



From the Executive Director Looking back at 2020

Hello to each of our members! As we publish our final newsletter of 2020, I wanted to look back on the year that was 2020. I believe I can safely say this year proved to be a challenge and bring forth a new landscape for all of us. While some are unfortunately unable to work, many of you had to start working more than ever before. Not only did you have to work extra, but you also had to work in new ways, with new technologies, and with new pressures. I want to commend each of you on an incredible job in how you have handled this year.

While we couldn't come together in 2020 in Nashville, where we would have had an incredible time, no doubt, we worked behind the scenes to continue to provide each of you an integral benefit of being a member of APAI – training and educational opportunities. Under the lead of our outstanding Professional Development Chair, we were able to schedule a five part speaker series, which highlighted significant speakers and topics that were planned for presentation in Nashville. We

also were able to bring forth a couple of hot topics, not only in your specialized field, but of significance in today's world.

As we prepare to end this year, a year full of much change and more change to come, I want to thank each of you for all that you are doing to continue to serve the public. While each year I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Training Conference, this coming year will be even more special! After not seeing each of you, and not being able to be with your colleagues since 2019, in Maryland, we are planning to provide you with the best training offerings that we ever have before. We hope that each and every one of you that can join us will do so. "Networking and collaboration with parole board chairs and members from across the globe" is the first Membership Benefit that we list, and we can't wait until we can do it again!

Ashley Koonce

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Executive Director

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TO-DO IN 2020

- RENEW APAI MEMBERSHIP
- SERVE ON APAI COMMITTEE
- URGE FELLOWS TO JOIN APAI
- MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2021 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE IN ARLINGTON MARCH 14 – MARCH 17, 2021

MEMBERSHIP FEES*

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

*Fees are on a per year basis.

APAI Trivia

Rather than discussing the chaos, tumult and angst of 2020, I thought it might be a pleasant diversion to have a APAI Quiz featured in our November newsletter. The quiz is short, only ten questions long. No Google or sneaking a peek at the APAI homepage; please use the honor system.



David R Blumberg
David Blumberg, APAI President

TAKE THE QUIZ ONLINE!

Scan this QR Code or visit www.bit.ly/2TOIzVn

Member Spotlight

Sylvie Blanchet, Executive Vice-Chairperson of the Parole Board of Canada

by: Ashley Koonce, Executive Director, APAI



Sylvie Blanchet is the Executive Vice-Chairperson of the Parole Board of Canada (PBC). She has over 29 years of experience working in Corrections and Parole. Sylvie has held a number of positions both at the Correctional Service of Canada and for the last 13 years, she has worked at the Parole Board of Canada.

In January 2018 she left her position as the PBC Regional Director General of the Atlantic Region to take on the position of Executive Vice-Chairperson in Ottawa. As the Executive Vice-Chairperson, she provides leadership and advice on all matters relating to Board members including the national Board member processes, professional conduct, quality assurance in decision making, training, continuous learning and development as well as evaluation processes for Board members and Vice-Chairpersons. Sylvie oversees the Board member Secretariat, which is responsible to develop and implement strategies and policies to ensure quality decision making at the Board. Sylvie plays a key role in the PBC's international relations.

Sylvie has been an active member of the APAI since 2011. Since that time, she has really engaged herself with her colleagues in the organization and has created important partnerships with many United States paroling authorities as well many international ones. Sylvie is one of the members who represents the international community on the APAI's executive committee. Sylvie works to ensure new countries join the APAI where sharing of knowledge and best practices can be done. She has a strong sense of the importance of partner-

ships and believes in sharing of information is the key to breaking barriers and to ensure safe communities.

Sylvie has done many presentations and trainings both in Canada and around the world on the topics of risk assessment, parole and victims. She is very proud of the work of the Parole Board of Canada and turns down no opportunity to present the work of her organization.

Renée Collette, a key member of the APAI for many years, first introduced Sylvie to the international community.

