

Occasional Series on Reentry Research
Prisoner Reentry Institute
at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

(Re)Starting and Stopping: Breaks between Criminal Activity
vs.
Permanent Cessation from Crime

Panelist Biographies
March 26, 2010

Shawn Bushway is a Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Albany of the State University of New York (SUNY) with a background in public policy, economics and statistics. Dr. Bushway's research has focused on measuring desistance from crime and developing methods to study the causal factors driving desistance. He has also explored the process of reentry including the role of work (and work restrictions) on reentry. This research involves study of the stigmatic impact of a criminal history record and of the efficacy of crime prevention programs based in the labor market. His recent work has attempted to assess how long a formerly incarcerated person has to remain arrest-free before s/he "looks like" a non-offender. Additionally, Dr. Bushway has begun to study the impact of incarceration on offending over an individual's life course. Dr. Bushway received his Doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University and his Bachelor of Science from the University of Notre Dame.

William Eric Waters is the Program Director of Community-Based Services at The Osborne Association, a local non-profit organization that provides a range of treatment, educational, and vocational services to people involved in the adult and juvenile justice systems and their family members. Mr. Waters has over 20 years of experience in criminal law with expertise in the following areas: felony-murder, prosecutorial misconduct and parole.

Mr. Waters is also a board member of the Coalition for Parole Restoration (CPR), a grassroots organization created to inform and educate the broader community on the criminal justice system. As a member of CPR, Mr. Waters has conducted community-based parole preparation workshops to help family members and friends of individuals who are incarcerated assist their loved ones prepare to appear before a parole board. As part of this effort, he helped develop the manual, *Preparing for Your Parole Board Appearance*. Mr. Waters completed his Master's degree from the New York Theological Seminary. He completed undergraduate studies at SUNY Albany and SUNY New Paltz.

Joseph M. Shields began his tenure as the Executive Director of the New Jersey State Parole Board in May 2006. The State Parole Board partners with government, non-profit and private agencies to connect formerly incarcerated individuals with vocational, mental health and other wrap-around services designed to break the cycle and risk of future criminal activity. In addition to overseeing the Parole Board's operations, he serves as a member of the Attorney General's Crime and Reentry Task Force.

Mr. Shields previously served as Special Assistant to the Governor's Chief of Staff and as a Confidential Aide to now-Chief Justice Stuart Rabner during Governor-Elect Corzine's transition. Mr. Shields has provided political consultation to more than 20 local, state and national officials and campaigns. He has also served as Political/Organizing Director for Service Employees International Union Local 36 in Philadelphia. Mr. Shields completed his Juris Doctorate at Temple University's Beasley School of Law and completed undergraduate studies at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Public Affairs and Citizenship.