

**State of Illinois** Prisoner Review Board

JB Pritzker, *Governor* Craig Findley, *Chairman* 

# LLINOIS Prisoner Review Board

44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT January 1 to December 31, 2020

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF ILLINOIS JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR **PRISONER REVIEW BOARD** Craig Findley, Chairman

The Honorable JB Pritzker Office of the Governor 207 Statehouse Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board is pleased to submit its forty-fourth annual report, summarizing the Board's operations throughout calendar year 2020.

The Board serves four primary missions: (1) bipartisan, independent review, adjudication, and enforcement of behavioral rules for offenders; (2) parole consideration reviews and decisions for all adult offenders with "indeterminate" sentences; (3) hearings and confidential reports and recommendations to the Governor regarding all requests for executive clemency; (4) protection and consideration of the rights and concerns of victims when making decisions or recommendations regarding parole, executive clemency, conditions of release, or revocation of parole or release.

In response to the onslaught of the 2020 pandemic, and the difficulties it presented for the filing and hearing of cases, the Board forged new ground by converting to digital mediums for the majority of Board operations. These changes have also served to streamline several internal processes, as the Board has learned and adapted to our new technological capabilities; it is the Board's hope that this presages further improvements upon the adoption of a digitalized case management system in the near future.

Separately, the Board worked with thousands of parties to conduct over 1,200 executive clemency hearings, with nearly 800 of those hearings occurring in the final six months of 2020 alone. Notably, this represents nearly three times as many hearings as are heard in a "typical" calendar year; nevertheless, the Board's Staff rose to the challenge.

In addition, the Board partnered with our colleagues from the Attorney General's Office to work with local Chief Judges, Circuit Court Clerks, and State's Attorneys throughout Illinois in seeking the Expungements of over 11,000 Minor Cannabis Offenses authorized by the Pardons you granted on December 31, 2019. In that same vein, the Board also prepared Recommendations regarding another 9,200 such convictions, which were granted Pardons at the close of the 2020 calendar year; we look forward to continuing these efforts in the upcoming years.

As always, the Board remains steadfast in its dedication to the law enforcement goals of the State, and we will continue to seek to further refine and improve the release supervision system in Illinois.

Sincerely,

Craig Findley Chairman



#### SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Jason Sweat Tracy Buckley-Jones Nichole Damhoff Chief Legal Counsel Chief of Operations Chief Administrative Officer/ Clemency & Victim Notification

#### STAFF

Kevin Byrne	Supervisor Hearing Officer
Shunique Joiner	King Hearing Officer
Kelly Knappmeyer-Marker	Executive Clemency Liaison
Lindsey Conder	Human Resource Specialist
Kim Morrison	Victim Services Liaison
Angie Asbrock	Institutional Liaison
Regina Bosie	Institutional Liaison
Dana Heckrodt	Institutional Liaison
Kassandra Keiser	Institutional Liaison
Veronica Sherman	Institutional Liaison
Janet Crane	Office Coordinator
Melissa Pfeiffer	Office Coordinator
Collin Pauly	Office Associate
Charles Clinton	Account Tech I
Fredrick Howard	Storekeeper I
Chuck Eguez	Office Assistant
Valorie Ford	Office Assistant
Parker Freiburg	Office Assistant
Constance Slightom	Office Assistant
Andrea Hegland	Office Clerk

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# INTRODUCTION

**P**rior 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 quasijudicial entity that makes decisions concerning adult and juvenile prison inmate matters. By statue 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 parole revocation hearings, consisting of technical and new sentence revocations. The dockets are approximately 10,000 cases a year. These hearings are held at the various penal institutions around the state. The hearings can be complex fact-finding affairs involving attorneys on both sides of the questions, witness testimony, cross-examinations, and volumes of documentary evidence.

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 all institutions, sometimes twice a month, to conduct its hearings.

#### **Executive Clemency**

Perhaps the most visible work the Board does involves executive clemency proceedings, which occur four times a year. Twice in Chicago and twice 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 public hearing if the petitioner so chooses.

#### 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 ("VNU") that documents the names and addresses of persons who request to be included in its registry. The VNU is devoted to alerting victims and their families of the impending release of an inmate from IDOC.

