



# The Digest

## Volunteers Needed

*By Brenda*

We urgently need management-level volunteers. As anyone who has ever signed up to volunteer can tell you, it is not very rewarding if there's nobody in charge to give you an assignment and make sure you understand how to get the job done! We do still need "worker bees" of course, but if we don't have anyone coordinating their efforts, it is an exercise in frustration and our Cause will not grow! These positions would be especially good for a retiree, as they will require more time, but any and all applications will be gratefully considered. Visit [nationalrsol.org/take-action/volunteer-form/](http://nationalrsol.org/take-action/volunteer-form/)

**Regional Coordinator** – Central Region: Work with RSOL Contacts, Advocates and Affiliates in 10 Midwestern states, to assure that these ground troops have the tools they need to be effective

**Continued on page 5**

## A Dream Aborted

*By Sandy*

A story occasionally surfaces that seems born for the purpose of arousing indignation. The story of Greg Poston, a dying veteran and registered citizen, who was, with his four siblings, given a lifetime dream with one hand and had it snatched back with the other by an organization called the Dream Foundation is such a story.

Greg and one of his brothers, Roger, both have terminal cancer, and the Foundation responded to their physician's request to grant them their dream to see the Grand Canyon before they died. That is the business the non-profit Dream Foundation is in; they grant the dreams of dying people. Their website announces that they "have never turned down a qualified dream request." They will need to modify that statement in light of their

**Continued on page 4**

**Volume 6, Issue 2**

**February 2015**

## Calendar of Events

- 2/3 Admin Team Mtg
- 2/11 RSOL Review
- 2/24 Advancing Advocacy

Details available from our online Calendar at [nationalrsol.org](http://nationalrsol.org).

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## From our Board of Directors



## 2015 Conference Plans Proceed!

*By Dolly*

As we return to Dallas this year June 25-27 for our conference with even more 'lone star' energy, the RSOL Conference Planning Committee has ambitiously sought a variety of dynamic speakers this year that includes attorneys **Janice Bellucci** of California, **Eric Tennen** of Massachuttes, and **Richard Glad-den** of Texas. The presentation lineup also includes **Dr. Emily Horowitz**, author of the soon to be released [\*Protecting Our Kids? How Sex Offender Laws Are Failing Us\*](#) and **Dr. Bensel** and **Dr. Baldwin** of the

Criminal Justice Dept at UALR who will present their survey results and research on "Collateral Consequences of Sex Offender Laws." We hope to make this year's conference even bigger and better, as the Texans like to say! Please continue to watch for updates as we add conference details and registration information to the website. Hope to see ya'll there!



## There is Light at the End of the Tunnel

*by Sandy*

What do Muleshoe, Texas, and Buckingham, Pennsylvania, have in common? Something amazing has happened in both of them.

In Buckingham, the township supervisors, quietly and with no fanfare, repealed the town's residency and presence restriction ordinances against registered citizens. It seems these ordinances were in conflict with state law. The local newspaper, possibly in an attempt to rouse the citizenry, printed the story along with the report of other actions taken by the supervisors.

Meanwhile, half the continent away, a writer for a Texas paper reported in mid-January that Muleshoe, a small town of 5,000, was considering exactly the sorts of restrictions that Buckingham just struck down. Comments on the article called for the town fathers to do some

research on the subject before making such a decision. This is not unusual anymore. Five years ago it would have been unheard of for anyone to question the wisdom of laws that kept "sex offenders" away from children, and the occasional lone voice who did was shouted down with untruths and insults. The RSOL Minutemen, ready in a minute to provide facts on these subjects, led the way in posting comments giving the facts and calling for research and fact-based legislation. Today, that is a common theme showing up in comments and blogs.

It is one that the journalist writing about Muleshoe took to heart. She did her research, and she published a second piece entitled, "Sex offender residency restrictions: What does the research say?" And then she proceeded to tell us, complete with documentation and links, and of course we all know what she found and reported.

