



# From the President

## The Contribution of Two Eds

**January 2022 was truly a time of monumental change in the world of parole.** A couple of our leading practitioners have left the stage, both leaving indelible marks on our profession. One left us by a treacherous cancer while the other retired after a lifetime of service to corrections.

I first met Edward "Eddie" Latessa, when he spoke at an APAI annual conference in the mid-2000s. I was struck by his knowledge, vocabulary, animation, keen wit, and sense of humor. Born in Youngstown, Eddie graduated from Ohio State and soon joined the faculty of the Criminal Justice Department of the University of Cincinnati. He led that program for nearly four decades while developing the doctoral program in criminal justice. He is widely regarded as writing the most influential textbook on criminal corrections. In the early 1990s, he challenged the profession to develop and implement evidence-based practices and had the courage to challenge existing programming (Scared Straight, boot camps) as not being either helpful or based on science. Dr. Latessa introduced studies showing that determining risk status of individuals on supervision and treating mental health issues reduces crime. In his career he had over 200 funded research programs and consulted with correctional agencies both in the US and internationally. Ed was repeatedly recognized by both government and non-government groups for his service to the field. A pancreatic cancer survivor for 14 years, Eddie died on January 11, 2022, at the age of 67.

Dr. Edward Rhine retired this month as Director of the Parole Release and Re-

vocation Project at the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the University of Minnesota Law School. This position capped a lengthy and distinguished career. Ed received a B.A. from Ohio University, an M.A. from Rutgers University, and a Ph. D. from Rutgers as well. He was a high-ranking correctional official in New Jersey, Georgia, and Ohio. From 2004 to 2013, Dr. Rhine was the Deputy Director for the Office of Offender Reentry in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. He has authored or co-authored dozens of publications dealing with subjects as diverse as revocation, prison discipline, offender reentry, and parole decision-making. Dr. Rhine also has served as an adjunct professor of sociology at Ohio State University. In 2013, Ed was appointed as an advisor to the American Law Institutes Model Penal Code Sentencing Group. The following year he was selected as a member of the Ohio Public Defenders Commission. APAI recognized Rhine in 2018, with the prestigious Vincent O'Leary Award for his lifetime of commitment to parole. I received an email from Ed last week informing me of his decision to retire and to begin to take life a little easier. It is a well-deserved break from his tireless labor of love.

So much has been learned from the two great Eds, and there is still so much more impact that they will continue to have in our great field.

David Blumberg  
APAI President

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### TO-DO IN 2022

- RENEW APAI MEMBERSHIP
- SERVE ON APAI COMMITTEE
- URGE FELLOWS TO JOIN APAI
- MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2022 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO  
MAY 1 – MAY 4, 2022

### MEMBERSHIP FEES\*

<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>	\$65
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL</b>	
(UP TO 8 MEMBERS)	\$375
(9 TO 13 MEMBERS)	\$475
(14 TO 20 MEMBERS)	\$575
<b>ALUMNI</b>	\$40
<b>ASSOCIATE</b>	\$40
<b>STUDENT</b>	\$15

\*Fees are on a per year basis.

# Member Spotlight

Peter Slom, Rhode Island State Parole Board

by: Ashley Koonce, Executive Director, APAI

**Peter Slom is the newest appointee to the Rhode Island State Parole Board. Governor Daniel McKee named Peter to join the seven-person board in October 2021. Peter is the first person in Rhode Island to have appeared before the Board (while he was incarcerated from 1990-92) and then later serve on the Board.**

Peter recently retired after working for 25 years for the State of Rhode Island, Department of Children, Youth and Families. Peter spent 22 of those years working at the Rhode Island Training School (RITS), the State's juvenile detention center. He left there in 2018 after serving as their Associate Director. He was hired there in 1996 as a Clinical Social Worker and served in a variety of capacities including Unit Manager, the Deputy Superintendent and Acting Clinical Director.

Peter spent the last 3 years as the Department's Associate Director/Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Liaison. He was responsible for assisting hundreds of family members with substance use concerns, working with community providers, establishing the Department's Peer Recovery Coach program, assisting pregnant and post-partum mothers with SUDs, providing training to DCYF staff members, and overseeing the DCYF Fatherhood Initiative.

Peter grew up in Newport, Rhode Island and graduated Rogers High School in 1973. He earned his undergraduate degree from Providence College (1978) and his Master of Social Work Degree from Rhode Island College (1996) as well as completing the University of Rhode Island's Substance Use Certification Program in 1994. He attended Rhode Island College's MSW program while on completing almost 4 years on parole. His professor and mentor at RIC was Dr. Frederick Reamer, a 24 year member of Rhode Island's Parole Board.

