

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD**

28th Annual Report

January 1 to December 31, 2005

Governor: Rod Blagojevich
Chairman: Jorge Montes



STATE OF ILLINOIS
ROD R. BAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Jorge Montes, Chairman

The Honorable Rod Blagojevich
Office of the Governor
207 Statehouse
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board is pleased once again to present for your review its twenty-eighth annual report for the year 2005.

Within the last year, not only has the board continued to conduct its business pursuant to statute and your directives, it has also been searching for ways to play a more critical role in the reduction of recidivism. We know that by doing so we are fulfilling your vision of ensuring that more inmates who exit our penal institutions everyday become productive residents of Illinois. Specifically, through literature and presentations we have been promoting our certificates of Relief from Disabilities and Certificates of Good Conduct that will allow more parolees to secure employment.

Also, in an effort to find more effective ways of managing certain parolees charged with violations of parole, we have established a novel parole diversion program that is located at Cook County Jail. Already we have realized significant savings, while at the same time building bridges with other criminal justice organizations through this project.

We pledge to continue doubling our efforts to make a positive impact on our criminal justice system and to develop model programs for the rest of the country.

Sincerely yours,

Jorge Montes
Chairman

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD STAFF



SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Kenneth Tupy	Chief Legal Counsel
Suzie Davis	Records Supervisor
Santiago D. Romero	Chief Personnel Officer

STAFF

Colette Knoles	Executive Clemency Liaison
Jeanetta Cardine	Programs Coordinator
Linda Badger	Victim Services Liaison
Angie Asbrock	Institutional Liaison
Tracy Buckley	Institutional Liaison
Nichole Damhoff	Institutional Liaison
Shunique Joiner	Institutional Liaison
Tracy Leischner	Institutional Liaison
Robin Miller	Institutional Liaison
Veronica Sherman	Institutional Liaison
Kimberly Boster	Office Coordinator
Regina Bosie	Office Assistant
Chuck Eguez	Office Assistant
Stephanie McTaggart	Office Assistant
Constance Slightom	Office Assistant
Valorie Ford	Office Clerk
Matthew Montoya	Graduate Intern

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INTRODUCTION

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

While the number of classic parole cases has decreased in recent years, today the greater part of the Board’s time is employed in holding a dramatically larger docket of parole revocation hearings, consisting of technical and new sentence revocations. This docket has grown exponentially in recent years to approximately 14,573 cases a year. These hearings, which are held at the various penal institutions around the state, can be complex fact-finding affairs, involving attorneys on both sides of the questions, witness testimony, cross-examinations, lie detector tests, and volumes of documentary evidence.

C-Number Hearings

Before 1978 one of the Board’s primary mandates was to hold parole eligibility hearings for prison inmates whose sentences were of indeterminate durations. After that date, when determinate (flat) sentences were legislated in

Illinois, the number of classic parole hearings for what have become known as C-number inmates, was fixed at a group of approximately 16,500 inmates, a number that has been whittled down to approximately 320 in the course of the years. These hearings continue to be held across the state and constitute the Board’s most contested and deliberated hearings. The Board convenes two times a month at its Springfield headquarters to thoroughly discuss and vote on these special cases.

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

Victim Notification

One of the Board’s other historically significant mandates has been to provide victim notification services. The Board has an award-winning, specialized victim notification unit devoted to alerting victims and their families of the impending release of an inmate from IDOC. While the exact number of registered victims varies widely, the Victim Notification Program (“VNP”) documents the names and addresses of close to 14,000 persons who have requested to be included in its registry.

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

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

The Board also convenes at least twice a month to deliberate and prepare orders which enumerate the conditions that an inmate shall abide by while on parole/mandatory supervised release. On an average month the Board will issue approximately 2,305 orders for these inmates who will be placed on mandatory supervised release pursuant to law.

Executive Clemency

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

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

Other Hearings

The Board also reviews Illinois Department of Correction's recommendations for revocation of inmate good conduct credits when there has been an alleged violation of institutional rules. It provides a hearing to permit an inmate to make a defense, if desired, against the allegation, then decides whether to revoke these credits. The Board is further authorized to review IDOC recommendations for restoration of lost credits in cases in which an inmate's good behavior appears to merit such a reward. More than 4,700 such hearings are conducted each year.

