

**MOSES 2017: Criminal Justice Reform**



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Left: Manuel (*Paper Roses, a gift to his  
tutor through the Jail Tutoring Project*)



Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality, and Solidarity  
**for Criminal Justice Reform**



# About MOSES

**MOSES (Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality and Solidarity) is a grass roots, interfaith organization** working in the Madison area that unites congregations, individuals, and nonprofit organizations to build a better community. We join together to take action on social justice issues affected by public policy, beginning with the problem of mass incarceration in Wisconsin. We are an affiliate of WISDOM, a statewide network of organizations like ours. MOSES had its formal commitment ceremony in November 2012, so we're 5 years old in November 2017. We welcome faith communities, individuals, and other partners to join MOSES in building community and addressing issues of social injustice.

## We seek to:

- Deliver a message of hope, healing, and unity that reaches beyond the divisions of race, creed, and social-economic barriers.
- Build solid relationships with one another and with the greater community.
- Identify and take action on root causes of poverty, oppression, and injustice.
- Empower and train leaders to respond to injustices at local, state, and national levels.
- Be agents of change that build upon and create strong and just communities.
- Begin a discussion on social justice issues and their possible solutions in our communities.

## To create change, MOSES uses:

- **Connection:** Relating to each other and to those in our community, including those different from ourselves;
- **Education:** Helping communities better understand the public policy issues that affect our lives;
- **Training:** Enhancing our abilities to act as leaders;
- **Advocacy:** Speaking with a common voice so public policy better reflects our common values;
- **Action:** Moving beyond the walls of our congregations to make our presence felt and to transform our communities.

## Working Locally, Throughout the State of Wisconsin, and Across the Nation

MOSES is part of a powerful statewide organization, WISDOM, which has 11 other congregation-based affiliates across the state that work to live out their values in the world. WISDOM is a member of the Gamaliel Foundation, a national network that works to address issues of justice. While MOSES maintains its own leadership board, bylaws, and finances and selects its issues locally, our partnership with WISDOM and Gamaliel allows us to work together at the state and national level when needed.

## MOSES is Nonpartisan

As an organization that works to address systemic change, we are often engaged in public policy affairs. However, we do not endorse candidates or parties. We believe in the need to build relationships with all elected officials, state and local, and in the need to hold public officials accountable, no matter what party they represent.

### MOSES Executive Committee and Staff:

Eric Howland, *President*

Talib Akbar, *Designated Vice President*

Carolyn Moynihan Bradt, *Vice President*

Alison Mix, *Secretary*

Pamela Gates, *Assistant Secretary*

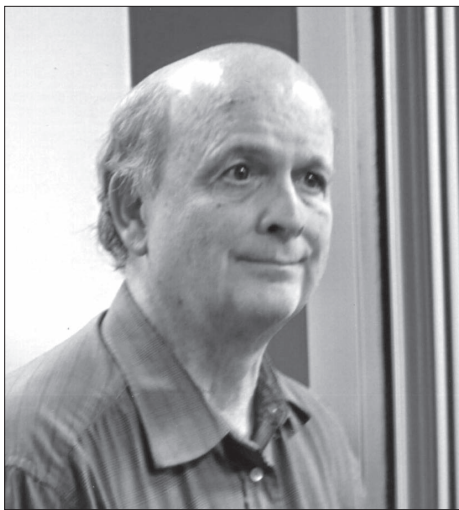
Rain Zephyr, *Treasurer*

Frank Davis, *Organizer*

Ann Lacy, *Financial Secretary*

Sister Joan Duerst, *Chair, Religious Leaders Caucus*

# From the President: Altering Public Discussion



**Eric Howland, President of MOSES**

Last year, the theme of my message was progress. This year, the theme is altering public discussion, in particular what determines which ideas are debated in newspapers and political meetings and what is considered too far out.

Over the last 12 months, I have been amazed by the change in public perception as the result of our work. Probably the most dramatic instance of this change has been the emergence of the public discussion about creating a crisis/restoration center to divert people experiencing a mental health crisis from jail (see article page 3). At the beginning of the year, people were telling us why such a center would not work. Now the Dane County budget includes funding for a \$140,000 study of how a crisis/restoration center can be integrated into the mental health system. This amount of change is gratifying, but it does not just happen. It takes effort:

- The effort to show up. Our Justice System Reform (JSR) task force members go to almost every meeting of the two county committees most

involved with the criminal justice system. Moreover, the task force is now expanding to attend two additional committees that will be important in the implementation of the Jail.

- The effort to listen and to do research. The JSR Task Force signs up people to take notes at meetings and then uses the information to inform our positions.
- The effort to bring our moral values into the discussion, in order to give weight to our arguments and to let our elected officials know that these issues are about people and their families, not just dollars and cents.
- The effort to identify allies for a campaign and find ways to collaborate. The JSR task force has invited — and been invited by — the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) to advocate for people with mental illness in the jail.
- The effort to identify elected officials who are willing to work on our issues, and then sit down with them, listen some more, and advocate for our positions with them.
- Finally, the effort to create positions and testify about those positions over and over. This year, the JSR task force has produced two major position papers and coordinated dozens of testimonies at public meetings.

I point to the progress on the crisis restoration center not only because of its success, although in this political climate any victories are very welcome. I also point to that campaign because I think it illustrates elements of effective lobbying: perseverance, clarity, listening, becoming informed — and more perseverance.

At the state level, the process is the same. At that level we have fewer

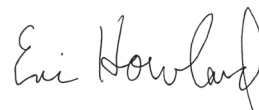
elected officials willing to work with us on our issues and fewer opportunities to speak to our state officials; but by listening, becoming informed, and testifying when we can, we are nudging our issues toward consideration.

The MOSES and WISDOM task forces are just part of the process of altering public discussion. MOSES also changes public awareness by using public forums, our newsletter, newspaper editorials, and even fundraising literature. Similarly, the work of MOSES' core teams, the congregational groups that work to inform our member faith communities about our activities is also at the heart of changing public policy.

This year, MOSES has reorganized into teams, including Communication; Events and Logistics; Information Technology; Recruitment and Retention; and Fundraising (which includes the banquet sub-team). Dividing up the work of MOSES in this way has allowed more people to become involved in our work and allowed us to accomplish more.

One of the maxims of organizing is that power comes from organized money and organized people. MOSES has been blessed with tremendous people and almost enough money to support keeping us organized.

My thanks go out to everyone who has contributed time or money toward our work. If you are not already involved with MOSES, take a look at our web site ([www.mosesmadison.org](http://www.mosesmadison.org)) for an upcoming event and then come out to join us.