Every comment so far has praised her for actually doing the research and then publishing it. EVERY comment. She answered with a comment of her own which says as much or more than all the sources she gave: "...all the research studies I found seemed to point in the same direction, and I hope it doesn't make me look biased. If I can find any studies that indicate these ordinances are effective at preventing recidivism, I will definitely link them too."

Several of us quickly pointed out that she would not find them because they do not exist.

And the light gets a little brighter.

[www.theintell.com/news/communities/doylestown/buckingham-officials-mum-as-they-repeal-sex-offender-law/article\\_cbec3438-a4aa-51ee-becc-984ac4bf0295.html](http://www.theintell.com/news/communities/doylestown/buckingham-officials-mum-as-they-repeal-sex-offender-law/article_cbec3438-a4aa-51ee-becc-984ac4bf0295.html)

[lubbockonline.com/interact/blog-post/josie-musico/2015-01-29/sex-offender-residency-restrictions-what-does-research#comment-362558](http://lubbockonline.com/interact/blog-post/josie-musico/2015-01-29/sex-offender-residency-restrictions-what-does-research#comment-362558)

## People v. Hofsheier—A Reflection

*Editor's Note: If you are unfamiliar with the case, you may wish to <http://californiansol.org/2015/01/ca-supreme-court-decision-harms-registered-citizens/> for more details.*

*By Janice Belluci*

The California Supreme Court continues to bludgeon registered citizens with decisions that deny their civil rights. In the latest in a string of misguided decisions, the Court stripped away another fundamental right – the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution – by deciding that individuals convicted of oral copulation with a minor should be required to register as a sex offender for life while individuals convicted of intercourse with a minor should not be required to register at all.

The Court's reason for this decision is difficult for even a veteran court watcher to believe much less understand. The reasoning is that intercourse with a minor could result in the birth of a child who, in turn, must be supported by its father, a father who will not be able to get a job and pay child support if he is required to register as a sex offender.

What? The Court is now formally recognizing that an individual who is required to register as a sex offender won't be able to get a job. Tell me it isn't so!

Of course, it is true. It is also true, as the two dissenting justices point out, that anyone who is required to register is stigmatized and may not be able to find a place to live.

The majority of the court says its decision is justified based upon three factors: deterrence, preventing recidivism and protecting the public. But how can this be true when, according to state government reports, the rate of re-offense for registered citizens is 1.8 percent while on

parole and about 3 percent overall? These essential facts are conveniently absent from the Court's decision.

Also absent from the Court's decision is the quality of integrity. In its place are myths that continue to be repeated. The principle myth, of course, is that "sex offender registration is not punishment."

But what can we expect from a Court that decided in 2013 that the government can unilaterally change the terms of a plea bargain entered into by a registered citizen? For a state that requires virtually every sex offender since 1947 to register for life, the consequences of that decision have

been devastating. For example, a person convicted more than 50 years ago, when the Internet did not yet exist, now has his name, photo, and home address published on a public website that subjects him to vigilante violence, even death.

Tell me it isn't so. Then tell it to the relatives of Michael Dodele who was stabbed to death in his home, to the family of Bobby Ray Rainwater who was decapitated while walking in a trailer park, and to the loved ones of Donald Crisp who was shot to death in the driveway of his home.

There is one small glimmer of hope in this case. The defendant's attorney has requested a rehearing, which, if granted, would be conducted before two newly appointed liberal justices. If they were to agree with the two dissenting justices, a new majority could reverse this unfortunate decision, which, if left intact, will punish hundreds if not thousands of individuals.

### Quote of the Month:

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

~~Thomas Paine

## Dream Aborted from p 1

actions, or possibly they don't see that granting a qualified dream request and then taking it back is the same as turning it down. When someone in the local sheriff's office as well as other community members made calls to local media and to the Dream Foundation itself denouncing Greg as "unworthy" to receive such a gift due to his past sexual crime, a crime for which his court-ordered punishment has long been satisfied, the Foundation agreed.

Both National and Ohio RSOL made all reasonable attempts at intervention, but all in vain. Even though the Foundation continued their offer of the family trip to all the siblings but Greg, the family chose to cancel all the reservations; if Greg could not go, none of them would go.

