



JUSTICE JOURNAL

Advocacy
Grassroots Organizing
Movement Building



Victory: Anti-Shackling Bill Signed!

Fall / Winter 2012

For the third straight year, LSPC co-sponsored **AB 2530**, a bill to stop the shackling of pregnant women during their entire pregnancies. Despite the bills unprecedented legislative support—it never received a single “no” vote during three sessions, both Governors Schwarzenegger and Brown vetoed the bill.

This year, we changed the bill to address concerns raised in the last veto statement and Gov. Brown signed it. The new law will go into effect January 1, 2013.

You Can Vote if:
You have been convicted of a felony AND...

- ◆ Are on probation
- ◆ Are in the county jail as a condition of probation; OR
- ◆ Are in the county jail on a probation revocation.

Or you are in the county jail awaiting trial. Last day to register is October 22.

At last! We have an answer for the pregnant women who write to Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) about having to wear chains around their bellies while going to court, about being shackled around their ankles while waiting to see a doctor, about standing in countless lines waiting to get on countless buses while handcuffed behind their backs: you are right. This is illegal. You should not be restrained in these ways if you are incarcerated in California.

We thank Assembly Member Toni Atkins for authoring the bill and Assembly Member Nancy Skinner for authoring the first two versions.

Unfortunately, **AB 1831**, our effort to ex-

pand **Ban the Box** to city and county government agencies statewide, did not succeed.

Despite intense opposition from some counties and sheriffs’ departments across the state, the bill was passed by the Assembly. However, it was not able to get out of the Senate Committee on Government and Finance. Assembly Member Roger Dickinson was a wonderful author and he is committed to bringing this issue back to the legislature.

There were other tremendous victories this year, notably Senate Bill 9 (Yee) that allows people who were sentenced to Life Without Parole as juveniles to request a sentence modification after many years of incarceration, and **Assembly Bills 593 and 1593** (Ma) that will provide greater

Join Us to Celebrate Passage of the Anti-Shackling Bill
Nov 14th 6-8pm
Details in late October at www.prisonerswithchildren.org or call Anna Couey (415)255-7036 (x318)

access to resentencing and parole for survivors of domestic violence.

AB 1270 (Ammiano), a bill designed to loosen media access restrictions in California’s prisons, was vetoed by Gov. Brown. This bill grew out of last year’s hunger strike by people held in California’s Security Housing Units/SHU (aka solitary confinement) and would have resulted in greater transparency in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The bill was vigorously opposed by CDCR as well as several victims’ rights organizations.

Legal & Grassroots Actions to End Solitary Confinement

Many wheels were set in motion at LSPC as a result of California's historic prisoner hunger strike last year which, at its peak, had almost 12,000 prisoners participating.

We have joined with New York's **Center for Constitutional Rights** and other California attorneys in filing a federal civil rights complaint challenging long term solitary confinement. Filed as a class action suit in September, *Ruiz v. Brown* alleges that long term solitary confinement at Pelican Bay State Prison violates cruel and unusual punishment under the Eight Amendment and due process under the Fourteenth Amendment. We are building public support for these issues and participated in public forums at San Francisco's Women's Building in June and the Center for Political Education in July.

We contributed to **Amnesty International's** 63 page report, issued in September, entitled "USA: The Edge of Endurance: Prison Conditions in California's Security Housing Units." We continue to do media interviews and participate with the **Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition**. Also in September, we traveled to Los Angeles for a productive strategy meeting with the newly formed organization **California Families to Abolish Solitary Confinement (CFASC)**, forging stronger links between our two groups.

This summer, in commemoration of the July 2011 hunger strike, the coalition constructed a model solitary confinement cell. We partnered with the San Francisco Mime Troupe to display the cell, with an information booth, at the Mime



Troupe's park venues in San Francisco, Berkeley and Oakland. We are now taking the display to college campuses, starting with UC Berkeley this month. And we have inspired CFASC to construct a similar model for display in Southern California. We are waging the fight against solitary confinement on many fronts!