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

Recidivism

Illinois is currently challenged with a recidivism rate of 54.6,

the highest rate in state history. This troubling statistic combined with the fact that almost 25 percent of admissions to Illinois prisons in 2005 were technical parole violations. Clearly, the reintegration of individuals back into society from incarceration is an experience rife with challenges and barriers. Presently, there is an emerging belief that the larger price is being borne by society, since the practical barriers facing people with criminal records make it more likely that they will slip back into a life of crime if not effectively addressed.

Among the overwhelming reasons cited to the Prisoner Review Board on clemency issues surrounds the difficulties of those with criminal convictions attaining adequate work. Many employers refuse to give jobs to convicted criminals due to the general stigma surrounding criminally convicted persons, they are afraid of lawsuits on negligent hiring, insurance companies and in some cases because of legal prohibitions regarding hiring of convicted persons. Upon completion of punishments many former inmates have found that they are returning back to the community only to find that they can no longer find adequate employment. Commonly turning to public welfare most cannot earn a living wage and return to a life of crime in order to survive.

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

In an effort commensurate with the

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

Certificate of Good Conduct (CGC)

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

A Certificate of Good Conduct (CGC) is available only from the Parole Board, and the process may take several months. Included within this process is a full background investigation by parole officers and the required decision by a majority of the Parole Board, or by unanimous vote of three members. The CGC is granted only if the person has demonstrated good conduct for the requisite period. Additionally the board must determine if granting relief would be consistent with the individual's rehabilitation and within the limits of the public interest.

Certificates of Relief from Disability (CRD)

Facilitating re-entry into the workforce, attainment of the (CRD) entitles to the bearer the ability to attain a license in several conviction sensitive areas. An employer or licensing agency must consider it as evidence that the bearer is "rehabilitated", and individuals should not be rejected for employment or refused a license unless there is other evidence that the applicant is not qualified. As of December 31, 2005 consideration has been taken for approximately 24 of these certificates.

**ILLINOIS PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY-ADULT
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)**

TYPE OF HEARING	NUMBER OF CASES
Parole Reviews/C-Numbers	211
Re-hearing and Re-consideration Requests	341
Good Conduct Requests	4,769
Release Reviews	27,671
Parole/Release Revocations	14,009
Final Discharges	248
Executive Clemency	722
*Certificates of Relief (Considered)	24
Cases Revised/Amended	2,119
Cases Continued	3,632
Total Adult Consideration	53,757

* Denotes new board function

**ADULT RELEASE REVIEWS
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)**

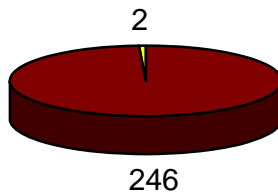
Mandatory Release Reviews	0
Statutory Parole Reviews	5
Mandatory Supervised Release Reviews	27,686
Total	27,691

ADULT FINAL DISCHARGES (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

Total Cases Considered	248
Total Cases Granted	246
Total Cases Denied	2

Adult Final Discharges

■ Cases Granted ■ Cases Denied

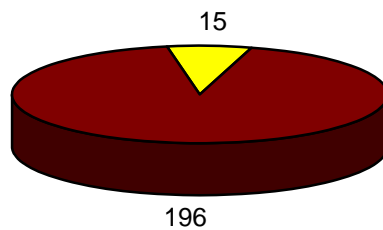


ADULT PAROLE REVIEWS/C-NUMBERS (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

Total Cases Considered	211
Total Cases Granted	15
Total Cases Denied	196

Parole Reviews

■ Cases Granted ■ Cases Denied



ADULT PAROLE CASES/C-NUMBERS BY CORRECTIONAL CENTER
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

Center	Cases Decided	Parole Granted	Parole Denied	Parole Rate
Big Muddy River	15	4	11	26.67%
Centralia	10	0	10	0.00%
Danville	16	1	15	6.25%
Decatur	0	0	0	0%
Dixon	59	4	55	6.78%
Dwight	1	0	1	0.0%
East Moline	0	0	0	0.0%
Graham	16	1	15	6.25%
Hill	9	1	8	11.1%
Illinois River	14	0	14	0.0%
Jacksonville	2	0	2	0.0%
Lawrence	6	0	6	0.00%
Lincoln	1	0	1	0.0%
Logan	2	0	2	0.0%
Menard	21	0	21	0.0%
NRC	0	0	0	0.0%
Pinckneyville	8	0	8	0.0%
Pontiac	4	0	4	0.0%
Robinson	1	0	1	0.0%
Shawnee	6	1	5	16.67%
Sheridan	0	0	0	0.0%
Southwestern	0	0	0	0.0%
Stateville	13	2	11	15.38%
Tamms	2	0	0	0.0%
Taylorville	0	0	0	0.0%
Vandalia	0	0	0	0.0%
Vienna	1	0	1	0.0%
Western	5	1	4	20.0%
TOTAL	211	15	196	7.11%

