RSOL
Solid Facts. Prevention. Restoration.
Civil Liberty. Human Dignity.

The Digest

Volume 8, Issue 4 April 2015

One Day at a Time… Little Steps at the Local Level

By Dolley

(names are changed to protect identities)

It was 4:45 p.m., and I was sitting at a booth waiting to meet a released offender I had never met before named Chris. The Greyhound arrived, dropping off a tired, newly released inmate who had just spent five years in prison. He knew nothing about the sex offender registration process; he had been classified as a predator. He had no home, no job, and virtually no support system. The day before, when he was released, he had had to take a bus south and spend the night by himself in a bus stop in our capital city before being brought back to his sentencing county (hometown) by bus the next day.

I explained to Chris the multiple challenges and told him that someone in the community was willing to put him up for the night in a hotel. And just before my work day ended, his housing was arranged for one more day thanks to a former county elected official, Jim. Jim recognized this was an unsafe situation as much for the registrant as it was for the community. But even more importantly, Jim understood that 30-something-year-old Chris is a human being, not just a sex offender.

Before reaching this level of understanding and recognizing that sex offenders need a second chance too, Jim and I had had quite a few conversations. Jim also undertook to educate himself when he began reaching out to the people living under a highway bypass in our town's version of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

By the end of the week, Chris had been recommended for a job and referred by his parole officer. One week later, Chris is still working, and he now has other community members behind him, supporting his path to reintegration.

Continued on p. 3

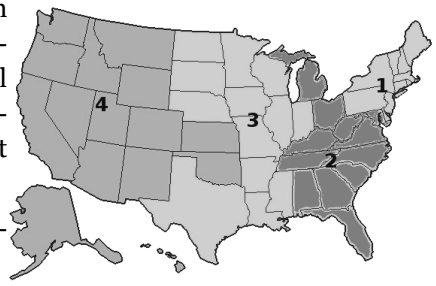
One Giant Step for Our Kind

By Jon

Regionalization is lifting off! When we think of how much goes into launching a space mission with all the preplanning and double-checking, as well as potential problems and setbacks, we recognize the magnitude of what we're witnessing. And the launch is only the beginning! RSOL's regionalization launch is putting the organization into orbit with the mission of increasing support for existing partners and attracting new allies, contacts, advocates, and organizers who will join RSOL in the mission of reforming sex offender laws nationally for the good of all mankind.

The rumble you hear is that of our thrusters engaged as the staging falls away for our ascent to higher levels of influence and impact. Unlike independent space trips that cost individuals ridiculous amounts of money, you can get on board for as little as $20/year with a front row seat for a life changing journey.

Please visit our website to see what region you're in and take a minute to email or call your Regional Coordinator. These men and women are pioneering on behalf of us all and well deserve any encouragement and support that can be given.



It's going to be a fantastic ride!

Bagels, Coffee, and Sex Offenders

By Lenore Skenazy

Last Sunday I held my very first "Sex Offender Brunch." That is: I invited my friends in the press to my home to meet my friends on the sex offender registry: Josh Gravens, 28, and Galen Baughman, 31. I'll tell you their "crimes" in a sec, but first let me explain why this issue interests me.

As founder of the book, blog and movement Free-Range Kids, I am always trying to figure out, as the subtitle of my book says, "How to raise safe, self-reliant children without going nuts with worry."

I like programs that actually help kids avoid abuse, such as teaching them the three R's: Recognize (that no one can touch where your bathing suit covers), Resist (kick, scream, run) and Report (tell me if anyone is making you uncomfortable, and I promise I won't be mad at you). The three R's make kids safer.

What I learned through my research, though, is that one thing not making kids safer is the public sex offender registry. Study after study keeps showing two things: First, that "stranger danger" is a myth. And second: In New York State, as elsewhere, there's been no difference in the number of sex offense arrests before and after implementing the public sex offender registry.

The problem is that the registry is cluttered with people who don't actually pose a threat to children. A study by the Georgia Sex Offender Registration Review Board, for instance, found that of the 17,000 people on the state's registry, just over 100 were "predators" compelled to prey on kids. But, of course, all 17,000 dots look alike.

Which brings me to my brunch.

Through my research, I'd met Josh and Galen.

Josh is a Texan who was visiting New York last week. At age 12, he played doctor with his sister. For this he ended up in juvenile prison for 31/2 years. Ever since he got out, he has been on the registry, even though his sister has long forgiven him. I wanted my guests to meet him.

