

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD**



# Annual Report

for the period from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

**Governor:** Pat Quinn  
**Chairman:** Jorge Montes





# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
PAT QUINN, GOVERNOR

## **PRISONER REVIEW BOARD**

Jorge Montes, Chairman

The Honorable Pat Quinn  
Office of the Governor  
207 Statehouse  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board is pleased once again to present for your review its thirty-first annual report for the year 2008.

Within the last year, not only has the board continued to conduct its business pursuant to statute and your directives, it has also been searching for ways to play a more critical role in the reduction of recidivism. We know that by doing so we are fulfilling your vision of ensuring that more inmates who exit our penal institutions everyday become productive residents of Illinois.

Moreover, as I have surveyed the work of parole boards around the country and abroad I have sought to bring new ideas to our state to keep it on the cutting edge of re-entry. I am also happy to report that, because of its work, the board has increasingly acquired prominence on the national criminal justice landscape. We are often looked to for guidance on the implementation of certificate programs, for instance.

We pledge to continue doubling our efforts to make a positive impact on our criminal justice system and to develop model programs for the rest of the country, while keeping public safety at the forefront.

Sincerely yours,

Jorge Montes  
Chairman



# PRISONER REVIEW BOARD STAFF



## SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Kenneth Tupy	Chief Legal Counsel
Tracy Buckley	Chief of Operations
Nichole Damhoff	Chief Personnel Officer/ Victim Notification Unit

## STAFF

Colette Knoles	Certificates Liaison
Jeanetta Cardine	Programs Coordinator
Kelly Knappmeyer	Executive Clemency Liaison
Shunique Joiner	King Hearing Officer
Kim Boster	Victim Services Liaison
Angie Asbrock	Institutional Liaison
Shannon Austin	Institutional Liaison
Regina Bosie	Institutional Liaison
Robin Miller	Institutional Liaison
Deborah Powers	Institutional Liaison
Veronica Sherman	Institutional Liaison
Valorie Ford	Office Assistant
Chuck Eguez	Office Assistant
Stephanie McTaggart	Office Assistant
Constance Slightom	Office Assistant

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## INTRODUCTION

Prior to February 1, 1978, the Illinois Prisoner Review Board (“the Board”) was a division of the Illinois Department of Corrections (“IDOC”) known as the Parole and Pardon Board. Today the Board is a quasi-judicial entity that makes decisions on a range of adult and juvenile prison inmate matters. It is currently composed of 15 members who are appointed by the Governor, with the approval of the State Senate.

While the number of classic parole cases has decreased in recent years, today the greater part of the Board’s time is employed in holding a dramatically larger docket of parole revocation hearings, consisting of technical and new sentence revocations. This docket has grown exponentially in recent years to approximately 9,298 cases a year. These hearings, which are held at the various penal institutions around the state, can be complex fact-finding affairs, involving attorneys on both sides of the questions, witness testimony, cross-examinations, lie detector tests, and volumes of documentary evidence.

### **C-Number Hearings**

Before 1978 one of the Board's primary mandates was to hold parole eligibility hearings for prison inmates whose sentences were of indeterminate durations.

After that date, when determinate (flat) sentences were legislated in Illinois, the number of classic parole hearings for what have become known as C-number inmates, was fixed at a group of approximately 16,500 inmates, a number that has been whittled down to approximately 268 in the course of the years. These hearings continue to be held across the state and constitute the Board’s most contested and deliberated hearings. The Board convenes two times a month at its Springfield headquarters to thoroughly discuss and vote on these special cases.

This kind of hearing and reviewing activity at both juvenile and adult institutions is at the heart of the Board’s duties. Board members and staff travel to each institution of the Illinois Department of Corrections and to the Cook County Jail at least once each month. On any given month, the Board will visit 40 institutions to conduct its hearings.

### **Victim Notification**

One of the Board’s other historically significant mandates has been to provide victim notification services. The Board has an award-winning, specialized victim notification unit devoted to alerting victims and their families of the impending release of an inmate from IDOC.