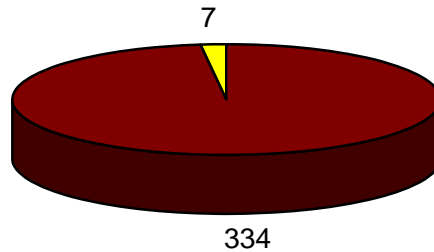
*The numbers reflected within this chart pertain to those inmates who remain incarcerated under pre-1978 sentencing laws.

ADULT RECONSIDERATION REVIEWS
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

Total Cases Considered	341
Total Cases Granted	7
Total Cases Denied	334

Adult Reconsideration Reviews

■ Cases Denied ■ Cases Granted



ADULT GOOD CONDUCT CREDITS
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

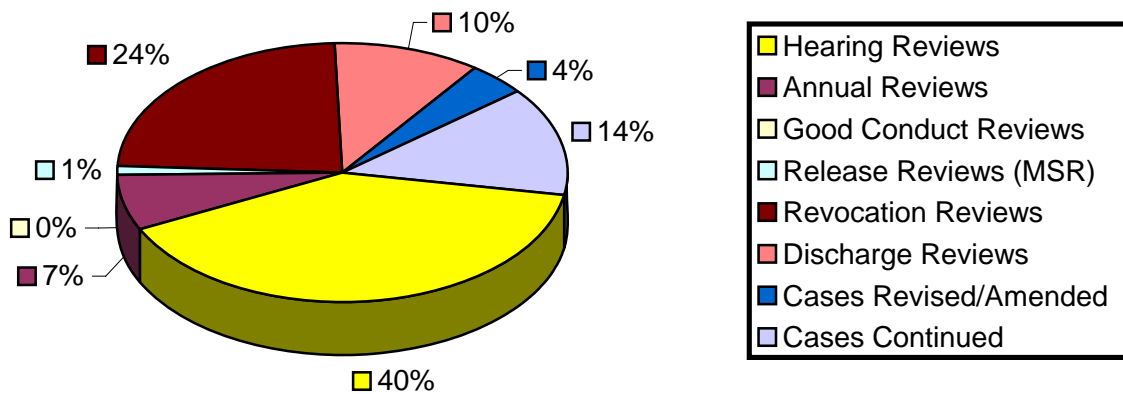
Revocations	Number of Cases
Reviewed	2,807
Revoked	1,809
Lowered	774
Disapproved	224

Restorations	Number of Cases
Reviewed	1,962
Restored	1,912
Lowered	23
Disapproved	27

SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY - JUVENILE
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