I wanted them to meet Galen, too. When Galen was a 19-year-old opera student in Indiana, he met a young man, 14, at a friend's family party. They started emailing. When the 14-year-old's mom found out her son was writing to a gay teen, she took his computer to the local district attorney, who gave it to a cop. The cop, pretending to be the 14-year-old, asked Galen to send him gay teen porn. When Galen complied, he was arrested. On Galen's personal computer, cops then found evidence that he'd had a sexual encounter (once) with a different 14-year-old. The emails showed it was consensual, but this still constitutes rape.

He went to prison for nine years.

They told their stories to my reporter friends as we ate our brunch. Then everyone went their separate ways, filled with carrot cake to die for and a new skepticism about just who we label a "sex offender."

Editor's Note and Mea Culpa

We are excited to roll out our redesigned format this month and alert you to additional changes coming very soon. In order to offset our rising costs, we will begin selling a limited amount of ad space to legal professionals and other individuals or entities involved in the criminal justice system. Lastly, we apologize that you are receiving this issue a few days later than usual. This delay was the result of the format changes and an error that resulted in this issue being printed a second time.

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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.

Have You Seen Our Website Lately?

By Sandy

Our website has new additions and information to better serve and inform you.

We have added Webinars under the Media menu. (nationalrsol.org/media/meeting-media). Right now we have an RSOL Review program and some Advancing Advocacy programs. More will be added on a regular basis.

The Resources menu has a couple of new offerings. One is RSOL Publications (nationalrsol.org/resources/rsol-position-papers) where we have placed, and will continue to place as they are written, our official position papers on pertinent topics in our advocacy. We have also placed PDFs of our official brochures here. These can be downloaded and used by advocates.

Also new under Resources is Court Decisions (nationalrsol.org/resources/court-decisions) where we have placed, in descending chronological order, PDFs of major court decisions important to our movement. We anticipate being able to add more and more as new cases are being heard and as new challenges are being mounted.

And of course, with our 7th national conference only three months away, we have a section on the website (rsolconference.org) where you can read all about our featured speakers, register for the conference, and reserve your hotel room. Discounts are available for the conference registration and for the hotel if you reserve soon.

RSOL is now publishing the Digest in print form for both inmates and those not incarcerated. The yearly cost is, respectively, $9.00 and $12.00. A printable subscription form may be accessed on our website under the Digest sub-menu (nationalrsol.org/resources/digest), which is under Resources.

Finally, the State Affiliates selection under the About Us menu has changed, (http://nationalrsol.org/about-us/affiliates) as has some of the information under the Contact Us menu (nationalrsol.org/contact-us), to incorporate our new regionalization plan (see "One Giant Step..." on page 1).

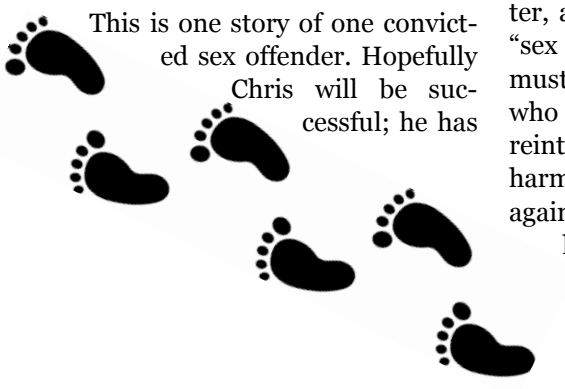
Quote of the Month:

Spring comes all by itself; new beginnings we must undertake ourselves with hope and sweat.

~~Anonymous

Small Steps, cont. from p 1

As I leave one of our town's twice monthly community re-entry support group meetings where I can congratulate Chris on his recent achievements and Jim for his help, I am reminded that it takes a village to embrace differences, an audience willing to accept change, and a passion to see it happen, even when it's the small steps making a big difference.



This is one story of one convicted sex offender. Hopefully Chris will be successful; he has a good start on the right path. So many convicted sex offenders are released under the same conditions every day across our country after serving their sentences. Society has been conditioned, both by the media and by emotionally charged victims' rights advocates, to fear sex offenders; all of the rhetoric is about those who have re-offended or those who fail to register, and the public perception is that "sex offender" equals danger. We must have conversations about those who are rehabilitated and manage to reintegrate without ever inflicting harm to anyone again, those who, against all odds, become part of our law-abiding society.

Those numbers are far greater.

Calendar of Events

- 4/7 Admin Team Mtg
- 4/8 RSOL Review*
- 4/21 Steering Committee
  LEO Committee
- 4/22 ARM Peaceful Protest
- 4/28 Advancing Advocacy*
- 6/25-27 National Conference

* Details on page 5 and on our calendar at nationalrsol.org.