Peter has served on numerous community boards over the past 25 years. He chaired the Right to Vote campaign (2004-06) in Rhode Island changed the State Constitution and successfully gave individuals on probation or parole the right to vote in all elections. Peter, as a formerly incarcerated person, has advocat-



**Peter Slom**, Chair, Rhode Island State Parole Board

ed for ex-offenders for almost 3 decades. He has testified on numerous occasions at the RI State House on bills that would help those like him with criminal backgrounds to have a better chance of success when they return to the community.

Peter is currently Vice President of the Board of Directors of the WARM Center in Westerly (a homeless shelter, food kitchen and permanent housing program in Southern RI). He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Re-entry Campus Program that offers the opportunity for incarcerated people to work on higher education. Peter is past president of Open Doors Rhode Island which provides housing, advocacy, and programming for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Peter has served as a Field Instructor for the University of Rhode Island (2012-19) supervising PhD Psychology students at the Wyatt Detention Center, Rhode Island's Federal prison. Peter is a frequent speaker at colleges, high schools, and other public settings. He has been a featured guest on White House Chronicles,

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**Member Spotlight — continued from page 2**

the nationally televised PBS show and The Public's Radio This I Believe segment, both with Dr. Reamer.

Peter has received numerous community awards including the 2021 Ocean Tides LaSallian Service Award, the 2020-2021 National Association of Social Workers, Rhode Island Chapter's Social Worker of the Year for Addictions and the 2020 RI Parent Support Network Prevention Partner of the Year. He currently has a private practice focusing on substance use disorders, mental health and anger management.

Peter lives in Charlestown, Rhode Island with his wife, Julia Anne, and their 2 boys, Sam, 23, and Luke, 20.

Peter views his role with board as not just that of a formerly incarcerated person, but also as a social worker with 29 years of experience in the field and a vast knowledge of substance use and mental health. Having been a former parolee and having interacted with the Board over the years, he likes to view every case with an open mind. He knows not only the difficulties of being incarcerated, but also the challenges that parolees face when they return to the community; employment, housing, transporta-

tion, remaining substance-free, addressing mental health issues, reconnecting with family, avoiding past negative relationships, and dealing with the stigma often attached to those with criminal backgrounds. He enjoys working with the board as they have a diverse and well-rounded group, with each member bringing his or hers own unique perspective to the hearings.

Peter has had numerous interactions with the Board over the years. Past Chair Lisa Holley asked him to do a video that she would show to families of parolees when they were getting ready to leave. He also made monthly in-person presentations to new parolees when they were ready to leave prison. Peter is also a trained Victim-Offender Mediator, who has conducted numerous dialogues with victims and inmates over the years.

Mr. Slom credits Dr. Kenneth Walker with teaching him the importance of having a parole system in place to motivate those who will be released, as well as impacting community safety. Dr. Reamer, Lisa Holley, Vicky Almeida, current Chair Laura Pisaturo, and administrator Matt Degnan have all been huge influences in his interest in serving on the Parole Board and helping him achieve this goal. —



# 2022 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

## MAY 1-4, 2022 • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

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### Hyatt Regency Mission Bay

# Hawai'i Parole Completion Celebration

by: Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH,  
Director, Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice

**Since 2010 people who successfully completed parole, their loved ones, and those who support them or who work in the criminal justice system have participated in annual reintegration rituals in the Hawai'i Supreme Court (the last two were held via zoom).**

Participants of the engaging and celebratory event have included judges; parole board members; parole and probation officers; government and private attorneys; drug treatment counselors; employers of people on parole and convicted of felonies; prison staff; police officers; people successfully completing parole; formerly incarcerated people; people on, or formerly on, parole and probation; and friends and family of people completing parole along with other community members. Awards are given each year at the event to honor state parole officers; federal probation officers; former parolees who are role models for others; community members who have supported people on parole including employers; innovative judges, and others who especially help those on parole or convicted on felonies. Criminologists John Braithwaite from Australia and a restorative justice expert, and Shadd Maruna in Ireland and a criminal desistance expert, assisted Lorenn Walker and the Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice, to design this inspiring ritual that hundreds have participated in since its inception.



**Michael Knott**, Parole Officer of the Year Awardee



**Roger Epstein**, Board Member,  
**Daphne Ho'okano**, Parole Completion Awardee,  
**Mark Recktenwald**, Chief Justice of Hawai'i Supreme Court



**Aaron Mahi** providing an oli (opening chant) for the celebratory circle. Mr. Mahi was the conductor of the Honolulu Symphony.

# Crime Victims Committee

## Libby Hamilton Named New Committee Chair

by: Ashley Koonce, Executive Director, APAI

**APAI is excited to announce the appointment of Libby Hamilton as the Chair of the Crime Victims Committee.** This committee is charged with elevating the awareness of crime victims issues in the post-conviction processes and ensuring that the professional development opportunities offered, facilitated, and supported by the Association contain sufficient content relative to victims and survivors of crime and their role in the parole and reentry process.

