



November 10, 2014

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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

The annual Public Comments Hearing of the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy is scheduled for Tuesday, December 09, 2014 at 6:15 p.m. It will be held in the Miller Senate Office Building, William Amoss Committee Room (Fourth Floor) at 11 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).

---



# THE STATE COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL SENTENCING POLICY

## **Establishment and Charge of the State Commission**

---

The Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) in May 1999. In July 1999, the MSCCSP formally replaced its predecessor advisory commission, the Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy. The governing legislation for the MSCCSP, located in Subtitle 2 of Title 6 of the Criminal Procedure Article of the Code of Maryland (Statutes) sets out six legislative goals for sentencing in Maryland, expressing the General Assembly's intention that:

- (1) sentencing should be fair and proportional and that sentencing policies should reduce unwarranted disparity, including any racial disparity, in sentences for criminals who have committed similar crimes and have similar criminal histories;
- (2) sentencing policies should help citizens to understand how long a criminal will be confined;
- (3) sentencing policies should preserve meaningful judicial discretion and sufficient flexibility to allow individualized sentences;
- (4) sentencing guidelines be voluntary;
- (5) the priority for the capacity and use of correctional facilities should be the confinement of violent and career criminals; and
- (6) sentencing judges in the State should be able to impose the most appropriate criminal penalties, including corrections options programs for appropriate criminals.

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

## **MSCCSP Composition**

---

The MSCCSP is composed of the 19 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.

---



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

### ***Members Appointed by the Governor***

---

**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**

Honorable Andrew L. Sonner

**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***

---

**Appellate Courts**

Honorable James P. Salmon

**Circuit Court**

Honorable Alfred Nance

**District Court**

Honorable Patrice E. Lewis

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

---

**Senator**

Honorable Lisa A. Gladden

**Senator**

Honorable Delores G. Kelley

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

---

**Delegate**

Honorable Curtis S. Anderson

**Delegate**

Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.

### ***Ex-Officio Members***

---

**Attorney General**

Honorable Douglas F. Gansler

**State Public Defender**

Paul B. DeWolfe, Esquire

**Secretary of Public Safety & Correctional Services**

Gregg L. Hershberger