

Quote of the month:

Don't let anyone tell you that you won't succeed in your advocacy work to create a better tomorrow. If your words and actions have created hope for the hopeless, strength for the weak, and light for those who live in darkness, you have already succeeded.

Mary Sue Molnar, Texas Voices

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Reform Sex
Offender Laws, Inc.

The Digest December, 2014

RSOL's Monthly Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 12



This Christmas card was designed and drawn by The RSOL Insiders, a group of incarcerated men who have pledged themselves to assist our organization and spread the word behind bars

about the efforts being made to work for reform. They have put out several newsletters; the most recent is in this Digest. We are humbled by their determination and their commitment. They represent the reason we exist. Merry Christmas, Insiders; Christmas blessings to you and our deepest appreciation for you.

The rest of the Christmas card can be seen at the end of this newsletter.



From Your Board of Directors

GREAT RESULTS FROM NACDL!

We are sincerely appreciative for your generous financial support that enabled us to exhibit at the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys (NACDL) 5th annual Sexual Assault Conference in Las Vegas. We distributed a lot of RSOL's literature, and we are delighted to report that nine (9) attorneys became members during the event. The attorneys are from CA, IL(x2), NV, WA, CO, NY, TX and ON, Canada. We anticipate additional members from the exhibition because numerous others picked up brochures. Most were positive and said they would review the information and respond to us later, and, in fact, we have had one additional request since the conference ended.

Jon met and conversed with Ted Simon (President of the NACDL) and gave him a copy of his book Unprecedented along with all of our literature. In addition to the new attorney members, we had many positive conversations as well. Larry attended the workshops, which were excellent because the presenters really understand the issues. It is clear that the NACDL recognizes the importance of focusing its considerable expertise on the issue because this is their 5th annual conference focusing exclusively on defending those accused of sex crimes. There was even a workshop that dealt almost entirely with issues related to registration.

The most important thing RSOL learned is that our repeated presence and participation at such events will have a cumulative effect; attorneys from around the country will come to associate us with the need for change in our laws and start seeking us out and associating with us.

INCREDIBLE VICTORIES IN MARYLAND

We are elated to report that thousands of registered citizens here in Maryland will soon benefit from our collaboration on their behalf. This is an enormous victory because the State tried in vain to defend this unconstitutional scheme.

It all began when "John Doe" was convicted in 2006 of an offense that actually occurred back in

1983/84. At the time of his sentence the court informed him that he was required to register. He challenged this directive and won, based on the fact that there was no registry at the time of his offense and the law, as written, did not apply retroactively to Doe because he was not under custody or supervision in 2001 when the registration law was changed to apply to persons with his conviction.

In 2008 Doe was released. In 2009 a new law forced Doe to register, but he contested that he should not have to do so for several reasons, none of which specifically addressed constitutionality. When the case was heard, however, the State added the argument that Doe's registration did not violate ex post facto constitutional restrictions. Doe lost at the Circuit level but then appealed to the Court of Special Appeals on ex post facto, bill of attainder, equal protection, and due process grounds. He won in the Court of Special Appeals, and the state (DPSCS) appealed to the Court of Appeals (Maryland's supreme court). The COA agreed to hear the appeal and set out the following three questions:

1. Given the highly punitive and restrictive nature of Maryland's newly enacted sex offender registration laws, does their retroactive application violate the federal constitutional ban on ex post facto laws and both clauses of Article 17 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights prohibiting ex post facto laws and ex post facto restrictions?
2. Do Maryland's sex offender registration laws violate Mr. Doe's federal and state constitutional rights to due process?
3. Given that the plea agreement entered into by Mr. Doe did not, and indeed could not have, contemplated registering as a sex offender, is he entitled to specific performance of the plea agreement?

It was during this new appeal that attorney Nancy Forster took over Doe's case. Additionally, RSOL and MD-FAIR got involved in assisting Maryland's Office of the Public Defender and the Maryland Criminal Defense Lawyers Association in writing an Amicus Brief. FAIR's particular contribution was a dozen affidavits from registrants and the director of FAIR describing the punitive consequences of being registered in Maryland. In particular, the decision referred to one registrant's documented loss of housing and the director's statement of how family members suffered ostracization and bullying.

