# STATE OF ILLINOIS PRISONER REVIEW BOARD



Governor: Chairman:

Rod Blagojevich Jorge Montes



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF ILLINOIS ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR

### PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Jorge Montes, Chairman

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

Dear Gov. Blagojevich:

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board is pleased once again to present for your review its twenty-ninth annual report for the year 2006.

Mindful that one or your priorities has been the reduction of the historically high recidivism rate in our state, the board has continued to aggressively tackle this problem by, among other things, working closely with the Department of Corrections to ensure that more inmates successfully re-integrate into our society. Just one example of our success in making a dent in the system is our Diversionary Program in Cook County, which has already helped restore many lives while at the same time saving the state and that county over two million dollars.

Our two certificates programs are now up and running, as well. We hope that in time these will become a more effective tool in assisting ex-offenders to return to the work-place. It is a well established fact that ex-offenders who find employment after their incarceration run a lower risk of recidivating.

While always keeping public safety at the forefront, the board will continue seeking innovative programs and ideas to improve our parole system.

Sincerely yours,

Jorge Montes Chairman

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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 factfinding 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.

The Victim Notification Program

The VNU 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 VNU 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.

Finally, 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

With the State confronting a recidivism rate of 54.6, the highest rate in its history, and considering that almost 25 percent of admissions to Illinois prisons in 2004 were technical parole violators 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.

One of the overwhelming requests to the Prisoner Review Board on clemency issues is that persons with convictions cannot get jobs. Many employers refuse to give jobs to convicted persons because they don't trust 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. However, the lack of jobs is compounding the problem. Persons who have been convicted, after they have finished their time are returning back to community only to find they can no longer get jobs. They are on public aid and because they cannot earn a living 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, 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)

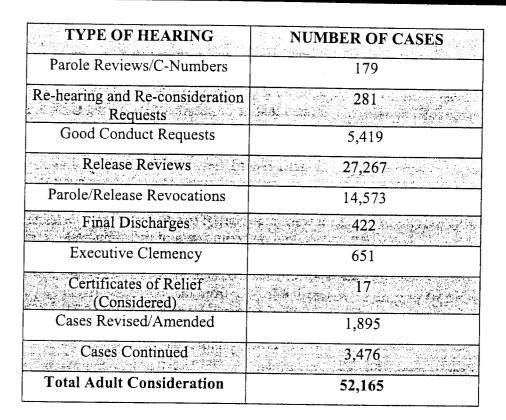
The Board can issue a certificate of good conduct to an offender who has demonstrated that he or she is a law-abiding citizen and is fully rehabilitated. The (CGC) does not remove the conviction from the petitioner's record, but certifies that the petitioner is rehabilitated. The (CGC) is available to 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. The process includes a full background investigation by parole officers, the decision by majority of 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 approximately 24 of these certificates have been issued.

# ILLINOIS PRISONER REVIEW BOARD SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY-ADULT



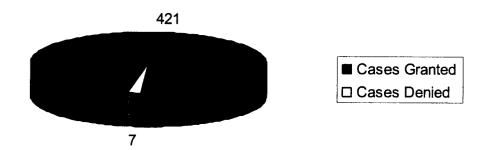
#### **ADULT RELEASE REVIEWS**

Mandatory Release Reviews	0:
Statutory Parole Reviews	1
Mandatory Supervised Release Reviews	27,266
TOTAL	27,267

### **ADULT FINAL DISCHARGES**

Total Cases Considered	428
Total Cases Granted	421
Discharge Consideration	98.4%

**Adult Final Discharges** 



### **ADULT PAROLE REVIEWS/C-NUMBERS**

Total Cases Considered	179.
Total Cases Granted	14
Parole Consideration Approval Rate	78%