Reactions were many and varied. Indignant and saddened individuals wrote comments of support on the RSOL articles and press release posted on our blog. We received phone calls and emails expressing the same. The Dream Foundation and the news outlets received their share. Social media pages chronicled the emotions of other registered citizens, emotions ranging from tears to fury.

Various RSOL state affiliate websites shared in the outrage that this could have happened. Perhaps the most poignant was displayed on Nebraskans Unafraid where, in response to a story about Greg that ended with the words, "That kind of cruelty is just hard to fathom," one of their readers wrote:

Human beings are fallible – we err, we screw up, we make mistakes. It is expected, when forgiveness underlies all major world religions, that we can redeem ourselves and be welcomed back into the tribe. No one should be known, or punished forever, for the worst thing s/he has ever done. No one is beyond redemp-

tion. And no one deserves such ignoble treatment, especially in their last days.

No truer words could be said.

[www.daytondailynews.com/news/news/local/brothers-terminally-ill-granted-dream-vacation/njn4Y/#cmComments](http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/news/local/brothers-terminally-ill-granted-dream-vacation/njn4Y/#cmComments)

[www.abc22now.com/shared/news/top-stories/stories/wkef\\_vid\\_24294.shtml](http://www.abc22now.com/shared/news/top-stories/stories/wkef_vid_24294.shtml)

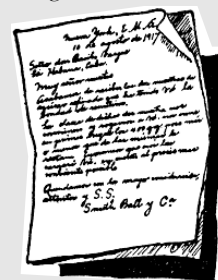
<http://nationalrsol.org/blog/2015/01/21/montgomery-county-sheriff-office-conspires-against-veteran-dying-man-suffers-public-humiliation-as-direct-consequence-of-overzealous-operative-determined-to-prevent-his-final-wishes/>

<http://nebfacts.blogspot.com/2015/01/cruelty-in-ohio.html>

## 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.



## Statement of Public Apology

*By Ken Ackerman, Nebraskans Unafraid*

I apologize for all the horrific things that I have done to those I hurt – my blameless victims, my friends – some who stood by me through prison, my family who suffered for my crime, and humbly ask each and every one to forgive me.

As a contrite but still registered citizen, I would like to publicly apologize to all those I have hurt. First I must emphasize for those who might think otherwise, I am in no way excusing my actions or laying any blame whatsoever on anyone else. I alone take responsibility for my irrational thinking decisions and actions that put me into prison to rightfully serve my time

and probation after my sentence was completed.

One of the reasons I am making this public apology is because both Nebraska and California law (the State where I served my time) state: “You shall have no contact with your victims, including correspondence, telephone contact, or communication through a third party....” I know my victims suffered greatly from what I did to them. Many victims take a long time to recover and some may never. I know some would like to know their perpetrators show some kind of remorse for what they did, but the law does not

allow this. (The Nebraska Parole office may, if asked, but California said to me “Don’t even think of doing this!”)

Another reason that I have discovered is the incredible damage I and others like me have done to our families. There are many members who won’t talk or even allow us to be near any family function because of our publicly perceived “piranha” status and shame we bring. Therefore, on my behalf and others in a similar circumstance, I offer an apology and ask forgiveness to all family members for what we did to dishonor our family name as well as all the harm we have caused.

## Volunteer! from p. 1

in our Cause. Assist in managing communications to and from National RSOL, and connect at least monthly with all Contacts and Advocates in your area to assure that they are still engaged in their tasks.



**Volunteer Coordinator** – National: Respond to new volunteer applications via email and phone, connect them with project leaders, and assist them in getting started. Keep records on who has volunteered and what projects they are doing, and check in regularly to assure volunteers are happy and making progress.

**Membership Coordinator** – National: Keep track of new members, respond to member concerns, keep our database current, and assure that new members are welcomed and that our states are getting notice of new members in their area.

## 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.

*By Larry*

**Question:** I was sentenced to 10 years for simple possession of illegal images here in Georgia, yet I have heard about people getting probation in other states for the same offense. This isn't fair because we are all in the same country right?

