



Madison Organizing in Strength, Equity, and Solidarity
for Criminal Justice Reform

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Organizer's Corner

Interview by Pam Gates

I met with MOSES organizer Eugene Crisler 'El on Feb. 1 in his office at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Madison's east side. The office is a former storage room, not very big and curiously like a cell in one of our state prisons; the only window is high overhead, and it does not open. But MOSES has been using it at a very low rent, and Eugene and the rest of us are grateful for that, as well as for the fact that it is not a prison cell!

St. Luke's has hosted MOSES for some years now, providing office space and a large meeting space for workshops, etc., back when we could hold such events. But a move just around the corner, to Lake Edge Lutheran Church, is planned for the near future. A more adequate office space has opened up there.

Eugene's major focus these days is the state legislature, where some troubling bills are being introduced.

Eugene was headed for the Capitol on Feb. 2 for a hearing on Senate Bill 595, which would make it easier to terminate the parental rights of incarcerated people. (See article on SB 595 on p. 4 in this issue.)

Eugene had strong comments on SB 595 and other bills introduced this session: "Our history of slavery has not stopped. Slavery took fathers away from their families and stripped them of dignity and respect. It's no different now. Until people convicted of felonies are off paper, they can't vote. While on paper, they can be jailed on hearsay allegations and kept there while an investigation takes place, and are likely to lose their job in this situation. It's stressful and frustrating and diabolical, how Jim Crowism is used to justify putting more oppression on people. Poor whites are affected too."

"These situations have a domino effect," Eugene continued. "They're hardships on our society as a whole. It's our tax dollars we're talking about. Wisconsin houses people in jail for frivolous or minor infractions while an investigation takes place [a probation or parole hold]. Who wants their

tax dollars to go to stuff like that? If we truly looked at the numbers as to where tax money is going, we'd find that a large portion goes to pay for putting people into custody and keeping them there. We need to look into that."

"I'm so passionate about us all working together, so we can know what's going on and take this to the next level."

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WISDOM Task Forces

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Old Law Parole
Conditions of Confinement

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Joan Duerst
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Patti La Cross

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Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) is another passion of Eugene's. The purpose of IVE, he said, is to educate voters about the voting process and their rights in that process. With the help of volunteers, he plans to start canvassing underserved neighborhoods, such as Meadowood and Wexford, in mid-February. Canvassers will encourage people to register to vote, explain why voting is important, and offer to connect people to MOSES and EXPO. Eugene has three volunteers so far and would be happy to interview more. They will get training from Anthony Herring of the WISDOM network. "I'm excited to do voter canvassing," Eugene said. "It's my first time leading this collaboration of WISDOM, EXPO, and MOSES."

"EXPO is just growing," he said. "It has seven chapters now around Wisconsin. With EXPO leading the charge and with the support that MOSES can give, we'll be able to drive our issues all the way home. MOSES people have the same background as the legislators and can back up what EXPO people are saying and drive it home in a language that legislators can understand."



Eugene Crisler 'El

Later in February, Black History Month, Eugene participated in a panel with Rep. Samba Baldeh (D-Madison) titled "The Impact of Incarceration on the Family." Eugene planned to speak as a "family member being impacted." That event was held on Feb. 24, via Zoom.

Eugene touched on a couple more bills, specifically one with bipartisan sponsorship that bans sentencing juveniles to life. "No one should have their life taken away because they don't have the opportunities when they're young," Eugene said. He also spoke in support of the prison-system vendors bill, which would require a minimum of three vendors to offer products for people in Wisconsin prisons, making it less likely that prisoners and their families will be overcharged for necessities because of a monopoly in the DOC's vendor system.

