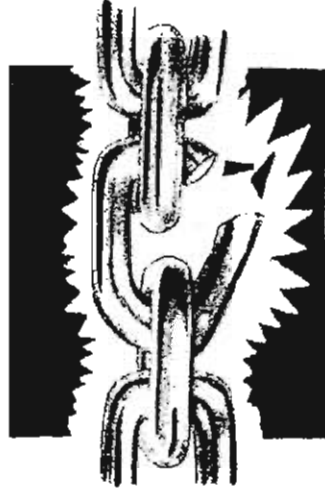




# Voices.Con

## Term-to-Life Prisoners Converse



Vol. 11, No. 1

www.VoicesDotCon.org \*

SEPTEMBER 2013

### IN THIS ISSUE...

The BPH shows just how bad they are at making judgment calls .....Page 1

Navigating a negative environment not easy for the positive person .....Page 3

Tactics the Board uses that you need to know about .....Page 4

Gain a little insight from the political players in the Plata case .....Page 5

All about Voices.Con and publishing info .....Page 8

\* As of our Aug/2013 newsletter, our new website is back on-line. We thank you for your patience.

/////

/////

### THREE-JUDGE COURT MISLED BY DECLARATION OF BPH HEAD

In her capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Ms. Jennifer Shaffer filed a Declaration "In Support of Defendants" (CDCR) in the Coleman/Plata case, where a Three-Judge Court has ordered the state to reduce its prison population. She stated that, as the administrative head of the parole board, she is responsible for managing the Board's daily operations and implementing "policy."

She described prisoners with an indeterminate term-to-life sentence as "lififers," contrary to the Three-Judge Court's previous objections to the use of this term which appears to contradict California law. (which states that these prisoners "shall normally" be released on parole) From the very onset of her Declaration, Ms. Shaffer sadly seems to indicate little understanding of the most fundamental obligatory principles that govern parole consideration in the State of California, much like many of her predecessors.

On the first page of her Declaration, Ms. Shaffer objects to the Court's belief that "very few [term-to-] lififers have been released" by the BPH. She attempts to dignify this objection by citing that there were "670 [parole] grants in 2012" and Governor Brown reversed only about 16% of

the Board's decisions. (That means the actual number of prisoners released for the year was about 578) However, she makes no mention of three relevant factors in relation to these numbers.

First, she makes no reference to how many of those "670" parole grants were a result of cases that were returned to the BPH by the Courts, after the (originally denied) prisoner had been granted relief on a petition for writ of habeas corpus. The second relevant fact she conveniently omitted was how much of the governor's reversal rate was also related to the prisoners having successfully petitioned the Courts after having their grant reversed by the governor's office. The third very relevant fact she conveniently omits is how many hearings are conducted each year, and how many term-to-life prisoners the state currently confines in its prisons.

The fact is, Ms. Shaffer's "670 parole grant" rate (if we're to use her numbers) represents less than 13% of the 5,232 parole hearings conducted in 2012. And the total number of people sentenced to a term-to-life sentence in California is close to 30,000 prisoners. Having a parole process that only lets out 578 prisoners per year (out of 30,000) can very easily be described as releasing "very few" prisoners.

In the second part of the Declaration by Ms. Shaffer, she suggests that the Declaration by Mr. Austin

**declaration of BPH HEAD, cont'd**  
(filed by Plaintiffs in Plata case), stated there is 9,600 term-to-life prisoners either within 12 months of, or past, their minimum eligible parole date (MEPD), 96% of which are "low risk" for recidivism. Her assertion was that "Mr. Austin's calculations and his conclusion are erroneous." She claimed that his "low risk" and "recidivism" numbers were based solely on the few term-to-life prisoners that have already been released, and not inclusive of the much bigger mass of prisoners that the BPH finds to be a threat to the public safety each year. —This is an incredulous twist of logic! What Ms. Shaffer fails to tell the Court is; among the masses of term-to-life prisoners that are not released by the BPH each year, a vast number of prisoners have already been forensically assessed by the state to be of low risk, or low-moderate risk to the public safety. They (meaning the remainder of the 9,600) have simply been wrongfully denied a grant of parole by an overly politicized parole board. Mr. Austin's calculations were indeed very sound, if not conservative.

The reason Ms. Shaffer found it so necessary to perjure herself was simply a convenient way to deceptively tell the Court that term-to-life prisoners "who have been denied parole have been found..to continue to pose a current unreasonable risk to public safety." She goes on to say, "Consequently, their recidivism rates can be expected to be substantially higher if they were to be released."