**Answer:** It is all indeed one country; however, each state is a separate sovereign government with its own laws and punishment schemes. The punishments (criminal penalties) are a reflection of the citizens' attitudes throughout the country. The huge variation is explained by the following factors:

The penalty for crimes (that fall under state jurisdiction) vary dramatically from state to state. For example, a 4th degree felony in the state of New Mexico carries a maximum period of 18 months' imprisonment. There are several states that have misdemeanor penalties greater than that.

Citizens' attitudes regarding how to deal with criminal behavior vary dramatically from state to state. The southern states tend to be more conservative, and



conservative voters tend to believe that severe punishment is the best cure for bad behavior. As a result, the will of the people is reflected in the laws enacted by each state legislature.

Economics play a role in criminal behavior, which is an additional factor in the high incarceration rates in the south. Poverty rates are generally higher in the south.

Progressive (liberal) states such as Minnesota have historically taken a more rehabilitative approach in dealing with criminal behavior. I need to point out that Minnesota, like almost all states, has moved to the right in recent years, and their low incarceration rate has increased considerably in the last decade or so.

The recidivism rate is much higher in those states that simply punish or warehouse offenders rather than providing comprehensive rehabilitation, training, and meaningful reentry assistance. Many of the southern states simply cut their offenders loose to fend for themselves after incarceration.

**Continued on page 7**

## A Registered Citizen's Manifesto

By *Unafraid in Nebraska*

- 👉 I refuse to believe there is nothing I can do. I refuse to whine.
- 👉 I refuse to be silent in the face of state-sanctioned hatred, in the face of laws designed to destroy me and my family. I will not be broken by a vicious system.
- 👉 If no one will hire me, I will create my own work. I will learn to be an entrepreneur.
- 👉 If no one will rent to me, then I will learn how to create my own shelter.
- 👉 If no one will help me, then I will learn to be independent.
- 👉 So far as is possible, I will not support or patronize places that would not hire a Registered Citizen.
- 👉 I will never forget that I am for the most part responsible for my situation. I have paid the legally prescribed penalty for my offense. I pay no attention to those who think I should continue to suffer for the rest of my life -- they are suffering in their own ways and I cannot help them.



## Legal from p. 6

The chart to the right illustrates the incarceration rates of the five highest states vs. the five lowest states in the United States as of the end of 2012. You can see from this chart that the south incarcerates at a much higher rate.

### State Incarceration rate per 100,000 in 2012

Overall (National = 480)

State	Rate
<b>HIGHEST</b>	
Louisiana	893
Mississippi	717
Alabama	650
Oklahoma	648
Texas	601
<b>LOWEST</b>	
Maine	145
Minnesota	184
Rhode Island	190
Massachusetts	200
New Hampshire	211

## The Latest on "Rape Culture"

By *Sandy*

Last month's edition featured an analysis of a report of a horrific gang rape that took place in a fraternity house at the University of Virginia. Research into the issue, which the journalist who wrote the article and the publication which released it both failed to do, showed the incident to be somewhere between heavily exaggerated and totally fabricated, with the smart money leaning strongly toward the latter.

Articles that have come out since our last report support that fact. Slate published "Frat House in Rolling Stone Rape Story Reinstated After Police Find No Evidence of Crime." The Daily Beast's, "The Media Is Making College Rape Culture Worse," while not addressing the U of V story directly, is an excellently written and documented piece that clearly outlines the history of our rush to "rape culture" hysteria. The author's conclusion and outlook for the future is optimistic as she writes, "The frenzy will die down when the stories of the falsely accused become too much for the public to bear."

We can only hope she is right.

