

“...incarceration is used too often as a solution for children with problems...”



# JUVENILE JUSTICE IN ILLINOIS

## The role of the Illinois State Bar Association

**Presenter:**

Mark D. Hassakis, *President*  
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## ISBA's Commitment to Youth

The Illinois State Bar Association has supported efforts to improve the juvenile justice system over many decades. ISBA lent crucial support to the founding of the Juvenile Justice Initiative and has played a role in support of needed legislation affecting the juvenile justice system.

Who really cares anyway? There is a crisis in Juvenile Justice in Illinois ... A person on the street who does not have a child or know of a child involved in the system, may think they are not affected by this crisis. Are we too busy paying our own bills and worrying about our personal futures to care about this? Are our elected representatives making decisions based on what is right for our youth and best for society? We really need to raise people's expectations on how we adjudicate juvenile cases, the education/training provided them, and most of all, using alternative dispositions rather than incarceration for youth who have committed less serious offenses.

In the long run, how does the ineffective handling of juvenile cases affect us all? The downside is likely to be an increased crime rate as these youth grow older, greater constraints on limited state resources for adult incarceration expenses, higher insurance rates and other costs of heightened crime. Family structures are adversely affected; neighborhoods become besieged with greater truancy and discord, ultimately leading to a lack of a trained, stable workforce. This all results in adverse economic, safety and health outcomes for all our communities.



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## Resources to Meet the Challenges

The State of Illinois is struggling, in part because of the economic difficulties facing all states, but also because of a lack of resolve to adopt proven, transformative strategies for serving youth who become enmeshed in the juvenile justice system.

Other states, some right next to Illinois, are finding ways to reduce incarceration of juveniles and, by so doing, are saving money:

- Illinois spends over \$100 million each year to lock up nearly 1200 youth in state correctional facilities, and even more to lock up over 2,000 youth while they await trial in detention centers across the state.
- The *per capita* cost to incarcerate one juvenile in the Department of Juvenile Justice is \$85,000; through the Redeploy Illinois program in which youth receive services in their own communities without incarceration, the cost is less than \$10,000.
- The State of Missouri takes a different approach in which only the most serious offenses by juveniles result in incarceration and in which resources in the community are used primarily. The result is not only a dollar savings but also in improved recidivism rates and an improved rate of successful return to school.

Illinois has the framework in existence for improving its juvenile justice system. The Department of Juvenile Justice, the Juvenile Justice Initiative, and Redeploy Illinois are all essential elements, working hand-in-hand with the resources available to them. As always, more financial support is needed in the long run to achieve progress, but the following are things that can be done now to improve services to at-risk youth:

- **Conditions of confinement and the lack of staff training in juvenile care and treatment.** A report by the John Howard Association of Illinois, a prison reform group, found staff-to-youth ratios of 1:24 by day and 1:60 by night in some juvenile facilities across the state. There are understaffing problems, including numerous counseling and administrative positions that are unfilled.

Other shortfalls: the inappropriate use of harsh discipline techniques including isolation; the lack of programming of any kind for many incarcerated youth; and the lack of educational opportunities.

Finally, the issue of inadequate mental health treatment calls out for solution. Meeting the mental health needs of youthful offenders is one of the most important issues facing juvenile justice systems across the nation. Mental health



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issues can be a barrier to success for any individual, regardless of social and demographic characteristics. Juveniles who are dealing with mental health problems while being involved in the juvenile justice system are more likely to continue to experience justice system involvement. Properly identifying youth in need and linking them with appropriate services will help facilitate their rehabilitation and likely reduce subsequent law-violating behavior.

- **Inappropriate incarceration of low level offenders and extensive lengths of stay.** Thirteen (13) percent of juveniles committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice in 2009 were misdemeanors, forty (40) percent were low level (Class 3, Class 4 felony & misdemeanor) offenders. All of these – fifty-three (53) percent – would be eligible for Redeploy Illinois services, and should be swiftly evaluated and stepped down to more effective community-based services.

- **Broken re-entry process.** Problems in this area include the high percentage of “technical” parole violators, the lack of due process in both the release and the parole violation process, the excessive length of stay on parole, and the reliance on adult parole officers to monitor juvenile offenders.

There is a ready answer to the lack of services for juvenile parolees or aftercare. One of the Illinois juvenile detention facilities (ITC, Chicago) is collaborating with the MacArthur Foundation’s Models for Change initiative and is beginning to introduce model programming to involve families. This kind of reform can hopefully be in place throughout the system and soon. Unless family connections are maintained and improved, youth who have often burned many bridges prior to their confinement will have a difficult time returning to their own home or to live with relatives.

## Expungement and Expedited Appeals

Pending and proposed legislation is necessary for mental health and education/vocational services – important for any youth – those in or out of the system. It is important that we also seek legislation or Supreme Court rule changes for the right to an expedited appeal for juveniles. More juveniles require legal representation in juvenile matters than they are currently receiving.



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## We Must Take Charge

We cannot afford to continue with zero “0” tolerance for juveniles as in the 1980’s. We cannot just “ship off” our local problems. If so, what do you expect will happen? Where do you expect these youth to go upon their release from incarceration? I submit that they will return to the only city or town they know – from where they came. Do they come back with training, skills and education? The answer is not generally now by what our State offers our youth.

We must take responsibility in our communities for the youth within them. We should customize the approach for each youth and which cannot be done by cuts to mental health spending, by foregoing needs assessments for each youth’s problems (emotional, depression, learning disability or otherwise) and by applying a “one size fits all” approach. We must cater to each individual’s needs with the advice of an advisory council to assure that we help mentor/nurture, educate and train our young people. It’s the only solution! The message is loud and clear, now with the cost at approximately \$85,000.00 per youth per year for incarceration. Most all money is now spent on the back end of the problem, and not the front end, which is wrong. Incarceration is really the least of the expense of what comes later.

## What You Can Do

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and even 4<sup>th</sup> chances for youth are okay. Remember the saying “I’m okay – You’re okay”. How about you? Did you get a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance somewhere along your journey?

Here’s what you can do now...

- Ask how you handle juvenile offenses in your community.
- Are there alternative programs to incarceration in your towns/cities?
- If no, what can you do?
- Form an Advisory Council – seek funding or a grant.
- Youth – don’t sweep problem youth under the rug – “out of sight ≠ out of mind”.
- Let’s move forward... together.