"It feels like things are coming together from everyone's work," Eugene concluded. "I'm so passionate about us all working together, so we can know what's going on and take this to the next level." ■

MOSES Members Respond to East High School Issues

By Tricia Hillner

In the wake of fighting and other incidents at Madison East High School last November, members of MOSES' Racial Justice for All Children (RJAC) task force wanted to see how they could get involved to support a healthy school environment for students. Saundra Brown and Barbie Jackson, co-chairs of the task force, submitted written statements and testified in person at the special MMSD Board of Education meeting held on Nov. 15, 2021. They reiterated MOSES' support of the set of safety and security recommendations adopted by the board in February 2021. Brown said that MOSES "support[s] the efforts to productively engage in dialogue with all our community members during this difficult time." Jackson acknowledged that "although MOSES has yet to fully learn all the pros and cons of SROs

[school resource officers], and as a result we have a wide-ranging set of personal opinions, we are united in calling to stop the school-to-prison pipeline."

To this end, RJAC members have begun meeting regularly with school board members to discuss SROs and other topics. RJAC and other MOSES members have also attended meetings of other local groups with similar concerns to learn their thoughts about this complex subject, as many of us work to find a way to keep students safe in school and to support their academic progress. ■



Racial Disparities: Data and Advice from the Sentencing Project

By Marsha Baldwidge

Wisconsin is a great place to live for the “majority” population. Generally “friendly midwestern people” reside in Wisconsin, right? Well, a work-related relocation to Wisconsin in the fall of 1971 was a bit of a change for me. What I discovered very quickly is that being a Black woman in certain parts of Wisconsin was not so friendly for me.

So I was not completely surprised when the national Sentencing Project released a report in Oct. 2021 showing that our “great” state of Wisconsin incarcerates the highest percentage of African-American adults in the US. Now let me share a few statistics that this report addressed. Hang on to your hats, ladies and gentlemen: it’s windy in Wisconsin! The gale force winds of racial disparity are blowing through Wisconsin’s criminal justice system. A few statistics for you from the Sentencing Project report: [The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons](#) | [The Sentencing Project](#).

Wisconsin incarcerates **1 out of every 36** Black adults, far above the national average of 1 out of 81. While only **6%** of Wisconsin’s population identifies as African-American, they make up **42%** of the state prison population. Wisconsin’s incarceration rate for African-Americans is **12 times** the rate for white adults.

So what is driving these winds of disparity? The report identifies a list of factors that have placed African-Americans at significant disadvantage. These include poverty, education outcomes (school-to-prison pipeline, achievement gap), unemployment history (many times driven by educational deficits), and criminal history (driven by under-employment and unemployment).

What can we as people of faith from all traditions do to calm the winds of racial disparity in our prisons? There is hope. **The Sentencing Project offers these recommendations:**

Eliminate mandatory sentences for all crimes.

Mandatory minimum sentences, habitual offender laws, and mandatory transfer of juveniles to the adult criminal system give prosecutors too much authority, while limiting the discretion of impartial judges. These policies contribute to a substantial increase in sentence length and time served in prison, disproportionately imposing unduly harsh sentences on Black and Latinx individuals.

Require prospective and retroactive racial impact statements for all criminal statutes.

The Sentencing Project urges states to adopt forecasting estimates that will calculate the impact of proposed crime legislation on different populations in order to minimize or eliminate the racially disparate impacts of certain laws and policies. Several states have passed “racial impact statement” laws. To undo the racial and ethnic disparity resulting from decades of tough-on-crime policies, however, states should also repeal existing racially biased laws and policies. The impact of racial impact laws will be modest at best if they remain only forward-looking.

Decriminalize low-level drug offenses.

Discontinue arrest and prosecutions for low-level drug offenses. These often lead to the accumulation of prior convictions, which accumulate disproportionately in communities of color. These convictions generally drive further and deeper involvement in the criminal legal system.

TOGETHER we can help calm the winds of racial disparity. ■

Upcoming Meetings (via Zoom)

MOSES Meetings

General Membership

- Sunday, March 6, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 3, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 1, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Leadership Board

- Saturday, March 19, 9-11 a.m.
- Saturday, May 21, 9-11 a.m.