Parole Hearing Reviews
Adult Cases

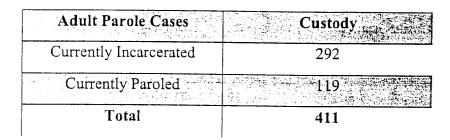


# ADULT PAROLE CASES/C-NUMBERS BY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

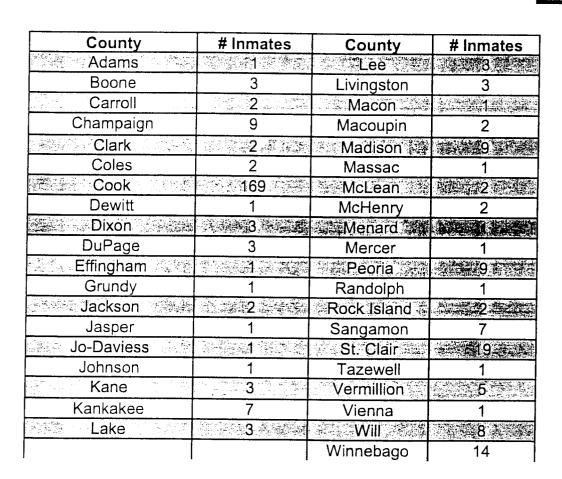
Center	Cases Denied	Parole Granted	Parole Denied	Parole Rate
Big Muddy River	7	0	7	0%
Centralia	8	1	7	12.5%
Danville	13	1	12	7.69%
Decatur	0	0	0	0%
Dixon	51	7	44	13.7%
Dwight	1	0	1	0.0%
East Moline	0	0	0	0.0%
Graham	13	0	13	0.0%
Hill	10	1	9	10.0%
Illinois River	10	1	9	10.0%
Jacksonville	1	1	0	100%
Lawrence	4	0	4	0.00%
Lincoln	1	0	1	0.0%
Logan	3	0	3	0.0%
Menard	17	0	17	0.0%
NRC	0	0	. 0	0.0%
Pinckneyville	8	0	8	0.0%
Pontiac	10	0	10	0.0%
Robinson	1	0	1	0.0%
Shawnee	13	1	12	7.69
Sheridan	0	0	0	0.0%
Southwestern	0	0	0	0.0%
Stateville	3	0	3	0.0%
Tams	2	0	0	0.0%
Taylorville	0	0	0	0.0%
Vandalia	0	0	0	0.0%
Vienna	0	0	0	0.0%
Western	3	1	2	33.3%
TOTAL	179	14	165	178%

<sup>\*</sup>The numbers reflected within this chart pertain to those inmates who remain incarcerated pre-1978 sentencing laws.

# **ADULT PAROLE CASES/C-NUMBERS**



## PAROLE CASES: BY COUNTY OF CONVICTION\*



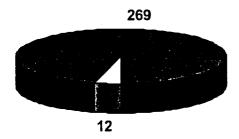
<sup>\*</sup>Several inmates are being held on parole convictions representing numerous counties.

### **ADULT RECONSIDERATION REVIEWS**

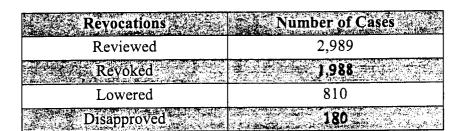
Total Cases Denied	281
Total Cases Granted	12
Rate	4.27%

#### Adult Reconsideration Reviews

☐ Reconsideration Granted ■ Reconsideration Denied



## **ADULT GOOD CONDUCT CREDITS**



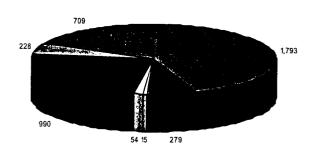
Restorations **	Number of Cases
Reviewed	2,430
Restored Restored	2,381
Lowered	7
Disapproved	42

# **SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY-JUVENILE**



JUVENILE HEARINGS -	NUMBER OF CASES
Hearing Reviews	1,793
Annual Reviews	279
Good Conduct Reviews	15
Release Reviews (MSR)	54 - 324-37
Revocation Reviews	990
Discharge Reviews	484 5 TE TE
Cases Revised/Amended	228
Cases Continued	709
TOTAL JUVENILE REVIEWS	4,551

## Juvenile Hearings (By Hearing)



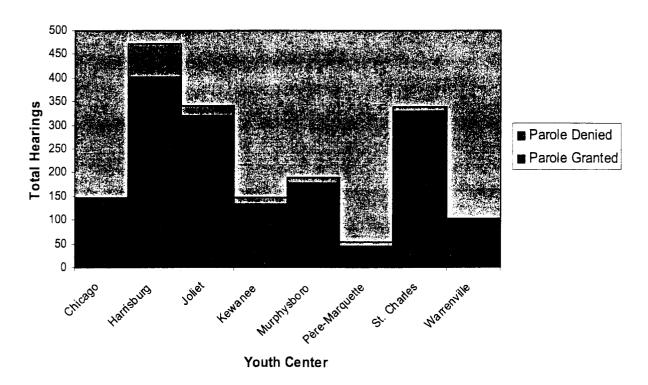
■ Hearing Reviews
■ Annual Reviews
□ Good Conduct Reviews
□ Release Reviews (MSR)
■ Revocation Reviews
■ Cases Revised/Amended
■ Cases Continued

