



October 15, 2012

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

The annual Public Comments Hearing of the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 6:15 p.m. It will be held in the House Office Building, Judiciary Committee Hearing Room (Room 100) at 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Members of the public are invited to address the Commission with their concerns about sentencing issues in Maryland. To accommodate all who wish to participate in the meeting, the Commission requests that each speaker limit his or her comments to five minutes. All who are interested in speaking at the meeting are asked to confirm their plans for attendance and submit written testimony in advance at least three days prior to the meeting.

Please confirm your plan for attendance and send written testimony to David Soulé, Executive Director of the Commission, at [dsoule@umd.edu](mailto:dsoule@umd.edu).

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# THE STATE COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL SENTENCING POLICY

## Establishment and Charge of the State Commission

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The Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) in May 1999, under Chapter 648 of the Laws of Maryland. In July 1999, the MSCCSP formally replaced its predecessor advisory commission, the Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy. The enabling legislation for the MSCCSP set out six legislative goals for sentencing in Maryland, stating that:

1. Sentencing should be fair and proportional and that sentencing policies should reduce unwarranted disparity, including any racial disparity, in sentences for offenders who have committed similar offenses and have similar criminal histories;
2. Sentencing policies should aid citizen understanding of the time that an offender will actually be incarcerated, if any;
3. Sentencing guidelines are voluntary and that it is voluntary for the courts to sentence within the guidelines;
4. Prison capacity and prison usage should give priority to the incarceration of violent and career offenders;
5. Sentencing policies should preserve meaningful judicial discretion in the imposition of sentences and sufficient flexibility to permit individualized sentences; and
6. Sentencing judges in every jurisdiction in the State should be able to impose the most appropriate criminal penalties, including corrections options programs for appropriate offenders.

The MSCCSP was designed and authorized with the purpose of fulfilling those legislative intentions.

## MSCCSP Composition

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The MSCCSP is composed of the 19 voting and 3 ex-officio members listed on the next page. The Chair, the Honorable Diane O. Leasure, was appointed by the Governor in August 2011 to lead the MSCCSP.

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## Current Members of the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy

### *Members Appointed by the Governor*

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**Chair**

Honorable Diane O. Leasure

**State's Attorney**

Honorable Joseph I. Cassilly

**Criminal Defense Attorney**

Richard A. Finci, Esquire

**Victims' Advocacy Group**

Laura L. Martin, Esquire

**Law Enforcement**

Colonel Marcus L. Brown

**Criminal Justice or Corrections Policy Expert**

Charles F. Wellford, Ph.D.

**Local Detention Center**

LaMonte E. Cooke

**Public**

Paul F. Enzinna, Esquire

**Public**

James V. Anthenelli, Esquire

### *Members Appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland*

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**Appellate Courts**

Honorable Arrie W. Davis

**Circuit Court**

Honorable Alfred Nance

**District Court**

Honorable John P. Morrissey

### *Members Appointed by the President of the Senate*

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**Senator**

Honorable Lisa A. Gladden

**Senator**

Honorable Delores G. Kelley

### *Members Appointed by the Speaker of the House*

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**Delegate**

Honorable Curtis S. Anderson

**Delegate**

Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.

### *Ex-Officio Members*

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**Attorney General**

Honorable Douglas F. Gansler

**State Public Defender**

Paul B. DeWolfe, Esquire

**Secretary of Public Safety & Correctional Services**

Gary D. Maynard