Task Forces

- **Justice System Reform Initiative (JSRI)**, March 10 & April 14, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- **Public Safety**, March 17 & April 21, 6-7:30 p.m.
- **Racial Justice for All Children**, April 5 & May 3, 4-5:30 p.m.

Parental Rights of Incarcerated People Under Fire

By Sherry Reames

Wisconsin Senate Bill 595, currently pending in the Wisconsin state legislature, should be on the radar of MOSES members because of its potential impact on the rights of incarcerated people and the welfare of their families. This bill, which would make it easier to terminate the parental rights of incarcerated people and make their children eligible for adoption, was first introduced in Oct. 2021 by Senators Stroebel, Marklein, and Ballweg. It aroused so many objections at its first public hearing that Senator Stroebel offered a new version with substantial amendments in late January 2022. The amended version narrows the criteria that must be met before the relationship between incarcerated parents and their children could be severed by the courts, but it is still strongly opposed by a wide range of family advocates and civil-rights organizations, including the Wisconsin Council of Churches, the ACLU, and members of EXPO (EX-incarcerated People Organizing), and FREE, an EXPO affiliate made up mostly of formerly incarcerated women.

When this bill came up for another public hearing on Feb. 2 before the Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families, its supporters were almost invisible. Three of its sponsors spoke briefly at the outset and then left the room to attend other meetings. For the next two and a half hours, the only arguments presented were those of the bill's opponents. Some of the most passionate testimony came from members of the WISDOM affiliate FREE, formerly incarcerated women who described their efforts to maintain parental ties with their children while in prison and the goal of reuniting with their children as the crucial factor in their own ability to survive, recover from trauma and addictions, and rebuild their lives.

Other opponents of SB 595 emphasized the constitutional issues the bill raises, its racial implications (given the disproportionate number of Black, Latino, and Indigenous families that would be affected), and the likelihood that it would harm many of the children its proponents want to help. A representative from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families argued that severing parental connections would violate the rights of the child and other biological relatives, including siblings and grandparents, to maintain their own familial bonds. She also noted that the children of incarcerated parents do not forget them and move on, but yearn for opportunities to see their parents' faces and hear their voices, even if only on a courtroom TV screen. Representatives from the Ho-Chunk Nation pointed out that removing Native American children from their families and tribes would violate the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and would almost certainly lead to deep and long-lasting trauma for the children themselves; one Ho-Chunk witness added this eloquent plea: "Allow us to continue using our villages to raise our children!"

Social workers, family advocates, and public defenders at the hearing also argued that the bill would violate the constitutional prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment, that its negative effects would be felt especially by low-income families and individuals, and that no incarcerated person should be subjected to such a severe additional penalty without due process. What Wisconsin should be doing instead, witness after witness agreed, is to provide better services for families separated by incarceration, including easier and more affordable opportunities for children and incarcerated parents to see and talk to each other. ■



End Juvenile Life Without Parole

By Sherry Reames

The Wisconsin Alliance for Youth Justice and a larger national organization, The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, held a well attended lobbying day at the State Capitol on Jan. 19. These groups are urging the legislature to end the practice of juvenile life without parole in this state by passing Senate Bill 862 and Assembly Bill 856.

If passed, these bills would bar Wisconsin courts in the future from imposing life sentences without the possibility of release for youths under 18, and they would also create a procedure for reviewing and potentially adjusting the sentences of prisoners who have already served 15-20 years or more of a life sentence for crimes committed when they were juveniles. At both initial sentencing and later review of such cases, courts

would be required to consider such mitigating factors as the person's youth at the time of the offense, their impetuosity, family and community environment, ability to appreciate the risks and consequences of their conduct, mental health records, peer or familial pressure, history of trauma, and capacity for rehabilitation.

