


PRESIDENT

Roland Mena†

Executive Director

Montana Board of Crime Control

June 16, 2010

VICE PRESIDENT

Molly JM Perry†

Executive Director

Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Dear Member of Congress:

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

David Steingraber†

Executive Director

Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

I write on behalf of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA). NCJA members include the state, territorial and tribal administrators of federal justice assistance programs. NCJA members would like to express their support for the creation of a national criminal justice commission, as envisioned by H.R. 5143, the National Criminal Justice Commission Act.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cabell C. Cropper†

BOARD MEMBERS

John A. Blackburn, Jr. †

Executive Director

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Over 40 years has passed since a similar commission was constituted in the Johnson Administration. That commission's work was widely seen as a success in large measure because many of its policy recommendations were adopted at the federal and state levels and remain important features of our national criminal justice policy today.

Robert P. Boehmer

Director

Institute for Public Safety Partnerships
University of Illinois at Chicago

J. Michael Brown †

Secretary

Kentucky Justice & Public Safety Cabinet

As the state officials responsible for criminal justice planning and administration, NCJA members believe that this is the right moment in history to undertake a broad review of our nation's criminal justice policies and practices. Because of the severe budget crisis, state and local policymakers are rethinking past practices and are eager to find successful, cost effective strategies for preventing and reducing crime. They are also eager to adopt policies which are likely to sustain declining crime rates. Also states are committed to adopting new approaches to prevention, pretrial diversion, courts and corrections reform, reentry, and information sharing strategies. A national commission will provide an opportunity for review and dissemination of best practices, discussed in the context of a system-wide review of the criminal justice system. This is important because any changes in law enforcement policy necessarily will impact the functioning and effectiveness of the courts, prosecution and defense, pretrial services, correctional systems, and more.

DeLynn Fudge

Director of Federal Grants

Oklahoma District Attorneys Council

Jerome Ierome

Executive Director

Commonwealth of N. Mariana Islands
Criminal Justice Planning Agency

Anne Jordant†

Commissioner

Maine Department of Public Safety

Gary Kendell†

Director

Iowa Governor's Office of Drug
Control Policy

Christian Kervick

Acting Director

Delaware Criminal Justice Council

Kristen Mahoney

Executive Director

Maryland Governors Office
of Crime Control & Prevention

Mary Marshall

Public Information Officer

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Karhlton Moore

Executive Director

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

NCJA members (also known as State Administering Agencies or SAAs) welcome a national discussion about the many issues they are grappling with at the state level, and the opportunity to learn from experts across the criminal justice system. By authorizing the creation of such a commission, Congress will provide a mechanism for advancing evidence-based practices across the nation. This is a worthy goal for which NCJA members offer their full support.

Robert Neff

Manager of Criminal Justice Programs

North Central Texas Council of Governments

Jeanne Smith

Director

Division of Criminal Justice
CO Department of Public Safety

Sincerely,



Roland Mena
President

† denotes Executive Committee