The COA, in a plurality decision on March 4, 2013, declared that requiring Doe to register for a crime committed prior to existence of a public registry (Oct 1 1995) was unconstitutional retroactive punishment based on either the state constitution (3 judges) or our national constitution (2 judges), with another judge granting relief based on Doe's original plea agreement. One judge dissented.

Originally, the State refused to remove Doe, saying that they believed he must still register based on federal SORNA guidelines. Again RSOL and FAIR were able to assist Ms. Forster in drafting a removal order for the trial court to sign. The trial judge signed the "Order" but the state still refused to remove Doe. At that point, we assisted Ms. Forster with a motion for an "Order to Show Cause" which threatened the state with contempt if it refused to remove Doe. The Circuit Court's Order was that Doe's name be removed from Maryland's registry and "all other public listings" such as the NCIC's list of sex offenders.

The State finally relented and removed Doe. It still refused to remove anyone else without a separate legal challenge and filed a request for clarification regarding the Circuit Court's Order, alleging that it was too broad and that the judge lacked the authority to order Doe removed because of an independent duty to register pursuant to federal law. The COA granted the request, framing the question as: Do circuit courts have the authority to order the State to

remove sex offender registration information from “federal databases?”

RSOL and FAIR assisted Ms. Forster in preparing responses for this hearing (dubbed “Doe II”), pointing out among other matters that (1) SORNA allows for persons to be removed if a state deems some portion of the law unconstitutional and (2) there is no independent federal registry. States simply inform the feds of who is registered in the jurisdiction. The Court’s decision, in June of 2014, included this much stronger language:

“Where Appellees would only be required to register in Maryland, and where we have held that the retroactive application of the Maryland registry is unconstitutional, they, and individuals similarly situated in Maryland, cannot be required to register in Maryland....So long as Appellees are in Maryland, they cannot be required to register as sex offenders in Maryland, notwithstanding the registration requirements imposed directly on individuals by SORNA” [See *Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services v. Doe*, 439 Md. 201, 94 A.3d 791 (Md. 2014)].

Based on the Doe II decision, all persons with offenses that pre-dated public registration in Maryland started being removed, as long as they had no new sex offenses. Others with more recent offenses were not granted relief. Ms. Forster had another case, however: *Alston v State of Maryland*, in which Mr. Alston appealed to the court to be removed based on his original term of registration being for 10 years, then being changed to lifetime. In this decision, the Circuit Court concluded that based on Doe v DPSCS, this change constituted ex post facto punishment and his term should revert to 10 years. Initially, the State filed an intent to appeal, but then withdrew the appeal. Although the case did not go all the way to the CSA or COA, we are optimistic that this decision will be applied statewide to remove thousands of others who were retroactively increased from 10 years to either 15, 25 or life.

If these persons do NOT start being removed in the near future, however, FAIR is working directly with Ms. Forster on a group challenge that will be seeking to have Doe I, Doe II and Alston decisions applied to everyone in the state without need for further individual lawsuits. We are also including some persons with federal convictions, because the state has still not recognized this sub-group as being affected by the previous decisions.

OUTSTANDING VICTORY IN CALIFORNIA

We are gratified to report that California RSOL, working with the American Civil Liberties Union of California, has just achieved a victory in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals (9th Circuit). This is a preliminary report, and we hope to provide more a more detailed analysis in next month’s Digest. The issue before the 9th Circuit was whether or not the trial court judge’s decision to grant a “Preliminary Injunction” should be set aside. The cause leading to the litigation was a citizen-approved ballot initiative (Proposition 35) known as the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation, hereinafter referenced as the “CASE Act.”

The CASE Act added provisions to California’s sex offender registration requirements related to Internet usage by persons subject to the Act. The new sections require registered citizens to provide additional information, including: (1) a list of any and all Internet identifiers established or used by the person, and (2) a list of any and all Internet service providers used by the person. The Act also requires that any person who is required to register pursuant to the Act adds or changes his or her account with an Internet service provider or adds or changes an Internet

identifier shall be required to send **written notice** of the addition or change to the law enforcement agency or agencies with which he or she is currently registered **within 24 hours**.

The standard for a party to meet in order to obtain an *Injunction* is a very difficult one. A plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must establish (1) that he is likely to succeed on the merits,(2) that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief, (3) that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and (4) that an injunction is in the public interest. [See *Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, [555 U.S. 7](#), 20, 2008).

