

Public Meeting
National Prison Rape Elimination Commission
at the University of Notre Dame, March 31, 2005

Babbitt: My name is Steven Babbitt and I'm 47 years old.. I've spent the major part of my adult life in correctional facilities, always for non-violent offenses including shoplifting, which that might be hard to believe but, that's reality. And I finally got released about four years ago and quit doing anything wrong and haven't gone back and at that point I decided to try to get involved with the mental health care system so I could go with the issues that arose for me when I was in prison and I'll talk to you about that later on. That's basically it.

Thank you.

Donahue: Thank you, Commissioner. I'm Dave Donahue, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Corrections. I have recently accepted that appointment from Governor Daniels as of January 10th of this year, so I am new to the Indiana proper, coming north from Kentucky, formerly the Deputy Commissioner of Corrections and that's a _____ (#55). Have been in prisons on and off for 25 years. I too started in the juvenile system as a practitioner, not as a participant. But have some presence of juvenile systems as well because we have both those venues in our state here. We have about 9,400 employees, 25,000 individuals incarcerated and about 6,000 folks on parole in this system.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Zanning: Well, I'm Nancy Zanning with the Michigan Department of Corrections. I have been an administrator there for the last 14 years. My primary responsibility is oversight for the women's facility. However, I also am project director on the pre-initiative that our department is undertaking. I too started in the juvenile system a long time ago and I'm in juvenile treatment facility so I've worked with juveniles, I've been district supervisor _____ (#66) and I've had the opportunity to work not only in the Illinois system, the Indiana system, the Michigan system, but I've also had the opportunity to work for the Illinois Supreme Court.

Thank you.

Beckman: My name's Robert Beckman. I'm 54, born and raised in La Porte County, Indiana. I'm the elected Prosecuting Attorney of the 32nd Judicial Circuit of Indiana which is La Porte County. In my county we have three major Department of Corrections facilities, Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Westville Correctional Center in Westville, including the Maximum Control Complex in the Boot Camp Summit Farm, which is for juvenile offenders. I've been a practicing attorney for 27 years, 10 years of which was as a public defender, 12 years of which was as a Corporation Counsel for the City of Michigan City, Indiana, and some 20 years, these overlap so you can't add them up to make it come out to be a real number. Some 20 years I have been either a deputy prosecutor or the elected prosecutor for La Porte County, Indiana and hopefully I'll be able to bring some information to you as it relates to the prosecuting of actual cases that arrive within DOC facilities.

Thank you.

Schwartz: Good afternoon. I'm Jeff Schwartz. I'm born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio but I don't admit that very often and I've actually been in California in the San Francisco

Bay area for a very long time. I'm a principal in Letra, Incorporated, which is a small training and research organization that has, for over 30 years, worked with police in corrections and my experience is with jails and prisons in this country and Canada. I have worked with juvenile and adult institutions at the state, county and federal level.

Thank you.