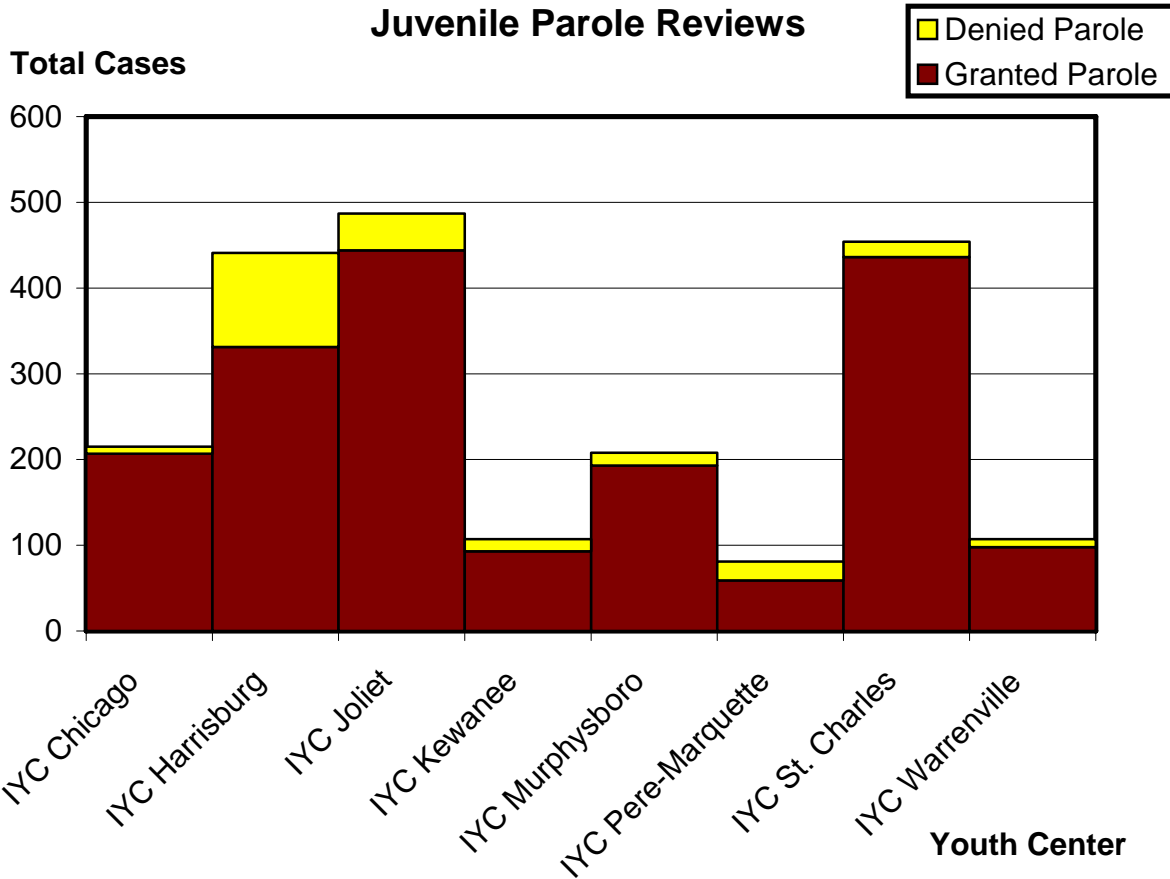
JUVENILE HEARINGS	NUMBER OF CASES
Hearing Reviews	1,946
Annual Reviews	332
Good Conduct Reviews	3
Release Reviews (MSR)	44
Revocation Reviews	1,156
Discharge Reviews	507
Cases Revised/Amended	198
Cases Continued	663
TOTAL JUVENILE REVIEWS	4,849

Juvenile Reviews
(by hearing)



JUVENILE PAROLE REVIEWS BY YOUTH CENTER
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

Youth Center	Cases Decided	Parole Granted	Parole Rate
Chicago	188	178	95%
Harrisburg	561	463	82%
Joliet	336	314	93%
Kewanee	100	37	95%
Murphysboro	209	186	89%
Père-Marquette	46	37	80%
St. Charles	410	404	99%
Warrenville	96	93	97%
TOTAL	1,946	1,770	91%



JUVENILE CASES REVIEWED
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

Parole Hearing Reviews	1,946
Paroles Granted	1,770
Rate	91%

Discharge Reviews	507
Discharges Granted	504
Rate	99%

Parole Revocation Hearings	1,156
Paroles Revoked	884
Rate	76%

JUVENILE GOOD CONDUCT CREDITS
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

Revocations	3
Restorations	0
Reviewed	3

**Adult Requests for Certificates
Of Relief from Disability**
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

Requests Considered	24
Requests Granted	21
Acceptance Rate	88%

**Adult Requests for Certificates
of Good Conduct**

Requests Considered	0
Requests Granted	0

**EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY
PETITIONS**
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2005)

Petitions Received	713
Pardons/Expungement	1
Commutation of Sentence	0
Petitions Denied	31
Petitions Pending	681

**VICTIM WITNESS UNIT
(NEW REGISTRANTS)***

Victim Notification Requests	2,484
Adult Release Notifications	568
Ratio of Registrants : Releases	4.35:1

*Estimate based on 09/05—02/06 Statistics

BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

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

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

He served as a volunteer fire fighter for the city of Effingham for 20 years. He has served on many boards and councils including the Effingham County Drug Alert Council, Effingham County DUI Task Force, as well as other political, civic and social organizations in his community.