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**These are just a few of the challenges facing the hardworking people who are committed to serving our youth. Teachers, parents, lawyers and judges – we all can and must play a part. Much depends on what we do today to shape the kind of society we and our children, and theirs, will later inhabit.**

**Let's have the legal community – attorneys and judges – to be ever involved, engaged and informed. Our State, and our cities and towns in Southern Illinois, will be headed for years of hard times unless reforms in Juvenile Justice can now be fully implemented.**



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# FACT SHEET

## Forming a Juvenile Justice Councils

### Illinois Juvenile Court Act

A major overhaul of the Illinois juvenile justice system happened on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999 when Public Act 90-590 (The Juvenile Justice Reform Act) took effect. The Juvenile Justice Reform Act adopts a balance and restorative justice (BARJ) model, which intends to balance the needs of the offender with the needs of the victim and the concern for public safety. Many of the provisions included in this act focus on procedural change within the juvenile justice system; however, some of the provisions focus on the need for community engagement as well as planning on the local level. Article VI (705 ILCS 405/6-12) of this act encourages counties, or groups of counties, to establish Juvenile Justice Councils (JJC). According to this Article, the purpose of a JJC is:

*“to provide a forum for the development of a community-based interagency assessment of the local juvenile justice system, to develop a county juvenile justice plan for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, and to make recommendations to the county board, or county boards, for more effectively utilizing community resources in dealing with juveniles who are found to be involved in crime, or who are truant or have been suspended or expelled from school.<sup>1</sup>”*

<sup>1</sup> For a complete copy of the juvenile justice council statute, see Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Web site: [www.icjia.org](http://www.icjia.org)

### WHY form a Juvenile Justice Council?

#### Purpose of a JJC:

To provide a forum for the development of a community-based needs assessment of the local juvenile justice system, to develop a county juvenile justice plan for the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

#### Benefits of a JJC:

1. Brings together community members with a vested interest in the needs of youth, families, and the community to address juvenile delinquency and prevention.

(Vested partners include but are not limited to: State’s Attorney, Sheriff, Probation Officer, county board, schools, social services, public health and safety, and state agencies.)

2. Collaboration with local partners and shared resources increases the Council’s ability to apply for and receive public and private grant funds that supply one or more community-based delinquency prevention, diversion, or intervention program (service).
3. Data collection – access, organize and provide meaningful data...
4. Consistency in community-based services by expanding access to services identifying gaps in evaluation, treatment, assessment, and assistance.



# FACT SHEET

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## Juvenile Justice Council in Illinois

The following counties have established or in process of organizing councils but not limited to:

### **County:**

Carroll County  
Crawford County  
De Kalb County  
Du Page County  
Edwards County  
Effingham County (Steering Committee-4<sup>th</sup> Circuit)  
Ford County (est. 1999)  
Franklin County  
Grundy County  
Henry County  
Iroquois County  
Jefferson County (est. 2000)  
Jo Davies County  
Kendall County  
Kane County  
Knox County (First to organize in Illinois)  
Lawrence County (est. 1999)  
Lake County  
LaSalle  
Lee County  
Macon County  
Macoupin County  
Madison County  
McLean County  
Ogle County  
Peoria County  
St. Claire County (St. Claire Co Youth Coalition)  
Stephenson County  
Wabash County (Project Success)  
Will County

For information about organizing or re-organizing your community Juvenile Justice Council contact:

Michelle Bradley, Statewide Coordinator

*The Illinois Association of Juvenile Justice Councils (IAJJC) at:*

Phone: (618) 204-5075 Ext.

E-mail: [mbradley@iajic.org](mailto:mbradley@iajic.org)  
[info@iajic.org](mailto:info@iajic.org)

Visit our web site: [www.iajic.org](http://www.iajic.org)



# What is Redeploy Illinois?

Redeploy Illinois is designed to provide services to youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who are at high risk of being committed to the Department of Corrections. A fiscal incentive is provided to counties to provide services to youth within their home communities by building a continuum of care for youth who are in the juvenile justice system. Counties link youth to a wide array of needed services and supports within the home community, as indicated through an individualized needs assessment. Services are provided in the least restrictive manner possible, and can include case management, court advocacy, education assistance, individual/family/group counseling and crisis intervention.

Every year, hundreds of Illinois teenagers enter the juvenile justice system by engaging in risk-taking and/or illegal behavior. The effect on the lives of these youth is frequently devastating and the cost to the State is enormous. With the creation of Redeploy Illinois in 2004, the Illinois General Assembly set Illinois on a new course of action in meeting the needs of delinquent youth.

Redeploy Illinois, now in the third year of its pilot phase, gives counties the financial support to provide comprehensive services to delinquent youth in their home communities who might otherwise be sent to jail. Research has found that non-violent youth are less likely to become further involved in criminal behavior if they remain in their home communities and appropriate services are available that address underlying needs such as mental illness, substance abuse, learning disabilities, unstable living arrangements and dysfunctional parenting. It has also been demonstrated that it is less expensive than a sentence to corrections. Unfortunately, many counties in Illinois lack the resources to effectively serve delinquent youth locally. A lack of local programs and services plays a significant role in the court's decision to commit a youth to a correctional facility. The funds provided to the Redeploy pilot sites fills the gaps in their continuum of services, allowing them to cost-effectively serve youth in their home communities and reduce the system's reliance on corrections.

This progressive effort to build on the work done in other states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania, which successfully reduced juvenile incarceration rates through similarly structured programs, is paying off. Data from its first year of operation indicate that the program resulted in savings to the State of over \$2.4 million, and reduced commitments to corrections by an average of 33%. Youth are being successfully treated in their own communities and kept from the devastation of incarceration, saving the State money, reducing the number of crime victims and creating safer communities across Illinois.

Redeploy Illinois has been hailed as a model for the nation in efforts to reduce inefficient and ineffective juvenile justice systems. In a study released in March by the Justice Policy Institute, Redeploy Illinois was cited as an example of the kind of program other states should embrace as a way to reduce prison costs and prevent young offenders from falling into futures dominated by criminal behavior and incarceration.

## Purpose of Juvenile Redeploy Illinois:

The purpose of Juvenile Redeploy Illinois [(P.A. 93-0641) December 2003] is to **create financial incentives to keep youth in the local community rather than commit them to the Department of Juvenile Justice.** According to the current statute, each site is required to reduce juvenile commitments of non-violent offenders to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) by 25% in one year. The program excludes murder and Class X forcible felonies.

