the Boalt Hall School of Law. Her book, *Sex Fiends, Perverts and Pedophiles: Understanding Sex Crime Policy in America*, is available from NYU Press.

February 24 - Steve Gordon: Fundraising for Controversial Causes

Activism, no matter the cause, requires fundraising. Many activists, social entrepreneurs, and citizen advocates focus on the mission, not on the money, and fail to build sustainable momentum. This workshop will provide an overview to 21st century fundraising and specific tips, tactics, and techniques to make 'the art of the ask' as effective as possible.

Steve Gordon is a nonprofit management consultant specializing in strategic planning, board development, fundraising development, and organizational assessments. An accomplished author, entrepreneur, lecturer, systems analyst, and project manager, he is known for his creativity, innovative products, and strategic thinking.

Bills in Congress must start again.

S. 1675 "Good Time"

We receive many questions concerning the status of S.1675, the Recidivism Reduction & Public Safety Act which would have allowed inmates to earn sentence-reduction credit for completing programming aimed at helping them re-enter society. Unfortunately, the legislation is dead for this session of Congress. S.1675 was a bipartisan effort sponsored by Senators Rob

Portman (R-OH) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI). According to a news release by Senators Portman and Whitehouse issued back in 2013, costs associated with federal prisons and detention have doubled since 2000. It is RSOL's hope that similar legislation will be introduced in the new Congress early in 2015.

HR 4573 "International Megan's Law"

In spite of 11th hour fears that this horrible bill affecting the ability of registrants to travel would be voted into law, the 113th session of Congress came to an end with no further action on the bill. This in effect kills the bill for now. We fully expect it to reappear in the 114th session and are developing strategy to counteract it. More to follow.

This is What I Think

Overcoming Inertia and Embracing Change in the Coming New Year

~~by David Kennerly

There is a tendency in most of us to become immobilized by fear and overwhelmed by a steady drumbeat of what can only appear to be personal defeats.

Defeats which take the form, in the case of registered citizens, of a relentless succession of ever escalating levels of ex post facto social marginalization and stigmatization, of laws which apply only to those so-marginalized and which achieve their potency through the conceit that they are solely regulatory and not in pursuit of punishment, yet enforced through the terrible assurance of ceaseless punishment and of a severity once accorded only to acts of active criminality and not to the inactions of passive civil disobedience.

The “registered sex offender” has the unenviable distinction, today, of being society’s arch villain of choice, its designated bogeyman. He (and occasionally she), and regardless of his true capacity for renting society’s increasingly delicate fabric, finds himself the symbolic target of all that society can furiously sling in its escalating paroxysms of self-righteous hatred and fear.

Increasingly, it becomes clear that the only remaining line of defense against the impulses which grip the public and which guides the politicians who pander to them is the judiciary, albeit a judiciary that is at times fickle and given to acting in its own perceived best interests.

So how should you react to this onslaught? Are you immobilized by fear? Do you yield to overwhelming and superior campaigns to kick you to the furthest margins of society? Or do you do everything in your power to resist what may appear to you to be an invincible juggernaut?

The problem with looking to the past for guidance in this question is that the past did not have a powerful tool which we have today: the Internet.

Up until now, there’s been no real downside for judges, prosecutors, sex abuse industrialists, and journalists to propagate the nonsense which passes today as an informed perception of “sex offenders.” There have been no actual consequences for those who either architect or sanction these great incursions into civil liberties.

The Internet, however, offers a fantastic opportunity to research and uncover truth, to broadcast to a potentially enormous audience, and to communicate and collaborate so as to build a critical defense against further tyranny and thus begin to reverse that tyranny. It also has the unprecedented advantage of anonymity, if one chooses to exercise that capability, in which personal exposure can be virtually eliminated.

We do have truth on our side. Now we need to deploy it as a weapon of defense and to bring some measure of personal and

professional consequence, through public exposure, to those who degrade our existence with impunity.

Look to your strengths for insights into how you can contribute to this cause in which the Internet offers breathtaking advantages in leveling the playing field of public consciousness.

