



Wisconsin
Legislative Council

Protecting Public Safety and Reducing Incarceration Costs: Challenges and Opportunities

October 2, 2007

The Madison Concourse Hotel



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*THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
THE SUPREME COURT OFFICE OF JUDICIAL EDUCATION
THE MIDWESTERN OFFICE – COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS*

9:45 - 10:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.

WELCOMING REMARKS

- Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson
Wisconsin Supreme Court
- Senator Fred A. Risser, Co-Chair
Representative Steve Wiecek, Co-Chair
Joint Legislative Council
- Mike McCabe
Midwestern Office of Council of State Governments

10:15 - 11:45 a.m.

**“Criminal Justice System Trends and Strategies: States as
Laboratories for Criminal Justice System Changes”**

**Adam Gelb
Project Director, Public Safety Performance Project
The Pew Center on the States**

**Michael Thompson
Director, Justice Center
Council of State Governments**

Mr. Gelb and Mr. Thompson will provide information about trends and challenges in corrections systems, and the drivers behind prison population expansion. They will discuss the shift toward maximizing corrections spending value happening across the country as a result of advances in our understanding of how best to focus scarce resources. They will also discuss examples of reinvestment strategies implemented in various other states.

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Morning Session Discussion

Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues raised following the presentations by Mr. Gelb and Mr. Thompson.

12:15 - 1:15 p.m. LUNCHEON

1:15 - 2:15 p.m. “The Role of Problem-Solving Courts: Issues and Challenges”

**Judge Peggy Fulton Hora (Retired)
Superior Court, State of California**

Judge Hora will discuss how problem-solving courts can improve public safety, reduce incarceration rates, and help to address complex social issues by solving underlying chronic behavior problems of criminal defendants.

2:15 - 2:30 p.m. BREAK

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator:

**Hon. Shirley S. Abrahamson
Chief Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court**

Panelists:

**State Representative Scott Suder
State Representative Mark Pocan
Ray Taffora, Deputy Attorney General
John Chisholm, Milwaukee County District Attorney
Hon. Carl Ashley, Milwaukee County Circuit Court**

Panel members will provide their perspectives on the presentations and review the issues and challenges raised by the speakers. There will also be a general discussion involving the panelists, the speakers, and the attendees regarding the presentations.

3:30 p.m. SYMPOSIUM WRAP-UP AND EVALUATION