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UPCOMING EVENTS

JUST POETRY

A community-based event about notions, perceptions, and experiences of justice.

Thursday, April 19

2:00-4:00 pm

Marble Bar

1501 Holden St.

Detroit, MI 48208

FREE

GBI POLITICAL EDUCATION SERIES: WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Live storytelling event with musical and dance guests.

Sunday, April 22

2:00-4:00 pm

Charles H. Wright Museum

315 E. Warren Ave.

Detroit, MI 48201

FREE

AURORA HARRIS WITH 'IN THE TRADITION'

Poetry and musical performance with Aurora Harris, poet and lecturer at the University of Michigan Dearborn, featuring Detroit's African-Centered Jazz Group 'In the Tradition'

Saturday, April 28

6:00 pm

Charles H. Wright Museum

315 E. Warren Ave.

Detroit, MI 48201

FREE

STRESS MANAGEMENT & YOGA WORKSHOP

Thursday, May 3

6:00 pm

Charles H. Wright Museum

315 E. Warren Ave.

Detroit, MI 48201

FREE

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Get information and resources from several community agencies.

Thursday, May 10

10:00 am - 2:30 pm

469 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. South

Pontiac, MI 48342

DETROIT CREATIVES INSTITUTE: SECURING YOURSELF, YOUR WORK, & ART

Saturday, April 21

10:30 am-4:00 pm

University of Michigan Detroit Center,

Ann Arbor Room

3663 Woodward Ave.

Detroit, MI 48201

HILL V. SNYDER UPDATE

by SADO Assistant Defender, Erin Van Campen

On April 9, 2018, United States District Court Judge Goldsmith issued an important decision in Hill v Snyder. This is a case brought in federal court back in 2010 by the ACLU and Ms. LaBelle on behalf of juvenile lifers in Michigan as a class. When the law was changed following the Supreme Court's decision in Montgomery v Louisiana, plaintiffs amended their suit to challenge various provisions of the new juvenile lifer law in Michigan, MCL 769.25a.

First, Judge Goldsmith granted class certification. This means that all current and former juvenile lifers are now plaintiffs in Hill v Snyder. In other words, you and all other juvenile lifers will benefit from any favorable decisions in the case.

The other big issue Judge Goldsmith had to consider was whether a portion of MCL 769.25a violated the ex post facto clause by denying good time and/or disciplinary credits to juvenile lifers whose offenses occurred before December 15, 1998. Judge Goldsmith ruled that this portion of MCL 769.25a is unconstitutional and should not apply to juvenile lifers whose offenses occurred before December 15, 1998.

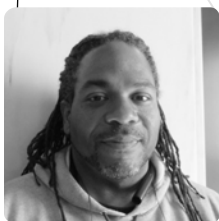
Judge Goldsmith ordered the MDOC to calculate the good time and/or disciplinary credit for all juvenile lifers who have already been resentenced. He also ordered the MDOC to calculate the good time and/or disciplinary credit within seven days of any future juvenile lifer resentencings.

This decision does not apply to those juvenile lifers whose offenses were committed after December 15, 1998. At that time, Michigan eliminated good time and disciplinary credit for all people who committed offenses from that time on.

Judge Goldsmith's decision is great news, but the attorney general plans to appeal this decision and ask the higher courts to stay or delay Judge Goldsmith's order until the appeal is over. That means the decision could potentially be overruled. It also means it could be some time before the decision goes into effect.

What does this mean for former juvenile lifers who have since been released on parole? Depending on how much good time and/or disciplinary credit you have, it is possible you could be eligible to discharge from parole early. Whether early discharge is a possibility for you depends on your institutional record and whether the attorney general is able to get Judge Goldsmith's order stayed. If you have questions about your individual situation, you should contact your current or former attorney for advice.

HOW TO PRIORITIZE TIME: QUESTION & ANSWER WITH ANTONIO WILLIAMS



Q: A lot comes at you in your first few months post-release. How did you prioritize your time?

A: I focused on moving from the general, to the specific. I got my birth certificate, Social Security Card, and signed up for benefits and transferred my Medicaid status within the first week. I thought about school, and signed up for some classes but decided that finding work and having an income was more important at the time. The job search can be a challenge when you're up against a background. Apply a lot of places, and focus on felon-friendly employers, otherwise a lot of energy can be wasted. After that, remember not to lose sight of yourself. Try to think about the things that were important to you prior to getting out and try to make some effort to accomplishing those goals every day.

Q: What do you think is a healthy timeline/guideline?

A: I don't know if timeline is the right word. I think the most important thing to remember is that everything takes time. Nothing is going to come overnight. Don't feel like you need to catch up once you're out. Your readjustment to society takes time. Your readjustment to your family takes time. Once you realize that, you can move into how to prioritize/regulate your time based on your goals and needs.

Q: What was something you didn't expect upon release?

A: I didn't want to immediately enter into the workforce and become some kind of drone. Where I would have originally said home and family is the most important, work is just necessary. Balancing work and family is hard, but it is essential.