The Victim Notification Unit (“VNU”) documents the names and addresses of persons who request to be included in its registry.

The VNU has always facilitated the victims' desire to inform the Board of their opinions about the individuals who victimized them.

By allowing the victims to be involved in the process, it is the Board's intention to assist them in experiencing less frustration with the criminal justice system. Victims and their loved ones call, write or very often meet with Board members to register their opposition to parole or to request special conditions of parole. This is all coordinated by a small, dedicated staff that compose the VNU and the Operations Unit. Board members and staff work closely with victim advocates and state's attorneys throughout Illinois to coordinate efforts to protect the rights of crime victims.

The Board also convenes at least twice a month to deliberate and prepare orders which enumerate the conditions that an inmate shall abide by while on parole/mandatory supervised release. On an average month the Board will issue approximately 2,101 orders for these inmates who will be placed on mandatory supervised release pursuant to law.

### **Executive Clemency**

Perhaps the most visible work the Board does involves executive clemency proceedings, which occur four times a year. Twice in Chicago and two times in Springfield the Board convenes to hear petitions from individuals seeking clemency in the form of a

pardon, an expungement, a commutation or some other form of relief from the Governor. Confidential recommendations are made to the Governor after these hearings are held and they are sent to his office for a final determination. Most petitioners request public hearings, but the Board also reviews petitions without a hearing if the petitioner so chooses.

### **Other Hearings**

The Board also reviews Illinois Department of Correction's recommendations for revocation of inmate good conduct credits when there has been an alleged violation of institutional rules. It provides a hearing to permit an inmate to make a defense, if desired, against the allegation, then decides whether to revoke these credits. The Board is further authorized to review IDOC recommendations for restoration of lost credits in cases in which an inmate's good behavior appears to merit such a reward. More than 4,229 such hearings are conducted each year.

Finally, the Board carries out specialized juvenile parole hearings at eight juvenile institutions each month under provisions of the Juvenile Court Act. These hearings mirror the adult hearings described above, but are conducted pursuant to different laws than those observed in the adult hearings.



## **Recidivism**

With the State confronting a recidivism rate of 52.3, the highest rate in its history, and considering that almost 25 percent of admissions to Illinois prisons in 2004 were technical parole violators the reintegration of individuals back into society from incarceration is an experience rife with challenges and barriers. Presently, there is an emerging belief that the larger price is being borne by society, since the practical barriers facing people with criminal records make it more likely that they will slip back into a life of crime if not effectively addressed.

One of the overwhelming requests to the Prisoner Review Board on clemency issues is that persons with convictions cannot get jobs. Many employers refuse to give jobs to convicted persons because they don't trust convicted persons, they are afraid of lawsuits on negligent hiring, insurance companies and in some cases because of legal prohibitions regarding hiring of convicted persons. However, the lack of jobs is compounding the problem. Persons who have been convicted, after they have finished their time are returning back to community only to find they can no longer get jobs. They are on public aid and because they cannot earn a living return to a life of crime in order to survive.

In order to break the high rate of recidivism, we must allow convicted persons to become law-abiding citizens. By introducing rehabilitation programs which specifically aid those who have served their debt to society, this goal can be attained.

In an effort commensurate with the board's mission and in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Corrections the following rehabilitation certificates have been introduced:

### **Certificate of Good Conduct (CGC)**

The Board can issue a certificate of good conduct to an offender who has demonstrated that he or she is a law-abiding citizen and is fully rehabilitated. The (CGC) does not remove the conviction from the petitioner's record, but certifies that the petitioner is rehabilitated. The (CGC) is available to people with felony convictions after a waiting period of one to five years, depending on seriousness of the offense(s).

A Certificate of Good Conduct (CGC) is available only from the Parole Board, and the process may take several months. The CGC is granted only if the person has demonstrated good conduct for the requisite period. Additionally the board must determine if granting relief would be consistent with the individual's rehabilitation and within the limits of the public interest.

