

DRUG ENFORCEMENT AND POLICY CENTER

BALLOT INSIGHTS

Sentencing and Parole Reform in Practice: Insights on Implementation Challenges

PANELISTS' BIOS

SARAH ANDREWS

Director, Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission

Sara Andrews serves as the Director of the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, effective January 2015. The Commission is responsible for reviewing Ohio's sentencing statutes and sentencing patterns, and to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding statutory changes. Before her appointment as the Director of the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, Sara was a more than 20 year veteran with the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, holding a number of leadership positions, most recently as the Deputy Director of the Division of Parole and Community Services (DPCS) and Chief of the Adult Parole Authority (APA). In that role, she managed the Ohio Parole Board, the Office of Victim Services, the Bureau of Research, Office of Offender Reentry and Religious Services, Jail inspection and oversight, community supervision, fugitive and interstate compact operations, and DRC funded community corrections throughout the State of Ohio. She was also the Ohio Commissioner and national Chair of the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision and continues to serve in that capacity. Sara's academic background includes a B.A. from the University of Northern Colorado and M.S. degree from the University of Dayton, Ohio. Sara is also a recipient of the United States Attorney General's William French Smith award, the 2013 Ohio Community Corrections Association President's award, 2013 Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections Bennett J. Cooper award, 2014 Interstate Compact Adult Offender Supervision Executive Director's Leadership award.

ALEX KREIT, JD

Professor, Thomas Jefferson School of Law; visiting professor at OSU, Moritz College of Law

Alex Kreit is a leading expert on illegal drug and marijuana law. He is author of the casebook *Controlled Substances: Crime, Regulation, and Policy*, published by Carolina Academic Press, and co-author of the annually updated reference book *Drug Abuse and the Law Sourcebook*. Professor Kreit is frequently quoted in the media on drug policy and marijuana law issues, having appeared in news outlets including the Christian Science Monitor, the Fox News Channel, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, the San Diego Union-Tribune, VICE News and the Wall Street Journal. Before coming to Thomas Jefferson, Professor Kreit worked as an associate at Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco and clerked for the Honorable M. Blane Michael on the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Professor Kreit has taught in Hangzhou, China and Nice, France in Thomas Jefferson's study abroad programs and as a visiting faculty member at Boston College Law School. He continues to practice law as a member of the Appellate Defenders Inc. panel, representing indigent defendants in state criminal appeals. Professor Kreit is a member of the City of San Diego's Ethics Commission, which is responsible for monitoring, administering, and enforcing the City's governmental ethics laws. From 2009 to 2010, he served as Chair of the City of San Diego's Medical Marijuana Task Force."

CAROL O'BRIEN, JD

Delaware County Prosecutor

Before becoming the Delaware County Prosecutor, Ms. O'Brien served as an Assistant Ohio Attorney General, serving as Chief Counsel of the Ohio Organized Crime Commission and Principal Attorney with the Corrections Litigation Section where she represented State Corrections Officials and Officers in State and Federal Court litigation. She also served as a Special Prosecutor within the Ohio Attorney General's Office. As an Assistant Franklin County Prosecutor, Ms. O'Brien served as Chief of the Economic and Organized Crime Sections. She also served as a Special Prosecutor in multiple Ohio counties, prosecuting offenders of violent crimes, economic crimes, drug trafficking, organized crime and public corruption. She is admitted to practice in State and Federal District and Appellate Courts in Ohio and South Carolina.

REGINALD WILKINSON, EdD

President, Connecting the Dots, LLC; former Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections

Dr. Reginald Wilkinson is President of Connecting the Dots, LLC, a consulting company. He is also senior advisor for the Moss Group, Inc., another consulting group specializing in justice related tasks. Following his retirement from the state of Ohio in 2006, he became the executive director of the Business Alliance for Higher Education and the Economy. A year later he led, as president and CEO, the Ohio College Access Network for nine years. Reggie began his work with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in 1973. He served in numerous capacities including director of training, prison warden and deputy director. In 1991 he was appointed to be ODRC director. He was reappointed to three additional four-year terms. He was one of the longest serving corrections directors in the nation. Wilkinson received his B.A. in political science and a M.A. in higher education administration both from The Ohio State University. He was awarded the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree from the University of Cincinnati in educational foundations and leadership. Dr. Wilkinson has received numerous awards from organizations such as the National Governors Association, Volunteers of America, American Correctional Association, University of Cincinnati, and Ohio University to name a few. He has also had published various journal articles and book chapters. His recent book is entitled: Leadership and Management: Connecting the Dots.