Libby began her career with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division in 2007, after graduating from St. Edward's University in Austin.

In February of 2017, she was hired by Chairman David Gutiérrez of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to create the Victim Liaison Program, which focuses on assisting victims and survivors through the parole review process. She provides direct services to victims, as well as training to Board employees, District Attorneys, and other individuals who have an impact on a victim's experience with the Criminal Justice system. In July 2019, Libby was appointed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to serve on the Texas Crime Victims' Institute Advisory Council, and she was recently promoted to Director of the Victim Liaison Program. Libby has served on the Crime Victims Committee for several years and been part of several APAI Annual Training Conference. We are excited for where she will take this committee.

# APAI Award Nominations are Open

The field of parole is both complex and demanding. Those of us who work in the field often do our work in a quiet and unassuming way. Naming an award for a member is the highest honor we can give, signifying that the person's contributions to the field have been exemplary. The Annual Awards are undoubtedly many of our members' favorite parts of the Annual Conference. There is just nothing quite like watching our incredible members get to honor each other with our annual awards, and of course, it is even more exciting when it is such a surprise to the recipient!

Award nominations are now open for each of APAI's distinguished awards. Our President issued a challenge for our members to recognize those that deserve the recognition in October's Newsletter, and we hope that you will take it seriously:

"To be recognized by one's peers is the highest honor

an individual can receive. The field of parole is no different. Each year, individuals in our field perform some of the greatest work, and are never quite rewarded or recognized in the ways that they deserve. Each year, we know that there are many deserving of these awards, far more than the awards committees are made aware of. I ask that each of you consider submitting a name to be considered by the appropriate committee for at least one of the five categories below. There are tremendous opportunities to recognize our colleagues, peers, and friends for the great works they do. Even if you aren't personally nominating someone, I encourage you to pass the nomination information along to other members of your board." – David Blumberg

Nominations for awards are due March 15, 2022.  
[www.apaintl.org/awards.html](http://www.apaintl.org/awards.html)

# APAI Officer Nominations are Open

## President and Treasurer Nominations Sought



**As the annual conference approaches, it is time to think about this year's officer nominations and elections.** The official election will take place online, prior to the Annual Training Conference. Elected officers are announced at the Annual Business Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. The business meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Awards Luncheon.

The APAI Constitution states that elected officers shall serve two-year terms and may not serve for more than two elected consecutive terms in the same office. The office of President and Treasurer shall become vacant on even numbered years (2022). Newly elected officers will assume their duties of office on July 1, 2022.

### The APAI bylaws state

*"The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, speak on the behalf of the Association, and preside over all meeting of the Association. The President shall appoint Regional Vice Presidents and serve on the Executive and Finance Committees. The President shall oversee the activities of all officers, function as the liaison between the Executive Director and the Executive Committee, and be responsible for the coordination of communications between the Association membership and other criminal justice professionals and organizations."*

### The bylaws also state

*"The Treasurer shall oversee all financial affairs of the Association and provide information and support to the Finance*

*Committee. The Treasurer and Executive Director shall submit an annual budget containing personnel, operating and related fiscal information to the Executive Committee for approval a minimum of sixty days prior to consideration. The Treasurer shall present the Executive Committee approved Association budget to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. The spending of funds not approved in the current budget shall require the authorization of the Treasurer, President, Vice President and Executive Director. The Treasurer shall perform such other tasks as the President may assign."*

The Executive Committee currently meets on the fourth Friday of each month.

If you know of a co-worker or a professional colleague who would be a perfect fit, please visit the website or contact APAI staff or anyone on the Executive Committee. We look forward to your involvement.

**If you would like to nominate someone for either position or have an interest of your own, please visit [www.apaintl.org](http://www.apaintl.org) or email Ashley Koonce at [koonce@apaintl.org](mailto:koonce@apaintl.org).**

**NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE MARCH 3, 2022.**

# Executive Committee

President  
**David Blumberg**  
*Maryland*

Vice President  
**Jonathan Ogletree**  
*Kansas*

Executive Director  
**Ashley Koonce**  
*Texas*

Past President  
**Cynthia Mausser**  
*Ohio*

Treasurer  
**Kecia Rongen**  
*Washington*

Secretary  
**Francis Abbott**  
*Louisiana*

Northeastern USA  
**Matt Degan**  
*Rhode Island*

Western USA  
**Jennifer Shaffer**  
*California*

Central USA  
**Alicia Handwerk**  
*Ohio*

Southern USA  
**Benita Murphy**  
*West Virginia*

International Section  
**Sylvie Blanchet**  
*Canada*

International Section  
**Thando Tsetsewa**  
*Africa*

International Section  
**Alistair Spierling**  
*New Zealand*

International Section  
**Martin Jones**  
*Europe*

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