On April 7, 2009, Governor Quinn signed in to law Senate Bill 1013 (P.A. 95-1050) which will enable counties with fewer than an average of 10 commitments over the previous 3 years to access a pool of funding to enter in to an agreement to provide services to juveniles to avoid commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

## Redeploy Illinois Sites:

The original four Redeploy sites include: Second Judicial District (includes 12 counties in Southern Illinois: Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White), Macon County, Peoria County, and St. Clair County.

The following five sites were added in FY2009: Kankakee County, Lee County, Madison County, McLean County and the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit (includes Christian, Clinton, Fayette, Marion and Montgomery Counties).

## Return on Investment:

The reduction of commitments since the implementation of the program has exceeded the target. While the counties are required to reduce **commitments to DJJ by 25%, they actually decreased by 51%**, serving hundreds of youth safely in the community instead of incarcerating them. According to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, it costs \$85,000 for a 12-month

commitment to DJJ. The latest Redeploy Annual Report notes that the “per capita cost for treating

a youth locally under Redeploy Illinois ranges from \$3,000 to \$10,000.”

## Historical Funding for Redeploy Illinois:

### **JUST COMPARISON:**

- **\$85,000** - The latest reported *per capita cost to incarcerate one juvenile in the Department of Juvenile Justice.*
- **Less than \$10,000** - The range of *costs to serve youth in their community through Redeploy.*

**NOTE - Illinois Spends nearly twice as much on overtime for the Dept of Juvenile Justice(DJJ), as it does on Redeploy to keep kids out of DJJ.**

Redeploy received an appropriation through the Department of Human Services of \$2 million in FY2005, \$1.5 million in FY2006, \$2.295 million in FY2007, \$2.295 million in FY2008, \$3.229 million in FY2009, and \$2.816 million in FY2010. Governor Quinn has recommended \$ 2.5 million in FY2011.

## How to Expand the Success:

### **13 Counties sent 76% of the youth to state juvenile prison (DJJ)**

***Doubling the Redeploy Illinois funding would expand Redeploy to all of these 13 counties and could reduce incarceration by nearly 40%.***

**Additional funding would also permit adequate funding for the “pool” of dollars created in the new law which will enable smaller counties that might have an infrequent youth in need of services to receive support. This investment would shift the resources from incarceration to a more effective treatment for youth.**



# The Urgent Need for Juvenile Justice Reform

**Our costly juvenile justice system too often does more harm than good. Fortunately, there's a better way. Here's what the ISBA is doing – and what you can do – to help.**

I told you last month in my inaugural President's Page that we would focus on a single important social issue this year – improving our juvenile justice system. This month I'll provide some background to help you better understand how and why we're failing our young people and what we all can do about it.

You know the key “players” – judges, prosecutors, defenders, probation officers, educators, and political leaders – who can work together to make a difference. The ISBA and its members can and will be the catalyst for change, working in concert with the MacArthur Foundation, Juvenile Justice Commission, Loyola University School of Law Civitas Childlaw Center, Chicago Bar Association, and Illinois Judges Association.

## A different approach to juvenile justice

The nation's juvenile court system began more than a century ago right here in Illinois. But those of us who don't practice in juvenile court probably don't give much thought to how the system works. And that's a shame, because it really matters, not only to us as attorneys but to parents, families, neighbors, and citizens throughout the state.

And, of course, our juvenile justice system matters most to youth in conflict with the law. For them, what happens in the system can influence the rest of their lives. Will they start down a path of crime, incarceration, and misery? Or will they have a chance to grow into the healthy young adults our communities need?

These are the incredibly high stakes for our legal system. How are we doing, you ask? Well, there's good news and there's bad news. Let's start with the challenges.

## The problem

We spend far too much time and money on punishment as the main tool to change behavior. Simply put, we too often lock up troubled youth who have mental health, education, family, and/or substance abuse problems instead of taking other approaches that work better and cost much less in the long run.

In fact, Illinois spends over \$100 million dollars each year to lock up nearly 1,200 youth in state correctional facilities. We spend even more to lock up over 2,000 youth annually while they await trial in detention centers across the state. It's an uncomfortable – and totally unacceptable – reality that we incarcerate minority youth at a rate far outpacing their numbers in our communities.

Given today's budget shortfalls, most of these facilities cannot provide even the most basic educational or rehabilitative programming. Too often our incarcerated youth leave facilities worse off than when they entered. Over half of the youth we send to juvenile prisons return in three years.

Unfortunately, Illinois law blurs the lines between youth and adult offenders. As any parent of teenagers can attest, they are not little adults. They think and act differently. Brain research shows this clearly, and yet our state policies rarely reflect this reality.

For instance, until January of this year a 17-year-old arrested for a misdemeanor was considered an adult. Seventeen-year-olds charged with more serious crimes still are.

Illinois spent decades expanding the number of circumstances in which juveniles could be prosecuted as adults in criminal courts. This left our state with the most complicated transfer scheme in the nation. While we have

begun to reverse these trends, more work is needed to ensure that youth are treated as youth – capable of tremendous growth and change when given the structure and support a juvenile court should provide.

Moreover, we too often rely on incarceration and pursue “adultified”

**We enact laws and build detention facilities on the notion that the public wants us to be tough on youth crime. It doesn't.**

approaches, though we know that confining youth does not provide them with new skills, help them make better decisions, or reduce the risk of new crime. It does, however, cost a great deal.

So why do Illinois and other states pursue failed juvenile justice approaches when less expensive, more effective, and more humane alternatives are available?

Sometimes we're reacting to an unfounded, fear-based notion that juvenile crime is on the rise. It is not. According to the Department of Justice, juvenile crime has decreased over the past two decades and was at an all time low in 2006. We hear about horrible cases in the news, but these are the exception rather than the rule.

We also enact laws, build detention facilities, and “crack down” on young people based on the notion that the public wants to be “tough on crime,” and tough on youth crime especially. It doesn't.

Research from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation confirms what most people intuitively know – 95 percent of the public would

pay more taxes to place troubled youth in rehabilitation programs rather than incarcerate them.

We want our youth to get better because we know they are coming back to our communities. We know we reap what we sow, and we know it's better to assist and enable our youth to improve rather than punish them with incarceration. The evidence is clear. The public wants and expects rehabilitation.

