

Summary page

Division V
Criminal Law and Individual Rights Committee

Public Statement: letter to Councilmember Rolark
re: District of Columbia Alternative
Sentencing Commission Act of 1985

Summary: The stated purpose of this bill is "to establish an Alternative Sentencing Commission for the purpose of studying the feasibility of community-based alternatives to incarceration and advising the Council regarding development of sentencing diversion and community service programs." Although the committee did not agree on all the stated rationale of the bill, it unanimously supports the bill and agrees that it is appropriate and important for the City to undertake such an examination of alternative sentencing and resource allocation.

April 8, 1985

Councilmember Wilhelmina J. Rolark
Chairperson, Committee on the Judiciary
Council of the District of Columbia
District Building
14th and E Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: District of Columbia Alternative Sentencing
Commission Act of 1985, Bill 6-129

Dear Mrs. Rolark:

We are writing to you to voice our support of the District of Columbia Alternative Sentencing Commission Act of 1985, which you recently introduced for consideration by the District of Columbia Council. */

It is our committee's basic opinion that it is appropriate and important for this City to study the feasibility of community-based alternatives to incarceration, including the development of sentencing diversion and community service programs.

The majority of the committee believes that the bill correctly notes that community-based programs and other alternatives to incarceration will, in many cases, provide more appropriate and effective ways to deal with offenders, both in terms of community concerns about crime, safety and offender rehabilitation, as well as the overall costs to the City.

One member of the committee approves of such a commission, but does not agree that there is a connection between the role of such a commission and the Findings set forth in Section 2 of the proposed legislation, specifically subsections b, c, f, and h.

*/ The views expressed herein represent only those of Division V (Criminal Law and Individual Rights) of the District of Columbia Bar and not those of the D.C. Bar or its Board of Governors.

page two

We would be glad to provide you with more detailed comments on this legislation or with any further information that you believe would assist you or the Council. Should there be subsequent revisions to this legislation, we would also be pleased to provide further comment.

Respectfully submitted,

DIVISION V COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL
RULES AND LEGISLATION

By: *Susan L. Schneider*
Susan L. Schneider
Michael Zeldin
Co-chairpersons

DIVISION V STEERING COMMITTEE
Karen Christensen
Kim Taylor
Co-chairpersons

Randy Bellows
Stephanie Duncan-Peters
Stephen Miliken
Bart Stichman
Members

Susan C. Bergemann
Shelley Broderick
Lawrence H. Huebner
Neil Jaffee
Mary Lou Soller
Elizabeth Taylor
Thomas Zeno
Members