Ms. Shaffer redundantly fills the final pages of her Declaration with her beliefs that a release of any number of term-to-life prisoners would violate the "Victim's Bill of Rights arising from Prop. 8 and 9 (Marsy's Law)" but she omits any reference to Penal Code (State Law) which requires that the BPH shall normally (at least 50% of the time) set a release date at a parole hearing. How does Ms. Shaffer square her performance with State Law when the parole board, by her own admission, sets a release date at less than 14% of the parole hearings conducted, particularly when the majority of these prisoners have been previously assessed, by the BPH's own Forensic Psychologists, to be of low risk to the public safety?

Clearly this is a woman who has a bias toward victim rights interests, and permits this bias to affect her duties when managing the Board's daily operations and "implementing policy." So much so, that she's willing to perjure herself to a Three-Judge Court.

## UNIVERSAL GOOD

Men have not yet been trained in principles that will permit them to act in unison, except to defend themselves or to destroy others.

For self-preservation, they were early compelled to unite for these purposes in war.

A necessity, however, equally powerful will now compel men to be trained to act together, to create and conserve,

that in like manner they preserve life in peace. Fortunately for mankind, the system of individual opposing interests,

has now reached the extreme point of error and inconsistency;

-in the midst of the most ample means to create wealth,

all are in poverty,

or in imminent danger, from the effects of poverty upon others.

ROBERT OWEN (1813)

## Let Us Help With Your Parole Review!

Whether you have been denied before or this is the very first review; do not take a chance and do nothing! **Our office has 13 years' of helping those in Prison obtain another chance!**

Parole is a Privilege not a Right! Our Parole Plan will show you as a Favorable Candidate for the Privilege of Parole!

We can create your Parole Plan **OR** your family can download a Parole Plan from our website. Either option, remain case free and let's work together on getting you another chance.

For full details, have your family call us or visit our website and download your Parole Plan!

**D&D Worldwide Services, LLC.**

P.O. Box 40081 Houston, Texas 77240

Office: (281) 580-8844 ~ Fax: (888) 288-3374

Website: [www.myparole.info](http://www.myparole.info)

Editor's note: The factual information provided in our page-1 article this month was primarily sourced from; "Declaration of Jennifer Shaffer in Support of Defendants' Response to April 11, 2013 Order" Filed 5/2/13, #C01-1351 TEH.(Plata)

### CUTTING YOUR OWN PATH

The environment of prison is unique to all others, and for those of us who must experience it, there are only so many ways in which to cope with it. One oddity about this environment is that it actually can punish (to use a term) those individuals who make good decisions and behave according to the rules, while rewarding those individuals who misbehave and continue to display violent and criminal tendencies. In addition, the overriding attitude of most encounters and conversations is negative and antisocial. So, one might wonder how someone, such as a term-to-life prisoner, could and does withstand such an environment in order to begin to change, continue that change, and then maintain their safety and sanity once they've rehabilitated themselves, and become someone ready to re-enter society and succeed. It's not easy!

To further explain how this environment might "punish" a person for following the rules and doing the right thing, it begins with the fact that prison is easier to cope with when you are doing what everyone else is doing. This is true for any situation, but once you begin to do things differently, you begin to have multiple pressures working against you. In addition, not only is it easier to do the wrong thing, because the environment expects this and makes room for it, but in prison, there are people who encourage you to make bad decisions, both prisoners and staff alike. For example, the person attempting to get a shower at a different time (when it isn't program time) the negative prisoner has a greater chance of being allowed to do so, than the positively "programming" prisoner.

There is also a reaction from people when they see another person attempting to do something positive, be it exercising, going to school, church, or an after hours self-help group, they will make negative comments such as: "it's too late to start now, don't do it, you're wasting your time," and so on. Unfortunately, for some people those comments will cause them to pause, to reflect, and sometimes to change their minds about pursuing a positive goal that they desire for themselves. There is an incorrect belief among many people in prison that you've got to be in agreement with the majority in order to be safe from being perceived as "prey" to others. This derives from the gang mentality which says there is strength in numbers and to be a pred-

ator is to be safe from predators.