California Supreme Court Rulings--What Do They Mean?

By Janice Bellucci

Registered citizens continue to face banishment throughout the land. They are often torn from their families and relegated to the dark corners of society where they sleep in their cars if they are lucky and on the streets if they are not.

Banishment comes in many forms. This commentary is limited to the two most insidious forms--residency restrictions and proximity restrictions. Both limit where a registered citizen may go. Both tear families apart. Neither accomplishes its stated purpose, that is, to increase public safety.

There are a growing number of reports full of empirical evidence carefully gathered by psychologists, law professors, and others that demonstrate that the opposite is true. That is, that residency and proximity restrictions do not increase public safety; instead, they reduce public safety.

This reality was recently recognized by the justices of the California Supreme Court, not known for their forward thinking or compassion for registered citizens and their families, in the case of In re Taylor. In that case, the Court decided that residency restrictions not only failed to increase public safety but constituted an arbitrary, oppressive, and unreasonable curtailment of the core value of unqualified liberty provided by the U.S. Constitution.

This decision is important and may provide relief to about 300 registered citizens on parole in San Diego. It is not worthy, however, of the media coverage immediately following the decision which falsely proclaimed that registered citizens are free to live anywhere in the state of California.

The reality of the Court's decision is that it lacks clarity and is already the source of confusion regarding whether registered citizens who are not on parole or who do not live in San Diego must comply with the state's residency restrictions. The only way to gain clarity on this issue is to file more lawsuits challenging the same state law as well as laws which are even more restrictive adopted by cities and counties. Doing so will require both time and money as well as brave registered citizens who agree to serve as plaintiffs in the cases.

During the period of time required to challenge residency restrictions, which could amount to five years or more, the suffering of registered citizens and their families will continue. Husbands will be prevented from living with their wives and children. Sons will be prevented from living with their parents.

The California Supreme Court could have prevented the continued suffering of registered citizens and their families by issuing a sound decision in another case, People v. Mosley, which they decided on the same day. Instead, the Court ducked entirely the issue of whether residency restrictions are constitutional and, if so, to whom they apply. The defendant in that case has requested a rehearing. In order to redeem itself, the Court should grant the rehearing, which has the possibility of two positive outcomes: to increase public safety and to end the suffering of registrants and their families.

The California Supreme Court protected the rights of registered citizens in 2014 when it denied review of a state appellate court decision that overturned two local government ordinances which had prohibited registered citizens from visiting public places such as libraries, parks, and beaches as well as private places such as movie theaters, bowling alleys, and fast food restaurants. After this ruling, cities that had adopted similar ordinances were warned that their ordinances could be challenged in court. After this warning, about 50 cities, the smart cities, repealed their ordinances. The 30 cities who weren't as smart, however, were sued, one as recently as March 11, 2015. Of the cities sued, virtually all have repealed or significantly revised their ordinances by eliminating proximity restrictions.

The dumbest city is Carson, located in Los Angeles County, which was first sued in April, 2014, and continues to refuse to repeal or revise its ordinance. The Carson City Council has in fact proclaimed war against registered citizens and declared that they don't care how much that war costs. They also don't care how many registrants and family members are harmed by the City's ordinance, which has both residency and proximity restrictions. They don't even care that the courts have ruled that similar ordinances violate the state's constitution.

The Carson City Council's proclamation of war against registered citizens as well as their failure to comply with court decisions will be reviewed in Los Angeles Superior Court on June 11, 2015. That will be their Judgment Day.

That could also be a day of great victory for registered citizens in Carson who would be allowed to return to their homes and families and allowed to return to the city's libraries and parks. That could be a day of ultimate victory for registered citizens throughout the land because it would provide a precedent that could be followed by courts in every state. It is only fitting that such a precedent be established in Los Angeles, the city that created the

Conference; Dallas; June: What More Do You Need to Know?

By Larry

Register now for the National Conference as seating is limited. We have an outstanding lineup of speakers this year including: Nancy Forster, Janice Bellucci, Richard Gladden, Eric Tennen, Larry Dubin, Dr. Emily Horowitz, Jeff Gamso and more. Vist our conference website at rsolconference.org for bios and more details about our featured speakers.