[www.slate.com/blogs/the\\_slateist/2015/01/12/phi\\_kappa\\_psi\\_virginia\\_reinstated\\_no\\_substantive\\_confirmation\\_crime\\_occurred.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slateist/2015/01/12/phi_kappa_psi_virginia_reinstated_no_substantive_confirmation_crime_occurred.html)

[www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/01/23/the-media-is-making-college-rape-culture-worse.html](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/01/23/the-media-is-making-college-rape-culture-worse.html)

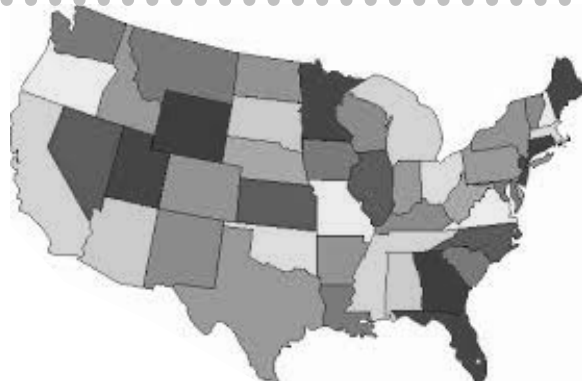
*RSOL does not in any way condone sexual activity between adults and children, nor does it condone any sexual activity that would break laws in any state. We do not advocate lowering the age of consent, and we have no affiliation with any group that does condone such activities.*




## 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.*



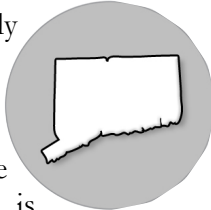
### California



California RSOL continues to challenge presence restrictions adopted by cities and counties by filing federal lawsuits. Thus far, 26 lawsuits have been filed of which 21 have been settled. An additional 50 cities repealed their presence restrictions without being sued.

California RSOL also continues monthly meetings for registrants and family members. The January meeting was held at the ACLU building in Los Angeles on Jan. 10. The next meeting will be held on Feb. 7 in San Diego. A special event is being planned for March 7, the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's march from Selma to Birmingham, Alabama.

### Connecticut



Our state currently has an issue involving a treatment center in Manchester. At the moment the issue is not going anywhere, but residents are angry and demanding the center be closed and residents of the center moved elsewhere. Some infor-

mational material was sent out, and currently we are waiting to see if another meeting will be held. We are reaching out to several organizations that support treatment and rehabilitation efforts for those convicted of sex crimes. Additionally, we are also seeking to work with several area law schools in hopes of having legal perspectives on the issues. There are multitudes of questions and very few answers to a lot of laws in the state and exactly how they can be interpreted. Currently the vast majority of those on the registry here are also on some form of probation or parole. This automatically bars them from associating with support groups or, of course, having web access.

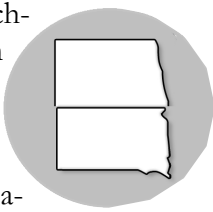
Overall the state is in such financial pain and difficulties that the state is actually reducing and cutting many programs and services. Legislative focus at present is not focused on the criminal justice system.

Lastly the website connecticut-voices.org will be having a complete makeover. The site is going to have a redesigned and focused direction. We expect by March to have this completed. A key element that we want to develop is an archive area where members can do research. We would like to open this up to anyone who may be interested and is willing to

help out in setting this up.

We are very busy with setting up new goals and directions while, at the same time, preparing for what may come down the road.

### Dakotas



Dakota RSOL Family Solutions has been busy watching the legislation being presented, and only 3 bills have been introduced in South Dakota in regard to sex offenders so far, so we are optimistic. North Dakota has several bills introduced, and I am beginning to sort through those bills.

I'd just like to say Happy Valentine's Day to all you sweethearts working for reform!! I'd also like to wish all the inmates a Happy Valentine's Day and let you know you have many sweethearts fighting for your rights and ask that you do not lose HOPE. YOU are the reasons we continue our efforts.

### Nebraska

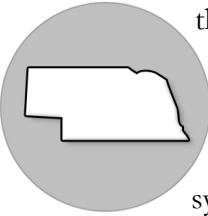
Nebraskans Unafraid (NU) is a grass-roots organization that works to make our communities safer. We believe the right to safety extends to

**Continued on page 9**



## States, from p. 8

Registered Citizens and their loved ones. We are working to change the draconian laws that deprive Registered Citizens of their jobs, homes, and family support systems.