The environment of prison can be daunting to someone desiring to change their lives in a positive direction. There exists a constant battle of your will against outside influence, peer pressure, your own doubts and insecurities, and the natural failures which are a part of life. It takes great inner strength, courage, persistence, and motivation to resist accepting the myriad reasons and excuses to stay stuck in negativity, instead of creating a positive life of your choosing. At times you may wonder how it is possible to change at all, but the reality is, it is possible. One key to achieving this is to befriend those people who are like-minded. There is an awareness of those within this social circle of other people who participate in groups, classes, etc., which becomes a support for those who are doing the same.

As a final note, when we are "in our addiction, or criminality," our circle of those we allow into our lives is very small. We fail to trust because we cannot trust ourselves. But as we rehabilitate ourselves and find success within this environment, our social circles increase (Cont'd on page 4)

### PRIVATE PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION FOR LIFERS

Many lifers are receiving CDCR/BPH FAD psychological evaluations indicating a moderate or high risk that they do not deserve, based upon the misuse of actuarial measures. This will result in a BPH lengthy denial and many more years of suffering.

A private psychological evaluation, arranged with the help of your attorney, will correct this injustice and in many cases result in your deserved release. If you have such a denial, a new psych report is new evidence, allowing you to go back to the board sooner.

I have over 40 years of experience (over 3000 reports) evaluating lifers and my reports are recognized by the courts.

**MELVIN MACOMBER, Ph. D.**

PMB 316

8789 Auburn Folsom Road, Suite C

Granite Bay, CA 95746

(916) 652-7014

[reports@drmelmac.com](mailto:reports@drmelmac.com)

## your own PATH, cont'd

exponentially and our lives begin to include others, and by being a part of others lives our world becomes much larger. Thus, we are able to face and overcome greater obstacles, including a negative and volatile environment which desires more negativity and discourages positivity. Strive for better, it is surely within your reach!

### WHAT'S THEIR GAME?

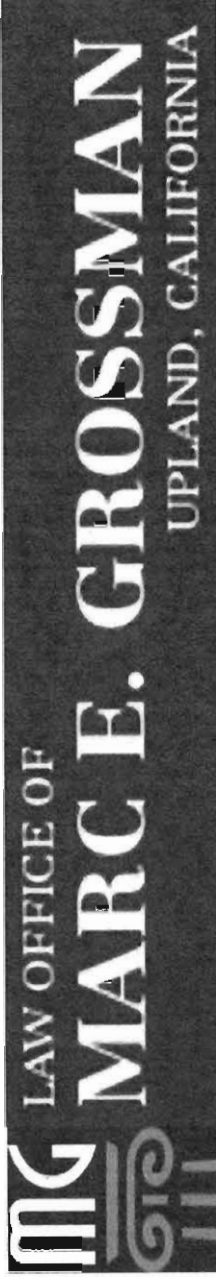
In their zeal to find new "reasons" to deny parole, the CA Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) has added a new tactic in the last few years. If the term-to-life prisoner has a college degree, one of the commissioners will throw the prisoner off —disrupt his/her line of thinking and concentration, (or focus) by making a rude comment that is designed as an attack on the prisoner's natural style of personal presentation. Many transcripts of recent hearings show that this trend is increasing, with phrases like "you sound like a textbook," and "you use a lot of buzz-words."

These comments are not genuine or constructive, they are spoken with the intent of attempting to disrupt the prisoner's ability to effectively communicate; to try to short-circuit the

(Cont'd on page 6)

### \*\* EX POST FACTO \*\*

D	R	A	W	K	C	A	B	N	A	G	D	S	U	F	R	G
B	A	H	C	E	C	O	R	G	B	A	C	K	A	M	T	
O	D	N	S	O	B	V	K	N	G	E	Y	S	S	Q	A	T
P	E	E	I	Q	E	I	E	E	C	U	S	Y	R	U	K	
Y	E	U	Y	U	G	G	H	T	L	C	C	L	D	E	E	C
S	R	T	R	A	G	G	A	I	C	L	L	Y	E	U	I	G
N	U	I	T	A	L	D	U	E	N	A	L	R	L	S	G	N
O	X	C	L	D	T	E	E	L	U	D	O	A	L	N	R	I
T	E	C	C	S	R	D	D	T	S	I	T	R	A	E	O	W
A	D	U	O	E	I	A	N	S	R	T	T	A	T	V	P	O
R	E	P	E	N	S	E	W	E	E	N	I	F	E	E	L	L
T	T	G	G	M	V	S	T	R	E	K	A	W	R	U	R	L
R	A	T	G	E	S	S	I	X	E	E	O	H	I	B	F	O
O	L	L	I	E	O	Y	T	O	R	T	R	E	M	R	O	F
L	E	D	B	P	V	T	U	E	N	T	F	E	D	W	E	N
O	B	Y	F	I	R	H	K	M	I	E	A	S	R	X	A	
U	V	E	N	M	P	T	N	E	U	Q	E	S	B	U	S	X
1)	Afterward	13)	Latter													
2)	Back	14)	Next													
3)	Backward	15)	Postdate													
4)	Behind	16)	Posterior													
5)	Belated	17)	Retroactive													
6)	Delayed	18)	Sluggish													
7)	Ensue	19)	Subsequent													
8)	Eventually	20)	Succeeding													
9)	Following	21)	Succession													
10)	Former	22)	Tardy													
11)	Lagging	23)	Thereafter													
12)	Later	24)	Wake													