Many participants in this lobbying day were family members or close friends of Wisconsinites currently serving life sentences for juvenile crimes. As of February 2021, the Legislative Council found 115 persons like this in our state prisons. All are men, a disproportionate number of them

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are Black, and many were sentenced during the height of the panic over youth “super predators” in the 1990s.

One such person, DarRen Morris, is now an artist who has become well known both for his paintings (one of which appears on the cover of the 2021 MOSES Yearbook) and for the co-authored book, *In Warm Blood*, that tells the story of his traumatic childhood, the major crime he impulsively committed at age 17, and the 100-year sentence he received as a result. Some parents at the lobbying day told of even longer sentences (200 years, 260 years) inflicted on their sons when they were teens, 20 or 30 years ago.

Such prisoners are now middle-aged men, and most of them ceased to be dangerous a long time ago. The legislation being considered would not release them precipitously, but would give them access to rehabilitative and pre-release programs for which they are currently ineligible, allowing them to work their way through the steps toward parole.

Although this legislation would break new ground in Wisconsin, laws forbidding life sentences for juveniles have already been passed in 25 other states – among them Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Nevada, North and South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, and Wyoming. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled several times since 2005 that such sentences should be exceedingly rare because children’s brains are not yet fully developed, making

them fundamentally different from adults. Sentencing a child to die in prison when that child is capable of rehabilitation would violate the Constitution’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

In the words of Rep. David Bowen (D-Milwaukee), one of the Wisconsin bills’ chief advocates, “We must recognize that children – even those who have committed serious crimes – must have the opportunity to prove they have been rehabilitated after serving a certain amount of years in prison, with the ability to rejoin society as productive and reformed members.”

In states that have released former juvenile lifers, the recidivism rate has proved to be very low – just above 1%, according to a recent study by professors at Montclair State University. In other words, the majority of children who commit crimes seem to outgrow their unlawful behavior.

As of Jan. 13, the bills to make their release possible and prevent such sentences in the future were being supported by some 30 members of the Wisconsin legislature: Senators Johnson, Larson, Roys, and Wirth; Republican Representatives Novak and Spiros; and Democratic Representatives Bowen, Armstrong, Andraca, Baldeh, Billings, Brostoff, Considine, Drake, Goyke, James, Kitchens, Moore Omokunde, Mursau, L. Myers, Neubauer, Riemer, Rozar, Schraa, Shelton, Snodgrass, Spreitzer, Stubbs, Subeck, and Vruwink. ■

Creating Beloved Community: Taking a Faithful Stance for Racial Equity

By Rabbi Bonnie Margulis

The Wisconsin Council of Churches, WISDOM, MICAH, and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice together have launched an effort they are calling “Creating Beloved Community.” This effort aims to counter the growing influence of white supremacy in Wisconsin and to raise the voices of Wisconsin faith communities to advocate for policies that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in our schools and in our communities. We plan to track the activities of hate groups, so that we can be proactive in countering their activities; to create messaging that is anti-racist, pro-equity, and based in faith; and to train and mobilize clergy and faith communities to be actively engaged in this work.

Our first initiative, [Taking a Faithful Stance for Racial Equity](#), has already signed up over 350 activists. These people have pledged to monitor their school boards and common councils for potential anti-equity activity, to speak out at those meetings, to bring another activist with them to speak, and to share the information with us

so that we can mobilize more activists in their area. Over 500 people have signed up for our monthly organizing meetings, where we provide training, speakers, and opportunities for regional organizing.

We sponsored a #TeachTheTruthWisconsin Week of Action Oct. 10-16, to promote the honest teaching of the history of racism, slavery, and ongoing inequities in our schools and universities. We hope to make this an annual event.