**Eric Howland, President, MOSES**



# Crisis/Restoration Center Approach to Depopulating the Jail of People with Mental Illness

*In June of 2014, MOSES set up the Jail Task Force to review and make recommendations in response to the June 2014 Dane County Jail Report. The Task Force raised serious concerns. The report recommended increasing the size of the jail while doing little to address racial/ethnic disparities and issues of mental health and solitary confinement.*

On Aug. 19, 2014, a National Public Radio story caught the attention of the Task Force. NPR followed two plain-clothes police officers who had received crisis intervention training and were part of San Antonio's Mental Health Squad. The officers were responding to a call from a group home about a man who had set a blanket on fire in his room.

The officers talked to the man in a very nonthreatening way. They learned that he was hallucinating and convinced him that it would be a good idea to go to the Crisis/Restoration Center. Several years earlier, they would have taken him to an emergency room or to jail.

Because of severe jail overcrowding, largely due to individuals with mental illness, the Crisis/Restoration Center had been set up in San Antonio as an alternative to jail for minor misdemeanor offenses like trespassing, criminal mischief, or disturbing the peace. The officers at the Crisis/Restoration Center, were able to drop the man off and go back to their patrol duties. The man was not arrested, not booked, and not jailed. The center nurse checked him in

immediately and helped him get settled in an inpatient psychiatric unit that keeps patients for 48 hours. The unit helped him to get back on his medications and then released him back to his group home.

San Antonio, which had been under court order to build a new jail, instead had reduced its jail population, especially its number of people with mental health issues.

Because the recommendations in the 2014 Dane County Jail Report lacked such proactive approaches to persistent issues, MOSES, other community groups, and eventually the County Board rejected the 2014 jail report recommendations. This led to development of Resolution #556 (Investigating Alternatives to Incarceration, Solutions to Racial Disparities and Mental Health Challenges in the Dane County Jail and Throughout Dane County's Criminal Justice System), which the full County Board ultimately passed unanimously in the spring of 2015.

Under Resolution #556, a more modest approach has emerged for

replacing the part of the jail housed in the obsolete and dangerous sixth and seventh floors of the City County Building, consolidating it instead within the Public Safety Building, and reducing the overall number of beds in the jail by 91.

At the same time, there is a growing commitment to implement the recommendations by the four County Work Groups that were set in motion by Resolution #556. A top recommendation is the development of a crisis/restoration center approach. Since the jail study analysis has shown that mental illness also intersects with racial/ethnic disparity, it is our hope that addressing mental illness will have a positive impact on that issue as well.

We are encouraged by funding in the County Executive's 2018 budget for a comprehensive review of existing mental health services in our community. This work will identify potential service gaps, while evaluating how a crisis/restoration center or similar community-run facility could help improve care and outcomes. ■

# Mothers in Chains

*The MOSES Religious Leaders Caucus (RLC) learned of the dehumanizing practice of shackling pregnant women incarcerated in Wisconsin prisons and jails from Patti LaCross, MOSES member and advocate for families and women.*

The shackling, which routinely takes place during prenatal examinations, labor, delivery, and postpartum care — whenever the women are being transferred into or out of their cells — became in October the subject of a new bill in the Wisconsin Legislature. Under the direction of Sister Joan Duerst, the RLC mobilized soon thereafter and, recognizing the connection to the Christian season of Advent, had graphic images created to inform people about this dehumanizing practice and to mobilize support for the bill.

Senate Bill 393, authored by Sen. Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) and Rep. Lisa Subeck (D-Madison) was at this writing ready to be introduced in the state Senate for the second time in January 2018; it hadn't made it to a vote in 2017. The bill would restrict shackling of incarcerated women during labor and childbirth and would ensure that they have access to needed prenatal and post-natal maternal support services, including supplies for pumping breast milk, and testing for pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

The bill provides statutory guidance on when and how correctional officers may restrain women in labor. If it

becomes law, a woman in labor may not be restrained unless the restraints are reasonably necessary for the legitimate safety and security needs of the person, correctional staff, or public, and any restraints used must be the least restrictive. Moreover, the bill eliminates solitary confinement of pregnant women and provides for appropriate mental health services and medication-assisted treatment. A bipartisan measure, it is considered likely to pass both houses. Although MOSES supports the bill, it would have liked to see it expanded to limit the use of shackles during prenatal and postpartum care as well.

According to [sentencingproject.org](http://sentencingproject.org), women's incarceration has been increasing at a rate 50% higher than that for men since the 1980s. This increase is due to stiffer drug sentencing laws, post-conviction barriers to reentry that have uniquely affected women and, more recently, the opioid epidemic. This increase in women's incarceration has also meant an increase in the number of children born during imprisonment. Prevailing policies have failed to address the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of this vulnerable population. Shackles, in particular, have



added an extra emotional burden of shame and are a health risk to both mother and child. Our practices in Wisconsin, including Dane County, have been far from humane.

Shackling, including the use of belly-chains during labor (which poses health risks for both mother and child) is opposed by leading medical groups such as the American Medical Association and has been banned in 21 states, including neighboring Minnesota and Illinois. Passage of Senate Bill 393 is an essential step in the direction of providing more humane care of pregnant women in jails and prisons and would encourage more research, review, and policy changes in the future to implement best practices on behalf of pregnant and postpartum women inside correctional facilities. Due to the trauma it causes and the contribution of stress in turn to miscarriage, the RLC urges a review of the manner in which shackling is used throughout a woman's pregnancy, not only during labor. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has taken steps to develop better care for pregnant and postpartum incarcerated women. It is time for Wisconsin and its state prisons to move forward as well. ■

# MOSES Leadership Award: Rudy Bankston

## for outstanding service to the Madison community

Think about what you were doing from age 18 to age 38. Roderick “Rudy” Bankston was robbed of those years, when he was sentenced to life in prison at age 19 for a crime he didn’t commit. For 20 years he endured the mental, physical, and spiritual agony that is the Wisconsin prison system. During that time, he never stopped fighting for his freedom. After a successful appeal, he finally reclaimed his freedom in March 2015.

Following his release, Rudy quickly realized that Milwaukee, where he was born and raised, held too many distractions. He relocated to Madison and, with the support of his mentor and friend, Donna, and of MOSES board member Carolyn Moynihan Bradt, he began a new life. While he returns to Milwaukee on occasion, keeping up with and cherishing time with family and a handful of friends, it is rare for Rudy to linger there.