Some highlights are:

- Ms. Bellucci will talk about ending residency/proximity restrictions in California.
- Ms. Forster's talk will focus on her successful 4-year battle against the retroactive application of SORNA in Maryland.
- Mr. Tennen will talk about civil commitment and risk-based sex offender registration.
- Mr. Gamso will speak about the public defender system in the United States and what needs to be done to provide adequate representation for indigent defendants.
- Professor Dubin will tell us about his autistic son and the additional burdens disabled registrants face.
- Dr. Horowitz will talk about "How Sex Offender Laws Are Failing Us."

Registration for the entire conference is only $100.00 with various discounts available. We have a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Park Cities Dallas Texas. The special rate is $95.00 per night for up to two occupants, which also includes tickets for a full hot breakfast. The hotel will provide free shuttle service from Love Field.

So---June 25 – 27; Dallas, Texas; see you there!

Please spread the word to your family and friends. We would love to have them come to the conference. Tell them to go to our website, www.nationalrsol.org, and click on the conference notice on the home page for information and links to registration.

Announcements

For our **RSOL Review, 7:30 p.m. February 8.** Janice Bellucci (CA RSOL President) will explain the recent CA Supreme Court decision regarding residency/proximity restrictions. In addition, we will review the status of pending legislation from the various states. This means that all advocates that are tracking or lobbying should plan to attend. Also, we will provide an update on RSOL's upcoming national conference. Sign up at *nationalrsol.wildapricot.org/event-1892017*

The Anti-Registry Movement (ARM) is holding a **peaceful protest in Tallahassee, Florida on April 22, 2015**. The stated goal is to raise awareness of the sex offender law reform movement, provide educational material, and garner attention to the plight of registrants and their family members at a high-profile event that brings politicians, celebrity advocates, and the news media together.

Please do not contact RSOL about the event. Contact the organizers at *contact@womenagainstregistry.org* or *rallyintally2015@yahoo.com*.

For our **Advancing Advocacy Webinar at 8 p.m. April 28,** Sharon Denniston will speak on Becoming an Effective Advocate.

Too often advocates for social change don't really know what they want, and therefore describe their desires in vague terms. Part 1 of this presentation will help advocates understand the importance of focus and specificity when advocating for policy change. Part 2 will assist advocates in identifying the strategic purpose of each legislative visit/contact so they become more effective advocates for their cause.

Sharon E. Denniston is a Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy and Administration, with a specialization in Law and Public Policy. She has been a Juvenile Advocate for 21 years, 11 of which have been devoted to educating state and federal legislators regarding juvenile justice policy issues, and the promotion of policies that have greater likelihood of efficacy at preventing sexual abuse. Sharon has successfully worked with state and federal legislators to achieve four public policy changes. Sign up at *nationalrsol.wildapricot.org/event-1821817*

Legal Corner

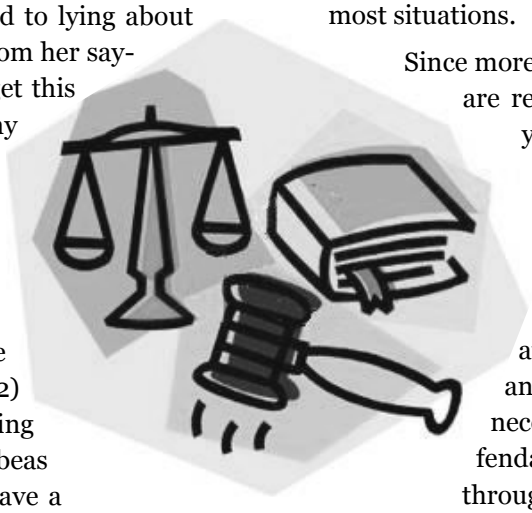
This is a reader contribution section that solicits legal questions from our readers. Each month a question will be chosen and answered in the newsletter by a member of our Legal Project. This section is intended for information only. It is by no means to be considered legal advice, and it should never 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. Your question should focus on only one issue, and it should be a question that has relevance to a wide number of registrants and not specific to just your individual case.

This month's answer is provided by William G. Quinn, atty. at law, Decatur, Georgia.

Question: I have a sexual charge on my record from 2004. The alleged victim later admitted to lying about the whole story. I have a sworn letter from her saying she lied on me. What can I do to get this matter back into court and remove my name from the sex offender registry?



Answer: This is a really great question because it is one we receive frequently. You did not include: (1) whether or not your conviction was the result of a plea or a guilty verdict; and (2) if there is any litigation currently pending such as a direct appeal, PCRA, or habeas corpus petition. Your letter says you have a "charge," which for purposes of this response we will assume that you meant a conviction.