- The Law Offices of Marc Grossman have a 14 year record of obtaining relief for those in the Lifer Community with approximately 40 petitions being granted.
- Our track record with respect to Habeas relief for parole dates for lifers is second to none.
- We also are now 2 for 2 on our Three Strikes Cases and hope to have another favorable result on our next one.
- Our published winning opinions include *In re Robert Rosenkrantz, In re Garabet Tokhmanian, In re David Barker, Pearson v. Muntz, Styre v. Adams, etc.*
- *I am proud to serve the Lifer community and there is no more fulfilling work that we do than helping those wrongfully denied their Liberty in their fight for freedom.*

Please note: Pro Bono cases not accepted at this time.

We are unable to return documents sent to us so please only send us your copies.

Call toll free:

[www.wefight4you.com](http://www.wefight4you.com)

100 N. Euclid Avenue, Second Floor, Upland, CA 91786

888-407-9068



**LITTLE KNOWN REASONS TO PAY ATTENTION**



- \* Gov. Jerry Brown's Lawyer: "The three-judge court's order will release offenders with a history of serious of violent offenses who are very likely to commit more serious crimes."
- \* Justice Samuel Alito: "California must release upon the public nearly 10,000 inmates convicted of serious crimes, about 1,000 for every city larger than Santa Ana."
- \* Fresno Bee, 9/1/13: After being ordered to reduce prison populations by another 9,600 prisoners, Gov. Jerry Brown wants to send them to private prisons and vacant beds in county jails. Brown's plan would cost \$315 million this year and \$415 million in 2014. It is backed by Assembly Speaker John A. Perez, Republican lawmakers and law-enforcement officials statewide."
- \* CA Senator Darrell Steinberg: "The governor's proposal is a plan with no promise and no hope, as the population of California grows, it's only a short matter of time until the new prison cells overflow and the court demands mass releases again."
- \* CA Senator Mark Leno: Contracting more temporary cells "doesn't solve the problem. What's the long-range solution here? Otherwise, we're going to find ourselves in the same situation over and over and over again."
- \* Bernie Aispuro, Retired Warden:  
"The California Department of Corrections has initiated many drug programs and none has been successful. The recidivism rate for drug-related crimes is always between 50% to 70%." (Note: The actual statistic for drug offender recidivism in California is currently 27% for prisoners who were provided a Substance Abuse Program (SAP) and aftercare upon parole.)

- \* Public Policy Institute of California:  
As of January 1, 2013, 88% of the prisoners in the CA Department of Corrections had a current or prior violent or serious felony conviction.
- \* 25% of California's prisoners are serving a lengthy 'second strike' term.
- \* 19% of California's prisoners are serving a term-to-life sentence.
- \* 7% of California's prisoners are serving a 'third strike' sentence.
- \* 4% of California's prisoners are serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole.
- \* Editor's note: The above 4 notations seem to indicate that California intends to incarcerate 55% of its prisoners beyond the years they can expect to live.

**DAVID J. RAMIREZ, ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
**AGGRESSIVE-EXPERIENCED-REASONABLE**  
**LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

Specializing in Representing Life Term Inmates in:

- Parole Suitability Hearings
- En Banc/Rescission Hearings
- Petitions for Writ of Habeas Corpus on Board Denials and Governor Reversals
- 3000.1/Parole Violations
- Clemency· Inmate Appeals/115s
- 3 Strikes Petition to Recall
- Petition to Advance Hearing

**Law Office of David J. Ramirez**  
**7545 Irvine Center Drive Suite 200**  
**Irvine, CA 92618**

Tel: (949) 623-8314· Fax: (949) 666-5505

[dramirezusc@yahoo.com](mailto:dramirezusc@yahoo.com)

I have over 70 grants of suitability-check out my web video at [www.shouselaw.com](http://www.shouselaw.com)

## CALIFORNIA LIFER NEWSLETTER

CLN: A comprehensive newsletter mailed every 6-8 weeks. State and federal cases, parole board news, statistics, legislation and articles on prison, parole and correctional issues of interest to inmates and their families.