Coming up on April 4, we will sponsor a virtual Read-In of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech “Beyond Vietnam.” Stay tuned for more information and to register for that event. Take the pledge in order to receive regular emails about our monthly meetings and other programs and events. To join the Google group for the Dane County region, co-led by Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice and MOSES, contact the MOSES Organizer, Eugene Crisler ‘El. ■

AB 821 Proposed to End Excessive Phone Charges in Wisconsin Jails

By Marsha Baldwridge

Why should John Q. Public care about how much county jail inmates are charged for a 15-minute phone call to their family and legal counsel? After all, they broke the law, right? You do the crime, you do the time! Honestly, that is what I would have said in early 2021, before I joined MOSES. Becoming a member of MOSES has changed my perspective relative to the criminal justice system in its current state of brokenness.

During my first meeting as a “newbie” to the Communications Team, my interest was piqued by the mention of a bill that was being introduced in the Wisconsin state legislature. As a result, I did some research. In brief, here is what I found. This bill would require the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to put rules in place that would ban jails from exceeding the phone rates charged by national providers of prepaid mobile phones. This plan would apply to telephone calls as well as video communications from prisoners (this includes legal counsel). For more details on AB 821, please [click on this link](#).

On Jan. 6, Rep. Samba Baldeh (D-Madison) along with many of his colleagues introduced AB 821. So, what prompted this bill to be introduced? A study was conducted by Prison Policy Initiative. Their study revealed that some Wisconsin counties such as Polk, Green, and La Crosse charged more than \$14 for a 15-minute

phone call to family members within the state of Wisconsin.

Why are these charges so extreme? A handful of telecom companies that provide “correctional services” earned over \$1.4 billion in 2020. These companies buy time from national telecom companies for pennies on the dollar and then typically enter into agreements with counties that give “kickbacks,” some as high as 50% commissions. These charges come at the expense of prisoners and their families who are already at the bottom of the income ladder. And get this: many of the prisoners have not been convicted of any crimes yet (cases have not gone to court). Many do not have economic means to post bail.

Why is this bill important? Because enabling prisoners to stay in contact with their families has positive effects, such as better physical, emotional, and mental health. It has also been found that the likelihood of repeat offenses is reduced. Please visit [Prison Policy Initiative](#) for more on the benefits of consistent family contact.

AB 821 is going to require “reaching across the aisle” in order to become law. This session of the Wisconsin state legislature ends on March 10. We need to keep our eyes open and our ears to the ground, so that we can attend any hearings during the remaining days. ■

AB 918: Yet Another Effort to Limit Voting

By Pam Gates

On Jan. 28, 10 Wisconsin assembly members, with three senators as co-sponsors, introduced Assembly Bill 918, which would bar people convicted of a felony from voting until they have paid back all the money they owe for being incarcerated and on supervision: fines, costs, fees, surcharges, and restitution. They also would need to have completed any court-ordered community service. The bill was referred to the Committee on Constitution and Ethics.

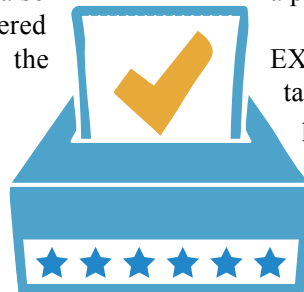
Currently, people convicted of a felony must complete their prison and supervision terms before they are allowed to vote, which, under Wisconsin’s current regimen of long supervision terms, is onerous enough. AB 918 would make their slog toward full citizenship even longer and even harder. As EXPO pointed out in a strongly worded email blast, “People in prison are disproportionately low-income,

and they often return from incarceration with a sizable debt that they struggle to pay off. This policy will become a modern-day poll tax that aims to keep formerly incarcerated people from participating in the most essential exercise in democracy. The right to vote should not be based on wealth or a person’s inability to pay.”

EXPO further pointed out that this legislation would target Black people, other people of color, and people with mental illness or other disabilities, all of whom are disproportionately impacted by incarceration.

AB 918 is one of many backward steps this legislature has presented for consideration as the current legislative session draws to a close.