Once a person is convicted of a crime, whether or not the conviction was the result of a plea or jury verdict, the burden shifts to the convicted person to establish that the conviction was improper. Sadly, recantations, standing alone, have little value for setting aside a conviction. In the context of asserting "actual innocence" as grounds for setting aside a conviction, recantations can help but they play only a minor or supporting role. There must be very strong additional evidence, such as DNA evidence.

Once a person recants or changes his/her story, that person is an admitted liar, thus he/she is no longer a credible witness. A person could be recanting for a number of reasons including: (1) they originally lied; (2) they feel bad about the outcome because they could not comprehend the consequences of making the original accusation; or (3) undue pressure has been applied by the convicted person or someone else. Thus recantations are viewed suspiciously in most situations.

Since more than 90 percent of all criminal cases are resolved by plea, we will assume that you pled guilty. Before a court accepts a plea, in most jurisdictions there must be a factual basis established on the record showing that the accused committed the unlawful acts. The prosecutor and the defense attorney, and frequently the defendant himself, participate in making the necessary representations that the defendant is in fact guilty. This is done through a process referred to as plea colloquy, which occurs when an accused person pleads guilty, or nolo contendere to a serious charge. Since the accused has admitted that there is a factual basis, or in other words he/she concedes to the facts as laid out, the recantation is unpersuasive.

Although there are exceptions to the foregoing, such as the Alford plea, where the defendant contests his guilt but states he is pleading guilty because he feels such is in his best interest, the overwhelming majority of cases involve the defendant and his counsel admitting in open court that there is a factual basis for the plea of guilty.

The plea colloquy is intended to ensure that the defendant is making the plea knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily. The judge has a duty to ascertain that the defendant has been apprised of the direct consequences arising from the plea including the nature of the permissible punishment and the loss of rights otherwise

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The Keeper of the Gate

Very few of us are aware of a very important person in the day to day functioning of RSOL. This is, officially, the Gatekeeper/General Contact position. It is, currently and for some time now, been filled by one person, Tim, who is also our Vermont contact and, additionally, has taken on the role of Regional Coordinator for Region III.

RSOL would have difficulty functioning at the administrative level were it not for Tim. This is his report for a portion of the month of March.

Sandy

From March 2nd, 2015 to March 24th there were a total of 42 contacts received by the General Contact, broken down like this:

37 were contacts via email representing 19 states. I reply to all emails myself, and then I pass the information on to the Affiliate or Contact, if there is one, in the appropriate state. If there is none, I handle it myself or pass it on to our Communications Director. Under our new regionalization system, I will pass on all information to the appropriate Regional Coordinator.

Five telephone calls representing four states were handled by me and passed on to the appropriate committee or contact.

I am looking forward to expanding my usefulness and learning new skills as a regional coordinator in one of the five RSOL regions. Contact me through the RSOL website if I can help you.

Tim

RSOL Letter Policy

We appreciate the many letters we receive from you, and we do respond to as many of them as possible. 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;
- Only write on one side of standard size paper so that we may scan the document;
- Make sure that your address is visible on the letter because we do not retain the envelopes;
- 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 no one here at RSOL is licensed to practice law.

Legal, cont. from p 6

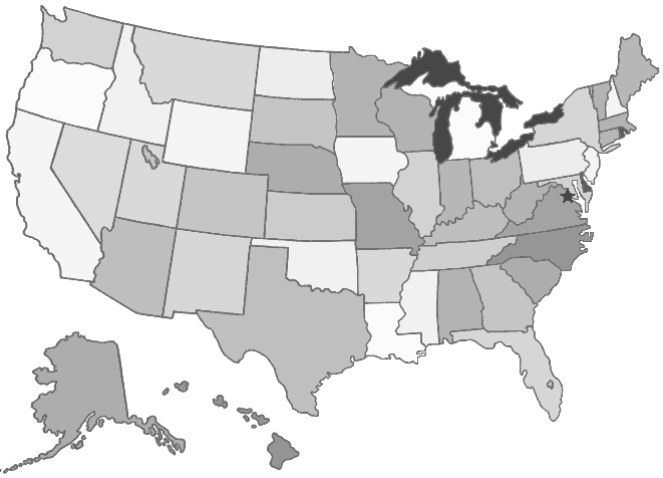
available, such as the right to a jury trial where the prosecution would have the burden of proving the charge beyond a reasonable doubt.

During the plea colloquy, the judge usually addresses the defendant directly in open court. If it is determined that the defendant has not been provided with information reasonably calculated to inform a person of ordinary intelligence of the effects, consequences, and results of the plea, the court must advise him or her as to such consequences and legal effects. See Boykin v. Alabama, 395 U.S. 238 (1969).

