

MINUTES OF THE
LOUISIANA SENTENCING COMMISSION

February 24, 2010
Holiday Inn South
Baton Rouge, LA
3:00 p.m.

The first meeting of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission opened with members introducing themselves.

Members in attendance were: Honorable Ricky Babin, Chairman, Sheriff Jeff Wiley, proxy for Honorable Louis Ackal, Honorable Louis Daniel, Jean M. Faria, Honorable Greg Guidry, James M. LeBlanc, Michael McDonald, Robert Mehrrens, Honorable C.E. "Conn" Regan and Honorable Harry Morel, proxy for Honorable Charles A. Riddle.

Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement staff in attendance was: Carle Jackson, State Policy Advisor, Sonya Lars, SAC Director, Rustin Legendre, Confidential Assistant and Margaret Watson, Sentencing Commission Secretary.

Additional Guests in attendance were: Judge Fredericka (Ricky) Wicker, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal and Sheriff Victor Jones, President of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association (LSA)

New Business

Discussion of Mission Statement

For this first meeting of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission, board members discussed developing a Mission statement to provide a framework for the work of the Commission. Chairman Babin provided the members with a draft Mission statement to start the discussion.

Legislation

Mr. Joey Watson pointed that there were a few items that needed clarification in the Sentencing Commission statutes (R.S. 15:321 *et. seq.*). First, the membership numbers in

the summary does not match the number indicated among the appointments. The second item pertains to how appointments are made. Currently, the Governor appoints a Justice of the Supreme Court to the Sentencing Commission. It may be more appropriate if the Chief Justice would determine who should represent the Supreme Court on the Sentencing Commission. The third item would involve changing the number of Sheriffs represented on the Sentencing Commission from one to two.

Chairman Ricky Babin informed members that committees of the Sentencing Commission dealing with Legislative issues should have legislative representatives on it. Mr. Carle Jackson suggested appointing a group to look specifically at the Commission Statute as we are so close to the beginning of the Regular Session.

Discussion of Draft Initial Report

Mr. Carle Jackson informed members that draft of the Initial Report of the Sentencing Commission To The Governor and Legislature of the State of Louisiana had been e-mailed to each member prior to the meeting. After some discussion and two modifications, the report was adopted by the Sentencing Commission. The Initial Report as amended will be submitted on March 1, 2010 as required by statute.

Committees

Chairman Babin noted that it would be more efficient if the work of the Commission was broken down by subject matter and assigned to working committees. These committees could include non Sentencing Commission members so as to include individuals with specific expertise relevant to the subject matter. He indicated that the process of assigning members to the various working committees should begin as soon as possible and added that he would send an e-mail to all members of the Commission to ascertain what committee assignments they would prefer.

Discussion of Dates and Times of Future Meetings

Chairman Babin notes that since so many members of the Sentencing Commission were also on the Commission on Law Enforcement, it may be a good idea to conduct future meetings in conjunction with the LCLE. The next meeting of the LCLE would be in May. Judge McDonald felt that a meeting in May would probably be too soon and that the committees would not have too much to report. He suggested having the next Sentencing Commission meeting in conjunction with the September meeting of the LCLE. After much discussion it was decided that the next meeting of the Sentencing Commission would be held in conjunction with the May meeting of the LCLE.

Other New Business

There was no other new business.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be May 26, 2010 at the Downtown Hilton in Baton Rouge.

Adjournment

With no further discussion, Sheriff Jeff Wiley made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Jean Faria seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Submitted by: Margaret Watson, Sentencing Commission Secretary