



Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Corrections Section

Virginia’s Governor Restores Voting Rights for 13,000 Ex-Felons

Michael Wines

New York Times (reprinted from August 22, 2016)

Virginia’s governor said on Monday that he had signed papers restoring the voting rights of nearly 13,000 ex-felons, accomplishing on a case-by-case basis what the state’s Supreme Court last month had barred him from doing with a single executive order.

Gov. [Terry McAuliffe](#), a Democrat, cast the move as a civil rights victory in a state whose constitutional ban on voting by ex-felons has disenfranchised roughly one in five African-Americans. In a [post on Twitter](#), the governor said, “We will continue to fight to ensure that our fellow citizens are not marginalized forever.”

State Republicans had called Mr. McAuliffe’s effort to restore voting rights a political plot to put more Democrats on the voting rolls. On Monday, Donald J. Trump, campaigning in Fredericksburg, Va., accused Mr. McAuliffe of “getting thousands of violent felons to the voting booth in an effort to cancel out the votes of both law enforcement and crime victims.”

“They are letting people vote in your Virginia election that should not be allowed to vote,” Mr. Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, said.

In fact, however, the gov-

ernor lifts the prohibition, which Virginia governors had done sparingly.

Only Kentucky and Florida, which also disenfranchise felons for life, have a higher share of African-Americans whose felony convictions deny them the right to vote.



Mr. McAuliffe’s Republican predecessor, Gov. Bob McDonnell, moved to [soften the lifetime ban](#) in 2013, ordering that any nonviolent felon who had completed a sentence and paid all fines or restitution be automatically considered for voting-rights

restoration. error is empowered by the state’s Constitution to grant ex-felons the right to vote, and earlier studies suggest that most of those whose rights were restored had committed nonviolent crimes.

But Mr. McAuliffe caused a sensation in April when he went well beyond that, [signing a sweeping executive order reinstating rights](#) for nearly everyone who had completed prison sentences and met the terms of any supervised release: 206,000 ex-felons in all. Those whose crimes were nonviolent — about eight in 10 — were immediately given the right to cast a ballot; violent ex-

restoration. But Mr. McAuliffe caused a sensation in April when he went well beyond that, [signing a sweeping executive order reinstating rights](#) for nearly everyone who had completed prison sentences and met the terms of any supervised release: 206,000 ex-felons in all. Those whose crimes were nonviolent — about eight in 10 — were immediately given the right to cast a ballot; violent ex-

Inside this issue:

Message from the Chair	2
CPPR Call for Papers	2
2017 Section Student Scholarship Extension	2
Front article continued	3
Section Elections to be Held	3
Denver News!!!!	4



Fall 2016 - Corrections Now

Message from the Chair

I hope you're all settled in for your Fall 2016 semester and things are going well for you wherever you are. As we start another academic year, I'd like to welcome on-board our new officers. Deb Vegh has been elected as our new vice-chair. She's done a great job in every role she's had on our executive board and I'm sure she will continue to do so as vice-chair (in fact, she's already doing it). Natalie Goulette has moved from an Executive Counselor position to the secretary position- Deb has left big shoes to fill, but I'm confident Natalie will do a great job also. I'd also like to welcome Adam Matz and Patricia Dahl to our executive board as well. Adam has hit the ground running and has expanded our social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. If you use any of those services, please follow us, or friend us, or do whatever it is that you do to keep up with Correc-

tions section activities. I'm also excited to report that we now have a full year's worth of articles that are published or forthcoming in our brand new section journal, *Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research*. If you haven't submitted an article there yet, please do so when you have something ready. Wes Johnson, Cathy Marcum, and the editorial board are doing a great job and you'll be happy with the experience. Read more about the journal and how to submit below.

I also wanted to use this venue to encourage you to attend ACJS in Kansas City. This year's conference will be full of great presenta-

tions, great food, and great activities. Because the Elite Eight will be occurring while we're in Kansas City, be sure and get your hotel room as soon as possible, because I'm certain space will be at a premium. As we get closer to the date, look for Corrections panels of interest in the preliminary program to best use your time while at the conference. Finally, remember we will have our section breakfast and awards ceremony on Friday morning. RSVP to let us know you're attending. I look forward to seeing you all and hope you're having a fabulous Fall semester.

~~Dave

Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research—Call for Papers

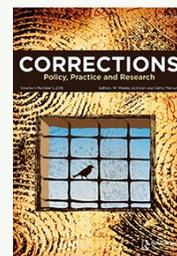
Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research is a peer-reviewed journal with a broad correctional focus encompassing a wide range of relevant topics and innovative approaches from new theoretical perspectives and research findings to their implications for improving policy and practice. Both national and international in scope, the journal will address these issues and challenges as they relate to sentencing, prisons, jails, and community corrections.