Q: Do you think to-do lists are helpful?

A: I'm an anti-list maker. I can see how they can be helpful for some, but for us, we don't need to put more pressure on ourselves than society already is. What I found important to remember is that every choice includes a sacrifice. Make sure the choices that you're making is worthy of that sacrifice.

Q: What's one tool you have acquired since release?

A: Patience is a virtue. Prison makes you reactionary, but society has a totally different set of rules. We don't always realize it, but we need to make adjustments accordingly. The other day I was sitting at a red light and waiting to turn right. A guy literally came out of one of the cars behind me and asked, "Are you gonna turn?" and I just had to stay calm. I white-knuckled my steering wheel the entire drive home. Moments like that catch you. You have to arm yourself with patience because not everyone else on the outside has it.



RAY HOWELL
RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2017

CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

HOMETOWN
Detroit, MI

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Ray Howell is spending most of his time looking for jobs. When he's not doing that, he's spending time talking with his family and going to the movies.

SUCCESSES SINCE RELEASE

Being back in it: getting all forms of identification, a car, hunting for a job—not letting rejection get him down, but using it as motivation to work harder.

STRUGGLES SINCE RELEASE

Finding a job, navigating county-by-county resources. Trying to "put it all together" and pick up the missing pieces. Family has been a big supporter, but he's working toward independence.

MESSAGE FOR THE COMMUNITY

"What I'm running into right now is knowing when to remove myself from a situation, knowing that it will hurt me financially. Balancing financial well-being with mental health has been a constant struggle. I try not to worry too much, but it's hard not to doubt yourself; but, I still get up in the morning, praying and hoping, and believing I'm ready for the next thing. Never settle for less, always strive for more. All in all, I'm good, I'm blessed, I'm grateful. Spending more time with my mother is my biggest inspiration—my wife and children, too. I'm proud of them, they support me. If you have good people around you, surround yourself with them."

IMPORTANT!

In order to continue to receive benefits, you must notify your case manager about the following two scenarios, if applicable.

If you have gained employment since receiving benefits, you must submit pay stubs to a case manager at MDHHS. Call and talk with the counselor to learn how to do this. Make sure you have your case number on hand.

If you have moved from the address you were paroled to, you need to submit a change of address form to a case manager at MDHHS. You will need to know your case number for the form.

Not doing these two things could result in a loss of benefits.

Please contact Project Reentry if you need assistance with either process. Not submitting this form will result in a loss of benefits. If you are having further issues, contact Lakeshore Legal Aid at (888) 783-8190.

SHARING EXPERIENCES *by Allison Gorine*



On March 27th, 2018 Mr. Edward Sanders was invited to the University of Michigan School of Social Work to speak to students in a community and social systems class. Prior to the speech, students discussed reform efforts including prison abolition, drug courts, Raise the Age, and restorative practices while Mr. Sanders waited patiently to share his experience.

Mr. Sanders began his speech with honesty and boldness, stating “I’ve waited 43 years to be here so I hope no one has plans to go anywhere soon”. This statement initially grasped the class’s attention but Mr. Sanders’s personal story and inside knowledge of the system held it. For most students, this was the first time they heard first-hand knowledge about America’s prison system and what Mr. Sanders shared was, as he stated, “not academic”. Mr. Sanders’s offered the class insights on good time policies, youth sentencing, maltreatment of people with mental illness in prison, aging in prison, and the injustices held up by the 13th Amendment.

One student asked, “what can we do as social workers?”, in reference to challenging the injustices of the criminal justice system. Leaving the class with something to remember, Mr. Sanders asked that social workers always look beyond the crime and never stop seeing the good in humanity. University of Michigan students applauded Mr. Sanders’s unforgettable speech and thanked him for his time, with recognition that he waited 43 years to be there.

JOBS

FLEX-N-GATE MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Production Operator

Full Time, Pay varies by experience

Apply online at <https://jobs.flex-n-gate.com>

AK STEEL DEARBORN, MI

Hourly Production

Requires ability to do physical labor.

Minimum \$15.92/hour

Full Time, Apply online at

careers.aksteel.com

PRECISION STRIP WOODHAVEN, MI

Packaging Technician

Full Time, \$16.50/hour

Apply at online at

precisionstrip.applicantpro.com

SHINOLA DETROIT, MI

Production Worker

Pay varies by experience.

Apply online at

careers-shinola.icims.com

BERKSHIRE SUPPLY WARREN, MI

Warehouse Associate

Full-Time, \$14.00/hour

Requires ability to do physical labor.

Apply at location or online at

berkshiresupply.atsondemand.com

RESOURCES

SIMPLY HIRED.COM

Job-search website with felony-friendly job listings. Not all jobs listed are felony-friendly. Be sure to look at job-requirements to see if employers do background checks and/or they are felony-exempt employers.

SOUTHWEST SOLUTIONS

Provides workforce development training, and housing-search, and home ownership assistance.