CLN also provides services such as copying and forwarding federal and state cases, articles and news and materials available on the internet.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Prisoners: \$30 (or 80 stamps) per year (6 issues minimum). Outside Individuals: \$35. Institutions and professional: \$90.

**CLN, Box 277, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741**

### their GAME, cont'd

prisoner's own abilities by casting doubt, self-doubt, into the hearing. That's a truly despicable abuse of authority and is not a method which can stand up to moral scrutiny.

We live in a closed environment and must make use of very limited resources for our self-help, which is an absolute requirement, as it should be. But when we are treated harshly for using the terms and the language of what we have been taught, and the authority who mandates our involvement is doling out the harsh treatment, it smacks of disingenuousness. That kind of circular reasoning is precisely the same pattern as that of a serial domestic abuser.

The most glaring fact is that if or when this kind of behavior is displayed in a BPH parole hearing, it is the harbinger of denial of parole. Here's why: Any abuser will first create the false reality, and then will come the justifications. Make no mistake about it, some of us have, and may still, endure hearings that are designed as nothing more than abuse. Some people who work in CDCR do not understand that we are put in prison AS PUNISHMENT, not FOR punishment, so there are some who mistakenly believe it is their job, their privilege, and their right to be the one who doles out our just punishment(s). Being here is the punishment, we don't need to be abused.

In their desperation to find new, inventive ways to make a parole denial stick, panels have now been trending toward a practice that puts a stamp of impossibility across any effort made toward an administrative request for any advanced hearing, which in layman's terms means a shorter denial period until the next hearing. What they do (as directed by their legal staff) is pile on their programs to be completed by the next hearing. Despite any evidence in the record, this creates a prima fascia (on-the-face) denial that looks just and proper, at least at first blush. The Board knows that most courts won't look any deeper, and will simply issue a summary denial. The Board not only wants to deny us parole, but their legal team also wants to train them how to make a record that will

Page 6

prevent us from getting relief from the courts. If the Board were not knowingly operating outside the law, why else would they need to resort to such tactics? Only to preserve their unmitigated discretion.

Those of us who have been before the Board more than 5 times see the shell game they play; the ever-changing reasons they use for parole denial.

To know these things for what they are creates within us a certain moral dilemma. We have spent years immersed in a quest for purification in mind, body, and soul, yet those who hold the key to our freedom deal from the bottom of the deck, with no negative consequences. It is frustrating to be kept by such a system, run by people who appear to be morally bankrupt, but sometimes we have to play the cards we're dealt.

### \* OUR NEW WEBSITE IS UP \*

As of our Aug/2013 edition of Voices.Con, our new website is back on-line. Please be sure to have your family and friends come see what's up, and thanks for the patience.

## PRISON LEGAL NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY SINCE 1990

A 56-page magazine packed with:

- ▶ Summaries and analysis of recent national and local court decisions on prisoner rights, from the prisoner perspective.
- ▶ Articles from attorneys, including how-to litigation advice.
- ▶ News of prison-related struggle and activism in the United States and around the world.
- ▶ Distributes a wide variety of legal, self help and criminal justice books.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Prisoners \$30

Non-incarcerated individuals \$35

Institutional or professional \$90

(attorneys, libraries, government agencies, organizations).

Sample copy \$3.50

Prison Legal News

PO BOX 1151 - LAKE WORTH

FL 33460 - [561] 360-2523

HTTP://WWW.PRISONLEGALNEWS.ORG

Orders accepted by phone or online. New and unused postage stamps or embossed envelopes may be used as payment.

**CFS** *will buy your stamps!*

# CONVERT YOUR POSTAGE STAMPS INTO CASH

Upon receipt of your stamps, we send a money order to your trust account or - as you direct - to a family member, friend, or outside account, a wired or electronic funds transfer, or to a package vendor (\*).