In Madison, Rudy soon committed himself to working at whatever jobs life put before him. He was also discovering his voice in the community. He advocates for the voiceless still held in captivity, participates in MOSES and EXPO community forums, and has appeared on radio shows and in news stories. He’s participated in presentations about the school-to-prison pipeline, mass incarceration, restorative justice, and other topics that he understands from both the inside and the outside.

In 2016, Rudy began a mission close to his heart — interacting with youth, some of whom have been marginalized and traumatized and are fighting their own inner and outer battles in school and beyond. In February of 2016, less than a year after he was freed, Rudy became

the community liaison for James Madison Memorial High School’s Peace Room. He’s become a valuable asset to, and a much needed voice within, the Madison Metropolitan School District. In the fall of that same year, Rudy moved into full-time work with Restore, the district’s then newly formed expulsion-abeyance program. As the 2017-18 school year started, Rudy accepted a job with the district’s Restorative Practices Team and is now a full-time restorative justice coach, serving the entire district.

Rudy has completed numerous trainings in such topics as restorative practices, developmental designs, and adaptive schools. He joined with his Restorative Practices Team in planning and implementing a very successful Restorative Justice Symposium this past June that brought in people from across the nation. Last month, Rudy was selected to become an Equity Fellow in the Madison School District’s first Equity Cohort. He is also Co-Adjunct Faculty at Edgewood College, where he co-taught a social justice class last year. This year, he co-teaches a class titled “Community, Identity, Service.”

In addition to the service he provides to students and the community, Rudy is a vocal advocate for justice and speaks up and out in whatever space he finds himself. Another platform for self-expression is his writing: Rudy’s voice is heard in *Shed So Many Tears*, a novel he published



ANDREW JACKSON

Rudy Bankston addresses attendees at the MOSES banquet.

during his incarceration. The book is a coming-of-age story about being Black and growing up in Milwaukee. His characters are authentic and capture what it is to be fully human. They run the gamut from gritty to graceful, enlightened to embattled, and sometimes they embody all of these things.

Rudy released his second book in July 2017: *Snippets of Soul in Seventeen Syllables*, a collection of movingly insightful haiku written both while incarcerated and after his return to the community. His poetry reverberates with anguish, hope, anger, love, longing, and compassion. He will be releasing a new book of prison poetry in early 2018. For more information, visit Rudy’s website at [www.iAmWeClassics.com](http://www.iAmWeClassics.com). ■



# Old Law Parole Update

On Aug. 23, the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety held a public hearing at the Capitol concerning the nomination of Daniel Gabler as chair of the Parole Commission. The chair makes the ultimate decisions about which inmates will be released back into society.

Members of MOSES, WISDOM, and EXPO attended the hearing — along with others from around the state — not just to protest Gabler's confirmation, but also to speak out against parole practices they consider unfair. In fact, so many activists showed up that the hearing had to be moved to a larger room.

While nobody doubted that Walker nominee Gabler would be confirmed, the aim of MOSES members and others was to ask legislators to impose a condition on his confirmation: that he commit to a thorough and public review of the parole process that many consider to be badly broken.

WISDOM Organizer David Liners found Gabler's performance at the hearing "unimpressive" and reported afterwards that, though he has been on the job as an interim chair since early March, Gabler seemed to lack understanding of some very basic things. "For example," wrote Liners, "he twice said that all of the parole-eligible people are 'murderers and rapists'. This is simply not true; lots of parole-eligible people were convicted of crimes like being accomplices to an armed robbery, for example."

In the same vein, when asked why

the rate of granting parole was so low, Gabler claimed that the reason was because these people were "the worst of the worst." This betrays an inability to accept what judges under the "old law" recognized, namely that people can change in positive ways in prison. In those days, they deliberately set sentences with parole in mind.

Although Gabler later corrected himself, saying that he was referring to the crimes the people had committed and didn't mean to say they were intrinsically bad people, WISDOM's Liners was unconvinced: "His original statement sounded like what he really meant to say."

## Background: What does "old law" mean?

In 2000, Wisconsin's 1998 truth-in-sentencing law took effect. Authored by then state Assemblyman Scott Walker, the law was considered one of the toughest in the nation, virtually eliminating parole as an institution. (The Legislature softened the law a bit in the following decade, but then reinstated it in full in 2011.) Wisconsin's action was in part in order to qualify for federal incentive grants to build or expand correctional facilities through the Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing Incentive Grants Program contained in the Clinton-era 1994 Crime Act.

Before Jan. 1, 2000, when judges sentenced people to prison, they understood that they would be eligible for parole after 25 percent of that time.

In those days, most people who applied for parole gained their release within the first few years they were eligible. In recent years, the percentage of eligible people released on parole has dropped to about 5 percent, meaning that the vast majority of what are called "old law" prisoners are serving much more time than the judges who originally sentenced them anticipated.

By contrast, while those convicted of a crime since 2000 are expected to serve the sentence they are given, those sentences are substantially shorter than for similar crimes under the "old law," when it was understood that people would be released on parole after serving only a fraction of their sentence.

## "Old Law" prisoners

The number of prisoners sentenced before 2000 and therefore affected by this unfair and inequitable treatment is substantial, amounting to nearly 3,000 people. Of these, nearly two-thirds have reached their parole eligibility date. Moreover, more than 400 are so low-risk that they leave the prisons every day to work unsupervised in the community, even in some cases to care for the grounds of the Capitol.

By definition, all of these prisoners have already served at least 17 years. MOSES and other advocates argue that the judges who originally sentenced these offenders did so with the understanding that they would be eligible for parole, yet they are now being judged by truth-in-sentencing criteria.

Sen. Lena Taylor, D-Milwaukee, a

member of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, spoke at considerable length at the Aug. 23 confirmation hearing — and passionately. “These 3,000 individuals are kind of stuck in a twilight zone,” she said, adding that attaining parole in Wisconsin is “like the camel trying to go through the eye of the needle.”

Advocates at the meeting noted that inmates are often told they’ve served “insufficient time” as a reason to deny parole or are told to complete programming that their prisons don’t have the capacity to offer them, which Sen. Taylor compared to “saying you can go through the door, but the door is locked.” Taylor asked Gabler what a “sufficient amount of time was,” and Gabler said there was no formula, and that he considers many factors, including social connections, work skills, and the inmate’s attitude.

The fact remains that the number of prisoners released each year on parole has plummeted. Whereas 1,146 inmates were released on parole in 2005, representing more than 20% of requests, only 132 were released in 2012, or just over 5% of parole requests.