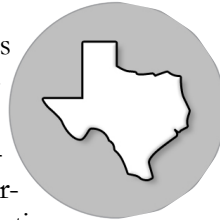
Nebraskans Unafraid works in collaboration with the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) and nationally recognized expert on sexual offending Lisa Sample, Ph.D., Reynolds Professor and coordinator of the masters program at UNO. Ground-breaking research showing low rates of recidivism and the damaging effect of harsh laws has been conducted at UNO by Dr. Sample and her colleagues. Nebraskans Unafraid assists by finding Registered Citizens who are willing to participate in the research studies.

Nebraskans Unafraid's other initiatives include FEARLESS, a monthly gathering for Registered Citizens and their loved ones, where they can connect with others who are in similar circumstances and learn about how to survive and thrive despite the public-shaming registry. Our Compassion Initiative is an outreach in which we provide support and referrals to help Registered Citizens find jobs, housing, spiritual support, and social contacts.

Our website NebraskansUnafraid.com has a page titled "What We Do" with information about our other activities. We are proud to represent RSOL in Nebraska.

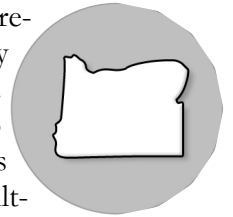
### Texas

Texas Voices members are already heavy into the legislative session. There are several bills we are promoting and others we will be trying to stop, and of course, with the session just



### Oregon Voices

Oregon Voices is a small group, as are many of the groups affiliated with RSOL. We are in the process of re-shuffling responsibilities to try to get more done. Recruitment to grow the group is always an issue. Although we are fortunate that only a small percentage of registered citizens are on-line in Oregon, a corresponding irony is that we do not have access to a list of possible members. So if this reaches anyone in Oregon, please check out our website ([www.oregonvoices.org](http://www.oregonvoices.org)) and consider joining our effort.



The Oregon legislature reconvened in January for the first full-length session since the passage of HB 2549, the bill that will change our registry. All 20,000 plus who are labeled sex offenders (over 1% of the males in Oregon) will be reclassified by the end of 2016 using the Static-99. There will be three levels, and those considered the most likely to re-offend will be on-line. There will also be a path off the registry. This is limited to those who were adjudicated in Oregon. This was passed as a public safety bill, to allow police to concentrate their efforts on a small number. We are now monitoring the rule-writing process that will govern the

### Affiliate Changes

We are most pleased to announce the re-affiliation of Nebraskans Unafraid under the leadership of Steve Kline. The group has been operating very successfully as an independent advocacy group for some time now. Their stated mission is, "Nebraskans Unafraid exists to help make Nebraska a safer place by encouraging an end to laws and policies that visit unending brutality upon registered citizens and their families."

Their record for 2014 is very impressive. Their state report in this issue tells you more about them and what they are doing.

We are further pleased to announce Lori Hamilton as the new director of our Oklahoma affiliate. Thank you, Rebecca, for your years of service. Welcome, Lori and Steve!

getting started and new ones being filed every day, just trying to stay on top of all of them is a full time job. This session is going to be grueling, but we will keep moving forward.

public safety bill, to allow police to concentrate their efforts on a small number. We are now monitoring the rule-writing process that will govern the

## States, from p. 9

implementation of the bill.

Already in this session we have seen a Senate bill aimed at increasing sentencing for “certain sex offenses” and a House bill which would impose more restrictions and regulations on homeless former offenders. We also anticipate further efforts to undermine and modify 2549 pushed by the district attorneys who have opposed the reforms it offers. It should be a busy winter. And as are other state groups, we are contacting our federal representatives about H.R. 515. Unfortunately, the need to play defense limits the time that we would really like to use to do positive work such as working to improve re-entry housing and employment opportunities.

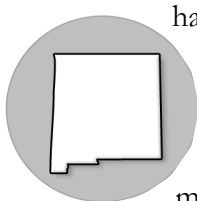
So much to do, so little time....