One area which is largely neglected is in the gathering and organizing of information itself and in making it available to others who can effectively employ it in this emerging campaign for liberty. Much of this information already exists and lives somewhere on the Internet, just waiting to be discovered.

This is just one way, however, in which you might contribute. It is imperative that all people personally affected by injustice do what they can to fight it and

Quote of the Month:

“For last year’s words belong to
last year’s language

And next year’s words await
another voice.

And to make an end is to make
a beginning.”

~T.S. Elliot

In the News from p 1

on one, the ultra-feminist movement whose contention is that all alleged rape victims must absolutely be believed no matter what, even if they sometimes must fabricate to get everyone’s attention, that they must be believed to the extent that the accusation is equivalent to a finding of guilt in a court of law, and that no proof or evidence is needed other than their accusations.

On the other end is the push-back to this that says women lie about rape all of the time and that their primary motivation in making rape accusations is payback for centuries of alleged injustices and the total annihilation of the male gender.

The truth, as it usually is, rests somewhere in between. The best thing that seems to have come from the brouhaha is some factual information being brought forth. Sexual crime on college campuses has been big in the news long before this story broke, primarily due to the White House’s involvement based, largely, on the widely accepted “statistic” that 1 in 5 women will be sexually assaulted in her life and that college women are at higher risk for sexual assault than those not in college.

While many have questioned the “1-in-5,” we can be

Embracing Change from p. 3

not forever to look to others to engage in lopsided battles.

No good thing worth having ever came about as a result of citizen inaction.

Let this be your New Year’s resolution and one worth keeping.

Let’s do more than to simply hope, but to make, 2015 a better year and to see within it an opportunity to restore justice!

David Kennerly is currently engaged in a battle to reclaim the rights of the Registered to travel freely, both domestically and abroad. Some of his recent works in this area can be found here: <http://nationalrsol.org/resources/travel-domestic-and-international/intro-to-foreign-travel-restrictions>

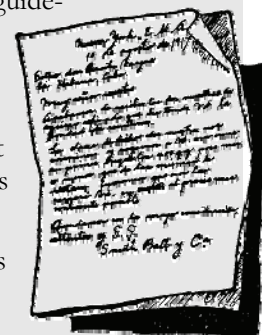
grateful to the scientific community for following up with the study (www.prlog.org/12405284-new-federal-campus-rape-study-may-blunt-anti-assault-efforts.html), based on this information from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5176), that lends the weight of research and actual facts to the mix. Turns out that women not in college are at slightly higher risk for this type of assault than their same-age sisters in college, and the actual occurrence, far from being 1 in 5, is, on average, 1 in 150.

Just as one child abused is one too many, so is one woman assaulted, but the issue cannot be dealt with in an effective manner based on myth, fiction, half-truth, and lies. One of RSOL’s primary mantras is “legislation based on truth and facts.” If ever truth and facts are essential, it is when dealing with a matter as serious as the sexual assault of anyone—male or female, child or adult.

RSOL Letter Policy

We appreciate the many letters we receive from you, and we do respond to as many of them as possible. Please understand that we do not have any paid staff to respond to the large volume of incoming mail; however, it is our hope that we will be able to respond to more mail in the future when we have more volunteers available for that task. We ask that you adhere to the following guidelines when writing to us.

- Keep your letter short and on point (extremely long letters with extensive background are difficult for volunteers to decipher in terms of what you are asking);
- Print or use a typewriter if one is available at your institution;
- We cannot answer letters asking what the registration laws are in a particular state;
- We cannot answer letters asking which state is best for sex offenders to reside in;
- We cannot answer letters seeking legal advice or opinions because none of us is licensed to practice law.



So Maryland won an ex post facto challenge. What Happens Now?