Many parole-eligible people are elderly and/or seriously ill. Those people should be identified and moved through the release process as quickly as possible.

Old law prisoners cost taxpayers more than \$95 million per year. But even more important than the monetary cost is the cost in frustration and suffering, not only for the prisoners

themselves, but also for their families.

There has been a disturbing lack of transparency and accountability for the decisions of the Parole Commission. There is no appeal process, and no outside review. While very little data seems to have been kept, inmates who have completed required programming are still denied parole. There have been inexplicable reports that extol exemplary conduct and yet still deny parole. MOSES supports WISDOM’s call for the appointment of an Ombudsman selected by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, with the authority to ensure that people eligible for parole are not lost, languishing, or forgotten.

### **What you can do**

In spite of our best efforts, Daniel Gabler was confirmed on Nov. 7, 2017. Now that he has been confirmed, you can write to Gabler directly, keeping him in the spotlight and continuously aware that he will be held accountable for his inaction. You can also join the WISDOM conference call on Old Law Parole and Compassionate Release that takes place 8:30-9:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month. See the calendar on the MOSES website: [www.MOESMadison.com](http://www.MOESMadison.com). ■

## **By the Numbers**

**3,000**

number of “old law” prisoners currently in Wisconsin prisons sentenced prior to 2000 under judicial laws which assumed serving 25% of sentence time

**1,980**

number of “old law” prisoners currently in Wisconsin prisons who have reached their parole eligibility date

**400**

number of low-risk parole eligible inmates who leave the prisons every day to work unsupervised in the community even, in some cases to care for the grounds of the Capitol

**\$95 million**

annual cost to taxpayers for keeping “old law” inmates in prison

# Active Year for Dane County Justice System Reform Task Force

The MOSES Dane County Justice System Reform Task Force has had a challenging, active, and positive year.

Formerly the MOSES Jail Task Force, it was renamed in response to County Resolution #556, which supports not only County Jail safety and other concerns, but also a reform of the Dane County criminal justice system to include the following:

- alternatives to incarceration
- solutions to racial/ethnic disparities
- elimination of solitary confinement
- solutions to address mental health challenges both within and outside of the jail

The Task Force has organized around the following areas:

1. Implementation of a crisis/restoration center approach in Dane County as an alternative to arrest, booking, and incarceration for individuals who have committed minor misdemeanor offenses while having a mental health crisis;
2. For the current jail and the proposed jail renovation, focus on issues including eliminating solitary confinement, improving mental health treatment, increasing programming, ensuring continuity of health care, and providing reentry support;
3. Focus on diversion programs and other recommendations that came out of the Resolution #556 County Work Groups;
4. Continued interest in data and statistics to understand the criminal justice system and to measure the impact of changes;
5. An education component in response

*“The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated and the condemned.”*

—Bryan Stevenson

to the recognized need to educate members of the Task Force, members of MOSES, and members of the wider community.

The purpose of the Task Force is to become knowledgeable about the Dane County criminal justice system and then to advocate for positive change. This involves doing research, attending County meetings and having many conversations both with people who operate the system and with people who are affected by the system.

As a member of MOSES and of WISDOM, the Task Force has always approached its work from the perspective of reducing the level of incarceration. This is particularly important at the county level, because that is where involvement with the criminal justice system starts. At the same time, the Task Force understands and respects Resolution #556’s Guiding Principle 14, which states that “Dane County shall have a safe and secure environment for those incarcerated”.

Under Resolution #556, a more modest approach has emerged for

replacing the obsolete and dangerous part of the jail housed on the sixth and seventh floors of the City County Building, consolidating the jail within the Public Safety Building, and reducing the overall number of beds in the jail by 91.

While acknowledging the need to rebuild the jail, the Task Force has put most of its energy into encouraging the County to address all the areas outlined by Resolution #556 and by the recommendations developed by the resolution’s four County Work Groups.

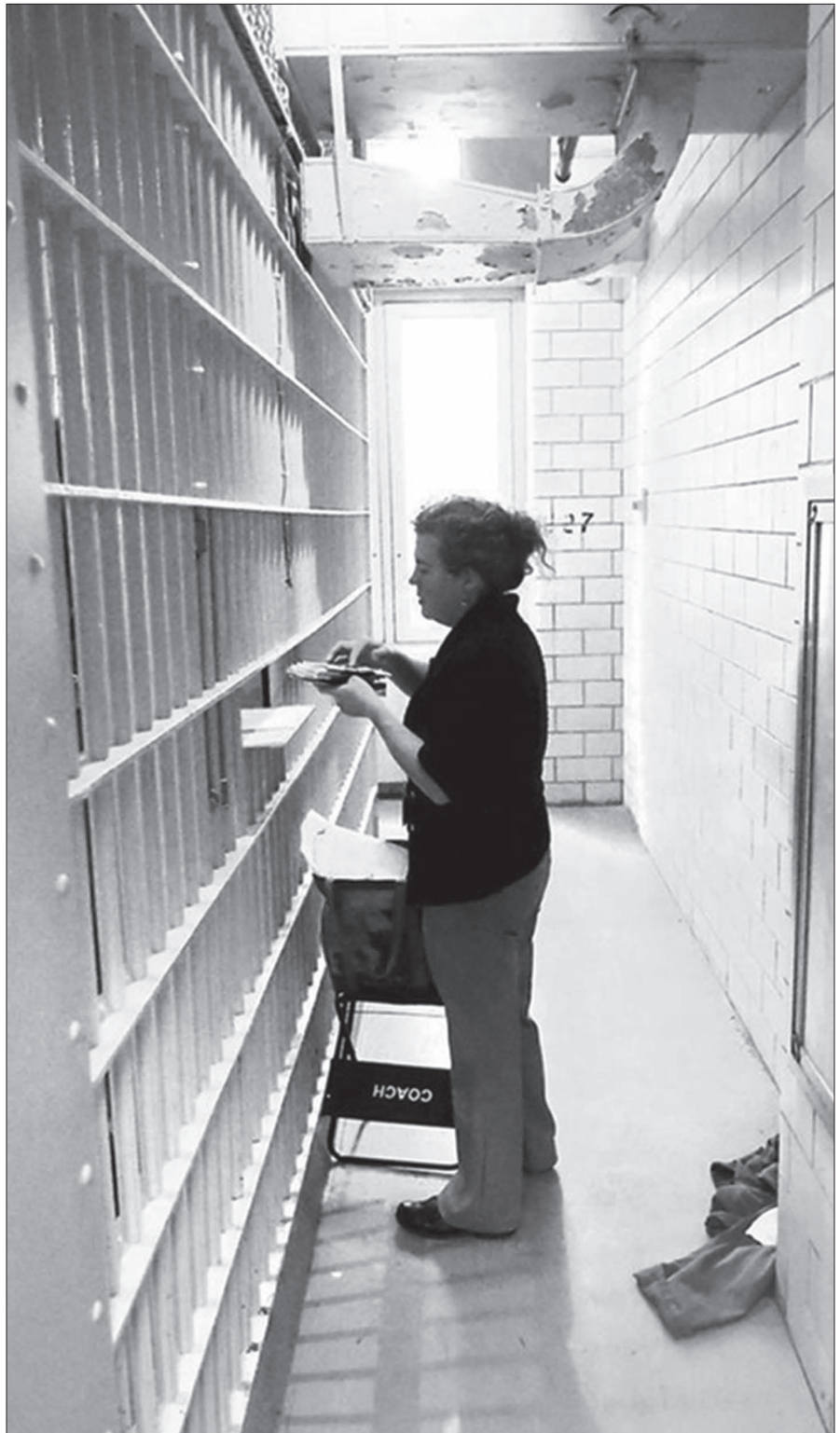
Here are some of the areas where progress has been made over the past year:

