



*State of California*

# LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 10, 2006**

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*Executive Director*

**Stuart Drown**  
**Executive Director**  
**(916) 445-2125**

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

On Thursday, August 24, 2006, the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a public hearing on sentencing reform in California. The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. in Room 437 of the State Capitol in Sacramento.

This is the second hearing the Commission has scheduled to review California's sentencing policies. This study will focus on sentencing policy as one element of correctional system reform. The first hearing provided a broad assessment of national efforts on sentencing reform; an overview of California's existing sentencing system; and, perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of the current system. At this second hearing, the Commission will hear from leaders in sentencing policy development and implementation from other states.

Witnesses will include Thomas W. Ross, former chair of North Carolina's Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission; Richard P. Kern, director of Virginia's Criminal Sentencing Commission; and, Robert M. A. Johnson, attorney for Anoka County in Minnesota. Other witnesses include Judge Steven Perren from California Court of Appeal, Second District, and Placer County Superior Court Judge J. Richard Couzens. The Commission also will hear from Kara Dansky, executive director of the Stanford Criminal Justice Center, and Joseph A. Gunn, executive director of the Governor's 2004 Independent Review Panel on Corrections.

There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the hearing. The Commission also encourages written comments.

All notices for meetings are on the Commission's Web site: [www.lhc.ca.gov](http://www.lhc.ca.gov). If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Stuart Drown at (916) 445-2125 or [littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov](mailto:littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov) by Thursday, August 17, 2006. Commission hearings can be viewed via Webcast within a week after the hearing date on the California Channel Web site.

The agenda is on the reverse.



# LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

## AGENDA

### Public Hearing on Sentencing Reform

Thursday, August 24, 2006

State Capitol, Room 437

Sacramento

Michael E. Alpert  
Chairman

Stanley R. Zax  
Vice Chairman

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Executive Director

### **Public Hearing: 9 a.m.**

#### ***Learning from Other States***

1. Thomas W. Ross, Executive Director, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation; former Chair, North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission; and, former Director, North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts
2. Robert M. A. Johnson, Anoka County Attorney, Minnesota
3. Richard P. Kern, Director, Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission
4. Kara Dansky, Executive Director, Stanford Criminal Justice Center

#### ***Judicial Perspective***

5. Steven Z. Perren, Judge, California Court of Appeal, Second District
6. J. Richard Couzens, Judge, Placer County Superior Court

#### ***Recommendations for Sentencing Reform in California***

7. Joseph A. Gunn, Executive Director, Independent Review Panel on Corrections

***Public comment will be taken at the end of the hearing. All written testimony submitted electronically is posted on the Commission's Web site at [www.lhc.ca.gov](http://www.lhc.ca.gov)***

#### **Business Meeting Agenda**

***(The Commission will consider agenda items I-V at approximately noon. The precise time will vary depending upon the testimony of witnesses and will be determined at the discretion of the chair.)***

- I. Business Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2006, May 25, 2006 and June 22, 2006
- II. Project Selection / Schedule
- III. Subcommittee Reports
- IV. Implementation Activity
- V. Reports from Bureau of State Audits