Several of the bills are discussed in other articles in this newsletter. ■



Redeeming Justice: *From Defendant to Defender, My Fight for Equity on Both Sides of a Broken System*

By Jarrett Adams • Convergent Books, 2021

Reviewed by Pam Gates

The title of this book says it all. Jarrett Adams was convicted at age 17 and spent 10 years in Wisconsin jails and prisons, including a time in isolation at the Boscobel Supermax, for a crime he didn't commit. His legal troubles started with subtle initial accusations that baffled him, moved on to a seriously bungled defense by an incredibly inadequate public defender, and concluded with a judge who added eight years to his sentence because he stood up as it was given and declared his innocence; he couldn't bear the look on his mother's face. The concept of innocent until proven guilty was absent from the entire process. There was an event; there was no crime. But, as every Black man in America knows, and as Adams and his buddies cruelly found out in their budding manhood, venturing into relationships, no matter how brief, in white communities is fraught with peril.

At the urging of a fellow prisoner, Adams undertook his own defense, spending hours in the library of whatever prison he was in, reading law. In the process, he helped many fellow prisoners who had been written up for prison rule infractions. His case eventually got the attention of the Wisconsin Innocence Project, and it was through that organization that he eventually was freed.

But his struggles weren't over. He was determined to become a lawyer, which for a formerly incarcerated person living in poverty was no small goal. But his story awed people – and dismayed them – and he found support at every twist in the road. He graduated from Loyola University Law School and now has his own law practice, in Los Angeles and in the Midwest, through which he defends others in positions similar to the one in which he once found himself.

Just a few thoughts Adams shared about our criminal justice system:

- “men I saw locked up with me — grandfathers, fathers, sons, grandsons ...”
- “If we can't get an equal representation of Black and white students in our law schools, how will we ever achieve equality in our criminal justice system?”
- “So many young Black men ... ripped from their families

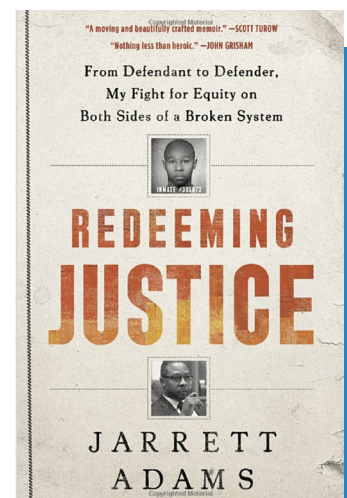
MOSES BOOK REVIEW

and their neighborhoods and thrown away for no good reason, or no reason at all. They are now gone, lost, rotting in prisons. ... I fought my way to a second chance. Sadly, that rarely happens. Of the 2.3 million people who are incarcerated [in the U.S.], 750,000 are Black men. The numbers are so disproportionate they scream. That has to change.”

- On the British criminal justice system versus ours: “In Britain, barristers need to show balance and have empathy for both sides of the law. Our system ... has become adversarial, emphasizing winning, not fairness ... We put our focus and our money into one side – incarceration. The U.S. recently quadrupled the budget on corrections.”
- “Prosecutors and judges rush to convict. But overturning an unfair conviction takes forever.”
- “The criminal justice system spends as much money as it needs to get a conviction. Instead, the system should spend that amount of money on getting it right.”
- “I have never seen prison as a place for corrections. I see it as a warehouse for human beings.”
- “Real change will come slowly, one tiny step at a time. But you have to commit to taking that step.”

Adams has made that commitment. We, all of us, must also.

Redeeming Justice is a page-turner. Poverty and being Black are clearly factors in the way Adams' story played out; essentially, they are *the* factors. As a law professor reviewer states, Adams' book is “a must-read for anyone who really cares about what is happening in America's criminal justice system.” Enough said. ■



Meet Returning Citizen Dennis Franklin

By Margaret Irwin

When asked how it is that today he is a free man after being incarcerated five times, Dennis Franklin responds, “Well, I grew up in Chicago, and basically I’m a fighter.” This is all the more impressive when you learn that his most recent sentence involved a 13-year state sentence and a 15-year federal sentence. Taken together, these 28 years seemed like a life sentence to the 44-year-old man he was at the time. But Dennis was not about to give up.