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 VNU has always facilitated victims' desires to inform the Board of their opinions about the individuals who victimized them.

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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. In an average month, the Board will issue approximately 1,600 orders for inmates who are due to be placed on mandatory supervised release pursuant to law.

#### **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 Cnumber inmates, was fixed at a group of approximately 16,500 inmates, a number that has been whittled down to approximately 86 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 monthly at its Springfield headquarters to thoroughly discuss and vote on these special cases.

#### **Other Hearings**

The Board also reviews IDOC's recommendations for revocation of inmate good conduct credits when there has been an alleged violation of institutional rules. The Board provides a hearing to permit an inmate to make a defense against the allegation, before deciding 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 2,800 such hearings are conducted each year.

#### **Juvenile Hearings**

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 approximately 41.6%, the reintegration of individuals back into society from incarceration is challenging. 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 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, are afraid of lawsuits on negligent hiring, insurance companies, and, in some cases, are prohibited by law from hiring 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 find employment. This inability to earn a living too often results in a reliance upon Public Aid or a return to a life of crime in order to survive.

In order to break the cycle of recidivism, we must aid convicted persons in becoming law-abiding citizens. By introducing rehabilitation programs which specifically aid those who have served their debt to society, this goal can be attained.

### ILLINOIS PRISONER REVIEW BOARD SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY- ADULT

TYPE OF HEARING	NUMBER OF CASES
Parole Reviews/C-Numbers	44
Good Conduct Requests	1,259
Release Reviews	13,197
Parole/Release Revocations	5,628
Final Discharges	2,295
Executive Clemency	1,189
Cases Revised/Amended	722
Cases Continued	579
Cases Revised by Parole Agent Requests	1,993
Rehearing Request and Reconsideration Requests	716
90 Day EGCC	3
Total Adult Considerations	27,625

# ADULT RELEASE REVIEWS

Mandatory Supervised Release Reviews	13,197

# **ADULT FINAL DISCHARGES**

Total Cases Considered	2,295
Total Cases Granted	2,275
Discharge Consideration Approval Rate	99.1%



# ADULT PAROLE REVIEWS/C-NUMBERS

Total Cases Considered	44
Total Cases Granted	10
Parole Consideration Approval Rate	22.7%





# ADULT PAROLE CASES/C-NUMBERS BY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Center	Cases Decided	Parole Granted	Parole Denied	Parole Rate
Big Muddy River	2	0	2	0.00%
Centralia	0	0	0	0.00%
Danville	7	3	4	42.8%
Decatur	0	0	0	0.00%
Dixon	16	6	10	37.5%
East Moline	2	0	2	0.00%
Graham	4	2	2	50.0%
Hill	2	1	1	50.0%
Illinois River	1	0	1	0.00%
Jacksonville	0	0	0	0.00%
JTC	1	0	1	0.00%
Kewanee	0	0	0	0.00%
Lawrence	4	2	2	50.0%
Lincoln	0	0	0	0.00%
Logan	1	0	1	0.00%
Menard	2	1	1	50.0%
Murphysboro	0	0	0	0.00%
NRC	0	0	0	0.00%
Pinckneyville	0	0	0	0.00%
Pontiac	0	0	0	0.00%
Robinson	0	0	0	0.00%
Shawnee	1	1	0	100%
Sheridan	0	0	0	0.00%
Southwestern	0	0	0	0.00%
Stateville	1	0	1	0.00%
Taylorville	0	0	0	0.00%
Vandalia	0	0	0	0.00%
Vienna	0	0	0	0.00%
Western	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	44	16	28	36.3%

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

# ADULT PAROLE CASES / C-NUMBERS

Adult Parole Cases	Custody
Currently Incarcerated	63
Currently Paroled	38
Total	101

# **MORALES / KING PRELIMINARY HEARINGS**

Morales / King Hearings Conducted	3,936
Morales / King Hearings with Probable Cause Found	2,576
Rate	65.4%

