



**COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS
AND COMMUNITY REENTRY**

October 27, 2014

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Ms. Marta Nelson
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Ms. Rossana Rosado
Chair
New York State Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration
c/o RoRo Solutions, Inc.
69 Edgewold Road
White Plains, NY 10607

Re: Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration

Dear Ms. Nelson and Ms. Rosado:

On behalf of the Corrections and Community Reentry Committee of the New York City Bar Association (“the Association”), we write to express our support for the work of the Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration (“the Council”). The formation of the Council represents an opportunity for comprehensive reentry reform in New York State and the Association urges the Council to take full advantage of this chance. The work of the Council has the potential to improve significantly the lives of the thousands of New Yorkers released from incarceration each year by making it easier for them to return successfully to their communities, find shelter, work, appropriate medical and mental health services, and lead productive lives. We applaud these broad goals and are happy to provide whatever support would be helpful to the Council.

The Association is an independent, non-governmental organization of 24,000 lawyers, law professors, and government officials from the United States and 50 other countries. Throughout its 143-year history, the Association has consistently maintained that an independent judiciary and respect for the rule of law are essential to all jurisdictions. The reentry and reintegration of individuals released from jail and prison into the community is a matter of long-standing concern for the Association.


The Association has members with expertise in securing housing and employment for formerly incarcerated people, improving conditions of confinement and continuity of medical and mental health services after release, as well as members who work with specific populations,

such as individuals with mental health needs and people on the Sex Offender Registry. We have issued legislative reports supporting bills addressing a number of those subject areas, including:

- providing continuity of medical care from incarceration to release;¹
- amending the licensure and employment requirements for people previously convicted of criminal offenses;²
- requiring the Board of Examiners of Sex Offenders to consult a validated risk instrument when determining an individual's risk for reoffense;³
- supporting discretion in probationary sentencing;⁴ and
- urging parole reform.⁵

We would welcome the opportunity to provide expert testimony or recommendations as the Council moves ahead with its work. We are excited to learn more about the Council's approach to alleviating barriers to successful reentry in New York State and look forward to wide-ranging reform.

Very truly yours,



Allegra Glashausser

Cc: Alphonso David, Council Member, Governor's Office

¹ Report on Medicaid Pilot Project For Individuals Transitioning Home After Incarceration (2008), *available at* http://www.nycbar.org/pdf/report/New_Medicaid_Pilot_Project.pdf

² Report Supporting Legislation to Strengthen Protections for Job Applicants and Employees with Criminal Records (2013), *available at* <http://www.nycbar.org/pdf/report/uploads/20071769-Article23relicensureandemploymentofpreviouslyconvicted.pdf>

³ Report Supporting Amendment to Risk Assessment Instruments For Sex Offenders (2014), *available at* <http://www2.nycbar.org/pdf/report/uploads/20072469-SexOffenderRegistrationActReport.pdf>

⁴ Report Supporting Legislation Providing Judges With Discretion In Probation Sentencing (2013), *available at* <http://www2.nycbar.org/pdf/report/uploads/20072304-ProbationSentencing.pdf>

⁵ Comments on Proposed Parole Board Regulations (2014), *available at* <http://www2.nycbar.org/pdf/report/uploads/20072648-CommentonParoleBoardsProposedRegulations.pdf>