Each case must be carefully evaluated on its own merit because factors that do not exist in one case may drastically alter the outcome in another seemingly similar case. However, as a general rule, the recantation of a victim or witness, standing alone, is seldom sufficient to overturn a conviction.

From Our States

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. The main reason is that we do not have a contact, affiliate, or organization in every state. It might also be that a state's volunteers were too busy or had nothing newsworthy to report. If you are wanting to see more "action," we encourage you to get involved, yourself! Without our volunteers, nothing will happen.*



California

California RSOL led a successful protest of a city's sex offender ordinance on March 7. The protest included about 50 registered citizens, family members, and supporters carrying signs and banners who marched one mile from City Hall to a nearby park from which registered citizens are prohibited visiting. The protest ended with a picnic that included registered citizens on one side of a busy street and family members on the other side. Media coverage included a local TV station and the L.A. Times.

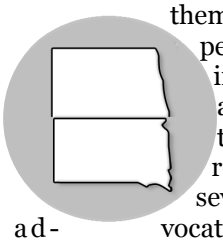
The California Supreme Court issued a ruling on residency restrictions which provided relief for a few hundred registered citizens in San Diego and caused confusion for more than 100,000 registered citizens. In order to gain clarity regarding the application of that ruling, more lawsuits will be needed. (California Supreme Court Rulings)

California RSOL will conduct its monthly meeting in the state capital, Sacramento, on April 11 and lobby the state legislature on April 13 and 14.

South Dakota

March has been an up and down month for South Dakota for the SD Jolene's Study Task Force. Legislation ended the study: Governor Duagaard revived it. (*www.ksfy.com/home/headlines/South-Dakota-House-committee-ends-Jolenes-Law-295112391.html)*

I have written to forty-one inmate pen pals in seventeen states requesting information to compile into another factual report to present to the study group, and I plan to attend every meeting possible to follow their progress and give testimony again when the time is appropriate.

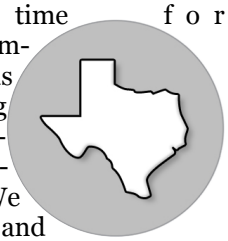


I have received so many thank yous from inmates for the articles I send them to offer a ray of hope and let them know there are people actively working for reform. I was asked where I get all the articles and I replied: I belong to several organizations advocating reform and receive links to the articles via email. RSOL is the main contributor to the links.

For years the editor of the National RSOL Digest has been monitoring newspaper coverage and articles to determine if the facts are being printed. She writes an letters and comments in response or contacts the writers asking where the incorrect facts were found and educates the writers by sending research and studies that give correct facts and statistics. She would then forward links to members and affiliates, and we would make comments to help educate the public. It was a group effort involving many people and many states, and it has made a difference. Many more articles now emphasize facts rather than myths, and many comments are supportive of facts and truth thanks in large part to RSOL.

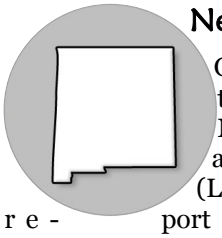
Texas

Texas Voices is very, very busy. The Texas legislature meets every 2 years, so this is a crucial time for our members to embark on the serious work of reforming the laws and blocking any bad proposed legislation. We are tracking bills and visiting the state capitol in Austin, talking to legislators and staff members. We are also putting together several packets of information to be handed out to committee members in support of or in opposition to various bills.



Our membership continues to grow as Texas continues to add people to the registry at an alarming rate.

New Mexico



Our 60-day legislative session ended March 21st. Liberty and Justice Coalition (LJC) is pleased to report that: (1) we had a successful two-day exhibit display in the rotunda of our capitol on March 5-6 and (2) none of the legislation we were tracking made it to the finish line.

We have held the capitol exhibit for many years now, and each year the reaction is mostly positive. By the time the dates for the booth exhibit rolled around, we

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States, cont. from p 8

were feeling confident that our behind the scenes efforts would be enough to bog down most of the bad legislation. We enjoyed the benefits of educating a receptive audience because most strolling the capital are doing so because they care about important issues. We interacted with concerned citizens, lawmakers, and most importantly, key legislative analysts. We had maybe two or three negative responses out of hundreds of encounters which is typical of past exhibits. We happened to be scheduled on "education day," which meant there were several special needs teachers present. Some expressed serious concerns for these types of young offenders that are ruined by a sex offense conviction.