### **Certificates of Relief from Disability (CRD)**

Facilitating re-entry into the workforce, attainment of the (CRD) entitles to the bearer the ability to attain a license in several conviction sensitive areas. An employer or licensing agency must consider it as evidence that the bearer is "rehabilitated", and individuals should not be rejected for employment or refused a license unless there is other evidence that the applicant is not qualified.



**ILLINOIS PRISONER REVIEW BOARD  
SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY-ADULT**

<b>TYPE OF HEARING</b>	<b>NUMBER OF CASES</b>
Parole Reviews/C-Numbers	176
Good Conduct Requests	4,229
Release Reviews	25,219
Parole/Release Revocations	9,298
Final Discharges	2,096
Executive Clemency	575
Certificates of Relief (Considered)	47
Certificate of Good Conduct (Considered)	17
Cases Revised/Amended	1,883
Cases Continued	1,937
<b>Total Adult Considerations</b>	<b>45,487</b>

**ADULT RELEASE REVIEWS**

Mandatory Release Reviews	1
Statutory Parole Reviews	7
Mandatory Supervised Release Reviews	25,219
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,227</b>

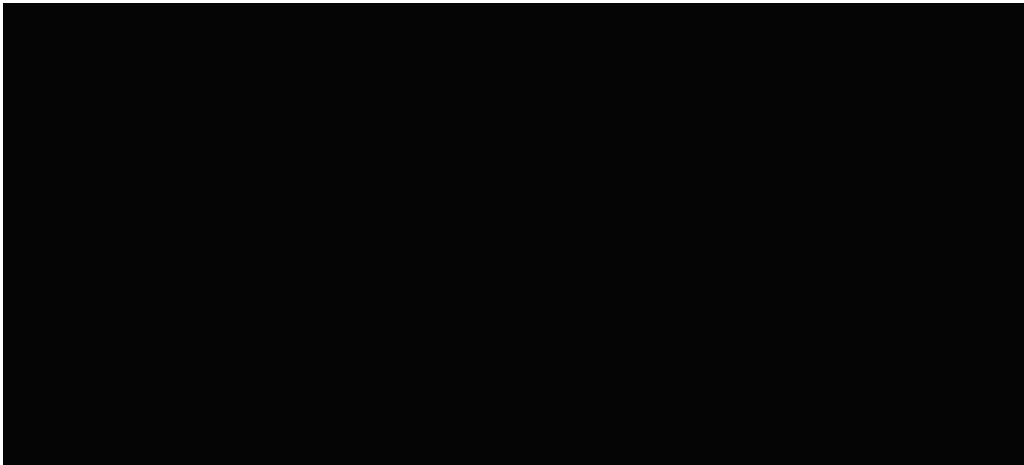
## ADULT FINAL DISCHARGES

Total Cases Considered	2096
Total Cases Granted	2072
<b>Discharge Consideration Approval Rate</b>	<b>98.85%</b>



## ADULT PAROLE REVIEWS/C-NUMBERS

Total Cases Considered	176
Total Cases Granted	8
<b>Parole Consideration Approval Rate</b>	<b>4.5%</b>



## ADULT PAROLE CASES/C-NUMBERS BY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Center	Cases Decided	Parole Granted	Parole Denied	Parole Rate
Big Muddy River	14	0	14	0.0%
Centralia	7	1	6	14.29%
Danville	7	0	7	0.0%
Decatur	0	0	0	0.0%
Dixon	57	5	52	8.77%
Dwight	1	0	1	0.0%
East Moline	0	0	0	0.0%
Graham	7	0	7	0.0%
Hill	10	0	10	0.0%
Illinois River	8	1	7	12.5%
Jacksonville	0	0	0	0.0%
Lawrence	7	0	7	0.0%
Lincoln	1	1	0	100%
Logan	3	0	3	0.0%
Menard	12	0	12	0.0%
NRC	0	0	0	0.0%
Pinckneyville	13	0	13	0.0%
Pontiac	6	0	6	0.0%
Robinson	3	0	3	0.0%
Shawnee	6	0	6	0.0%
Sheridan	0	0	0	0.0%
Southwestern	0	0	0	0.0%
Stateville	2	0	2	0.0%
Tamms	4	0	4	0.0%
Taylorville	0	0	0	0.0%
Thomson	0	0	0	0.0%
Vandalia	0	0	0	0.0%
Vienna	0	0	0	0.0%
Western	8	0	8	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>4.54%</b>

\*The numbers reflected within this chart pertain to those inmates who remain incarcerated under pre-1978 sentencing laws.