- Members of the Task Force continue to attend and give testimony at the County committee and Board meetings that take up issues related to Resolution #556.
- The Task Force developed two proposals: Comprehensive Mental Health Crisis/Restoration Initiative and High Utilizer of Multiple Systems (HUMS) “Familiar Faces” Proposal
- Multiple County Board supervisors are stressing the need to do more to divert individuals who are having a mental health crisis from the jail and the criminal justice system. There is support for County Executive Parisi’s budget item allocating funds for a comprehensive review of existing mental health services in our community.
- With a dedicated County data analyst on board, much of the preparatory work has been done for developing data-sharing agreements, learning from best practices around the country, and assembling the tools needed to



develop information from multiple data sources across the criminal justice system.

- Members of the Task Force meet monthly at the jail with Lt. Pierce and other staff. This gives the members an opportunity to learn about policies and procedures on matters important to MOSES, including solitary confinement, mental health, medication, and planning for the jail replacement project.
- The Criminal Justice Council (CJC) consists of the County Executive, the Sheriff, the County Board Chair, and other leaders of the Dane County criminal justice system. The CJC has taken seriously the recommendations of the Resolution #556 County Work Groups and the need to be accountable for their implementation. Several of the recommendations include expanding the Community Restorative Court, expanding the Community Treatment Alternatives program for diverting individuals with mental illness from the jail, hiring a data analyst, electronic notification of court dates, diversity training, and expansion of pre-trial services. The CJC is also seeking and implementing evidence-based best practices from around the country. An example is the pre-trial randomized experiment involving the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) tool.
- Dane County has formally joined the National Counties Association's Stepping-Up Initiative to reduce the number of individuals with mental illness who are in the jail. ■



JOHN HART, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

# Crimeless Revocation

## What is Crimeless Revocation?

Crimeless revocation is the practice of re-incarcerating people on probation, parole, or extended supervision for violating often minor rules of supervision.

Unfortunately, Wisconsin's revocation policies lead to the unnecessary incarceration of thousands of men and women each year. These policies, which disproportionately harm people of color and people with disabilities, tear families apart, disrupt communities, and drain resources that could instead be used to build safer and stronger communities.

## Impact

A recent health impact assessment, *Excessive Revocations in Wisconsin*, demonstrates that Wisconsin revoked 3,000 individuals for crimeless revocations in 2015 alone. Thousands of others who were not revoked were held in county jails and state detention facilities while awaiting a revocation decision.

Nearly half of people revoked without a new criminal conviction were parents. The impacts of incarceration extend beyond the people locked up, and are associated with wide-ranging detrimental effects on children and families. The report finds that in 2015, an estimated 2,700 kids were at increased risk of poverty with a father's incarceration, and 1,600 kids in Wisconsin may have lost primary financial support with a parent's incarceration. (Read the complete study at [SentBack.org](http://SentBack.org).)

## Inconsistency

Revocation policies are applied inconsistently in Wisconsin. The Department of Corrections has yet to clearly implement the state law calling on the DOC to create short-term responses for people who break the rules of supervision and to determine how to reward those who comply with the rules of supervision. Current practice is inconsistent. There is too little training, lack of written policy, and inconsistent opportunity to improve DOC data collection.

Furthermore, research shows that incarcerating people for breaking rules of supervision doesn't improve public safety.

## Cost

In 2015, \$147 million was spent on crimeless revocation, at a time when budgets for community mental health, restorative justice, and diversion programs were struggling for funding. In addition to monetary costs, incarcerating individuals for crimeless revocations destroys lives, because people often lose jobs, housing, and the opportunity to support their families.

The Health Impact Study offers recommendations that are supported by MOSES and WISDOM. *See sidebar.*

## Recommendations:

- Remove incarceration as a response to noncompliance for noncriminal violations of parole, probation, or extended supervision.
- As an alternative to revocation, continue to build on the partially implemented steps of the "short-term sanctions" law by ensuring a consistent and racially equitable response to noncompliance and the granting of rewards for compliance that is transparently documented through policy development, clear matrices, and workforce development that includes annual trainings.
- Consistently trace, evaluate at regular intervals, and annually disseminate the outcomes of using alternatives to revocation for people on parole, probation, or extended supervision, to build community trust.
- Provide access and navigation into rehabilitative programs and assure successful graduation for people on parole, probation, or extended supervision.
- Reduce the number of people and length of time people across races/ethnicities are placed on probation or extended supervision, which will in turn reduce agency caseloads.
- Apply greater due process rights for people in revocation investigations and proceedings, such as the right to bail and a higher standard of evidence.

# One Family's Crimeless Revocation Experience



RACHEL MORGAN

## *Casting Stones*

*who are you to judge  
i am not my worst mistake  
re-humanize me*

*excerpted from  
Snippets of Soul in Seventeen Syllables  
—Rudy Bankston  
available at [iamwecclassics.com](http://iamwecclassics.com)*

**James Morgan (far right) with his daughter and her family**

In 2010-11, I found myself facing a revocation by the Department of Corrections on an allegation that I had somehow tampered with their GPS tracking device. The device had malfunctioned on numerous occasions, but what made this event significant was that the Department of Corrections (DOC) had known my exact location and still had decided to pursue revocation, recommending that I be returned to prison for eight years.

