



NEW YORK
CITY BAR

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Via Mail and Email

Mr. Joseph Ponte
Commissioner
New York City Department of Correction
75-20 Astoria Blvd.
East Elmhurst , NY 11370

Dear Mr. Ponte:

Congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction. The City Bar looks forward to working with you on the criminal justice issues that we know are so important to you.

The City Bar is an independent organization and professional home for over 24,000 lawyers and law students dedicated to addressing legal and public policy issues in ways that promote law reform, ethics and the fair and effective administration of justice. In May 2013, the City Bar issued the enclosed report, *Policy Recommendations for New York City's Next Mayor*.¹ As you'll see from Section III of the report, we address a number of criminal justice issues that we hope will be considered – to the extent they are not already being considered - by the new administration. While we recognize that you are already well aware of the criminal justice issues that we discuss in our report, we take this opportunity to highlight the concerns of the City Bar in these critical areas.

We would welcome the opportunity to schedule a time for you to come in and meet with some of our committees so they can hear about your agenda and discuss how we can be helpful to your office, particularly with respect to the treatment of mentally ill inmates in the City's prisons. Our committees are currently holding joint meetings on **May 13** and **June 10** in the evening, if either day would work for your schedule. If those days aren't convenient, we would be happy to work with your office to determine the best timing for a meeting. Please feel free to contact Elizabeth Kocienda, our Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs, so that we can discuss further details and schedule a time that works for you.

We look forward to meeting you. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Maria Cilenti

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¹ Available online at <http://www.nycbar.org/images/stories/pdfs/mayoralreport04302013.pdf>.