# **ATTORNEY SCREENINGS**

Screenings	Number of Cases
Appointed	368
Denied	334
Waived	1,224
Total	1,926



# ADULT GOOD CONDUCT CREDITS

Revocations	Number of Cases
Reviewed	491
Revoked	278
Lowered	142
Disapproved	71

Restorations	Number of Cases
Reviewed	768
Restored	723
Lowered	27
Disapproved	18



#### Adult Good Conduct Credit Reviews

# SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY - JUVENILE

JUVENILE HEARINGS	NUMBER OF CASES
Hearing Reviews	95
Good Conduct Reviews	9
Revocation Reviews	60
Cases Revised/Amended	7
Cases Continued	1
TOTAL JUVENILE REVIEWS	172



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# EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY PETITIONS REVIEWED BY THE PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

January	107
April	91
May	102
June	112
July	191
August	87
September	45
October	182
November	116
December	156
Total Hearings	1,189

# EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY PETITIONS ACTED UPON BY THE GOVERNOR

Granted Pardons/ Expungements	72
Denied	511
Commutation of Sentence	67
Total Petitions Acted Upon	650

# VICTIM NOTIFICATION UNIT (ACTIVITY)

Victim Notification Registrants	308
Adult Release Notifications	245
Total Number of Victim Registrants	22,184



#### CRAIG FINDLEY, CHAIRMAN,

appointed in February 2001. Mr. Findley was Chairman of the Board from January 2003 to May 2004 and appointed as Chairman in March 2015. 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, a member of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Adult Redeploy Illinois Oversight Board and 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.

#### DANIEL BRINK, MEMBER, ap-

pointed in April 2019. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois-Springfield with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Justice Professions. Mr. Brink started his career at the Adams County Youth Home (Detention Center) as a counselor and then moved to the Adams County Probation Department as a Probation Officer with a combined total of nearly 10 years. As a Probation Officer he completed prese-sentence investigation reports for the court and supervised both juveniles and adults on probation. He also has experience in human resource management and owned his own business handling debt collections. For the past 10 years, Mr. Brink has been an Assistant Vice President at a local retail banking corporation as a Facility Manager/Collection Officer. He is also responsible for handling the Bank Security Program for 10 locations. Mr. Brink has been married to his wife, Laurie, for 33 years and they have two grown children. He also served the City of Quincy as an Alderman for the sixth ward from 2009 to 2017 and is a member in various community organizations.

**EDITH CRIGLER, MEMBER,** appointed October 2011, has been employed in a variety of human service positions in Chicago for over 40 years. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and a Para Legal Certificate from Roosevelt University and an M.A. Degree in Administration and Social Policy from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration. She is a nationally certified Balance and Restorative Justice Trainer, and was an Adjunct Professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Chicago State University.

She is also a social work field instructor at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration and Chicago State University Social Work Department. Ms. Crigler was one of the first advocates in Chicago's Domestic Violence court and has a long history of working on behalf of victims of domestic violence and other individuals who have been marginalized. Her special interest is and has been in the area of rights and protection of women and children. She has designed and conducted workshops for human service and law enforcement professionals focused on the myriad of issues

She has served as a paralegal and policy specialist for Metropolitan Family Services where she reviewed systemic problems of poverty both in metropolitan Chicago and the rest of the State of Illinois. She has a strong expertise in translating bureaucratic language into user-friendly language for advocates.

germane to poverty.

Ms. Crigler was the first and only Director of the African American Caucus for the Family Resource Coalition of America (FRCA). At FRCA, she coordinated, supervised and directed all projects focused on African American family issues, which included publications, policy analysis, consulting, and training.

She was appointed in 2010 by the Governor to the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and served as a Commissioner .

LISA DANIELS, MEMBER, appointed in July 2018. Ms. Daniels holds both a BA in Sociology from Chicago State University and Bachelor of Biblical Studies from Dominion College of Theology and has been employed, through various positions, in the areas of both human and civil service for approximately 15 years. Additionally, as a result of the loss of her youngest son to street violence, Ms. Daniels has become trained in the field of Restorative Justice as a Circle Facilitator and is founder of a behavioral health services organization, dedicated to assisting families who have lost a loved one to gun violence or incarceration.