"When I first arrived at the PBC in 2008, Renée asked me to attend a meeting with her as she was hosting a Russian delegation as the Executive Vice-Chairperson of the PBC at that time. She asked me to participate in the meeting by presenting the risk assessment process we use in Canada in our release decision making. This lit a spark in me and made me realize that we cannot do it alone. Since that time, I have worked hard with colleagues across many jurisdictions by sharing information, developing training and partnerships. Renée taught me that our friends across the world could only help us make better decisions, she was right and I never looked back. I hope I can continue to make meaningful contributions for a long time."

"I value the relationships I have made through the APAI. My hope is that the APAI membership continues to expand and that we can reach as many jurisdictions as possible. The APAI as an organization has a lot of offer and is rich in knowledge and experience in the area of parole and community safety. The work we do is difficult and we are a relatively small community across the world. It is necessary that we share our work where and when we can. I am grateful that the PBC is lead by the Chairperson who also strongly supports the sharing of information in an international format."

"The current state of the world in a pandemic has made our world even smaller. I think it is even more important now then ever that we connect with one and another. While we were not able to have our face-to-face APAI in Nashville, the creation of the Speakers Series has expanded the APAI's reach even more. I hope that we continue to innovate and remain connected."

NOVEMBER 2020

Dr. Kenneth Walker Community Service Award

David Hart

David Hart is Chief Executive Officer of TRICOR with over 30 years of diverse experience in business, government and workforce development.

Hart joined TRICOR in 2008 as the Chief Operations Officer (COO), where he was responsible for TRICOR operations and offender programming, located in the Tennessee Department of Correction facilities. Under his leadership as COO, TRICOR's operations expanded to include food-service, flooring manufacturing, and Cumberland Products Group operations.

Hart holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Finance from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. He also holds an MBA degree from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee.



• SAVE THE DATE •

2021 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE



ARLINGTON, TX | MARCH 14-17, 2021

Restitution

Long after conviction victims still await restitution.

by: Taylor E. Winston, Atty at Law, Executive Director for the Alaska Office of Victims' Rights

Many crime victims believe that once an offender is convicted the case is over and they will have closure. Once thrust into the criminal justice system, however, they learn that the case doesn't end with the conviction. Besides years of subsequent discretionary parole or probation hearings, the issue of collecting court-ordered criminal restitution lingers and persists.

The methods for collecting criminal restitution vary by state. Some states are much more supportive of victims' restitution claims and more aggressive in collection means and methods. Other states are more passive and provide few tools for victims to collect the court-ordered restitution. Although the money is important for many, it is not the only reason victims seek restitution and should not be the only reason courts, probation officers or parole boards should enforce a restitution judgment.

Ultimately and above all other goals, victims seek justice. They want the offenders held accountable for their actions and the harm they have caused, including financial losses. Given this commonality for most victims, the criminal justice system should prioritize holding offenders accountable for the harm caused and should hold them responsible for their financial obligations. If the criminal justice system practices what it preaches regarding rehabilitation, and a goal shifting offenders from a life of crime to a life as productive citizens, it follows that the system place a high importance on requiring the offenders to meet their ordered obligations, including paying restitution.

The State of Alaska is not a shining example of a state proactive on the issue of offenders paying court-ordered restitution to crime victims. In fact, the tools available and the efforts made in Alaska to enforce these judgements, to hold offenders accountable and to make crime victims whole are woefully inadequate, and have become more inadequate in the last few years because of budget cuts. Under budget cuts, the State of Alaska closed the state office that assisted with restitution collection. Now, only one to two people in the state court system process payments from offenders who actually comply with

their probation/parole terms, which typically requires paying restitution and applying for the annual Alaska Permanent Fund dividend which is then garnished. Presently, there is more than \$20 million in unpaid court-ordered criminal restitution state-wide. This is money which remains uncollected, adding to crime victims' sense that justice has not been served as required by the Alaska Constitution.