~~by Brenda Jones

Slowly but surely, registered citizens are being removed or rolled back to their original registration terms here in Maryland thanks to the 2013 *Doe vs. DPSCS* decision, and that has spurred a number of questions from inside and outside of our state. I am quite sure similar questions have been asked following similar decisions in other states. As with registry laws themselves, the answers will differ a bit depending on the particular wording of a state law and on the wording of each court's decision. That being said, I think these are a good jumping-off point for understanding how such decisions will... and will not... impact individuals across the country.

Now that I'm off the Maryland list, can I move to another state and STAY off?

The Maryland decision is only valid within Maryland itself. You must still check the laws in other states carefully before moving. Chances are good that a conviction for a sexual related offense would trigger a registration requirement in most other states because there is no reciprocity between the states in terms of who is required to register.

Since I'm off Maryland's list, can I travel more freely state-side and abroad?

You will still need to carefully check state laws regarding visiting within

that state. Most have some "window" within which you would not have to register, but if you stay beyond that window without registering, you could be subject to arrest should authorities find out.

Am I "safe" here in Maryland now that I am off, from ever having to register again?

No. Maryland's General Assembly could seek a way to "fix" the registry and make it non-punitive. It is important for all advocates and former offenders to remain vigilant and speak out against proposed bills that could require persons to publicly register once again.

My offense was in a different state, but occurred prior to Maryland's registry in 1995, so can I move there from my current state and get off the list?

We do not recommend that experiment. There is no guarantee this would work; in fact, there is evidence from other states that people relocating are required to comply with registration requirements in the state of conviction.

I have a Maryland offense from before 1995, but now I live in another state. Can I get off my current state's registry using that decision?

Generally the answer is no because the decision only applies to registrants living in Maryland; however,



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Conference from p. 1

ference requires a tremendous amount of planning and coordination. If this conference is to be a success, we need volunteers as well as attendees. If you plan to attend and would like to help, please go to our conference site to sign up. (rsolconference.org)

Do not worry if you've never worked at a conference before. Most of the positions do not require extensive experience. The most important qualification is that you can be depended upon to work your scheduled shift. Help us make this year's conference a fantastic one!

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Legal Corner

This is a reader contribution section that solicits legal questions from our readers. Each month a question will be chosen and answered in the newsletter by a member of our Legal Project. This section is intended for information only. It is by no means to be considered legal advice, and it should never substitute for seeking the services of an attorney.

Please note: We often get specific legal questions about someone's conviction or about state-specific registration obligations. Unfortunately, we can't answer them individually because: (1) no one here at RSOL is licensed to practice law; and (2) we do not have the staff or budget to answer the large volume of incoming mail.

Please send your legal questions to The Legal Corner, RSOL, PO Box 36123, Albuquerque, NM 87176. Be sure that your question focuses on only one issue. This month's question is answered by Larry Neely, a member of our Legal Project.

~~by Larry

These are frequently asked questions, so we are combining these two related questions this month.

Q-1: How can they impose lifetime registration when not only does it exceed the scope of the sentence but also curtails civil liberties?

Q-2: Can the registry be challenged on the grounds that it violates a person's right to privacy? The questioner observed, "The Ninth Amendment might fit because offenders that have completed serving their sentence become ex-offenders and the U.S. Constitution protects ex-offenders who have paid their debt to society."

The answer to part 1 of the question is that lifetime sex offender registration can be imposed until sex offender registration is no longer considered to be a "non-punitive civil regulatory scheme." Until then, terms of registration can be imposed or modified without running afoul of the "Ex Post Facto Clause." See *Smith v. Doe*, 538 U.S. 84, 123 S.Ct. 1140.

In reaching its decision as to whether or not Alaska's registry scheme was punitive, the court relied heavily on *Hudson v. United States*, 522 U.S. 93, 118. State legislatures will feel that they can continually modify registration schemes with little concern about the Ex



Post Facto Clause until such time as the U.S. Supreme Court revisits *Smith v. Doe* or the highest court in a state chooses to depart from *Smith v. Doe*. High Courts in several states have already departed from the U.S. Supreme Court's reasoning in *Smith v. Doe*; however, we do not expect the U.S. Supreme Court to follow in the foreseeable future because the current court consists of staunch law and order justices.