Ms. Daniels, a strong believer that no one is the sum total of the worst thing they've ever done or experienced, brings a unique perspective to the board and is an advocate for accountability through a connection to care and help.

#### D. WAYNE DUNN, MEMBER,

appointed in March 2015. Mr. Dunn received his B.S. degree in Social Studies in 1967, his M.S. in Guidance and Educational Psychology in 1970, and has done advanced graduate work in the field of Educational Administration and Supervision. All academic work was completed at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. In addition to the above, he has obtained additional training in computer technology, property appraisal, and insurance.

After graduation in 1967, he taught in rural schools for some time, primarily dealing with the at-risk students. Many of these were economically and culturally deprived. During one year, he was a Neighborhood Youth Corp counselor that worked in the lower 5 counties to place high school dropouts back in some type of educational setting, be it academic or vocational. Since that time, he was employed as a Guidance Director for approximately 30 years. He also served the school districts as a work study coordinator, and special education coordinator. In 2005, he was hired as the Mental Health Administrator at the Illinois Youth Center in Harrisburg, a position that he held for approximately ten years. This position involved the coordination of mental health services to the population, and required the supervision of a professional staff.

Mr. Dunn was also the contract monitor for the substance abuse staff, and coordinator of the psychiatric services to the population at the facility. While living in Southern Illinois all his life, Mr. Dunn has been very active as a community activist. Some of his involvement has included serving as the Chairman of the Board for the Shawnee Development Council, treasurer of the Southern Seven Health Department, initiator of the nutrition program for the elderly in several counties, known as Southern Pride, and currently serving on the advisory board for the Shawnee Alliance for seniors.

**PETE FISHER, MEMBER,** appointed in March 2015. Mr. Fisher retired from law enforcement after nearly 35 years of service in the Tazewell County area. His career began in 1980 with the East Peoria Police Department, retiring in 2009 at the rank of Deputy Chief. In 2010, Mr. Fisher was appointed as the Chief of Police with the Creve Coeur Police Department, retiring in 2015. He held many different ranks and positions throughout his career including Detective Sergeant, Patrol Sergeant, Detective, Field Training Officer, and undercover narcotics agent. Mr. Fisher is a 2005 graduate of the FBI National Academy (session 222) in Quantico, Virginia.

**VONETTA HARRIS, MEMBER, ap**pointed in September 2013. Ms. Harris began her career as a social worker for Gateway Outpatient Health Clinic and a Crisis Hotline Intervention Specialist for Call For Help, providing assessments and interventions for the dually-diagnosed and alcohol and substance abusers. Ms. Harris later transitioned her career from social work to education, targeting displaced families and at-risk youth. Ms. Harris has served as an Educational Counseling Specialist, Program Coordinator, and a Director, organizing specific programs to address the stigma of lowincome, first-generation youth and the rate of recidivism amongst juveniles. She is an active board member for Call for Help, Inc., and a Planning Commissioner for the City of East St. Louis, promoting community resources and job opportunities for an impoverished community. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and a Master's in Education Administration from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri.

**OREAL JAMES, MEMBER,** appointed in April 2019. Mr. James is a certified mediator who has focused on establishing Restorative Justice Practices within public education settings and community organizations for nearly two decades. As a foster/adoptive parent for 20 years, he focused on the practice of shared parenting when children could return home.

Mr. James holds a B.A. in Political & Economic Analysis from DePaul University and his JD at the DePaul College of Law. He resides in Chicago, IL.

#### VIRGINIA MARTINEZ, MEMBER,

appointed in March 2017. Ms. Martinez is an attorney and has spent most of her career working in non-profit organizations and has been a strong advocate for Latinos, women, children and the poor. Prior to being appointed to the PRB she was a nonprofit management consultant and collaborative leadership trainer.