## ADULT PAROLE CASES/C-NUMBERS

Adult Parole Cases	Custody
Currently Incarcerated	308
Currently Paroled	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>408</b>

## COOK COUNTY DIVERSIONARY PROGRAM SAVINGS FOR COUNTY AND STATE

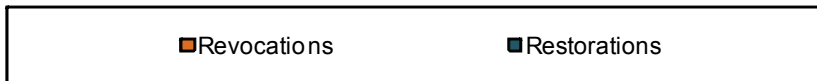
Month	Cook County Jail	IDOC Northern Receiving Ctr.
January, 2008	\$41,090.00	\$11,305.35
February, 2008	\$30,380.00	\$14,605.29
March, 2008	\$0.00	\$0.00
April, 2008	\$8,330.00	\$794.43
May, 2008	\$13,720.00	\$5,316.57
June, 2008	\$13,720.00	\$7,394.31
July, 2008	\$11,760.00	\$7,333.20
August, 2008	\$18,130.00	\$11,244.24
September, 2008	\$26,950.00	\$15,827.49
October, 2008	\$17,150.00	\$6,294.33
November, 2008	\$13,230.00	\$4,949.91
December, 2008	\$9,800.00	\$8,310.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$204,260.00</b>	<b>\$93,376.08</b>
<b>Grand Total for Year 2008</b>		<b>\$297,636.08</b>

## ADULT GOOD CONDUCT CREDITS

Revocations	Number of Cases
Reviewed	2,797
Revoked	1,742
Lowered	880
Disapproved	175

Restorations	Number of Cases
Reviewed	1,421
Restored	1,403
Lowered	8
Disapproved	10

### Adult Good Conduct Credit Reviews



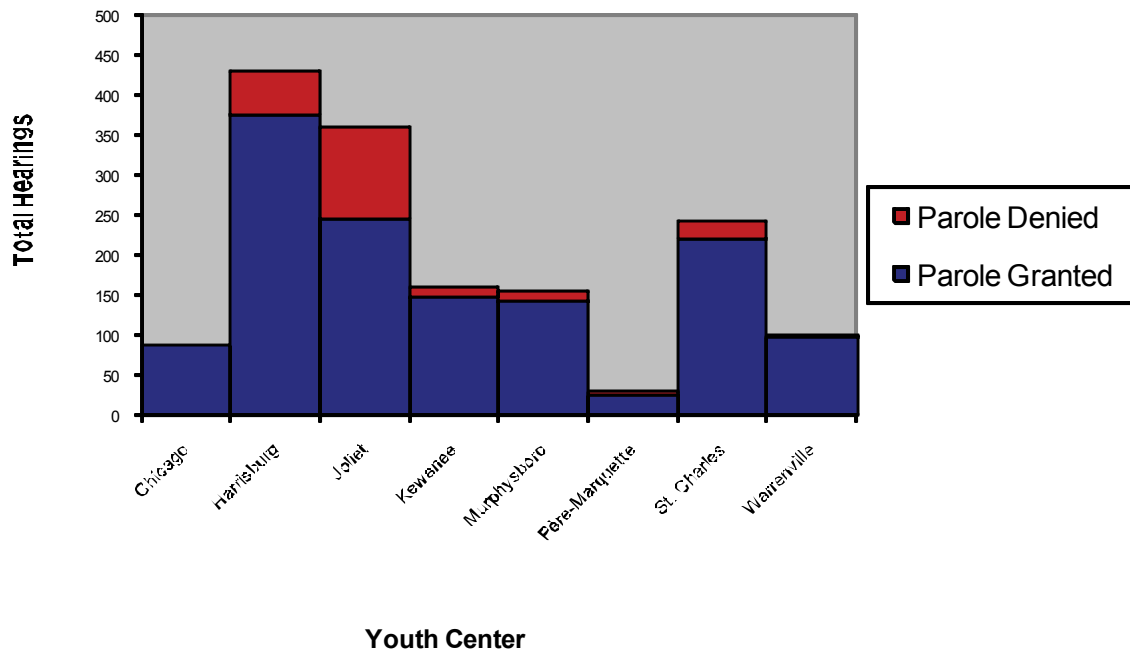
## SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY-JUVENILE