While awaiting the revocation process, I learned that my mother had breast cancer; that my grandmother, whom I had not seen in over 40 years was also ailing; and my aunt, with whom I was living was being seriously impacted by my re-incarceration.

I was being held at Racine

Correctional Institution, which is where the DOC holds those awaiting revocation hearings. Racine is a maximum security prison, where access to books, newspapers, etc., is severely limited. It's a closed institution with no access to the outside, and one spends a total of 18 hours a day locked in a cell.

With the issues my family was facing, this experience traumatized me beyond what I'd ever experienced during my years in prison. The most painful aspect was that my daughter, whom I'd begun to build a relationship with after my 24 years of incarceration, decided she could not handle the stress the DOC was placing on our relationship. She relocated to North Dakota, taking my two granddaughters away as well. "Dad," she said, "You've done nothing

wrong, and how am I to explain to the children why their granddad keeps disappearing?"

Ultimately, and with the assistance of MOSES, MUM staff, and other concerned citizens, a resolution was offered to the DOC whereby I would be released on an ATR (Alternative to Revocation). This led to my being, for all intents and purposes, re-incarcerated within the community at Foster Community Corrections on Madison's west side. Since that time, I have faced many obstacles while on parole, and I continue to do what I can to educate others concerning the impact of crimeless revocations on individuals, their families, and our communities. ■

— James Morgan



# Integrated Voter Engagement

On Oct. 28, MOSES joined the rest of WISDOM in a statewide Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) campaign which reached thousands of voters, and potential voters as well.

A group of MOSES volunteers, having attended an earlier training, visited the Bram's Addition Neighborhood on Madison's south side with the goal of knocking on 600 doors. They spoke with residents about MOSES' issues, specifically crimeless revocation and TAD (Treatment Alternatives and Diversions) funding. They also encouraged people to get informed about the

voting process and to make sure they are registered to vote.

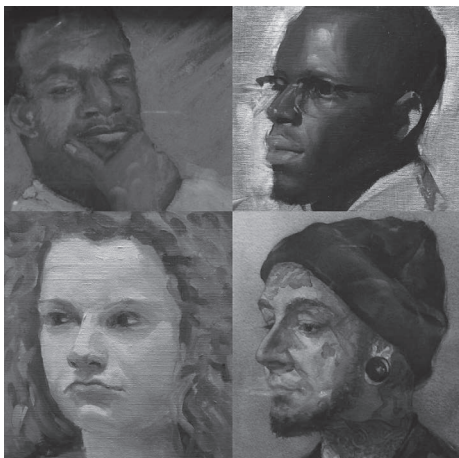
The IVE campaign focuses on reaching those who are historically left out of the electoral process — renters, people of color, students, and low-income workers. It is not just about "getting out the vote"; the idea is to build strong community ties around issues. Volunteers worked in pairs and were given a script to follow for their brief conversations with individuals on their doorsteps. More volunteers will revisit this same neighborhood twice more in the coming year. The hope is that we

will find some potential new members and leaders, who would be invited to MOSES events and actions and, in some cases, offered leadership training.

The one common statewide issue that all WISDOM affiliates are promoting is voting rights, especially restoration of the right to vote for people with felony convictions on extended supervision. Beyond that, each affiliate is free to promote its own issues. The idea is to move MOSES, as part of WISDOM, to another level of impact as the November 2018 election approaches. ■

---

## Faces of Incarceration



PHOTOGRAPHER

**Above left: clockwise from left (Artist: Subject) Patricia Duren: *Spencer*, Philip Salamone: *Sean*, Bernie Tennis: *Adrian*, Jan Richardson: *Melissa***  
**Above right: Attendees view the exhibit *Faces of Incarceration*.**

In July, MOSES members participated in artist and writer Pat Dillon's life painting exhibit, *Faces of Incarceration*, at the Overture Center, the result of a collaboration between Dillon and artists of the Atwood Atelier at Winnebago Studios,

including MOSES member John Mix. The exhibit portraits honor and humanize people impacted by Wisconsin's flawed criminal justice system.

The well-attended reception for the exhibit included a panel discussion with

some of the subjects from the project as well as experts in criminal reform, including James Morgan (MOSES), Jerome Dillard (EXPO), and MOSES 2017 honoree Rudy Bankston. ■

COURTESY OF WISDOM

The day ended with inspirational sendoffs by WISDOM President Rev. Willie Brisco, Father Joe Mattern, president of Fox Valley WISDOM affiliate ESTHER, and Marian Boyle, co-president of Green Bay affiliate JOSHUA. ■

# 2017 Banquet: Gratitude and Celebration

**In gratitude to those whose generous donations and services made this annual celebration possible:**

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Louka Patenaude, *Acoustic Guitar*  
Jami and Adam Wood, *our Christ Presbyterian Church hosts*  
John Mix and Pat Dillon:  
*Faces of Incarceration Art Display,*  
*Dillon Gallery and Atwood Atelier curators*  
Andrew Jackson, *Event Photographer*  
Frank Davis, *MOSES Organizer and Banquet Emcee*

MOSES celebration planning committee:  
Barbie Jackson, *chair*, Pat Ball, Frank Davis,  
Tony Esser, Lucy Gibson, Janice Greening,  
and Linda Wills



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## Ways to Support MOSES

### Learn...

Check out the MOSES website: [www.mosesmadison.org](http://www.mosesmadison.org).  
Attend a monthly meeting (usually the first weekend of the month, check the event calendar on the MOSES website for date and time.)

### Get involved...

Serve on a task force or committee. Volunteer for an action.  
Participate in a training. Testify at a hearing.

### Donate...

Donations in any amount are always welcome! As an affiliate of WISDOM, MOSES shares in WISDOM's 501(c)3 status, so your donation is tax-deductible. The more financial support MOSES receives from our members — congregational, organizational, and individual — and friends, the less time we need to spend organizing fundraisers or seeking and writing for grants. Ways to support MOSES financially:

- **Mail a check** (payable to "MOSES") to MOSES, PO Box 7031, Madison, WI 53707
- **Donate using a credit or debit card or a PayPal account**, by going to the MOSES website donations page (<http://mosesmadison.org/volunteer-donate/>) and clicking on the "Donate" button.
- **Enroll in monthly giving.** Another advantage of being an affiliate of WISDOM is that MOSES, like the other affiliates across the state, is able to participate in WISDOM's coordination of an electronic giving program through electronic funds transfer. Download the form from the MOSES website donations page (<http://mosesmadison.org/volunteer-donate/>)

For more information, or if you have any questions, please email the MOSES Treasurer at [treasurer@mosesmadison.org](mailto:treasurer@mosesmadison.org).