It is noteworthy that the 9th Circuit agreed with the trial court's determination that registered sex offenders **who have completed their terms of probation and parole enjoy the full protection of the First Amendment**. The Court then held that the CASE Act unnecessarily chills protected speech in at least three ways: (1) it does not make clear what sex offenders are required to report; (2) it provides insufficient safeguards preventing the public release of the information sex offenders do report; and (3) the 24-hour reporting requirement is onerous and over-broad.

RSOL NEEDS YOU!

This is the second installment in a series highlighting ways to get involved with National RSOL. We have just begun really building up our volunteer base, so there are opportunities in almost every area, for every personality and interest. This month I want to focus on Correspondents and on the Conference Planning Committee.

Correspondent (a.k.a. letter-writer): RSOL gets dozens of letters every month via US mail, and we would like to give everyone the courtesy of a response. We will provide cards and stationary, instructions and training for where to direct questions, and form letter templates for the most common types of letters. We will also reimburse for postage as needed. This is a great task for someone who cannot get out and about but still wants to play an active part in RSOL's work.

RSOL's Conference Planning Committee actually encompasses several critical roles. All involve attending and managing some aspect of our annual conference. The Scheduler handles all aspects of the conference agenda, booth rentals, and volunteer scheduling. The Volunteer Coordinator handles recruiting, training, and on-site management of volunteers. The Presenter Liaison has a special concern for assuring that all presenters and speakers have the information they need--and we have the information WE need--to produce the best possible presentations.

Again... These are just two of many possible volunteer opportunities. We need committed, hard-working volunteers in nearly EVERY area! Go to our Volunteer page, read about them all, and sign up TODAY!



The 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 send your legal questions to legal@reformsexoffenderlaws.org or mail them to The Legal Corner, RSOL, PO Box 36123, Albuquerque, NM 87176. Be sure that your question focuses on only one issue. This month's question is answered by Larry Neely.

QUESTION: My caseworker just gave me a paper and said I must sign before release. The paper states that I am a “tier III sex offender” and that I have to register for life when I get out. I don’t understand how they can change my 10-year registration and sentence me to lifetime registration. My original sentence was only 10-years on the registry. Doesn’t this violate the ex post facto clause of the United States Constitution?

ANSWER: Great question. You happen to be incarcerated in the state of Pennsylvania, and we have received many inquiries from PA regarding recent changes to that state’s registration requirements. The changes you must comply with are the result of an act passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly (signed by Governor Corbett) in 2011, which became effective on December 20, 2012. You should keep in mind that in most instances the court does not actually sentence a person to a specific term of registration; rather, the court merely apprises the defendant of a duty to comply with sex offender registration. We agree with you that changing your term of registration does violate the ex post facto clause; however, the lower courts in PA have not concurred so far.

The reason is that courts make decisions based on precedent or what is referred to as “case law.” The body of case law pertaining to sex offender registration by in large has held that the requirements imposed are non-punitive and are only regulatory in nature; thus, the ex post facto clause does not come into play. Nonetheless, there have been some successful challenges in PA where the defendant proved that his/her plea was induced by a representation of a particular period of registration or that the offense did not require registration at all. Unfortunately, the most recent decision from an appellate level court is not positive for us. The Commonwealth Court held in *Coppolino v Commissioner of the PA State Police* that the 2011 amendments are not punitive; however, they did strike one section of the 2011 amendments that requires that certain changes in temporary lodging and vehicles operated be reported in-person within three days of the change. The court held that the in-person requirement rendered registration more like supervised probation or parole and would make it impossible for registrants to freely travel.

We agree with you that the current version of Megan’s Law is punitive and that it violates the ex post facto clause. There is litigation working its way up to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court regarding the 2011 changes. It is our hope that the state’s high court will agree and join the states of Alaska, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Ohio, and Oklahoma and strike down the 2011 amendments on the basis that the enhanced requirements are in fact punitive. We will report more on PA as the situation unfolds in the courts.



"Insiders" Corner

On behalf of the 'insiders', we would like to offer our wishes to all of you, the prisoners and non-prisoners, for a warm and safe holiday season.