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

NANCY L. BRIDGES-MICKELSON, MEMBER, appointed January 2001. She has served state government in a variety of capacities over the past 20 years, including tenure with the Governor's Southern Illinois Office as a Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Staff, an Assistant Office Director for the Illinois Department of Conservation and a Legislative Administrative Assistant. She has also owned and operated her own business. She

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

SALVADOR DIAZ, MEMBER

Information not furnished at time of publication.

ROBERT L. DUNNE, MEMBER,

appointed in April 1999. He served two years in the United States Army, receiving the Korean Service Ribbon. He attended the University of Notre Dame and Loyola University. He was a State Representative in the 1970's. He is the retired founder of R.L. Dunne & Co., Inc. Insurance & Benefits Consultants, for which he serves on the board of directors. He also served on the Board of the Illinois Insurance Exchange, several community association committees and veterans groups. Mr. Dunne and his wife, Jeanne, are lifelong residents of Cook County.

CRAIG FINDLEY, MEMBER,

appointed in February 2001. Mr. Findley was Chairman of the Board from January 2003 to May 2004. A writer and businessman, Mr. Findley owned and published three Illinois weekly newspapers and served as President of Craig Findley Associates, a consulting firm. He served as Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Transportation, as an elected

member of the Illinois House of Representatives and was a senior aide to Congressman Bob Michel. He has

long been active in organizations that advocate adoption and promote the best interests of children. Mr. Findley is Chairman of the Lincoln Land Community College Board of Trustees, and member of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. He has served as President of the Jacksonville Public Library and as Chairman of the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce. He is a graduate of Knox College.

DAVID FRIER, MEMBER,

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

BARBARA M. HUBBARD,

MEMBER, appointed in June 1992. She attained a Bachelor's Degree from Sangamon State University, Springfield, Illinois, and an Master's Degree in Public Administration from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. She has diverse experience involving pre-delinquency and post-delinquency services for youth. As a 23-year veteran employee of the Illinois Department of Corrections, she was responsible for juvenile detention statewide. She has developed resources, coordinated services and implemented programs for youth in 36 counties within Southern Illinois which includes securing foster home



licenses, and managing group homes that accommodated troubled youth. She has also worked assessing and determining appropriate treatment programs for youth. She has served as a Juvenile Parole Agent.

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

JESSE MADISON, MEMBER, appointed in May 2004. He worked as a Special Assistant to Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. He was also the President and Chief Executive Officer of Abraham Lincoln Centre. He retired from the Centre in April 2001 after 11

years of service. Previously, he served in the Cabinet of former Chicago Mayor Harold Washington as Commissioner of Consumer Services. Later, Mayor Washington appointed Mr. Madison as General Superintendent of the Chicago Park District. He also served two terms in the Illinois Legislature as a State Representative. He is a native of Memphis, Tennessee where he grew up. He attended Roosevelt University where he earned a degree in Business Administration. Mr. Madison also did some graduate work in Finance and Management at Roosevelt.

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

JOHN STENSON, MEMBER, appointed in May 2004. He is a retired Chief of Police and served 37 and a half years in law enforcement. He




holds an Associates Degree in Police Science, Bachelor's Degree in the Administration of Justice, and numerous hours towards a Masters in Criminal Justice. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and he has taken several Police Executive courses. He has served on numerous law enforcement and criminal/juvenile justice, victims' rights boards and Committees. He resides in Peoria and is active in local community affairs.

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

GERALDINE TYLER, MEMBER, appointed in May 2004. She has over 25 years experience in the criminal justice field, including spending the last 13 years with the Cook County Adult Probation Department, where she was employed as a probation offi-

cer and Executive Assistant to the Chief Probation Officer. She also served as an Adjunct Professor at several colleges and universities, with the most recent being Lewis University, and Prairie State College. She earned a Master's Degree in Corrections/ Criminal Justice from Chicago State University in 1992. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and is active in local community affairs.





Illinois Prisoner Review Board
319 East Madison Street, Suite A
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217)782-7273
Victims Toll Free: (800) 801-9110
Fax: (217)524-0012 Web Page: www.state.il.us/prb