JUVENILE HEARINGS	NUMBER OF CASES
Hearing Reviews	1,456
Annual Reviews	333
Good Conduct Reviews	2
Release Reviews (MSR)	41
Revocation Reviews	1,137
Discharge Reviews	417
Cases Revised/Amended	382
Cases Continued	567
<b>TOTAL JUVENILE REVIEWS</b>	<b>4,335</b>

## JUVENILE PAROLE REVIEWS BY YOUTH CENTER

Youth Center	Cases Decided	Parole Granted	Rate
Chicago	86	86	100%
Harrisburg	429	375	87%
Joliet	358	244	68%
Kewanee	160	146	91%
Murphysboro	154	141	92%
Père-Marquette	29	25	86%
St. Charles	241	220	91%
Warrenville	100	96	96%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>86%</b>

### Juvenile Parole Hearings





## JUVENILE CASES REVIEWED

Parole Hearing Reviews	1,557
Paroles Granted	1,333
<b>Rate</b>	<b>86%</b>

Discharge Reviews	417
Discharges Granted	355
<b>Rate</b>	<b>85%</b>

Parole Revocation Hearings	1,137
Paroles Revoked	813
<b>Rate</b>	<b>72%</b>

## JUVENILE GOOD CONDUCT CREDITS

Revocations	1
Restorations	1
<b>Reviewed</b>	<b>2</b>

**2008 EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY PETITIONS  
JANUARY 2008**

Requests Considered	121
Requests Granted	0
Requests Denied	0
<b>Requests Pending</b>	<b>121</b>

**2008 EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY PETITIONS  
APRIL 2008**

Requests Considered	176
Requests Granted	1
Requests Denied	0
<b>Requests Pending</b>	<b>175</b>

**2008 EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY PETITIONS  
JULY 2008**

Requests Considered	113
Requests Granted	0
Requests Denied	0
<b>Requests Pending</b>	<b>113</b>

**2008 EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY PETITIONS  
OCTOBER 2008**

Requests Considered	165
Requests Granted	0
Requests Denied	0
<b>Requests Pending</b>	<b>165</b>

## ADULT REQUESTS FOR CERTIFICATES OF RELIEF FROM DISABILITY

Requests Considered	47
Requests Granted	33
<b>Consideration Rate</b>	<b>70%</b>

## ADULT REQUESTS FOR CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT

Requests Received	17
Denied (Ineligible)	8
Requests Granted	6
Requests Pending	3
<b>Consideration Rate</b>	<b>35%</b>

## VICTIM NOTIFICATION UNIT (ACTIVITY)

2008 Victim Notification Registrants	720
Adult Release Notifications	800
<b>Total Number of Victim Registrants</b>	<b>16,211</b>

## BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

**JORGE MONTES, CHAIR**, appointed in October 1994. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communications in 1985 from Loyola University of Chicago and a Doctorate in Jurisprudence in 1988 from the Loyola University School of Law. Mr. Montes served as a supervising litigation attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office; as editor for Passport, an American Bar Association publication; and as a spokesperson for the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. Mr. Montes has and currently serves on various bar association and college boards and has hosted cable television and radio talk shows in Chicago. He has also been a member of the Illinois Department of Corrections Board of Education and is a frequent speaker and guest on television and radio programs. He resides in Chicago.