The legislative proposals on our radar were:

- HB 270: Sponsored by Representative Yvette Herrell (R).
- SB 380: Sponsored by Senator Jacob Candelaria (D).
- SB 151: Sponsored by Senator Mimi Stewart (D).
- HB 387: Sponsored by Conrad James (R).

HB 270 did pass the House of Representatives but ultimately died in the Senate Public Affairs Committee. This legislation proposed adding five new offenses to New Mexico's list of registerable sex offenses. The proposed offenses are: (1) patronizing prostitutes when the person believed to be a prostitute is under the age of 18; (2) promoting prostitution; (3) accepting the earnings of a prostitute; (4) voyeurism; and (5) human trafficking. In addition, conspiracy to commit any registerable sex offense would also require registration. The Department of Public Safety has unsuccessfully sought the addition of these offenses for many years; however, stopping this proposal was not possible because the Republican Party is now in control.

SB 380 did pass its first committee but ultimately died due to it receiving three (3) committee referrals. It was not heard in the Senate Finance Committee. SB 380 would have imposed a $140.00 fee on a person at his/her initial registration. It also appears that the proposal would have imposed the fee for each time a person registered with the sheriff.

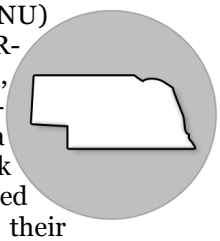
Shout-Out to Our Arizona Supporters

We wish to express our deepest appreciation for the donations we have received from so many inmates within the Arizona Department of Corrections. We realize that most incarcerated individuals have little or no recurring income, which makes each donation so special. Our all-volunteer staff work tirelessly to make things better for everyone; however, RSOL's mission and success depend on a steady stream of recurring revenue. Our goal has been to send personal thank- you notes to all inmate donors; however, we may have omitted someone by mistake. If you have not received a letter from us, please know that we appreciate each gift.

SB 151 would have clarified the state's burden of proof for those individuals it seeks to keep on an indeterminate parole after the initial five years. In addition, the legislation would have established a regular review process for those whose parole has been revoked for a technical violation. This bill was amended in the Senate Public Affairs Committee and subsequently approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. It died on the Senate Calendar partially because of fear that the Senate would be portrayed as pro sex offender in the 2016 elections. We took no public position on SB 151.

HB 387 would have terminated parental rights for individuals convicted of certain crimes including sexual offenses. This legislation did pass the House of Representatives but was stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Our opinion is that SB 387 is overly broad and includes those convicted of any form of CSP. The problem is that CSP can include consensual acts with a minor between 13 and 16 years of age.

Nebraska



OUTREACH: The Nebraskans Unafraid (NU) monthly FEARLESS group, which is establishing a social network for Registered Citizens and their friends and families. continues to grow. About half of the 17 individuals who attended in March were new. This includes one intrepid individual who drives two hours one way to be with us, and a second individual from neighboring Iowa who also drives about two hours one way to be at our meeting. We are in discussions with our Hawkeye State friend about expanding FEARLESS into Iowa.

We also have initiated plans to provide a retreat for wives of Registered Citizens. These women find that connecting with one another is powerful, empowering, and hope-inspiring. We think that's good, and we want to help make it happen. Click on (*www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXxBc1hoxcs&feature=youtu.be*) to see a brief video promo for FEARLESS. Click here (*nebfacts.blogspot.com/2015/03/fearless-takes-responsibility-where-our.html*) for thoughts on the FEARLESS SPIRIT. And click here

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(*nebfacts.blogspot.com/ 2015/03/fearless-presentation-detailed-look-at.html*) to read a report on our March meeting.

COMMUNICATION: Just FYI, we have set up a special "For Reporters" page (*www.nebraskarsol.com/for-reporters.html*) on our web site. It has been visited, sometimes multiple times, by at least a dozen newspaper and broadcast journalists in the state.

LEGISLATURE: The bill that repeals the criminalization of Internet use by registered citizens won unanimous support in the Judiciary Committee and has been advanced to General File for the full consideration of the Legislature. NU and others testified in favor of this bill last month. (*www.youtube.com/watch?v=V28Yvgd7sDQ&feature=youtu.be*) We view this as a first step in burning down the Adam Walsh Act in Nebraska.

LEGAL CHALLENGES: Criminal defense attorneys in Nebraska all want $10,000 retainers. Just like you can't afford that, we can't afford that. We are looking at the "Ohio model" of facilitating hundreds of local pro se actions against the Nebraska version of the Adam Walsh Act. We have a couple of very competent folks researching how we might accomplish this, but if anyone reading this has some guidance to offer it would be welcome; please email us at nunafraid@gmail.com.