We should also offer a very special thank you to all of you with RSOL as well as CautionClick, WAR, and the other fine advocacy organizations who continue to support all of us who now carry the label of "OFFENDER," for that means there is hope for all of our futures. It is only fitting that we acknowledge you, the individuals who have chosen to fight for us and offer each of us a little compassion. Thank you again and may you all enjoy your holidays.

Insiders Opinion: "HOW MUCH PUNISHMENT IS ENOUGH?"

National Football League superstar Michael Vick was convicted for dog-fighting by the Federal Government, served his court- mandated sentence at Leavenworth, then completed his term of probation. One team in the NFL - The Philadelphia Eagles - gave Mr. Vick a shot at redemption, which he accepted and has since been successful at reintegration into the NFL. And society.

The public, however, fueled by a media that loves to ignite controversy and spark outrage, was not satisfied. They all wanted another pound of flesh from Mr. Vick. America has become a nation of people who are all looking for someone to demonize, so that those same people will have an excuse to not look into the mirror at themselves. As long as we have someone to look down on, then we don't have to face our own faults. At the behest of our government, (in the "interest" of protecting the public), sex offenders have been deemed as that "someone" to look down upon.

When someone commits a crime and is convicted, in America, they go to prison and serve a sentence where they are removed from society for a specified period of time. At the end of that time, they have "paid" for the price of their sins against society. They are then released back into the world with a fresh start to become productive citizens.

However, sex offenders are not afforded the same opportunity at a fresh start. We continue to be punished by being kept under the thumb of law enforcement, many of us for the remainder of our lives. As sex offenders, we are subjected to continuous persecution by the hands of our government in the form of supervised release conditions that restrict where we work, where we travel, who we date or live with, and even what kind of television programs or movies we can watch.

The oppression is further intensified as, even after supervision ends, sex offenders are also required to place personal information in a state registry database, leaving our families and ourselves, including our own children, subject to harassment and possibly even vigilantism.

Most sex offenders that I know of do not have any interest in ever re-offending. One time in prison is more than enough. The public, however, disagrees. They are fed propaganda by our "ratings-driven" media that blow many stories out of proportion, just to keep America in fear. Based on a 30-second news byte on TV, the public wants us to be punished longer and simply locked away. WHEN DOES THE PUNISHMENT END?

Sex offenders are the only class of criminals who are punished after incarceration with supervised release AND a registry that severely restricts far beyond our sentence. Why?

As members of RSOL, we must ask these questions. We must stand together and fight for reform, and demand answers for these questions.

We intend to fight for our rights. We still believe in America and we still believe in the United States Constitution, even if our government doesn't anymore. I hope that you will join in the fight and help RSOL to educate the public against this dangerous trend.

Again, we thank each of you with RSOL and the other organizations for your dedication and hard work toward the efforts to achieve reform.

Since this is the time of year for giving, we would like to strongly encourage all of you 'insiders' from prisons across the country to help support your state affiliate or National RSOL organization. If you are unable to send a few dollars, then send a few new stamps. Let us all help RSOL help us. Get your family and friends involved. How about we set an 'insiders' goal to raise \$1000 before the end of the year? We can do it. Step up to the challenge, everyone.

Happy Holidays everyone, and may God Bless You All!!!

Jay G., Dan D., Clay S., Scott E., Ray H., Tom N.



Hip-Hip Hooray

"California can't require registered sex offenders to give authorities their Internet names, email addresses and other identifying information they use on the Web, a federal appeals court decided ..." the [Los Angeles Times](#) wrote on November 28. (See VICTORIES IN CALIFORNIA above) Ruling it an infringement on free speech, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the requirements in Proposition 35, passed in 2012, that required registrants to report all the names they used on the Internet, social media, chat rooms, comment boards, and instant

messaging to law enforcement.

"Sex offenders' fear of disclosure in and of itself chills their speech," the panel concluded. "If their identity is exposed, their speech, even on topics of public importance, could subject them to harassment, retaliation, and intimidation." So hooray for the Constitution -- for the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals -- and for CA RSOL who participated in the case: JOHN DOE; JACK ROE; CALIFORNIA REFORM SEX OFFENDER LAWS, *on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated*.

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The efforts of a "Ban the Box" initiative in Minnesota are reported on in an article in the [Star Tribune](#), and RSOL's Minnesota contact Fima was interviewed by the journalist and instrumental in helping her understand why it isn't working the way it should.