### Oklahoma

Oklahoma is glad to report the smooth transition of power in OKRSOL from Rebecca Walkup to Executive Director Lori Hamilton's capable hands. Hope everyone will give Lori a warm welcome. She is already doing a dynamite job. Oklahoma's board met and elected officers, and the papers for the 501 (C) (4) were filed in January. We are visiting legislators about bills in Oklahoma.

### New Mexico

Our 60-day legislative session kicked off January 20th. Liberty and Justice Coalition (LJC) is gearing up for an intense battle. Three bills



have already been introduced that will directly impact those already registered or will add more families to our population of registered citizens. In addition, there are several more bills that enhance existing criminal penalties.

The bills on our radar are:

- 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 270 is the most significant proposal because it would add five new offenses to New Mexico's list of registerable sex offenses. The 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, this may be the year they win due to the change of control in the House of Representatives.

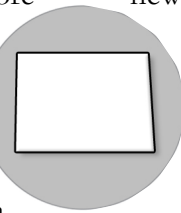
### Colorado

The Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) in Colorado is re-writing its extremely outdated

Standards and Guidelines (S & G's). They have been revised over the years, but continued to utilize old literature and ignore new literature. In that process, the use of the term “sex offender” to identify those “clients” working with therapists, evaluators, and polygraphers who are under the purview of the S & G's is being debated. With a legislative call for outside evaluation of the SOMB S & G's and that report's rather scathing review of Colorado's Program, there has been an attempt to make some changes.

The groups that advocate for those who have committed a sexual offense and their therapists want their clients called clients. Because of the imbalance on the board favoring law enforcement, judges, district attorneys, victims' advocates etc., and underrepresentation of therapists for whom the S & G's are written, it is difficult for the therapists to remove the stereotypical label and substitute the word that represents the group they went to school to assist toward a more healthy lifestyle.

After testimony from advocates for those who committed an offense, a noted Colorado Public Defender, and follow up testimony from a D.A. and a victims' group advocate, the SOMB decided that the words “sex offender” would stay in the S & G's, except in those



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## States, from p. 10

sections that specifically referred to the work done between therapists and their clients. The D.A.'s words were: "At the market, they can be called clients; at the medical clinic, they can be called clients, but in the law enforcement area, they are sex offenders." The victims' advocate said: "Trying to remove the words 'sex offender' is over the edge."

We have a lot of work to do as the S & G rewrite continues over the next couple of years.

### Missouri

I do my best to keep up with RSOL meetings, correspondence with prisoners inside and outside of prison, as well as telephone calls.



I don't seem to be making much headway but that is okay. I like what I am doing and am finding much personal satisfaction in helping others.

I am working with a lady who claims to know people in our state legislature and reaffirmed her commitment to our advocacy. I have thus far not received much back from her, but I have hopes that will change.

Being new with my advocacy, I am learning new information all the time. My personal satisfaction is soaring, and I am not discouraged but am occasionally disappointed. The road we ride is a bumpy road full of pot holes and dead ends. Sometimes we have to get

out and walk and as long as I have direction, I will continue forward.

### Arkansas

The regular session of the Arkansas State Legislature started recently, and there are already a few sex offender bills filed. One bill calls for lifetime registration for someone deemed to be a serious risk to the public. Another bill will require all homeless registrants to check in with local law enforcement once a month.



Other bills include adding human trafficking to required registration and prohibiting high-risk assessed registrants from being on public school campuses in certain circumstances. No doubt there will be more sex offender bills introduced in this session. ATAT will keep a close watch on what develops with these and other bills, and we'll be at the Capitol as often as possible to make our views and opinions known.

On a very positive note, our radio show, "It Could Be You," on KABF, 88.3 FM in Little Rock continues to build a following and remains a much-needed media outlet advocating for social justice and criminal justice reform. John S. has asked to hear from and get in touch with the people who produce and broadcast radio programs similar to "ICBY," both online/blog and on-air broadcast formats, certainly those that focus on SO issues. If you know of such a program in your area, please let ATAT know, and we'll get the information to John.

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