Workforce Development Lab:

Open Monday-Thursday, 9-5pm

The lab offers:

- GED Preparation
- Educational support
- Computer instruction
- Academic and career counseling
- Workplace skills preparation
- Referrals to wraparound services
- Financial literacy
- Instruction and resources for trainees in workforce develop programs

Call (313) 451-8055 to enroll in free classes or drop in during open lab hours from 3-5pm, Monday-Thursday.

Locations:

8640 Vernor Highway, Detroit, MI

OR 4214 Vernor Highway, Detroit, MI

GET COOKING!

LAYERED ENCHILADA CASSEROLE

A hearty and satisfying “Mexican lasagna” that comes together quickly.

2 pounds lean ground beef

1 large onion

1/4 cup chili powder

1 jalapeño chili, chopped

12 corn tortillas

1 15-ounce can chili beans

1 1/2 cups grated sharp cheddar cheese

2 14 1/2-ounce cans of Mexican style stewed tomatoes

Preheat oven to 350°. Butter 13x9x2-inch glass baking dish. Sauté beef and onion in large pan over high heat until brown, about 10 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Mix in chili powder and jalapeño and sauté 5 minutes. Season mixture with salt and pepper.

Overlap 6 tortillas on bottom of baking dish, covering completely. Spoon beef mixture, then beans evenly over tortillas. Cover with remaining 6 tortillas. Sprinkle cheese over the top. Pour tomatoes with their juices over cheese. Bake until casserole is heated through and bubbling at edges, about 1 hour.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE?

Send your letter to:

**PROJECT REENTRY
STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER OFFICE
645 GRISWOLD, SUITE 3300
DETROIT, MI 48226**

Call:

**THE STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER OFFICE
(313) 256-9833**

and ask for a Project Reentry Team Member

or e-mail:

REENTRY@SADO.ORG



HALEY KISER

BEST WISHES!

THREE OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS, HALEY, ANNA, AND CAITLIN WILL BE LEAVING AT THE END OF APRIL. WE'RE GOING TO MISS THEM, BUT WE'RE SO EXCITED TO SEE WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO NEXT. THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE HEART THAT YOU POURED INTO THIS PROJECT!

REASON FOR LEAVING

I am completing my first year of graduate school so my field placement with SADO is coming to an end!

FUTURE PLANS

I will be studying abroad in Norway and Sweden this summer and plan to see family during my summer break before I go back to school in the fall.

WHAT YOU'LL MISS MOST ABOUT SADO

I will miss Y'ALL, the clients. We do this for all of you and knowing that we have possibly helped you in some way or another is the most important thing to me.

MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

"Seek to have a hard head and a soft heart. Having a hard head means being mentally tough, courageous, disciplined, and perseverant in the face of obstacles. At the same time, a hard head is best accompanied by a soft heart—by compassion, empathy, and understanding...A hard head without a soft heart can lead to cruelty or a survival of the fittest mentality. A soft heart without a hard head can be overindulgent, condescending, and even patronizing."

- City Year Wisdom



CAITLIN MCGEE

REASON FOR LEAVING

I am leaving so that I can focus on my last few classes for my undergrad at Wayne State.

FUTURE PLANS

After graduation, I plan to take a year off to focus on studying for the LSAT and apply to law schools.

WHAT YOU'LL MISS MOST ABOUT SADO

Prior to my internship at SADO, I had never worked anywhere related to what I wanted to do in my future. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with everyone and for how helpful everyone was. This was truly an amazing experience and has helped me to be sure that I am going in the right direction with my career.

MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

I would like to thank everyone who I have come into contact with while working on Project Reentry. I have learned so much from everyone and have had my eyes opened to just how many people are willing to help you, if you just ask.



ANNA YALDO

REASON FOR LEAVING

I'm done with the first term of my program, so my field placement at SADO is ending.

FUTURE PLANS

Become a juvenile public defender.

WHAT YOU'LL MISS MOST ABOUT SADO

Working with awesome people!



Detroit's first ride of 2018 is scheduled for May 7th!

Slow Roll is a community of bike riders that take different tours throughout Detroit.

Slow Roll is for everyone; all ages, all skill levels, and every type of bike is welcome. Our slow pace keeps the group safe and gives riders a unique perspective of Detroit and its neighborhoods.

Rides will happen almost every Monday, May-October.

For more informations, go to www.slowroll.bike

READ

THE BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

An exceptional father-son story about the reality that tests us, the myths that sustain us, and the love that saves us.

Available at your local library or on Amazon

WATCH

THE LAST OG

Released from prison on good behavior, ex-con Tray falls

back on skills he learned in prison to

support himself on his kids.

Tuesdays at 10:30 pm on TBS

RAISED IN THE SYSTEM, VICE EPISODE

On juvenile incarceration, childhood trauma, alternatives to incarceration, and rehabilitation.

You can access the episode on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=164&v=yq3uVJQN8Gw

LISTEN

INVISIBILI A PODCAST

A podcast about the invisible things that influence our behavior.