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More and more residency restriction ordinances are falling or, in some cases, not being implemented. [The latest to fall](#) is in National City, California, in order to be in compliance with state law. And also in Minnesota, in the [town of Moorhead](#), the City Council rejected the proposal to implement residency restrictions for registrants on the basis that, according to Police Chief Dave Ebinger, a strong opponent of the proposal, "...the restrictions would offer no additional protection and...the plan is nothing more than a political move."

We definitely need more law enforcement officers like Chief Ebinger who read the research and fight for fact-based laws.

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Josh Gravens, a young man who has transformed a conviction and registration at age 12 into a loud and positive voice for reform continues to have an impact in getting the truth out and working for reform. According to the [Dallas News](#), his "most prominent work might be his recent advocacy before the Dallas County Commissioners Court. He worked with County Judge Clay Jenkins to block a plan that would have replaced in-person visits at the county jail with video chats." Josh gets a special "high-five" from RSOL.

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This past April a prisoner in the county jail in Mechanicsburg, Ohio awaiting trial for sexual assault charges was beaten and lived a week before he died from his injuries. We issued a [press release](#) at the time asking for an investigation into all of the factors that allowed this to take place.

On November 29, the Springfield News Sun published "[State Jail Standards Rarely Enforced](#)." Investigative reporter Katie Wedell quoted Bill Dobbs, a civil rights activist and associate of RSOL, as well as RSOL's press release, in her discussion of what went wrong and what needs to be done in the aftermath of this man's death.

Of course the beating, the death, and the conditions that contributed to them are not "hip-hip hooray" material, but we are pleased that RSOL is becoming recognized as an authority in these issues.



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.*

This may also be because there has been no action in a state or because the contact there was simply too busy to send a report. If you are aware of happenings in your state and would like to help out, send an email to contact@reformsexoffenderlaws.org or use the [contact form](#) on our website. If you are in a state with no contact and would like information about taking on that role, please indicate that in your email or contact form.

The **Communications Committee** is pleased to announce an addition to our website resource pages. We now have a [page devoted to travel](#), both domestic and international, as it relates to those on the registry. We have links to some excellent articles and research dealing with all aspects of the issue. One of the authors is asking for reader feedback and comments as part of his on-going research and updating.



If you haven't explored our website lately, this is a good time to get reacquainted with all it has to offer. Happy reading!



California RSOL testified before the state's Sex Offender Management Board on November 20. Shortly following that testimony, the Board decided to support a draft tiered registry bill attributed to the Los Angeles County District Attorney. The bill is expected to be introduced in early 2015 and California RSOL will lead a lobbying effort to ensure its passage. Also during November, California RSOL settled two additional lawsuits which resulted in the cities' repeal of laws that prohibited the presence of registered citizens in or near public and private places. A total of 25 lawsuits have been filed thus far of which 17 have been settled. Finally, California RSOL conducted its first meeting of registered citizens and loved ones in Sacramento in November. Board members of both California ROSL and foundation will meet privately in L.A. on December 6.

In **Missouri** we have been busy; we have:

- been working with two existing offenders and one new offender.
- opened a new MOSA. PO. Box; see MO listing on RSOL website
- ordered advocacy business cards
- attended RSOL meetings on 11/04-12-24 & 26th
- contributed to the Digest
- communicated with Janice Bellucci
- been putting together thoughts on recruiting pro bono-private and law firm

defense attorneys in MO, and if it goes well, hope to assist other attorneys in doing the same.

- been thinking about developing contacts in MO for reentry contacts, employment contacts, housing contacts, offender therapy contacts, food pantry contacts, food stamps for needy offenders-if not disallowed.
- been thinking of a pamphlet hand out of statistics supporting our advocacy arguments for educating offenders, therapists, attorneys, legislators, law enforcement and for educating the general public and other meetings.



We also intend to make contact with one legislator at a time and hope to find a newspaper that will publish advocacy points defending offenders from outrageous sex offender hype.



With **Colorado** finally moving away from “no known cure,” and considering the literature around RNR (Risk, Need, and Responsivity), there was a need for someone to assist with implementation of this model. David Prescott from the Becket Family of Services was invited to Colorado and did a whole day presentation to therapists and other interested parties on the RNR and its implementation with integrity. He also addressed the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board the next day.

