

Louisiana State Bar Association Criminal Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 26, 2018 – Noon – 1:30PM

Attendees:

Graham Bosworth (Chair), Attorney at Law
Michael Morales (vice-chair), St. Bernard District Attorney's Office
Hon. Jules Edwards, 15th JDC
Veronica Bard, Court Watch Nola
Stephanie Beaugh, LA Appleseed
Adam Capelle, Pelican Institute
Norma Dubois on behalf of Pete Adams, Louisiana District Attorneys Association
Paul Fleming, Jefferson Parish Public Defender
Meghan Garvey, Orleans Public Defenders Office
Paul Hurd, Attorney at Law
Mithun Kamath, Attorney at Law
Simone Levine, Court Watch Nola
Jee Park, The Innocence Project
Charlie Raymond, Attorney at Law
Jonathan Rhodes, Attorney at Law
Jonathan Varnado, Vera Institute
Sheral Watters, The Appellate Project
Jon Wool, Vera Institute
Monte Mollere, LSBA

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - Minutes from previous meeting were approved

II. Bail Report

Chair, Graham Bosworth and LSBA Board of Governors Liaison Paul Hurd provided an update on the status of the "Report of the Louisiana Bail System" that had been presented to the LSBA Board of Governors at their August 25th meeting. The Board asked that this be placed as an action item on the November 10, 2018 Board agenda in order to give them additional time to review the matter which had originally been identified as an information item. Graham will provide the Board with the recent relevant cases as requested) and return to answer any questions. The Committee will move forward with a resolution to the House of Delegates and have a draft at the November 13, 2018 meeting. ***Any committee member willing to help develop a Resolution to the LSBA House relevant to the Bail Report is asked to contact, Graham Bosworth, Mike Morales or Monte Mollere.***

III. Justice Re-investment Initiative

Subcommittee Chair, Jonathan Rhodes presented information on this initiative and requested volunteers. The purpose of the committee is not to examine and criticize, but to help monitor and determine any trends, examining resources granted and benefits

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there from. This role may evolve as data is examined. The following individuals agreed to assist in this project: Norma Dubois, Simone Levine, Michael Morales, Charles Raymond and possibly a member of the Louisiana Appleseed staff. ***Any member interested in being a member of the JRI subcommittee should let Monte know. A meeting of this group will be scheduled.***

An update: DOC has released its first report under JRI. People charged with nonviolent offenses have dropped by 20% since reforms enacted. More people charged with violent offenses than nonviolent in prison for the first time in years. Overall the prison population has decreased as a result of the reforms. Goal is to strengthen community supervision – seeing drop of 4.2% under supervision, which reduced caseload of P&P by 10 cases per officer. Technical violations and revocations are down by 26% and 54%, respectively. Final goal is to reinvest the savings. The grant to apply for the reinvestment funds was made available in August.

IV. Unanimous Jury Issue

Meghan Garvey provided information on the unanimous jury issue that is on the November 6th ballot.

V. 2018-19 Committee Projects and Initiatives

Chair Graham Bosworth reminded members that this committee has been very goal focused, and in continuing in this vein, discussed development of projects for the upcoming year. Those projects include a criminal justice summit and meetings with criminal justice stakeholders suggested by LSBA President Barry Grodsky. One suggestion was to consolidate those ideas and survey the criminal justice stakeholders and discuss those recommendations during the summit. Another idea was to include the bail information during the summit. Lack of interpreters in court proceedings was another Summit topic. ***Graham requested that members consider what they would like to do during the upcoming year and send those suggestions to himself, Mike or Monte.***

VI. Next Meeting Date - November 13, 2018.

VII. Adjournment