

MISSION

The Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative's mission is to advocate and promote humane and sensible criminal justice and sentencing policies for those incarcerated long term in Maryland prisons. We believe that through actions of restoration, redemption and reconciliation, we can create long-term systemic change.

After serving 39 years for a crime he did not commit, and witnessing the dismal conditions of the Maryland Criminal Justice system, Walter Lomax, in conjunction with the listed partners and sponsors, is organizing a seminar on May 14. The goals of the initial seminar are to bring together members from the three branches of the Maryland State Government, along with members of Congress, advocates, volunteers, and professionals from various levels of society together to foster conversations around restorative and humane criminal justice policies to address existing systemic problems.

The aims and objectives of this initiative will be to craft legislation and policies so that individuals who spend many years in prison may receive meaningful consideration of release. What we hope to accomplish is begin to develop sensible policies, and if need be, changes in the law, so that those individuals who have spend many years in prison under laws and policies that have since changed, may receive meaningful consideration of release, especially for deserving individuals who have rehabilitated and habilitated themselves.

Project Director

Walter Mandela Lomax

Executive Committee

Legislative Chair Connie Smith
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Judicial Chair Jeanette Kingsberry
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Partners

Drug Policy Alliance
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Sponsors

Fusion Partnerships Inc.
The Sentencing Project
Families Against Injustice
Justice Maryland



MARYLAND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

A Project of
Fusion Partnerships, Inc.

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MARYLAND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

THE STRENGTH OF OUR
EFFORTS WILL
DETERMINE THE MEASURE
OF OUR RESULTS.

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Tel: 410.889.4700

HISTORY

This initiative began in 1995 when policies changed in the Maryland Division of Correction for persons serving long term incarceration. The policy changes were addressed both legally, and legislatively.

In May 1999, the first ever all-day seminar was scheduled to bring members from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Maryland State Government together, seeking to establish policies, and if necessary, changes in the law. The purpose of the seminar was to bring about meaningful and sensible criminal justice policies. For various reasons, the seminar did not take place. It was again scheduled for December 2001, but morphed into a photo opportunity and general discussion.



The event was rescheduled to take place in September 2006, but the tragic death of a correctional officer at the Maryland House of Correction, and its subsequent closing, again was canceled.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 14, 2008
8:30am - 3:00pm

WHERE: Cork Factory Gallery
302 E Federal Street, 4th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Marc Mauer is one of the country's leading experts on sentencing policy, race and the criminal justice system. . He has directed programs on criminal justice policy reform for 30 years, and is the author of some of the most widely-cited reports and publications in the field, including *Young Black Men and the Criminal Justice System*, and *Americans Behind Bars*, a series comparing international rates of incarceration. His 1995 report on racial disparity and the criminal justice system led the New York Times to editorialize that the report "should set off alarm bells from the White House to city halls – and help reverse the notion that we can incarcerate our way out of fundamental social problems." *Race to Incarcerate*, Mauer's groundbreaking book on how sentencing policies led to the explosive expansion of the U.S. prison population, was a semifinalist for the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award in 1999, and revised in 2006. Mauer is also the co-editor of *Invisible Punishment*, a 2002 collection of essays by prominent criminal justice experts on the social cost of imprisonment.

TOPICS

Executive

- Viable programs for persons serving long-term incarceration
- Education and habilitation
- Community-based programs with inmate participation
- Programs for persons unable to move below medium security to demonstrated their soundness for re-entry into free society
- Sentence reduction for health reasons

Legislative

- Sensible criminal justice policies
- Review of the Governor's authority to sign for the release of parole eligible persons serving life sentences

Judicial

- Belated sentence review for long-term incarcerated
- Time reduction for good conduct



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