**ERIC W. ALTHOFF, MEMBER**, appointed in May of 2003. He graduated from Lake Land College in Mattoon, Ill. in 1982 with a degree in Law Enforcement. He served as the elected Coroner of Effingham County from 1981 until 2003, with part of this time serving as Vice Chairman of the Illinois Coroner's Association for one term. Mr. Althoff was one of the original recipients of the Lifesaving Partners Award from the Gift of Hope for his outstanding support to save and enhance the lives of others through organ and tissue donation. He was also given awards from the Regional Organ Bank of Illinois and the Lions Eye Donor Program for the same

cause. Mr. Althoff was a private business owner/operator and has served as a volunteer fire fighter for the city of Effingham for more than 20 years. He has served his community by taking part in many political, civic, religious, and social organizations including; the Effingham County Drug Alert Council and Effingham County DUI Task Force.

**EDWARD BOWERS, MEMBER** appointed March, 2006 Mr. Bowers brings a long history of public service to the Prisoner Review Board. His career began in 1966 where he served the Peoria Police Department as a detective and polygraph examiner. While serving in this capacity Mr. Bowers was able to earn his Bachelor's Degree from Bradley University in 1971. Offering a brief conclusion to his career with the Peoria Police Department Mr. Bowers entered the private practice in 1976. Within this period Mr. Bowers remained a strong supporter of the correctional system where he would conduct both commercial and criminal polygraph examinations. In 1988 he accepted a position at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria, where he retired in 2006 as Director of Facilities, Security and Planning. Mr. Bowers continued to administer polygraph examinations for law enforcement and defense attorneys until 2006.

**NANCY L. BRIDGES-MICKELSON, MEMBER**, has worked as a member of the Board since her appointment in January of 2001. She has served the citizens of Illinois through a variety of capacities over the past 20 years.

However, she considers her work on the Board as one of her most important career and personal achievements. Over the years, she has been deeply involved in community-based projects from both a governmental and personal vantage point.

**SALVADOR DIAZ, MEMBER,**

Appointed in 2005, Mr. Diaz has a community based panorama of experience. A retired Chicago Police Officer, Mr. Diaz has a history of working with youth as a Juvenile Probation Officer with the Juvenile Court of Cook County, as a Child Abuse Investigator, Social Worker, and Child Welfare Worker with Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. In the field of education, with the City Colleges of Chicago, Mr. Diaz has been a full-time Criminal Justice Instructor, a student advisor/counselor, and taught long distance courses in Humanities to United States Marines based in the Sinai. He was also an instructor at the Chicago Police Academy and the Cook County Sheriff's Police Academy where he taught courses in Tactical Communications, Child Abuse Investigations, Autism Awareness, and Psychology of Variant Behavior. As an adjunct bi-lingual instructor at St. Augustine College in Chicago, Mr. Diaz taught courses in Psychology and Human Behavior. His educational history consists of a bachelors degree in Sociology, a masters degree in Counseling Psychology, and finalizing work toward the doctoral degree in education.

**ROBERT L. DUNNE, MEMBER,**

appointed in April 1999. He served two years in the United States Army, receiv-

ing the Korean Service Ribbon. He attended the University of Notre Dame and Loyola University. He was a State Representative in the 1970's. He is the retired founder of R.L. Dunne & Co., Inc. Insurance & Benefits Consultants, for which he serves on the board of directors. He also served on the Board of the Illinois Insurance Exchange, several community association committees and veterans groups. Mr. Dunne and his wife, Jeanne, are lifelong residents of Cook County.

**CRAIG FINDLEY, MEMBER,**

appointed in February 2001. Mr. Findley was Chairman of the Board from January 2003 to May 2004. A writer and businessman, Mr. Findley owned and published three Illinois weekly newspapers and served as President of Craig Findley Associates, a consulting firm. He served as Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Transportation, as an elected member of the Illinois House of Representatives and was a senior aide to Congressman Bob Michel. He has long been active in organizations that advocate adoption and promote the best interests of children. Mr. Findley is a member and twice Chairman of the Lincoln Land Community College Board of Trustees, and member of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. He has served as President of the Jacksonville Public Library and as Chairman of the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce. He is a graduate of Knox College.