The talk included great questions for thought, such as, “Do we want them to re-offend or not? What can we do? Who should we (professionals) be? Is that enough?” The take home message was that “motivation = internal/contextual, and is never forced, that goals should be approachable, and that therapeutic alliance is crucially important in terms of treatment reducing re-offense risk.” He stated that therapists often consider themselves more helpful than clients think they are!

According to Prescott, the Risk Principle states that: effective programs match the level of treatment intensity to the level of risk posed by the client, and that mismatching can result in increased risk. The Need Principle states that effective programs target identified criminogenic needs, i.e., criminal interests, attitudes and beliefs, and self-regulation and management challenges. The Responsivity Principle suggests that effective programs are those which are responsive to client characteristics.

CSOR, Advocates for Change, and Unaffiliated Advocates are grateful for these major changes in direction that appear to be underway for those convicted of a sexual offense!

In **Florida**, the National ACLU has filed on behalf of registrants regarding the residency restrictions in Miami-Dade County. The Florida Action Committee is an organizational plaintiff in this suit.



Meetings have begun with the FAC leadership and various legislators to establish positions for the upcoming legislative session, scheduled to begin in Jan. 2015. A bill has been introduced requiring all persons sentenced with a sex offense to be on lifetime electronic monitoring effective for those sentenced after Oct. 2015.

In addition to planned meetings, FAC will conduct a mailing

campaign to all Florida legislators to inform them of more effective ways to ensure public safety.



In **Texas** the "Bill Watchers," aka Mary Sue and a few helpers, have kicked into high gear monitoring the bills being filed for the next legislative session, which begins in January. Any that seem to be related to our issues are earmarked to be closely examined later. It is certain that several will need strong opposition, which Texas Voices will be front and center to offer.

Texas Voices members are once again sending Christmas cards to those incarcerated in Texas prisons on sexually related offenses. This has become a tradition, and few things done garner the appreciation and outpouring of gratefulness from the recipients as do these cards.

The HUGE news in **Maryland** this month is that finally, just days after the election, our attorney general's office withdrew a motion to appeal the decision "Alston vs. State of Maryland," allowing a decision to stand that Alston should not have had his term of registration increased from 10 years to life when the state adopted the Adam Walsh Act in 2010. This challenge was based on the same Doe v DPSCS and "Doe II" decisions which declared Maryland's registry to be punitive in effect, and therefore subject to our constitutional ban on retroactive restrictions.



Not long after that, we heard directly from the state Registry office that everyone who had been retroactively increased to a longer term at ANY time in the history of our public registry would be returned to his or her original term. That will affect roughly 3,000 of our 8,000 registrants, either reverting them to the shorter term or removing them because their terms are expired. We are still watching to see if all these registrants really WILL get relief, but we have strong reason to believe they will.

We will be holding our third annual Holiday Potluck on December 20. We send a joyful, hopeful holiday wish to all!



In **New Mexico** we are in the final stages of preparation for the 2015 legislative session, which begins at noon on January 20th. We are anticipating a very bitter battle to hold the line on any SORNA enhancements because it has been communicated by the state Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Sheriffs' Association that they intend to push for AWA compliance. In addition to SORNA, there will be a plethora of proposals to increase the sentences for those convicted of sexual offenses. The law and order advocates believe that: (1) harsher penalties are always the solution; and (2) New Mexico's criminal penalties are far too lenient when compared to our neighbors such as Texas and Arizona.

AWA compliance for our state would mean:

- New Mexico's list of registerable offenses would be dramatically expanded;
- adjudicated juveniles over the age of 14 would be required to register;
- many current registrants under our old SORNA version I would see an increase from the current 10 years or 20 year registration periods to either 25 years or lifetime; and

- the time-frames for initial registration or reporting changes to registration information would be reduced to three days.

We are more pessimistic in terms of our ability to impact the course of legislation due to the change in control of the House of Representatives. For the first time in at least 60 years the Republicans will control our House of Representatives. The majority party determines: (1) the makeup of key committees; (2) the flow of legislation; and (3) the chairs of the committees. The challenge we will face is establishing working relationships with new committee chairs that are far less sympathetic to the plight of our constituents.