### The solutions

That brings us to the good news. Several factors – including the state's unprecedented fiscal crisis, solid research about “what works” to reduce juvenile recidivism, and the emergence of strong leadership in the juvenile justice community – are coalescing to create tremendous progress in Illinois and beyond.

In short, we now know what works and what doesn't and that we can't afford to waste public resources on counterproductive approaches. As a result, practitioners and policymakers are stepping up to implement and demonstrate more effective, less costly, and more just approaches to juvenile crime.

Some of these leaders are our own attorneys at the forefront of the Illinois Models for Change Initiative, an effort funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, to help Illinois implement a fair, rational, and effective juvenile justice system. ISBA member Ben Roe, the Ogle County State's Attorney, is one of these leaders.

Elected with a charge of preserving public safety, he is a steadfast champion for youth, for families, and for the entire Ogle County community. He firmly believes that incarcerating youth should be a last resort. He prefers to provide them with treatment and the resources to turn their lives around.

Roe's approach works. Ogle County has drastically reduced formal arrests, prosecution, and detention of youth. It sends nearly 70 percent of cases to diversion programs instead of to court, while maintaining a reoffense rate of about 5 percent, or far better results than incarceration could produce.

Think this can only happen in a small, rural county? Think again. Judge James Radcliffe in St. Clair County is leading efforts there to find and use alternatives to incarceration, and his community is safer for it. Through the Redeploy Illinois program, St. Clair County successfully reduced its commitments to

the Department of Juvenile Justice by more than 50 persons in one year. The crime rate didn't go up; it went down.

Across our state, defenders, prosecutors, judges, and other lawyers are leading efforts to do better by youth, their families, and our communities. Unfortunately, there is much work to be done. Too many counties have few or no community-based services. Others choose to rely on incarceration for even minor offenses and low-risk youth.

Better options are available. It is our obligation as lawyers, judges, and leaders to develop better policies, practices, and programs. I, along with our Board of Governors, assembly members, sec-

tion councils and committees, and the ISBA staff look forward to spending the next year raising the awareness of this timely social issue to our members and the public, as well as featuring the good work underway in Illinois, supporting and celebrating the juvenile justice leaders among us and encouraging all of us – lawyers, judges and community leaders – to take a look at juvenile justice.

We must work to ensure that every child has the opportunities we want for our own children to learn, grow, and become assets to our communities. I look forward to working with you to spearhead the next crucial years of juvenile justice reform in Illinois. ■

### What you can do

- Become familiar with the issues by asking these questions: What does your community do when vulnerable youth get in trouble? How does it ensure that youth are treated appropriately? What community-based strategies does it employ?
- Become familiar with the key players in your community. Many are probably fellow lawyers, including prosecutors, defenders, and judges. Ask them what you can do to make the system work better.
- Contact your elected representatives on the county board and in the legislature. Let them know you are interested in alternatives to incarceration, and let them know you are watching their actions.



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LAWYERS' ASSISTANCE  
Program



## Juvenile Justice: The Power of Prevention

Illinois spends much more on jailing juvenile offenders than it does on prevention and intervention. The investment in the two approaches should be reversed.

*This is the second in a series of President's Pages this year discussing one of the most critical challenges facing our state – juvenile justice reform. I have invited Elizabeth E. Clarke, president of the statewide Juvenile Justice Initiative, to give her perspective on this crisis.*

*Make no mistake: every day that we incarcerate low and moderate level youth offenders, we further financially burden our state and communities. The result is that these youth eventually become adult graduates from a system largely deficient in early learning/emotional detection that does little to rehabilitate them for later entry into society. Consequently, the problem we failed to address the first time comes back in a more virulent form to our communities.*

– Mark D. Hassakis

### Realigning Illinois Fiscal Priorities in Juvenile Justice

By Elizabeth E. Clarke

Research shows that treating youth in the community is the best medicine for youth crime. According to the Justice Policy Institute's report *The Costs of Confinement: Why Good Juvenile Justice Policies Make Good Fiscal Sense*, community-based programs increase public safety. The most effective programs at reducing recidivism rates and promoting positive outcomes for youth are administered in the community, outside of the criminal or juvenile justice systems. Some of these programs have reduced recidivism by up to 22 percent.

Illinois is increasingly cited as a model state for shifting limited resources to programs and policies that are most effective at reducing youth crime. A National Juvenile Justice Initiative

report published last June (*The Real Costs and Benefits of Change: Finding Opportunities for Reform During Difficult Fiscal Times*, on the web at [http://njjn.org/resource\\_1613.html](http://njjn.org/resource_1613.html)) cites the Redeploy Illinois program (described below) as one example of a fiscal realignment model that provides local incentives to courts to keep youth out of juvenile prisons while improving public safety – all for fewer taxpayer dollars.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation provided support for longitudinal research on the impact of incarceration on youth crime. As suspected, the research (see *Research on Pathways to Desistance* at [www.modelsforchange.net/publications/239](http://www.modelsforchange.net/publications/239))

concludes that low level offending youth are less likely to repeat offend if treated in the community rather than incarcerated. But surprisingly, the research also concludes that community treatment is more effective at reducing repeat offending for violent offenders, a finding that has serious policy implications for states that spend heavily on juvenile corrections.

Illinois is one such state, spending over \$100 million annually to incarcerate youth in state prisons but only \$3 million to keep youth out of prison through Redeploy Illinois. In fact, Illinois spends twice as much to incarcerate youth as it does to keep them out of incarceration through all prevention and intervention programming. Research suggests our state would be better to flip the funding, and invest twice as much in community programming as in confinement.

Two successful Illinois programs – Redeploy Illinois and the Illinois Juvenile Justice Mental Health Initiative – demonstrate that community-based services work better than incarceration.

### Redeploy Illinois

The Redeploy Illinois initiative gives counties money to provide comprehensive services to delinquent youth in their home communities who might otherwise be sent to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ). Research highlights Redeploy Illinois as a leading state program for reducing juvenile justice spending without compromising public safety. To date, nine Redeploy Illinois programs have served youth in 23 counties.

According to the Justice Policy Institute (JPI), a D.C.-based research center, the biggest states, including

**In its first three years, Redeploy Illinois diverted 382 youth from commitment in a state juvenile prison.**

Illinois, are “realigning fiscal resources away from ineffective and expensive state institutions, and towards more effective community-based services.” They highlight Redeploy Illinois, noting that in the first three years the initial sites diverted 382 youth from commitment in a state juvenile prison, lowering the number of commitments by 51 percent in those sites.