Keep in mind that *Smith v. Doe* was decided more than 10 years ago, and most states have piled on many additional requirements since then. The Court's dicta noted that they found registration constitutional because "The Act imposes no physical restraint, and so does not resemble the punishment of imprisonment, which is the paradigmatic affirmative disability or restraint." *Hudson*, 522 U.S. at 104. "The Act's obligations are less harsh than the sanctions of occupational debarment, which we have held to be non-punitive." And the court went on to state, "The Act does not restrain activities sex offenders may pursue but leaves them free to change jobs or residences." *Smith v. Doe*, 538 U.S. at 100.

The answer to part 2 is possibly yes. We say this based on the recent decision by the 9th Circuit in the case of *Doe v. Harris*, 13-15263, 13-15267 (FED9) challenging a

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Hip Hip Hooray



Good news on the residency restrictions front!

- 👍 In California, CA RSOL continues success with removal of restrictions that exceed state law. (<http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20141225/san-bernardino-county-victorville-settle-lawsuits-over-sex-offender-ordinances>)
- 👍 In Florida, activist Derek Logue shares facts with an investigative journalist writing about the conditions there. (<http://jacksonville.com/news/crime/2014-12-20/story/protecting-public-creates-pools-sex-crime-felons-rural-and-less-affluent>)
- 👍 In North Carolina, one town at least is providing transitional housing in order to help the re-entry of registrants. (<http://www.wbtv.com/story/27673696/ncdps-statement-on-sex-offender-housing>)
- 👍 Many cities and towns are scaling back their restrictions, citing facts that show they do nothing to increase public safety. (<http://sentencing.typepad.com/sentencing-law-and-policy/2014/11/growing-awareness-of-the-limited-efficacy-of-local-sex-offender-residency-restrictions.html>)

What Now? from p. 5

if the registration obligation in the other state is triggered only by a catchall provision rather than an equivalent offense, you might have some hope. Consult with a legal professional in your state of residence.

Does this ex post facto decision mean life is better for registrants in Maryland than in my state?

Not really. Nothing else about sex offender registration in Maryland has changed. As with any state, much depends on which county or town you are in and how it treats its registered citizens. The ex post facto decision has not affected that.

The ex post facto decision only helped the people whose registration terms were retroactively increased! Can the decision be applied in any way to registrants who began registering more recently?

There are certainly opportunities for further litigation, for someone with deep pockets and determination. Some possibilities might involve due process challenges, or other lawsuits focusing on the fact that since our registry has been declared punitive for those it was applied to retroactively, that public registration is punishment, period.

Legal from p. 6

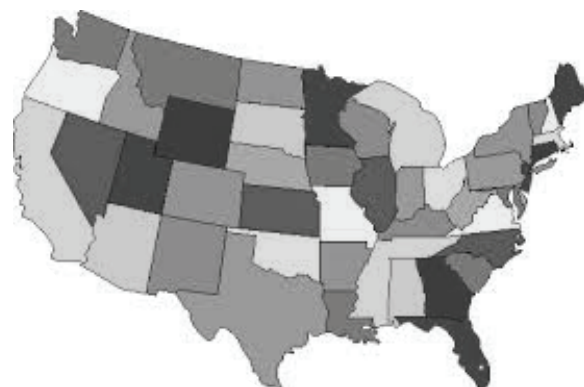
citizen-approved ballot initiative (Proposition 35) known as the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation, or the “CASE Act.” We reported on the 9th Circuit’s decision in last month’s Digest. It is noteworthy that the 9th Circuit agreed with the trial court’s determination that registered sex offenders who have completed their terms of probation and parole enjoy the full protection of the First Amendment. If the 9th Circuit’s decision holds, there is some hope that former sex offenders will be entitled to the same privacy as others upon completion of their sentence.

RSOL does not in any way condone sexual activity between adults and children, nor does it condone any sexual activity that would break laws in any state. We do not advocate lowering the age of consent, and we have no affiliation with any group that does condone such activities.

