

PROPOSAL FOR THE FORMATION OF A EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE
TO ORGANIZE AN ADVOCACY GROUP TO REPLACE
PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES

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TO: Honorable Roderick Ireland
Chief Justice
Supreme Judicial Court
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

We, the prisoners of the Commonwealth, the families of the prisoners of the Commonwealth, and the friends of the prisoners of the Commonwealth, propose that the Supreme Judicial Court form a "Exploratory Committee" to detail the parameters for a new advocacy group which would replace Prisoners' Legal Services (hereafter PLS) as the sanctioned advocacy group for the prisoners of the Commonwealth.

This committee should be comprised of at least twelve (12) members who will reflect the racial, geographical and demographical make-up of the interested parties. The twelve members will include;

- a) An African American female family/friend member,
- b) An African American male family/friend member,
- c) A Latino female family/friend member,
- d) A Latino male family/friend member,
- e) A Caucasion female family/friend member,
- f) A Caucasion male family family/friend member,
- g) An Asian female family/friend member,
- h) An Asian female family/friend member,
- i) An African American prisoner,
- j) A Latino prisoner,
- k) A Caucasion prisoner
- l) An Asian prisoner

An SJC coordinator appointed by the Chief Justice should act as Chairperson of the committee.

Due to the prisoner members seating on the committee the committee meetings would need to be held at the John Adams Courthouse so that the prisoners members could be transported by the Department of Correction Transportation Division.

The mission of the exploratory committee would be to ascertain how an advicacy group can best serve the interests of the men and women serving prison sentences in the Commonwealth. This new vision for an advocacy group must include ideas for changing the culture that allows abuse and neglect to diminish public safety through ineffective corrections and reintegration endeavors. Progressive and proven methods must be employed which not only promote enhanced public safety but which are also cost

effective and transparent.

Members of the legal community in the Commonwealth, Bar members, lawyers association members, lawyers guild members, pro bono advocates, shall be sought to comprise a legal advocacy subcommittee to advise and assist the advocacy group, while working with the exploratory committee in the development phase to promote a sound legal foundation through the organisation.

The SJC Coordinator shall be responsible for the implimentation of the Honorable Court's expert vision on what the new advocacy group should strive to do as far as the Constitutional protections of the constituency is concerned. The SJC Coordinator shall have such powers as detailed by the Honorable Court.

WHEREFORE, this proposal is submitted to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court seeking an **ORDER** that the afore-described "Exploratory Committee" be formed, and that work is begun toward the formation of a new and effective advocacy group for the prisoners of the Commonwealth, their familes, and their friends.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: ___/___/___

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