# Thank you for your support

December 2016–November 2017

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The Evjue Foundation, Inc., *the charitable arm of The Capital Times*: \$10,000

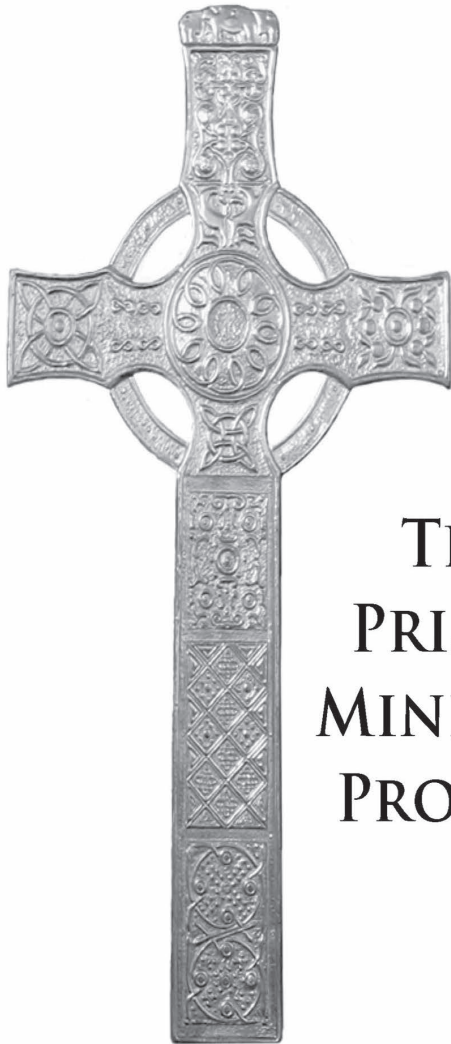
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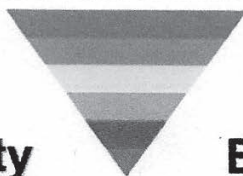
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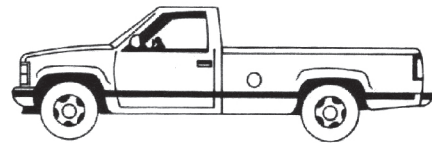
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With thanks to all the MOSES, EXPO, and Wisdom members that have spent years leading the way to point out and help resolve issues in our justice system in Dane County and all over Wisconsin.

Finding our way forward with our current work on the Dane County jail has been, and will continue to be, challenging, but it's been incredibly useful to have all of you add thoughts to the discussion... at meetings, on committees, in email exchanges, and via other community interactions.

It has been a pleasure to work with all of you. Hopefully we can continue to impact our communities of need in positive ways. I appreciate your service.



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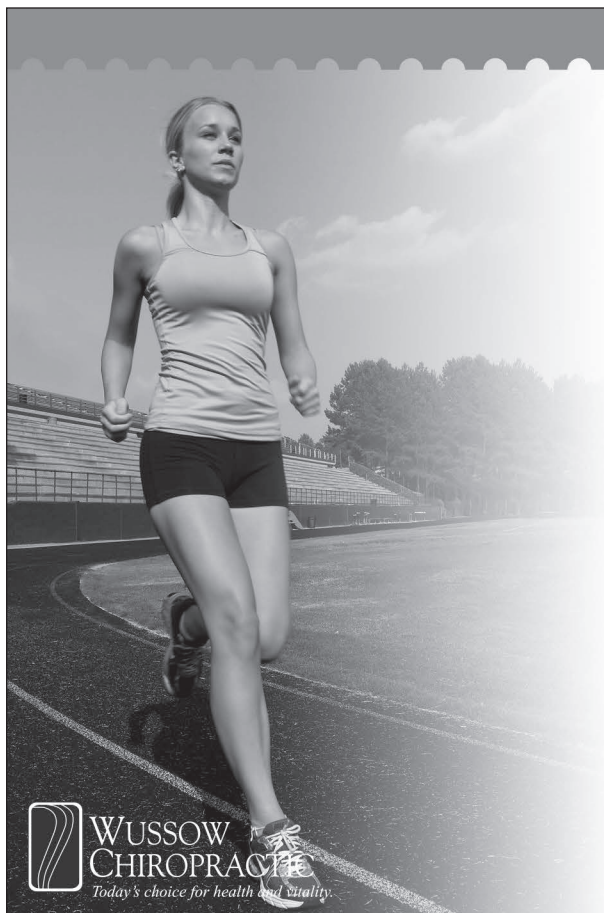