Redeploy Illinois is currently funded to support programming in only part of the state – the four original pilot sites, along with five new sites, all serving 23 counties. The oversight board recommends expansion statewide.

St. Clair County is a particularly successful Redeploy Illinois site. It successfully lowered commitments to state juvenile prison from over 60 per year to an average of 11, based on the use of evidence-based community

programs like multi-systemic therapy (MST) that provide individualized services to youth and their families. MST services typically include counseling, educational advocacy, vocational training, transportation, substance abuse treatment, and after-school programming.

The Redeploy Illinois approach used so successfully in St. Clair County could be employed statewide for a modest increase in funding. In Illinois, nearly 47 percent of youth held in custody are committed for non-violent crimes, and nearly one-third score “low-risk to reoffend” while another one-third score “moderate-risk to reoffend.”

Thus, a large pool of youth could benefit from expanding Redeploy Illinois. A relatively small increase in Redeploy funding could have a big impact.

### The Mental Health Juvenile Justice Initiative

According to a project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, 66 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable psychiatric condition. The Mental Health Juvenile Justice (MHJJ) program administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services’ Division of Mental Health targets these juvenile offenders.

The program began as a pilot project in four counties in 2000. Based on its initial success, the MHJJ program has since expanded to 34 Illinois counties.

The Division of Mental Health funds 21 local community agencies to employ a specially trained MHJJ liaison to work with the local juvenile courts and juvenile detention centers. MHJJ liaisons are masters-level clinicians who assess each youth for the presence of serious mental illness. The liaison develops a treatment plan outlining needs, strengths, community services, and funding.

The MHJJ program provides help with substance abuse treatment, family therapy, psychiatric services, educational advocacy, job training, psychological assessment, court advocacy, group therapy, individual therapy, recreational therapy, and mentoring. Since the MHJJ program’s inception in 2000, more than 12,000 children were referred for screenings, and more than 5,500 of them were identified as having significant mental health issues.

Program evaluations by Dr. John

Lyons of Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine show that when youth with mental illnesses receive community treatment, their clinical symptoms improve, school attendance goes up, and recidivism goes down dramatically. In 2006, only 27.6 percent of youth who went through MHJJ were rearrested, compared to a statewide average of 72 percent.

Research shows that shifting scarce resources from expensive and ineffective incarceration to community programming, as exemplified by Redeploy Illinois and the MHJJ initiative, will produce better outcomes for youth in conflict with the law and improve community safety. It is long past time that we fully deploy these alternatives. ■

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## What if it Were Your Child?

What would the juvenile justice system look like if we knew our sons, daughters, and grandchildren would go through it?

Remember the really stupid things you did as a teenager? If pressed, virtually every ISBA member would have to admit to reckless if not sometimes dangerous or even very serious mistakes we made as young people. Many of us privately take solace that our worst misdeeds weren't exposed. Or, if our "bad" act was discovered, we can remember being held accountable by our families, by our school, or by others in our community.

And somehow, we were given a second chance to grow up and do better. But we may also recall then breathing a huge sigh of relief. Without that second

chance, we might not be the lawyers and judges we are today. Would you want your child to face a prisoner review board on his or her own, with no attorney and no advocate by his side? Would you want your son or daughter to be on parole for years, with a long list of mandates and requirements and supervised by a parole agent from the Illinois Department of Corrections? Would you want your child to go back to a youth prison, without ever appearing before a judge or seeing an attorney, for breaking the rules of parole?

Or – if your child got into trouble – would you want something different? What would that be? *What would the juvenile justice system look like if we designed it with our own children in mind?*

### Brain chemistry

The juvenile court is founded on the fundamental idea that young people are different from adults in many ways. Their brains operate differently. They make decisions differently and often struggle with impulse control. They need caring adults in their lives

to provide structure, guidance, and support. They have less capacity to weigh the long-term consequences.

On the other hand, teenagers are capable of tremendous positive change, rehabilitation, and growth. Those of us who have had teenagers in our lives know this to be true. These facts are, in many ways, embedded in the Illinois Juvenile Court Act and, most recently, in the United States Supreme Court decisions in *Roper v Simmons* and *Graham v Florida*. That clear recognition of youth/adult differences under the law is promising and powerful.

But the fact remains that what we know about young people, their needs and their differences from adults, is often not manifested in our policies and prac-

tices in the juvenile justice system. Young people can be and are often picked up at school, undergo arrest and police questioning, and all without any adult guidance or support. What 14-year-old knows his or her legal rights or how best to communicate appropriately with police officers?

Too often our teenagers face detention hearings where a judge decides whether they go home or remain locked up while awaiting adjudication, and all without a meaningful chance to talk to their parents or to an attorney. Far too many youth found delinquent are then sentenced without prosecutors, judges, or defenders having the information provided them about underlying mental health or substance abuse issues, schooling shortfalls, or learning disabilities. These are the very types of services that could address those underlying needs without resorting to incarceration.

Youth sentenced to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice most often suffer a bleak existence. These "youth centers" tend to be far away from their families, with limited or non-existent transportation. Most such facilities have the look and feel of adult prisons, with grey walls, cement-block barracks, confining cells, and razor-wire perimeters on the grounds.

Leadership and staff in these facilities readily acknowledge that schooling, mental health services, drug treatment resources, recreational activities, and vocational training programs are far too limited. There is little planning or preparation for a successful release and return home for such youth. The "rehabilitation" component is simply missing.

### We can do better

The processes by which youth are either released or retained for extended periods are based on an adult model and rely upon the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, a body created to decide the fates



Lisa Jacobs is program manager for Models for Change, a juvenile justice reform effort funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and administered by Loyola University School of Law.

chance, we might not be the lawyers and judges we are today.

So what if *your child* did the things you or your friends did as teenagers? What if he or she got caught? What if your child or grandchild had mental health problems, or became involved in drug, and/or alcohol use or abuse, or got into a fight on school property?

What would you do if your child or grandchild were arrested and charged with a delinquent or criminal offense? Would you want your son, daughter, or relation to be questioned by police officers without an attorney or other adult present? Would you want your grandchild to be sent to an Illinois youth prison, far away from his or her community, school, and family?

of adult prisoners in correctional facilities. Few youth have parents present with them at their parole hearings. Even fewer have an adult present for parole revocation hearings.