From our States and Committees

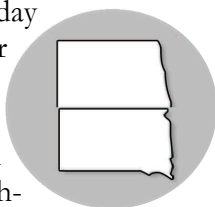
From the editor: From time to time we receive a letter or an email asking why there has been no report--or why there is never a report--from a given state. There are two reasons. First, we do not have a contact, affiliate, or organization in every state.

If your state is not listed on our website, we have no one there to represent your interests or the interests of RSOL.



The Dakotas

To each and every one of you working for reform of the registry, which will allow our loved ones to sit down at our tables with the whole family in attendance as we celebrate this joyous season, I wish you a peaceful holiday and thank you for all you are doing and continue to do to bring our loved ones HOME without labels.



South Dakota's Jolene's Task Force held their 5th and final meeting for 2014 and is now working on legislation to present in January. On behalf of the families who will benefit, I applaud and commend each and every member of the Task Force for their time, dedication, and compassion to openly address child sexual abuse in South Dakota. I am so proud to say I am a citizen of South Dakota where so many professionals have come together and are listening to all concerns before recommending legislation in this comprehensive study.

I encourage you to listen to their committee meetings on the LRC website: <http://legis.sd.gov/> - click on "Interim" - click on "2014" - click "Agenda, Minutes" - click

"Jolene's Law Task Force" - click on session date and click on the "blue bird symbol" to listen to the full study session.

Victor Veith, Gundersen National Child Abuse Training Center, spoke on November 17th, and all I could say when he finished was WOW! He stated we have 40 years of studies and research and it is time to CHANGE! There is HOPE, and change is coming!!

Senator Deb Soholt is going to declare this legislation an emergency because it is a public health issue. Legislation will be requesting that the same fifteen members plus a state attorney be appointed to continue the study January, 2015 to January 1, 2016.

This issue will be a cultural change, and public service announcements will increase awareness and educate the family; prevention campaigns will be held to inform the public that Thanksgiving dinner is more dangerous to your child than the walk home from school. Education will be the focus for mandated reporters, legislators, law enforcement, and media professionals.

Missouri

In Missouri I am working with one offender headed for federal

prison and one offender in Virginia who will serve a MO state prison term when his sentence is completed in a VA prison.

I have attended as many RSOL conference calls and meetings as possible. I make the Board of Directors' meeting (Admin Team) every month, and the monthly Advancing Advocacy and the National RSOL Review sessions are always interesting.

I have also set up a meeting with my county sheriff's office for January 2015 regarding my advocacy.



I have corresponded with Missouri's Senator McCaskill about the legislation sure to come up next session dealing with various travel restrictions for RSOs and our position on this. Based on her reply, I am not encouraged about her support in this although she did say she would keep in mind what I said.

Ohio

Ohio RSOL members are closely monitoring bills that will carry over into the 2015 legislation session. Like many other states, proposed

States, from p. 8

legislation affecting registrants is many times hidden in a non-descriptive bill; it can be



compared to seeking to find a needle in a haystack. Thanks to our legislative researcher, many

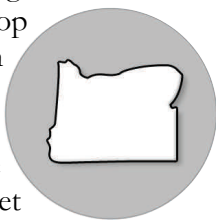
times we are able to discover them. We have some new members who are looking forward to meeting and working collectively in the new year. Meetings will be announced by contacting us.

Occasionally we receive letters from inmates, and while it may not be possible to respond to each of these letters, we wish to advise those who have written to us that each letter is read and is not forgotten. One letter that conveyed a very serious subject matter indicating severe inmate abuse was disturbing to say the least. We have developed a plan of action to attempt to address this situation.

May the New Year bring peace to all.

Oregon Action Committee

We are continuing to make contacts and develop relationships with other criminal justice groups in Oregon. Recently, we joined in the street protest efforts for



‘Hands Up, Don’t Shoot’ and ‘I Can’t Breathe’ that continue to this

day here in the Portland area. We have made good contacts with many people in this movement - many of whom know well the corrupt criminal justice system and want to do something about it.