**CFS OFFERS THE FASTEST, MOST REPUTABLE SERVICE WITH THE MOST CHOICES:**

- 10 years in the business
- Highest reimbursement rates
- Payment within 24 hours
- Stamps accepted from all states, inmates,\*\* and free persons
- Money orders, wired/electronic transfers, package vendors (\*)
- Minimum money order is \$15.00
- Funds sent to your trust account or to whom you designate
- No order form is required
- All denominations of stamps are accepted
- Single stamps, stamped envelopes are OK.

\* We will submit money order to the vendor, but you must submit your order forms to the vendor and deal with the vendor directly.

## NEW REIMBURSEMENT RATES

\*\*[ Void in states where prohibited by law. ]

### 70% of FACE VALUE

For Complete Sheets, Books, or Rolls of "Forever" Stamps

In new or excellent (*unfolded, unmarked, original*) condition

### 60% of FACE VALUE

For Complete Sheets, Books, or Rolls of All Other Stamp Denominations

In new or excellent (*unfolded, unmarked, original*) condition

### 50% of FACE VALUE

For All Other Stamps Including Partial Books, Sheets, Rolls, or Strips, and Single Stamps of All Denominations, and Stamped Envelopes

Single stamps must have adequate *peel-off borders*

Envelopes must have *current first-class* rate postage and no prison markings

- DO NOT apply tape of any kind to the stamps.
- DO NOT send envelopes with prison stamp or impression.
- PLEASE give us a complete name/address where funds are to be sent.
- PLEASE provide any special forms required & complete instructions.

Visit our website:

[www.cash4urstamps.com](http://www.cash4urstamps.com)

**CFS** • **P.O. BOX 687** • **WALNUT, CA 91788**

SEND SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE FOR FREE BROCHURE



The Voices.Con newsletter is written exclusively by term-to-life prisoners, unless otherwise noted, focusing on issues of primary concern to those serving a long-term incarceration. The newsletter is published monthly at the VoicesDotCon.org website. This information has been designed to be of potential benefit in any jurisdiction having term-to-life and long-term prisoners and is made available to any other supportive family and friends as well. No persons affiliated with the Voices.Con newsletter are lawyers. Information provided herein is not intended as a substitute for proper legal advice. All questions or comments on information contained herein should be directed to the Editor at the above E-mail address.

### ABOUT VOICES.CON

Voices.Con is an excellent source of nuts and bolts information relating to parole preparation, parole related politics, understanding parole law and current rulings and the importance of retaining the proper counsel and psychologists for parole hearings. This information is provided exclusively by long-term prisoners who have been there and are currently experiencing the ups and downs of the parole process. We are sorry to say that we do not have the resources to hire staff lawyers or provide legal documents of any kind. **We do maintain a mailing list for paid monthly newsletter subscriptions (\$11 annually.)** The Voices.Con newsletter and all past editions, may be downloaded at no cost by any friend or family member at the [VoicesDotCon.org](http://VoicesDotCon.org) website. On occasion, we may have a current or past edition that can be mailed to a prisoner who has nobody else to download it for free. However, this remains completely contingent on the number of donations received at our mailing address. **Please include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope in any correspondence requiring a response.**

### A FEW FACTS TO REMEMBER

- ⇒ Today, more prisoners in U.S. prisons are serving life terms than ever before. With a U.S. prison population of 2.3 million people, 140,610 are serving life terms.
- ⇒ California's prison system peaked at 173,000 prisoners in 2007, making it the largest prison system in the nation. With 34,164 prisoners serving life terms, it also has the most lifers.
- ⇒ In Alabama, California, Massachusetts, Nevada, and New York, at least 1 in 6 prisoners are serving a life term.

### SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

1. We have only one agenda; advocating on behalf of the term-to-life prisoner and distributing information that will further this cause, enabling the term-to-life prisoner to effectively advocate on his or her own behalf.
2. You may write an essay/article on any related subject or issue of concern to the term-to-life prisoner population.
3. We prefer that all submissions be between 250 and 500 words. Please clearly print or type all submitted material.
4. We also accept and encourage all submissions of topical artwork. Please include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope with any submissions of artwork or written material where a return has been requested.

### OTHER AVAILABLE MATERIAL PUBLISHED AT VOICES.CON WEBSITE:

- \* Preview or download our Prisoner Support Directory specifically designed for the needs of the term-to-life prisoners—Free
- \* Preview or download a complete Newsletter Descriptions List of all previous editions of Voices.Con—Free
- \* Preview or download all previous editions of the Voices.Con newsletter ever published—Free
- \* Preview or download previously argued case law in parole related court cases—Free