And thus far, after nearly six months of observations conducted by the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, it is reported that no youth has had an attorney or any legal help in making the case that he or she is ready for release. What 15-year-old is capable of representing himself or herself before a body of adults that decides whether such youth goes home or remains incarcerated? What does this tell a young person about the value we place on freedom, life, due process, and well-being? Is this the kind of system we believe in, as lawyers and judges?

The reality is that the vast majority of lawyers and judges and other juvenile justice practitioners – from police officers to parole agents – care about youth and want to do right by them. They recognize that youth make mistakes, sometimes serious ones. They know that youth need opportunities to learn, to go to school, to get treatment if necessary, to make amends for causing harm and to have a second chance at life.

But, like many states, Illinois has created a juvenile justice system that, too often, stands in the way of successful outcomes. A zero tolerance policy is really no policy at all – it is an abdication of our responsibilities to treat young people as individuals. Being tough on juveniles is not the same thing as being smart on crime. We apply adult models to youth, even though we know in our hearts – and from our statutes and case law – that youth are different.

It would be one thing if these “adultified” approaches worked. They don’t. They don’t change lives for the better. They don’t enhance public safety. They certainly don’t save scarce fiscal resources in the short term and exponentially heighten the demand for more resources in the long run.

We can do better.

The good news is that lawyers and judges play a fundamental role in making positive change, and we are equipped and ready for the challenge. In addition to protecting the most basic Constitutional and human rights of our young people – which is a laudable goal in and of itself – we as lawyers and judges can and must do even more and do so now.

### Leading by example

In a forthcoming President’s Page, we hope to provide some examples of lawyers across the state – many of them ISBA members -- doing just that in our communities. Across Illinois, lawyers and judges are renewing their interest, leadership, and dedication to juvenile justice. They are finding ways to be involved, to be active in the lives of young people, and to make sure that young people have second chances to be everything they have the potential to become.

Some of these lawyers and judges are leading juvenile justice councils, which foster community collaboration and planning to understand and respond to the problems of young people in the community, to devise local alternatives to incarceration, and to then build on each youth’s talents and strengths. Others are representing individual youth at expungement hearings, working to provide such youth the “fresh start” they may deserve by clearing their records of arrests that were never even prosecuted.

Lawyers are building coalitions to improve the laws and policies that shape our justice system and influence the lives

of young people across the state. Others are training and organizing volunteers to visit and monitor the conditions under which our youth are detained and incarcerated. Training resources are being developed so that prosecutors, defenders, and judges all understand and apply the principles of adolescent development and “best practices” with youth in conflict with the law.

Still others are advocating with and for families, who are our most valuable allies in preventing and addressing juvenile crime in productive, restorative ways. Lawyers are getting involved in local school boards and advocating for enhanced learning opportunities for our youth, to keep them out of the juvenile justice system in the first place.

But, inevitably, some youth will become involved with law enforcement and the courts. So we pose again this question: What would you want the juvenile justice system to look like *if you knew your child was going to go through it*? And what will we, as a community of lawyers and judges, do to make this system of justice a reality for *all* young people, their families, and our communities? ■



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2. Quality of work in writing and editing material for publication
3. Importance of subject matter to the newsletter’s audience
4. Reputation of the editor in the field covered by the newsletter

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# Transforming Juvenile Justice: Lawyers Making A Difference

A look at three lawyers who are helping to create a more fair, effective, and rational juvenile justice system in Illinois, often by starting in their own communities.

Last month's President's Page posed this question: What would the Illinois juvenile justice system look like if we knew our own children would go through it? How hard would we work to make sure it recognizes that youth are different from adults? Would we respond to troubled youth with detention and incarceration or with community-based services and support? To what lengths would we go to build a justice system that focuses less on punishment and more on restoring victims and appropriate accountability? If we knew

**T**hese lawyers deserve our thanks and should be our inspiration. We can adapt and apply their work in our own communities.

## George Timberlake

Retired Chief Judge George Timberlake of southern Jefferson County is as likely to recall presiding over difficult cases in which he simply couldn't solve the problems of the youth and families before him as he is to recount a success. It was partly these challenging experiences in juvenile court that shaped his deep belief in the need to involve and strengthen communities as well as to rely upon the law to ensure that vulnerable youth and families have meaningful opportunities for safe, healthy lives. He turned to the Second Judicial Circuit's Juvenile Justice Council as a means of developing community partnerships, obtaining and leveraging resources, sharing information, and collaborating to improve outcomes for court-involved young people.

Today, Judge Timberlake applies his decades of experience to a variety of juvenile justice system improvement efforts. He is a coordinating council member for the Illinois Models for Change initiative (funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation), which offers a range of state and local models for improved juvenile justice policy and practice. He also serves on the board of Re-deploy Illinois, a state-funded program that has clearly demonstrated the need for and benefits of working with youth who would otherwise be committed to

one of the state's juvenile facilities, all at dramatically lower costs and without compromising public safety.

In 2010, Judge Timberlake undertook a new role as chair of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, which is convened under both federal and state law and charged with administering the state's federal juvenile justice funds. The commission also advises the Governor, General Assembly, and policymakers on juvenile justice issues. Appointed the chair of a newly constituted commission in January 2010, Judge Timberlake sees it as a strong voice for the kinds of juvenile justice policies that recognize the capacity of youth to grow and become healthy community members.

## Julie Biehl

Julie Biehl's commitment to zealous advocacy and due process for youth has led her to undertake a wide range of roles over the years. In addition to being a member of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission, she served as the first director of the Cook County Juvenile Court Clinic and is now director of the Children and Family Justice Center of Northwestern University School of Law.

In this capacity, she coordinates the Illinois Models for Change Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network and the Models for Change Juvenile Justice/Mental Health Action Network. She also created Project Off the Record, which provides training and support for pro bono attorneys representing young adults who have earned eligibility for removal from



*Lisa Jacobs is program manager for Models for Change, a juvenile justice reform effort funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and administered by Loyola University School of Law.*

our own children would go through the juvenile justice system, who among us would rest until we had fulfilled our obligation to help all young people become healthy, productive members of Illinois communities?

This month, we'd like to feature three lawyers who are working to make this vision of a fair, effective, and rational juvenile justice system a reality for all Illinois communities. They live and work in different parts of the state and play a wide variety of roles within and outside our justice system. But all are focused on community safety, rehabilitation, and support of youth in conflict with the law through fair, effective juvenile justice policies and practices. They deserve our thanks and should be our inspiration. We can adapt and apply their work in our own communities.

sex offender registries on which they were placed, often inappropriately, as youth.

