

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT REFORM STUDY COMMITTEE

THOMAS P. SULLIVAN
CHAIR

RICHARD D. SCHWIND
VICE CHAIR

LEIGH B. BIENEN

JAMES R. COLDREN, JR.

KIRK W. DILLARD

JAMES B. DURKIN

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THOMAS P. NEEDHAM

GERALD E. NORA

EDWIN R. PARKINSON

GEOFFREY R. STONE

RANDOLPH N. STONE

JEFFERY J. TOMCZAK

ARTHUR L. TURNER

MICHAEL J. WALLER

April 27, 2005

Tom Cross
Minority Leader
02 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Michael J. Madigan
Speaker of the House
300 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Emil Jones, Jr.
Senate President
327 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Frank C. Watson
Minority Leader
309A Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: First annual report of the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee

Gentlemen:

The statute which established the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee took effect on November 19, 2003. (20 ILCS 3929/1 et seq.)

Pursuant to Section 2 (a), the following appointments have been made:

Leigh B. Bienen
James R. Coldren, Jr.
Kirk W. Dillard
James B. Durkin
Theodore A. Gottfried
Jeffrey M. Howard
Thomas P. Needham
Gerald E. Nora

Edwin R. Parkinson
Richard D. Schwind
Geoffrey R. Stone
Randolph N. Stone
Thomas P. Sullivan
Jeffery J. Tomczak
Arthur L. Turner
Michael J. Waller

The Committee's first annual report to the General Assembly was due to be filed by the end of 2004. (20 ILCS 3929/2(b).) However, the membership of the Committee was not completed until early this year, and

the first meeting was held on February 14, 2005. We anticipate that our future reports will be filed with the General Assembly on a timely basis.

The Committee has held three meetings in Chicago, on February 14, March 28 and April 25, 2005.

The Committee elected Thomas P. Sullivan chair and Richard D. Schwind vice chair. The Committee has organized its work into four subcommittees: (1) police and investigations, (2) eligibility for capital punishment, DNA, and proportionality, (3) trial court proceedings, and (4) post-conviction proceedings, and general topics.

The Committee chair has contacted officials of other Illinois agencies in order to inform them of the Committee's statutory mandate, and to seek their cooperation, including the representatives of the Governor, the Director of the Illinois State Police, and the Executive Director of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. All indicated a receptive attitude toward working cooperatively with the Committee.

The Committee plans to hold public hearings in Chicago and Springfield, and other locations as may be deemed appropriate, consistent with the provisions of the statutory command: "The


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Committee shall hold hearings on a periodic basis to receive testimony from the public regarding the manner in which reforms have impacted the capital punishment system.” 20 ILCS 3929/2(c).

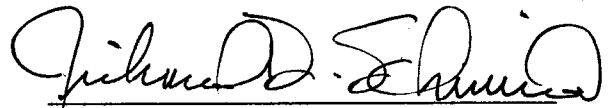
The Committee has requested the General Assembly to provide funding of \$150,000 for operations during fiscal year 2006, in order that a part-time reporter may be retained, to reimburse members for travel expenses, and to pay other appropriate charges incurred in connection with official Committee business.

Please contact us if additional information is desired.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas P. Sullivan
Chair
One IBM Plaza, 41st Flr.
Chicago, IL 60611
312-923-2928



Richard D. Schwind
Vice Chair
100 W. Randolph St., 12th Flr.
Chicago, IL 60601
312-814-5387

cc: Committee members