He started to do some self-examination. “I’m pretty good at going to prison,” he admitted. “But why do I keep re-offending? What is the common denominator?” He realized it was alcohol and drugs. And he soon figured out that he was using them to cover up the childhood trauma he had never processed. So he began work on healing his inner child, which led him to value himself and his life. At that point he decided to fight his sentence.

He began by requesting admission to the earned release program in state prison. He was told it was pointless to try, since he also had to serve a separate sentence in the federal penitentiary. Dennis replied that the federal sentence might be vacated, so why not let him do the program? The authorities finally agreed, and Dennis began accumulating a file folder stuffed with certificates for all the programs he completed.

But he still had the federal sentence to deal with. Dennis has long been fascinated by the law and has been doing legal research since the ‘90s. He started researching the state statute which led to his mandatory minimum sentence. With the help of defense attorneys, he discovered flaws in the Wisconsin law. His case proceeded to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and finally the U.S. Supreme Court, and he won each time! This meant his federal sentence was vacated, and as a result of his earned release work, he got out two years early from his state sentence.

Because he won the federal case, some 2,000 others have been able to appeal their sentences and have them reduced or vacated.

Dennis had prepared himself for life on the outside by doing “cognitive restructuring,” a process used to identify and confront negative thought patterns and replace them with more rational and positive types of thinking. For the seven

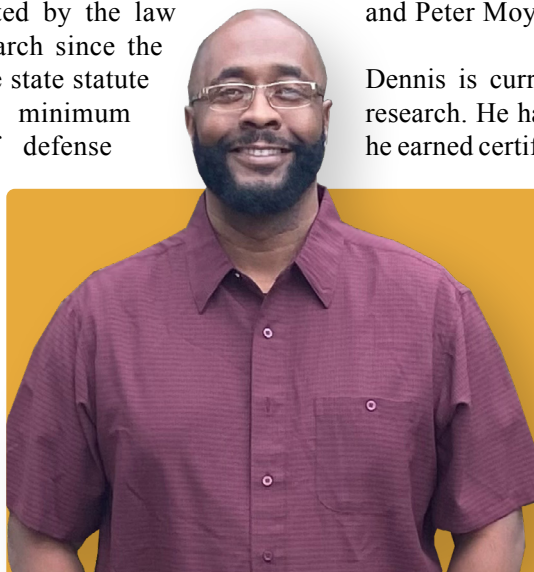
“Dennis has long been fascinated by the law and has been doing legal research since the ‘90s. He started researching the state statute which led to his mandatory minimum sentence. With the help of defense attorneys, he discovered flaws in the Wisconsin law.”

years he served of his last sentence, he walked for two hours three times a day. That’s over 15,000 hours! During these walks he would come up with a scenario of something that might happen after his release; for example, the person he was staying with tells him he has to leave. Then he would think of all the possible solutions. Because of this work, he found that when he was released, he felt equipped to deal with whatever problems arose, rather than getting discouraged and returning to drugs and alcohol.

Some of the positive influences that helped him turn the corner on his old life include his mother; the support system of like-minded people he surrounded himself with in prison; his federal defenders: Attorneys Shelley Fite, Joseph Bugni, and Peter Moyer; and federal Judge James Peterson.

Dennis is currently an organizer for EXPO and does legal research. He has big plans for the future. While incarcerated, he earned certification from the state as a custodian; eventually

he plans to establish a cleaning business in order to set his two sons up in business and build some generational wealth. He is now attending Madison College to become a clinical substance abuse counselor. And down the line he also wants to become Director of Legal Research for EXPO. In his spare time, Dennis enjoys visiting with his young granddaughters in Illinois. ■



Dennis Franklin