In 2010, seeking fundamental changes to the way the state cares for youth in its custody, she agreed to undertake leadership of the Commission's parole data study. Mandated by state law, the study will be a comprehensive analysis of the state's juvenile parole processes and the outcomes it achieves for youth and the communities to which they return following incarceration in one of the state's eight youth prisons.

As head of the study, she marshaled practicing attorneys, other commission members, and a team of Northwestern University law students 1) to research the laws of Illinois and other states governing the commitment, release, and aftercare of youth in state custody, 2) to conduct a review of master files of incarcerated youth, 3) to observe parole hearings first-hand, and 4) to analyze a staggering amount of information and data on youth experiences in the "deep end" of our juvenile justice system. Due for release in early 2011, the study is expected not only to guide the commission's efforts to improve aftercare for youth, but also to shape the state's reentry law and policy for years to come.

### Ben Roe

As state's attorney of Ogle County, Ben Roe expresses his juvenile justice policy clearly and succinctly: His charge as a prosecutor to keep his community safe requires him to rethink so-called "tough on crime" strategies and pursue "smart on crime" approaches instead. This has inspired Roe to lead Ogle County's efforts to strengthen and expand the work of the local Juvenile Justice Council, which relies upon traditional and nontraditional partnerships in the community, effective and appropriate use of law enforcement data, and enhanced restorative justice approaches to youth crime.

Roe is quick to acknowledge other local leaders, such as associate judge Kathleen Kauffmann, who have played critical leadership roles in bringing together local juvenile justice system stakeholders and creating a focus on juvenile justice issues. The council is proof that collaborative, community-based approaches to juvenile justice issues work. It facilitated implementation of screening and assessment of youth in conflict with

the law for underlying mental health and other needs, as well as the use of that information to divert youth from prosecution whenever possible while protecting youth confidentiality and preserving public safety.

Council members have also used this aggregate information and other new sources of shared data to guide cross-system collaboration, maximize the use of available resources, and create new programming and support for at-risk youth. They have forged partnerships with schools and created new alternatives to out-of-school suspensions, which provide supervision and support to youth who would otherwise be out on the streets.

Because of these efforts, more than 70 percent of Ogle County cases are diverted from formal system involvement, public safety is maintained, and

youth and families receive the community-based support and services they need. These and other Ogle County approaches, led by lawyers such as Ben Roe and Judge Kathleen Kauffmann, provide clear examples that collaboration, intentionality, and leadership can make all the differences for communities and young people.

Many other lawyers are doing important work to improve our juvenile justice system, and we will highlight some of them as we go forward. The best thanks we can give them is to follow their example in our own communities. ■

*Thank you to Lisa Jacobs for alerting the legal community and the public about the lawyers and judges who are making a difference and noting where successful programs providing alternatives to incarceration have been initiated and are working. MDH.*



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## More Lawyers Making A Difference for Juvenile Justice

We pick up where we left off in February by recognizing more Illinois lawyers doing important, transformative work to improve our juvenile justice system.

In last month's President's Page we recognized three Illinois lawyers who are making Illinois' juvenile justice system better. Needless to say, many others deserve our attention. Here are a few.

### Annie Geraghty Helms, Jim Irving, Ken Schmetterer, and Larry Wojcik of DLA Piper

In the summer of 2004, attorneys in DLA Piper's Chicago office began a partnership with Northwestern University's Bluhm Legal Clinic. The multi-faceted project committed over 15,000 attorney hours to juvenile justice issues while representing some of Chicago's most vulnerable young people.

Managed by pro bono attorney Annie Geraghty Helms, the project began with direct representation of almost 80 youthful offenders in juvenile court. It has expanded to encompass policy work, representation of young adults in expungement proceedings, advocacy against juvenile life without parole, and more.

Chicago associate Jim Irving regularly represents minors seeking to expunge their juvenile records. For the past two years he also helped represent R.H., who at age 15 pled guilty to two sex offenses in adult court. The team reversed R.H.'s convictions, won him a new trial, and eventually secured his release after nine years in prison.

Chicago partners Ken Schmetterer and Larry Wojcik worked on an amicus brief filed with the United States Supreme Court in *People v Graham*, in which the Court held that life without parole sentences were unconstitutional for youth in non-homicide cases. Schmetterer is currently leading a team to draft another amicus brief in *J.D.B. v North Carolina*, involving the custodial interrogation of a 13-year-old boy and the court's ability to take age into account when assessing the constitutionality of a confession.

Schmetterer and Wojcik are also the primary authors of a report entitled *From Juvenile Court to the Classroom: The Need for Effective Child Advocacy*, which chronicles the barriers children face when they try to re-enroll in school after being released from juvenile detention. As chair of the ISBA's Special Committee on Juvenile Justice Initiatives, Wojcik is also working with the American Bar Association to conduct a 50-state survey of the lifelong, collateral consequences of juvenile court involvement.

Another study, *Categorically Less Culpable: Children Sentenced to Life Without Possibility of Parole in Illinois*, was co-authored by attorneys at DLA Piper and the Illinois Coalition for the Fair Sentencing of Children. This report is an in-depth review of the implications of sentencing children to life without the possibility of parole in Illinois, examining the issue in the context of juvenile brain development and the international standards for the fair treatment of children.

### Heidi Mueller

Chicago lawyer Heidi Mueller has used her legal education and social work background to find real community-based solutions that can work for families in crisis. At the highly respected Youth Outreach Services (YOS), Mueller leads the Models for Change project in Cook County.

In this role she has worked closely with YOS leaders and staff to enhance communication and outreach with youth sent by the courts to YOS's evening reporting center. YOS conducts robust screening and assessment for underlying mental health needs and helps youth and families find community-based resources

to address the problems that brought them into contact with the justice system in the first place. This screening and youth/family engagement is serving as a model nationwide and can be replicated in communities across the state.

Under Mueller's leadership, YOS has joined a groundbreaking effort with Du-

Attorneys and judges across Illinois are working to make the juvenile justice system one we can trust with our own children.

Page and Peoria Counties to create new approaches to youth charged with domestic battery for fighting with parents, siblings, or others in their homes. Youth domestic battery often grows out of underlying mental health or substance abuse problems in the family or violence young people suffer at the hands of adult family members.