A wide range of topics are considered and include, but are not limited to: prisons, jails, probation and parole, inmate/client and staff experiences, reentry transition, sentencing policies and practices, the death penalty, com-

parative corrections, correctional treatment, decarceration, educational and vocational programming, and privatization.

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically to <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cppr>. Manuscripts should be no more than 40 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1" margins. **No color pictures, graphs or tables should be included.** Authors should

follow all formatting guidelines of the APA Publication Manual, 6th Edition.



2016 Student Paper Travel Scholarship—EXTENSION

Dr. Kelly Cheeseman Student Paper Travel Scholarship

Students presenting papers at the ACJS annual conference are encouraged to submit their papers to the Awards committee for consideration for receipt of the travel scholarship. A letter of recommendation/support from a faculty advisor is advised.



The deadline has been extended to JANUARY 15, 2017. Send all documents in one email to ACJS.Corrections@gmail.com

Requirements:

1. Must be a paid student member of the Section
2. Nomination letter from faculty
3. Abstract required
4. Powerpoint presentation provided
 - a. Up-to-date literature review
 - b. Sample & methods
 - c. Analysis description

Selection Domains:

1. Quality of and connection to existing literature
2. Clarity of presentation
3. Significance of research

Virginia's Governor Restores Voting Rights...continued

felons were barred from voting until three years after successfully completing supervised release.

"I want you back as a full citizen of the commonwealth," Mr. McAuliffe said then of the ex-felons. "I want you to have a job, I want you paying taxes, and you can't be a second-class citizen."

Republicans denounced the move as a transparent effort to help Mr. McAuliffe's close friend and ally, Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee, in what was likely to be a swing state in the 2016 presidential election.

[A 2014 study](#) by political scien-

tists concluded that ex-felons in a handful of states were much [more likely to register as Democrats](#) than as Republicans, although the authors said race and poverty, not criminality, were the likely reasons.

After Republicans sued to block the executive order, Virginia's Supreme Court [ruled last month](#) that Mr. McAuliffe could restore voting rights only on a case-by-case basis rather than with a blanket order. Monday's announcement of restored rights for nearly 13,000 residents was the beginning of what the governor's office has said is an effort to address the voting status of all ex-felons.

Officials will address restoration of other ex-felons' rights in chrono-

logical order, starting with those who have been freed from supervision the longest, the governor said.

William Howell, the Republican speaker of the State House and a plaintiff in the lawsuit opposing Mr. McAuliffe's executive order, said in a written statement that legislators would study the new process for restoring voter rights to ensure that it abides by the Supreme Court's ruling in July.



Don't forget to follow ACJS Corrections on Twitter, LinkedIn, & join our new Facebook page!!

Catching Up with...Dr. John O. Smykla



John Ortiz Smykla (Ph.D., Michigan State, 1977) is Director and Professor of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University. He has been a member of ACJS since the 1970s and joined the Corrections section when it was first developed. John's entire career has focused on issues in corrections with articles and books on offender reentry, capital punishment, comparative corrections, and community corrections.

Today John and his colleague (Dr. Matthew Crow at the University of West Florida) are conducting a five-year randomized controlled trial evaluating the Robert A Dennis, Jr., reentry court for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida. The research started in 2012 with randomization of participants leaving federal prison into experimental groups and control groups. Early results are expected in Spring 2017. Recently John also received funding from the Florida Department of Corrections to evaluate a reentry portal in Miami.

2017 Conference in KCMO



The 53rd annual meeting of ACJS will be held **March 21– March 25, 2016, at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown in Kansas City, Missouri.** The conference theme is “Linking Teaching, Practice, and Research .”

The Section’s awards ceremony and general business meeting will take place on Friday from 7:30-9am.

Your assistance will be called upon to cover the Section table during the conference. Look for that email and as always, we appreciate our volunteers!

Suggestions are welcome for a **corrections-related charitable organization** in the Kansas City

area. Please inform the E-Board via email:

ACJS.Corrections@gmail.com for consideration of a donation made on behalf of the Section **by December 1.**

By the way, KCMO will host the Midwest Regionals of the NCAA the week of the conference!



March 23-25 at the Sprint Center

See you in Kansas City!!!

Corrections Section Purpose

The purpose of the Corrections Section is to bring together academy members who have a particular interest in corrections, to facilitate and encourage research and theory development related to corrections, to encourage appropriate and effective teaching techniques and practices for corrections courses, to serve as a resource network for and encourage interaction among academic, research, practitioner and policy-making sectors in order to further knowledge about corrections, and to encourage the organization of corrections-related conference activities.

Solicitations for op-eds or research items are welcome for the next edition of the newsletter!! Email us!

Executive Board

David May, Chair

Deborah Vegh, Vice Chair

Natalie Goulette, Secretary

Executive Counselors:

Stacy Parker, Adam Matz & Patricia Dahl

Jeff Bouffard, Past Chair