In early December, along with

been suspected of viewing child pornography. The word “sex offender” is used many times, and it is framed almost as a ‘news as entertainment’ example of manipulated news and information that streams out of our big media companies on a daily basis. Definitely worth a sit down and watch.

Communications Committee

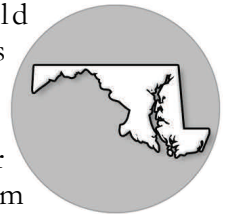


We hope that you have noticed a new look to our newsletter. Yep, the Digest is getting with the theme of new beginnings and trying out some new things. We like the look and hope that you do too. We will also be trying out varied and different content this year. We are looking for guest writers and for ideas for columns or subject matter that you would like included. Please email us at communications@nationalrsol.org with ideas or feedback.

Also, we continue working with a local group known as Partnership on Safety and Justice (PSJ) to develop criminal justice strategies and presentations to engage and persuade the 2015 legislature.

Maryland

Members of Maryland FAIR enjoyed a nice potluck meal in December, where they renewed old friendships and met some new friends. Our legislative team



is gearing up to guard against any bills in 2014 that might try to pull people back onto the registry in some way, who have been (or will be) removed by the 2013 *Doe v. DPSCS* court decision. While we are not aware of anyone who openly campaigned with this agenda, we do know that some lawmakers and victim advocates have discussed this.

Removal of Registered Citizens with offenses that predate 1995 is nearly complete. We are told that

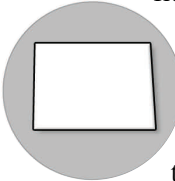
States, from p. 9

the next batch to be removed will be those retroactively changed prior to 1999.

Another large group was retroactively added or increased in 2001, as well as a couple of other times prior to the final switch to SORNA compliance in 2010. Representatives at DPSCS say the process will take close to 10 months to complete, with between 3,000 and 4,000 registrants who will either be rolled back to their original registration term or removed because that original term is past expiration. The primary reason for the lengthy time for removal is that they are locating and notifying victims (even though victims have NO say in this matter) allowing a 7-day “grace period” after sending the notification before someone is removed. The DPSCS is also diligently checking for any new sex offenses.

Colorado Coalition for Sexual Offense Restoration

CSOR, Advocates for Change, and Colorado CURE testified at hearings for the joint House and Senate Judicial Committees of the Colorado Legislature during the third week of December. Yearly reports were given by the Colorado Department of Corrections, the Parole Board, the Department of Public Safety (houses the Sex Offender Management Board) and the Commission on



Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ). Public testimony was allowed after each presentation.

Because we have provided this testimony for a number of years now, the legislators are familiar with our faces and our stories, and we have been able to make similar and ongoing points regarding progress these departments have made and areas where they still need to work harder to improve the system in Colorado. Particular points made included: that the CCJJ and the SOMB are both too big and are too heavily laden with people representing the law enforcement /D.A./ prosecutor’s side of things. They also do not have enough representation on the side of those who have criminal offenses and are in need of therapeutic intervention in order to keep from re-offending.

Other testimony from the three groups listed above brought out inconsistencies in the work of the Colorado Board of Parole and the Board’s failure to be accountable via statute for the work that they do. We pointed out as well that re-entry does not go as smoothly as it should, especially regarding people with intellectual disabilities, mental illness, and dementia. The “wrap-around” services that are supposed to be available often aren’t initiated until we get involved and bring the system’s shortcomings to the attention of the various departments and the legislature.

Michigan

Michigan is experiencing a steady increase in the membership of our group. We are now close to 250 members, and while not all are able to attend meetings, everyone is kept up to day and receives all information through email and mail, especially anything regarding changes in the law here in Michigan or bills being presented or news of anything pertaining to registering and keeping information updated.



We hope to start another group on the west side of the state for those who live too far to attend the ones in the Detroit area. If you are committed to our cause and interested in finding out more about what this would entail, please email us here.