Some states have been fairly aggressive by setting up specialized restitution courts. Other states allow a percentage of funds in offenders' prison accounts to be garnished, whether earned from an in-custody job or deposited into the offender's account by friends or family. All of these tools could be and should be used in order to make victims whole and afford them as much justice as possible. One thing is for certain the criminal justice system can do more than is being done.

Field probation and parole officers should hold offenders accountable for restitution, and, in turn, should be accountable themselves to review to ensure compliance. Whether by statute or policy, restitution repayment schedules should be set by either the courts or the departments of correction and enforced. Offenders should be required to pay a minimum monthly amount towards restitution, even if they are on public assistance. The amount does not have to be significant; perhaps similar to minimums for child support, but it needs to be enforced as part of rehabilitation and accountability. Why shouldn't an offender have to pay at least the equivalent of a pack of cigarettes, a magazine, or a 6-pack of beer to victims every month?

There are a variety of protocols that could and should be adopted by the criminal justice system, whether by the courts, parole boards, probation officers and prosecutors, such as:

- The laws in place should be followed. For example, if the law, as in Alaska, requires probation/parole officers to establish a restitution payment schedule for offenders, superiors should hold parole/probation officers accountable and making sure the law is followed.

- Garnishment laws could be enacted and/or policies established which require a percentage of a prisoner's account to be routinely taken for payment of restitution owed.
- Parole boards, when evaluating release, should look at whether an offender worked while in jail and used those earnings or other monies put in their account to pay restitution. In addition, the boards should ask the offender about their plan to repay and order restitution payments as part of their parole conditions, and monitor compliance.
- Parole/ Probation officers should monitor compliance with court and/or parole boards conditions to pay restitution. In order to better establish a repayment schedules, they should require defendants to provide income tax returns or be granted the ability to get information from public assistance or labor departments to see what income offenders have had.
- Establish restitution courts to monitor offenders' compliance similar to the way substance abuse or mental health courts monitor offenders' progress.
- Parole/Probation officers should file petitions to revoke probation or parole for when an offender fails to repay restitution as ordered by the court or a department of corrections.
- Prosecutors should be more proactive in holding offenders' accountable for restitution when litigating revocations.

While there is no singular answer that can be applied universally to ensure offenders are held accountable and victims are repaid restitution owed, there are solutions in every jurisdiction to solve this issue. The greatest obstacles are often resistance by the stakeholders to change, and the failure to enact laws or institute policies that recognize victims deserve justice and should not be brushed aside by the system that purports to provide justice for all.

The Office Of Victims' Rights is an agency of the Alaska Legislature that provides free legal services to victims of crime to help them obtain the rights they are guaranteed under the Alaska constitution and statutes with regard to their contacts with police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice agencies in this state, as well as to advance and protect those victim rights in court when necessary and authorized by law.

Ref: <https://ovr.akleg.gov/index.php>

A Victims' Rights Model for America can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3jUPbMC>

Biography

Taylor E. Winston

Taylor E. Winston, Executive Director Ms. Winston has served as the Chief Victims' Advocate and Executive Director of OVR since 2012. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Journalism, and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1985. She earned her Master of International Affairs from Columbia University in New York City in 1988. After graduate school, Ms. Winston worked as an international trade program analyst at the U.S. General Accounting Office in Washington D.C. for several years before attending Georgetown Law Center. She earned her Juris Doctorate from Georgetown in 1997. That same year, she moved to Alaska to clerk for Su-

perior Court Judge Larry Card in Anchorage. Following her clerkship, she was an associate at the law firm of Atkinson, Conway and Gagnon. In 1999, Ms. Winston became an assistant district attorney for the State of Alaska. Ms. Winston primarily prosecuted domestic violence assaults, sexual assaults, sexual abuse of minors, and homicide cases. During her thirteen-year career as an assistant district attorney, she served two years in the Bethel DA's office, and 11 years in the Anchorage DA's Office, where she supervised the Special Assaults Unit for six years. She has been a member of the Alaska Bar since 1997 and is also a member of the U.S. District Court of Alaska and the U.S. Supreme Court.

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