These cases offer an opportunity to keep families safe and help them build new ways of interacting to break a cycle of life-long violence and suffering. In Chicago, Mueller has helped bring together the Chicago Police Department, prosecutors, defenders, probation, the judiciary, and YOS's stellar youth services team to find new ways of providing immediate crisis intervention, respite care to allow a "cooling off" period, safety planning for families, a problem-solving program called "Step Up" to help families learn new ways of solving conflicts, and a range of other services. It's working, and Mueller's legal knowledge has been an integral part of this effort.

## Betsy Clarke

No discussion of juvenile justice reform would be complete without recognizing ISBA member Betsy Clarke. As ISBA Director of Legislative Affairs Jim Covington said recently about Clarke's work, "You look at anything that has been positive for rehabilitating kids or giving them a second shot and it usually has her fingerprints all over it." Clarke has devoted her professional life to improving the conditions and opportunities available to youth in the juvenile justice system.

As an appellate defender, Clarke took the time to meet with her young clients and saw first-hand the contradictions between the justice system as envisioned in statute and the one actually in place. She has learned from years in the trenches and translated those lessons to reform.

In 2000, Clarke secured resources from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and founded the Illinois Juvenile Justice Initiative (JJI), which convenes a group of influential board members and pursues the kind of broad systems improvement that can change the lives of thousands. Included in these successes is JJI's leadership in separating the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, which oversees Illinois' secure state facilities for youth, from the adult-focused Department of Corrections.

Perhaps most notably, JJI spearheaded efforts to reform juvenile transfer laws to keep youth charged with drug possession in juvenile, rather than adult, courts. As Covington notes, "If Betsy and JJI were not here, we'd still have some really bad juvenile transfer laws. We'd still have discrimination against kids based upon the fate of their birthday."

### Will you join them?

An article like this can only offer the briefest look at the work underway. We

know there are remarkable attorneys and others across the state who work every day on behalf of youth and communities.

They represent individual young clients or undertake difficult appeals. They make informed decisions about which cases must proceed through the court system and which are better handled through informal, community-based ap-

proaches. They lead or work actively on their local juvenile justice councils. They do so much in so many ways.

In short, attorneys and judges across Illinois are working to make the juvenile justice system one we can trust with our own children. There's a good chance that they are doing important work in your community. Will you join them? ■



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CO9-1005-035 (07/10)



## Lawyers Making a Difference for Juvenile Justice Reform, Part III

The last in a series of columns recognizing Illinois lawyers' commitment to juvenile justice reform.

*This is the third and final installment in my series of columns that shine a light on dedicated lawyers working to improve Illinois' juvenile justice system. As before, these lawyers come from various locations and professional settings.*

### Soledad McGrath

Soledad A. McGrath is the post-graduate ChildLaw Policy Fellow at the Civitas ChildLaw Center at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where she uses the knowledge and expertise she gained while working on reform efforts in Georgia's juvenile justice system on behalf of Illinois children. McGrath and her Loyola law students are focusing attention on the rights of juveniles to have arrest records expunged and exploring other states' approaches to determining juveniles' competency to stand trial.

In addition to drafting legislation, she works to build relationships and collaborate with and educate community organizations, state agencies, and private and nonprofit entities on reform efforts in juvenile law. She has also testified before the Illinois General Assembly in support of juvenile justice reform efforts.

Prior to joining Loyola, McGrath was the primary reporter for the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division's Juvenile Code Revision Project. In that role she drafted a model juvenile code

for Georgia. That model served as the basis for SB 292, the Child Protection and Public Safety Act, which is currently working its way through the Georgia legislature.

She was also a member of the JUST-Georgia Legislative Drafting Committee, which drafted SB 292. She has been a consultant to the JUST-Georgia Coalition as the bill winds its way through the legislative committees.

McGrath, who earned her BA at Northwestern and her JD at Emory University, was an associate at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP (formerly known as Kilpatrick Stockton LLP), where she practiced in the labor and employment group. During her time with Kilpatrick Townsend, she also represented youth in truancy court proceedings through the Truancy Intervention Project Georgia, an organization that seeks to prevent school failure.

### James Radcliffe

James Radcliffe was the presiding judge of the St. Clair County Juvenile Court from January 1996 until his retirement from the bench at the end of 2007. During the time of his leadership,

St. Clair County became one of four pilot sites in 2005 for the new program Redeploy Illinois.

This initiative provides intense evaluation, intervention, and supervision to non-violent youthful offenders and their families in the community instead of incarcerating the youth. It also seeks to re-

**'ve been inspired and heartened over the course of my presidential year by the many lawyers who have done so much to make the juvenile justice system better.**

integrate the youth into the community upon release. The involvement of the offender's family is significant, because often the offender is the most functional member of the family.

Redeploy Illinois has been a resounding success. The year before it was launched, almost 90 youth were sent to DOC from St. Clair County. Within two years, that number was reduced to 11 and commitments have remained in that range or lower since.



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The cost of Redeploy is a small fraction of the \$85,000-per-juvenile annual cost of incarcerating youth in Illinois. The recidivism rate of juveniles successfully completing a Redeploy probationary period is less than 10 percent, a fraction of that for incarcerated youth.

Radcliffe remains involved in juvenile justice issues in St. Clair County as a member of the local Juvenile Justice Initiative Board and the Children's Justice Task Force.

### Joe Vosicky

Joe Vosicky serves on the board of the John Howard Association, where he focuses on juvenile justice and other prison reform.

His commitment to public policy and service began early. In high school he was part of the Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills Youth Jury, a peer jury program. That led to his being appointed a youth delegate to the Illinois Commission on Children while a senior in high school and during college. He was also on the four-year steering committee for the 1970 Illinois White House Confer-

ence on Children and Youth.

He served on Governor Ogilvie's task force of the Illinois Commission on Children to review the Age(s) of Majority in Illinois. In that capacity he helped lobby to reduce the voting age from 21 to 18.

In the late 1970s he was on the board of the Cook County Special Bail Project. Project members met at Cook County jail early on weekends to interview those arrested the night before and delivered information to their families and the presiding judge so those detained could get bail where appropriate.

### Making us proud

I've been inspired and heartened over the course of my presidential year by the many lawyers who have done so much to make the juvenile justice system better. Often, their compensation has been intangible, not material. But their efforts should make all lawyers proud. The few we have been able to recognize in these columns represent many others who have done and continue to do so much on behalf of Illinois youth, families, and communities. ■

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