**AURTHUR MAE PERKINS, MEM-**

**BER**, appointed in March 2015. She retired from Peoria Public School District 150 after 30 years of service. Her roles included being a classroom teacher, the principal of Harrison Primary School, and the last 4 years as the family liaison at Trewyn K-8 School. She was an adjunct faculty member at Bradley University. She currently serves on the Peoria Housing Authority Board and the Peoria Citizen's Committee for Economic Opportunity (PCCEO) as a board member. Mrs. Perkins and her husband, Howard, have been married for sixty years and reside in Peoria, Illinois. They have four adults sons and three deceased children. They continue to be actively involved in their church and in their community. Mrs. Perkins graduated Cum Laude with her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Bradley University in 1982. She also earned her Master's Degree in Education from Bradley University in 1990.

JOE RUGGIERO, MEMBER, ap-

pointed in September 2018. Mr. Ruggiero graduated from the University of Illinois in Champaign in 1984 and Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago Kent College of Law in 1987. He worked approximately 30 years as a prosecutor for the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office. After serving

five years as the Chief of the Criminal Bureau, Mr. Ruggiero became the First Assistant prior to accepting the position as a Board Member with the Prisoner Review Board. He has prosecuted and tried several murderers and other high profile DuPage County cases. He is the former President of the Illinois Prosecutors Bar Association and member of several other distinguished Boards including the Board of Directors for the Illinois Prosecutors Bar Association, the Executive Boards of the DuPage Police Chiefs Executive Board, and Major Crimes Task Force. Mr. Ruggiero is the recipient of several law enforcement awards including the Prosecutorial Excellence Award from the Chicago Crime Commission.

DONALD SHELTON, MEMBER, appointed in September 2012. He retired from the Champaign Police Department after 23 years of service, the last 14 years at the rank of Patrol Ser-Mr. Shelton is credited with geant. starting the agency's Crime Scene Unit. He taught a Basic Investigative Photography course for many downstate police departments, as well as a digital photography class as an adjunct faculty member of the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy (College of Du-Page). At the Champaign Police Department he held various assignments in the Investigations Division, is a Field Training Officer, and on a street crimes unit.

KENNETH D. TUPY, MEMBER, appointed in June 2016. Mr. Tupy graduated from the University of Illinois in 1979 with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Psychology. He graduated from John Marshall Law School in 1982 and was a Staff Editor for Law Review. Mr. Tupy became a Sangamon County Assistant State's Attorney and was the Chief of the Felony Division until 1995. He worked in private practice and was the Republican Attorney for the Illinois House Criminal Law Committee. He was also the attorney for the Prison Reform Committee; the Truth in Sentencing Committee and the Juvenile Reform Com-He became the Chief Legal mittee. Counsel for the Illinois Prisoner Review Board in 1998 until 2016 when he accepted the appointment as a Board Member for the Prisoner Review Board.

"KAYE" ELEANOR WILSON, **MEMBER**, appointed in April 2019. Mrs. Wilson is a consultant with almost fifty years of professional experience in a variety of social justice and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and government agencies. She holds a Master's degree in Urban Education and considers herself a generalist whose work experience has included teaching from elementary to graduate school levels. She was one of the founding members of DePaul University's School for New Learning where she held two positions: Director and Assistant Dean. She founded Wells Prep School, an elementary school for public housing children, based on the Marva Collins' educational approach and was funded by the Department of Justice. As Executive Director of Urban Programs at Chicago City-Wide College, she designed and implemented Project Choice, a welfare-to-work education and training program for General Assistance participants. The Illinois Department of Public Aid and Community College Board later adopted the Project Choice model as the prototype for the Illinois welfare-to-work program, Advancing Opportunities. Mrs. Wilson also developed Project Leap, a program designed to assist returning citizens with employment, housing and other issues relative to their successful transition from incarceration back into society.

Having worked at Woods Fund of Chicago and Grand Victoria Foundation, Mrs. Wilson has over eight years' experience as a private philanthropic foundation program director. She is an active volunteer in nonprofit organizations, serving in leadership roles on a number of nonprofit boards, task forces, and steering committees. In 2009 she was appointed to serve as a Commissioner on President Obama's White House Fellowship Program where she served for eight (8) years. She is a trained Restorative Justice Practitioner and Circle Keeper Trainer.

#### **RETIRED:**

Salvador Diaz: June 2005 - April 2020

#### **Illinois Prisoner Review Board**

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