Vermont's legislative agenda is ready to go:

L.E.O. - We are in the process of putting the final touches on our law enforcement only proposal. RSOL VT has reached out to a few legislators and plan to have the proposal introduced during the upcoming legislative session;

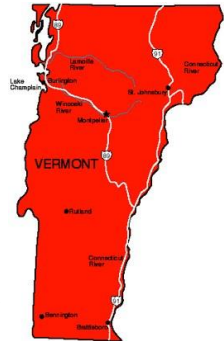
Ban the box - RSOL VT was contacted by a couple of legislators and asked to look at pending legislation on ban the box. We expect to be active in the process of making sure this legislation passes;

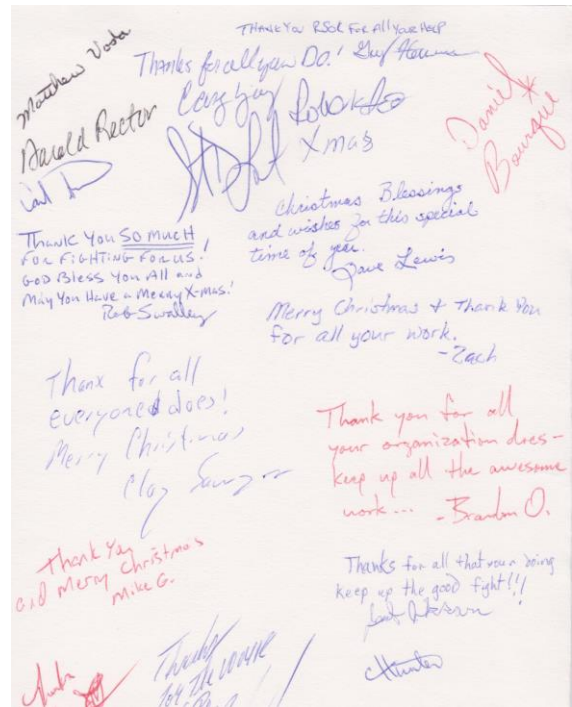
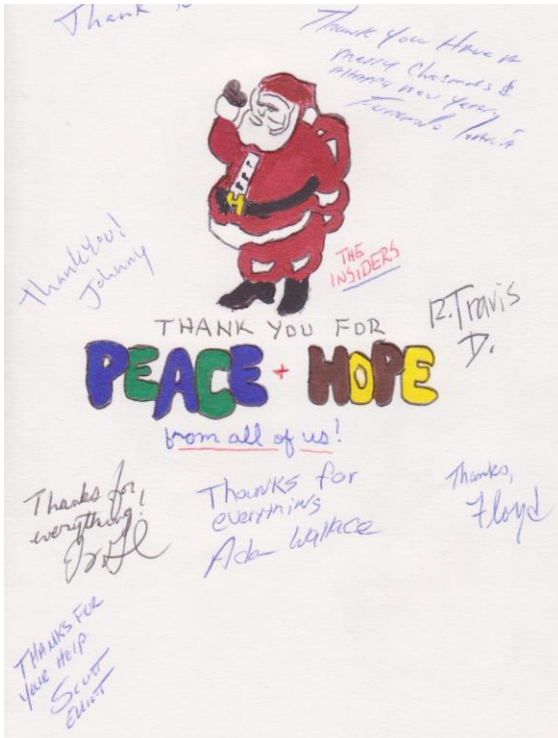
VCJR - Activity with the [Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform](#), has a number of working groups, and RSOLVT will be active in both the re-entry work group and the restorative justice and pre-sentencing work group;

JLUSA - An opportunity came up for RSOLVT to expand our advocacy knowledge with JLUSA--[Just Leadership, USA](#). There is a selection process, and RSOLVT has an application submitted for consideration;

Civil Commitment - In the upcoming legislative session, a number of legislators have discussed the possibility of introducing a civil commitment bill. RSOLVT will be active in monitoring the legislation and actively working to prevent the legislation from passing.

Registry issues - The S.O.R. in Vermont has been in the news a lot in our little state. RSOLVT will actively be monitoring ways to advocate to reduce the presence of the public registry, which we feel is an achievable goal, given the Governor has announced 40 million dollars in cuts across agencies and out of the general fund in Vermont.





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.

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