# JUVENILE PAROLE REVIEWS BY YOUTH CENTER



Youth Center	Cases Decided	Parole Granted	Rate
Chicago	147	145	98.7%
Harrisburg	473	403	85.2%
Joliet	341	319	93.6%
Kewanee	147	134	91.2%
Murphysboro	189	177	93.7%
Père-Marquette	54	44	
St. Charles	339	329	97.1%
Warrenville	103	100	2 97.1% : i
TOTAL	1,793	1,651	92.1%

### Juvenile Parole Hearings



# JUVENILE CASES REVIEWED

Parole Hearing Reviews	1,793
Paroles Granted	1,651
Rate	92%

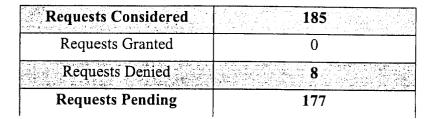
Discharge Reviews	484
Discharges Granted	481
Rate	99%

Parole Revocation Hearings	990
Paroles Revoked	798
Rate	80%

# JUVENILE GOOD CONDUCT CREDITS

Revocations	14
Restorations	1
Reviewed	15

### 2006 EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY PETITIONS JANUARY 2006



### 2006 EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY PETITIONS APRIL 2006

Requests Considered 2 22 122	
Requests Granted	0
Requests Denied	8
Requests Pending	114

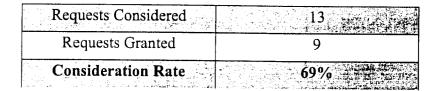
# 2006 EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY PETITIONS JULY 2006

Requests Pending	149
Requests Denied.	8
Requests Granted	0
Requests Considered	157

# 2006 EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY PETITIONS OCTOBER 2006

Requests Considered :: 8	187 : 5
Requests Granted	1
Requests Denied.	0
Requests Pending	186

# ADULT REQUESTS FOR CERTIFICATES OF RELIEF FROM DISABILITY



# ADULT REQUESTS FOR CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT

Requests Received	23
Denied (Ineligible)	4
Requests Granted	18 t. S
Requests Pending	1
Consideration Rate	78%

# VICTIM NOTIFICATION UNIT (ACTIVITY)

2006 Victim Notification Registrants	1.184
Adult Release Notifications	720
Total Number of Victim Registrants	14,556

#### **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 has also been 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, with part of this time serving 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. Mr. Althoff was a private business owner/operator and has

served as a volunteer fire fighter for the city of Effingham for more than 20 years. He has served his community by taking part in many political, civic, religious, and social organizations including; the Effingham County Drug Alert Council and Effingham County DUI Task Force.

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 where he served the Peoria Police Department as a patrolman. While serving in this capacity Mr. Bowers was able to earn his Bachelor's Degree from Bradley University in 1971. Offering a brief conclusion to his career with the Peoria Police Department Mr. Bowers entered the private practice in 1976. Within this period Mr. Bowers remained 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, where 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

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

2006.

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 communitybased 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

Appointed July, 2005. Mr. Diaz has a community based panaorama of experiences. A retired Chicago Police Officer, Mr. Diaz has experience with the following former employment: Cook County Juvenile Probation Officer, IDCFS Child Abuse Investigator, Full-Time City Colleges of Chicago Criminal Justice Instructor. His education history includes a Master's Degree in Counseling and is active on several community boards serving the public.

#### 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.

BARBARA M. (HUBBARD) DYE,

appointed in May 1992. Her career in corrections spans over three decades. Her extensive background includes work within the Juvenile and Adult population of inmates. As a 23 year veteran employee of the Illinois Department of Corrections she last worked as a Juvenile Detention Center Consultant responsible for all County Juvenile Detention Centers within the State. Her primary interest centered on pre delinquency and post delinquency programs for youth. Mrs. Dye has also served as a Parole Agent and Community Services Worker. Mrs. Dye holds a Bachelor of Arts in Child Family and Community Services from the former Sangamon State University and a M. A. in Public Administration from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville.

#### 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 a member and twice 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

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

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 was

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. (John Stenson is no longer active on the Board as of January. 2007.)

NORMAN M. SULA, MEMBER, appointed in November 2000. He

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

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 officer 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.