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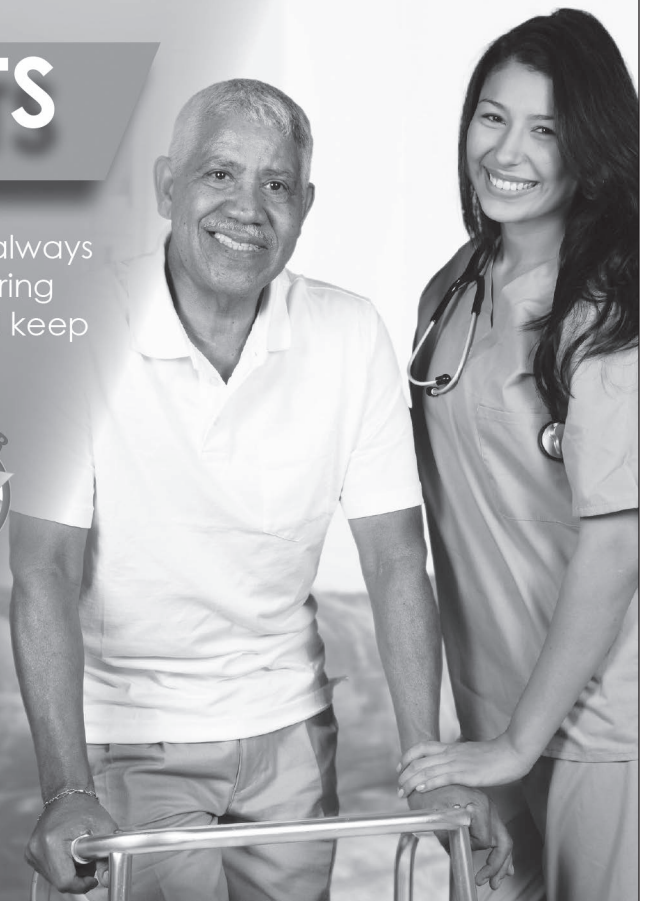
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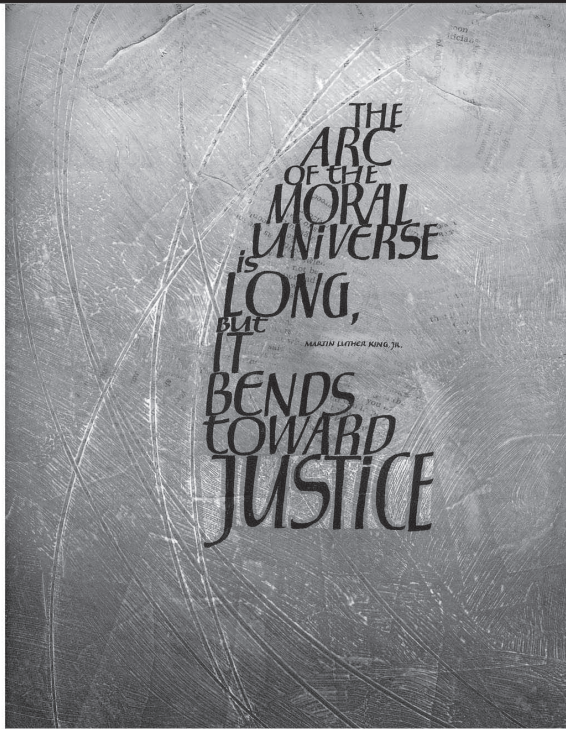
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 between respecting the  
 victim, encouraging  
 community safety and  
 supporting the lives of  
 previously incarcerated  
 individuals and their  
 families.”*

— Ismael Ozanne



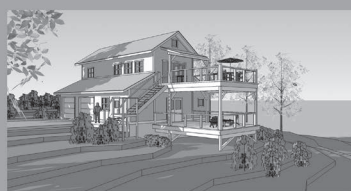


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*Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience,  
and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.*

*— Harriet Tubman*

## ROC Wisconsin Prayer

God of healing and restoration, we pray:

For all who are caught up in the criminal justice system,  
those in our jails and prisons, and for their families, that  
they will know healing and restoration;

For those with the difficult duties of corrections officers  
and parole officers, that they will be able to be agents  
of healing and restoration;

For political leaders and all citizens, that they will demand  
and create a just, humane criminal justice system. God of  
all, restore our people and restore our communities.





# John Mix

## Oil and Pastel Paintings

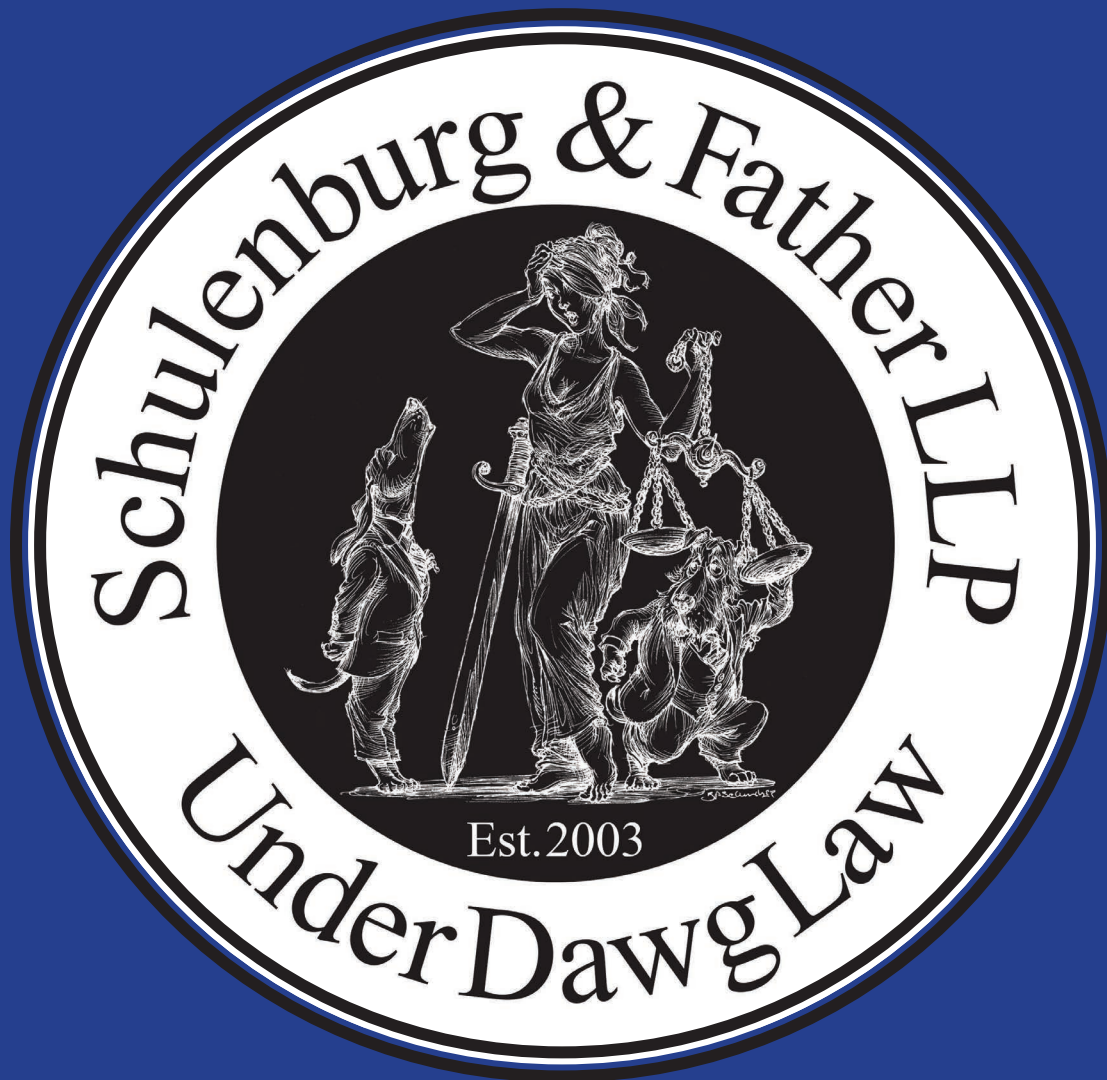
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