**DAVID FRIER, MEMBER**, appointed in November, 2002. He earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He retired from Western Illinois University after serving as a Professor of Political Science for 20 years. He has also served as a visiting professor at various universities in Illinois, Pennsylvania and Canada and taught university level courses at the Menard Correctional Center in Chester, Illinois and the Federal Penitentiary in Marion, Illinois.

**THOMAS L. JOHNSON, MEMBER**, appointed in May 2004. After finishing a tour of duty in Vietnam (U.S. Army '66-'68), he earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Michigan and a Doctorate of Law from DePaul University. He served as an Assistant State's Attorney in DuPage County where he became Chief of the White Collar Crime Division. He was an instructor at the College of DuPage during this period as well teaching a course on crime scene investigations. He was a founding partner in the law firm of Johnson, Westra et. al. where he continued in the private practice of law until taking office as the State Representative for the Illinois 50th District. He served ten years in the Illinois House where he chaired the House Judiciary Committee and was Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Illinois Prison Reform Committee. He has a passion for criminal justice reform so that the recidivism rates can be reduced. He has served on numerous boards, task forces, and community organizations.

He remains a member of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Initiative.

**JESSE MADISON, MEMBER**, appointed in May 2004. He worked as a Special Assistant to Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. Before that he was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Abraham Lincoln Centre. He retired from the Centre in April 2001 after 11 years of service. In 1983, he served in the Cabinet of former Chicago Mayor Harold Washington as commissioner of Consumer Services. In 1986, Mayor Washington appointed Mr. Madison as General Superintendent of the Chicago Park District. In the mid-1970's, Madison served three terms in the Illinois Legislature as a State Representative. He is a native of Memphis, Tennessee where he grew up. He attended Roosevelt university in Chicago where he earned a degree in Business Administration. Mr. Madison also did some graduate work in Finance and Management at Roosevelt.




**MILTON MAXWELL, MEMBER,** appointed in October 1993. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Arkansas in History and Political Science and is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. He earned a Master's Degree in Guidance and Education Psychology and Criminology from Southern Illinois University in 1971. Mr. Maxwell worked in the First Judicial Circuit Probation System for 22 years prior to his Board appointment, the last five years as Chief Managing Officer. He is actively involved in local community affairs. He is Secretary of the Private Industrial Council for Service Delivery Area Number 25, a five-county Southern Illinois consortium for the implementation of JTPA programs and a member of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge F& AM of Illinois.

**NORMAN M. SULA, MEMBER,** appointed in November 2000. He holds both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree of Science in Mathematics from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana (1964 and 1965). His first four years after college were spent teaching Junior High Mathematics in Country Club Hills, Ill.. He spent the next 30 years in manufacturing working as a Quality Assurance Engineer and Supervisor, nine years for Allis-Chalmers in Aurora, Ill. and 21 years for AT&T in Montgomery, Ill. and Lucent Technologies in Naperville, Ill. He was a member of the DuPage Water Commission from 1998-2000. In addition, he served from 1989-2000 as an elected Trustee of the Lisle Township Board in DuPage County. For 13 years, 1986 – 1998, he was the Coordinator for the

Lucent Technologies Salvation Army Bell Ringing Program in downtown Naperville.

**GERALDINE TYLER, MEMBER,** appointed in May 2004. She has over 25 years experience in the criminal justice field, including spending the last 13 years with the Cook County Adult Probation Department, where she was employed as a probation officer and Executive Assistant to the Chief Probation Officer. She also served as an Adjunct Professor at several colleges and universities, with the most recent being Lewis University, and Prairie State College. She earned a Master's Degree in Corrections/ Criminal Justice from Chicago State University in 1992. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and is active in local community affairs.





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