Oregon

After Oregon passed HB 2549 to overhaul our sex offender legislation in 2013, we expected to be playing defense in this session. That legislation had moved the state from crime-based to risk based classification and codified a process for relief from registration. Though we wondered if there would be attempts to repeal or modify that bill, there have been no direct attempts to change it.

But we are playing defense on many fronts. We are tracking about 30 current bills that affect sex offenders. There are a few that we wish to support, including several that would offer some relief to juveniles. But among the many things that concern us are new bills calling for mandatory life sentences for a variety of sex crimes, various kinds of notification measures, and a number of sex trafficking measures, some of which we believe will cause damage well beyond their stated objectives.

Only one really difficult measure has come up for action thus far—a measure that would have required weekly registration with the sheriff of all homeless people on the registry. Working with the defense lawyers, probation and parole, and the sheriffs, we saw that bill get withdrawn.

We are also beginning to work seriously on expanding our work with reentry for people on the registry. We have always provided information and limited support, but we are working to expand that base and particularly to find more effective ways to help people who are coming out of prison to find housing and jobs.

Florida

The Florida Action Committee (FAC) remains busy expanding its membership base, hosting area meetings throughout the state, presenting to educational and faith based groups, and connecting with legislators. A recent membership call featured Dr. Thom Glaza, Tri-Counties Counseling group. The topic was Safety Plans. Several handouts were made available and can be found on our website (*floridaactioncommittee.org*). Dr. Glaza's doctoral dissertation is also available on our site.

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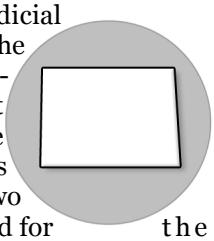
FAC has retained legal representation to challenge proximity ordinances in two counties. Additionally, our residency restriction litigation in Miami-Dade is on-going.

Our president Gail Colletta is spending most of her time in the state capitol meeting with legislators and various support groups. She was also invited by nationally renowned researcher, ATSA board member, and professor at Barry University, Dr. Jill Levenson, to participate with her and her master's level class as they visited Tallahassee this past week. Gail spent time with Dr. Levenson and her students to discuss our work and advocacy. While Dr. Levenson was at our state capitol with her students, Gail invited them to participate in meetings with several legislators to discuss the current work, proposed legislation, Dr. Levenson's most current research, and overall policy for best practices of sex offender management, risk, and residency restrictions.

President Colletta also accepted an invitation from Rev. Dr. J. Allison DeFoor to attend the Prison Ministry conference at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Fernandina Beach. Participants came from several states and represented leadership throughout all denominations. This group should prove to be a viable partner in our work to reform registry laws, aid reentry to communities, and work toward restorative justice as well as acceptance back to society as viable contributing citizens.

Colorado



CSOR, AFC and unaffiliated advocates testified in front of the House and Senate Judicial Committees of the Colorado Legislature over the last two months. The occasions for this testimony were two sessions that allowed for the Sex Offender Management Board to present its yearly report and for audience members to testify either in favor of the report or to bring up issues that caused concern.

Last RSOL Digest, we reported that the SOMB Report was not completed because of scheduling challenges for the Judicial Committees. This month, that report was completed, and audience testimony was allowed (three minutes each). Testimony was provided by Laurie Rose Kepros, Director of Sexual Litigation for the Colorado Public Defender's Office; Susan Walker, Director, CSOR; Jeff Jenks, Polygrapher; Alison Boyd, Victims' Advocate for the Jefferson County D.A.'s Office; and Michael Dell (in writing), Colorado CURE. Mr. Dell assumes the role in Colorado of watching the legislation that relates to sexual offending issues and keeps that in front of all of us.

Issues addressed included the overuse and abuse of the polygraph (using it with populations such as women, those with dementia, and the intellectually disabled, as well as on juveniles on whom it has not been normed), instead of utilizing it as an "adjunct" tool in situations where it is appropriate. Another concern expressed was the inclusion of those with dementia and with intellectual disabilities in the criminal justice system. Another prominent concern was over the lack of data collection by SOMB Approved Treatment Providers (Programs). Legislators and some of us in the audience felt strongly that holding treatment providers accountable through data collection and reporting, for treatment success (or lack of success) was crucial if the SOMB expected the Legislature to continue to support the approach to sexual offense treatment and management currently in statute in Colorado.

The Sunset Review of the SOMB, done by the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), usually every ten years, will actually be presented during 2016 (five years). The person at DORA preparing the report is attending all SOMB Board Meetings and Committee Meetings.

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