Florida

The Florida Action Committee continues to be a participant in the national ACLU filing against the Miami-Dade residence restriction ordinance of 2500 feet. A written news blast and communication to all Florida legislators expressing opposition to the exclusion of those on the registry from the proposed voter restoration bill for felons has been distributed. FAC continues to promote the SSAIF program which is one of re-



To our Readers

We received Christmas greetings and wishes from so many of you, and we appreciate them so very much. We regret that we are unable to respond individually to you, but limited time and a limited volunteer staff does not allow it at this time. We have hopes, as we add more volunteers, of being able to address that. In the meantime, please know that we so much appreciate you, and we wish each of you a new year of hope and peace.

RSOL Digest Subscription Form

Name: _____ Inmate Number: _____

Institution Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Inmate Subscription: One year (\$9) Two years (\$17) Three years (\$25)

Regular Subscription: One year (\$12) Two years (\$22) Three years (\$32)

I also wish to make a donation to help indigent inmates: \$ _____

Return this form with payment to: RSOL Inc., PO Box 36123, Albuquerque, NM 87176

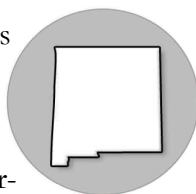
States, from p. 10

form, education, and prevention.

FAC will be represented in January at the state's Smart Justice Summit. It is noteworthy that the Hillsborough County in the Tampa area has closed its controversial sex offender court following the publication of many biased rulings by the sole judge, Chet Tharpe. Cases will now be randomly assigned among criminal court judges who hear all felony cases ranging from murder to grand theft. FAC is gearing up for the 2015 legislative session and continues to work toward growing its numbers.

New Mexico

Liberty and Justice Coalition (LJC) is actively working in advance of the 2015 legislative session which begins at noon on January 20th. We are planning to have a booth in the Capitol during the session. To our knowledge, we are one of only two states that has such a presence in the Capitol during session. We are seeking volunteers to staff the booth and donations to offset our out-of-pocket



costs. We have recently conducted our first telephonic board of directors meeting. We are excited about this because conducting meetings by telephone will permit people to participate from around the state.

Last month we reported that we expect battle to hold the line on any SORNA enhancements. The state Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Sheriffs' Association have announced that they will push hard for AWA compliance. In addition to SORNA, there will be proposals to increase the sentences for those convicted of sexual offenses and for abolition of the statute of limitations (SOL) for sex offenses and other crimes.

We are less optimistic in terms of our ability to impact the course of legislation due to the change in control of the House of Representatives which has now shifted to the Republican Party. The majority party determines: (1) the makeup of all committees; (2) the flow of legislation; and (3) who chairs of the committees. LJC and our partners will face the challenge of establishing working relationships with new committee chairs that are far less sympathetic to our issues.

LAST FREE Issue!

RSOL has provided this publication without cost to hundreds of incarcerated inmates for several years. Unfortunately, due to rising mailing and production costs, we cannot continue this practice. Since August we have been transitioning our distribution list to a subscription model. Beginning with the **February 2015** issue, those receiving the Digest in the remaining states of **AR, CA, CO, FL, MD, ND, SD, TX, and VA**, must have **purchased an annual subscription for \$9**. This price is less than what it actually costs us to send you a year's worth of mailings.

We understand that sending money from an institution can be difficult. That is why we have given advance notice and allow several payment options. If your institution issues checks from your inmate trust account, please complete the form on the reverse side of this page and return it with a check for \$9 payable to RSOL Inc. You could also send this form to a loved one and ask that person to remit the payment on your behalf. If neither of those options works for you, we will accept postage stamps. Simply complete the form and enclose at least 19 first class stamps. Please do not send any denomination other than first class stamps.

Again, **starting with our February 2015 Digest, copies will only go to those who have paid \$9** for a subscription. Please remit your subscription without delay. Regardless of when we receive your payment, all subscriptions received during this transition period will officially begin with the February issue.

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