CA Habeas Project: Another Survivor Released!

Another survivor of domestic violence (who prefers to remain unnamed) was released on parole in September, due to the efforts of her pro bono counsel from **Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe!** She served over 17 years on a conviction that was related to her experience of abuse.

Two bills, AB 593 and AB 1593, authored by Assemblymember Fiona Ma (SF & San Mateo Counties) were recently signed into law by Gov. Brown. The bills were inspired by the documentary film *Sin by Silence*, which profiles several survi-

vors incarcerated at the California Institution for Women. **AB 593** will do two things: it will allow certain survivors of domestic violence who had inadequate expert testimony at their trial court proceedings to go back to court and challenge their convictions through a habeas corpus petition, and it will also give survivors more time to receive legal representation by deleting the sunset date currently in the statute. **AB 1593** makes several improvements to the parole hearing process for survivors. It requires the Board of Parole Hearings to give "great

weight" to evidence of intimate partner battering and its effects in certain cases and prohibits the Board from using such evidence to support a finding that a survivor "lacks insight" into the crime and its causes. Right now, 18 survivors of domestic violence are waiting for legal representation. This number will increase as the Habeas Project identifies survivors who might now be eligible for relief under AB 593.

If you are an attorney and interested in working on a case, please contact:

**Catherine McKee (415) 255-7036 x309
catherine@prisonerswithchildren.org**



All of Us or None News

"Public Safety Realignment" has been instituted for a year now, but there's no evidence it has reduced incarceration levels. Sentencing people to years in county jails instead of state prisons has only resulted in a new prison construction boom: 32 of the State's 58 counties are expanding existing jails or building new ones. Under realignment, people convicted of "non-serious, non-violent, non-sexual offenses" are sentenced to county jails,

sometimes facing several years under inhumane conditions. LSPC is part of a community campaign to stop a new jail from being built in San Mateo County, and plans for jail expansion were stopped in Contra Costa County by a community coalition.

Pictured right: Protest at San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meeting



Ban the Box Campaign Update

The **All of Us or None/LSPC campaign to Ban the Box** continues with incredible successes: now 7 states (Hawaii, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota) and 42 cities and counties (including New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and Oakland) have adopted hiring reforms recommend-

ed in this campaign initiated by formerly-incarcerated people.

During the fall of 2012, the **San Francisco Board of Supervisors** will consider an ordinance that will greatly expand access to jobs and housing for people now facing discrimination because of past convictions. The ordinance will set standards for all public and private employers, all City/County contractors, and most landlords in considering conviction histories of applicants for jobs or housing.

SAVE THE DATE!
Sat. November 17, 1- 4pm
Oakland Townhall on
"Realignment"
How is it Working?
Eastside Arts Alliance
2277 International Blvd

For more info:
manuel@prisonerswithchildren.org



Manuel and Toshio display AOUON's inaugural newsletter

Building Skills: Seven All of Us or None members from five chapters attended the **Nation Inside** and **Allied Media** conferences in Detroit at the end of June, 2012. Building their technical skills was a priority, including outreach speeches and radio broadcasting. Several of them received FLIP vid-

eo cameras, and have been using them to document events and interviews. This month twenty All of Us or None members participated in a base-building and organizing training with our sister organization, **A New Way of Life Reentry Project** in Los Angeles. Saul Sarabia, a long-time community organizer and former Director of Critical Race Studies at UCLA School of Law, led the training.

We believe in the human dignity of people in prison and recognize that they come from and are part of our communities

1540 Market Street, Suite 490
San Francisco, CA 94102

A Project of Network on Women in Prison



Delegation Travels To Pennsylvania to Protect Voting Rights

In September, a delegation representing the **Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted People's Movement (FICPM)**, including members of **All of Us or None** chapters around the country and **LSPC** director, Dorsey Nunn, traveled to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to help launch voter mobilization efforts in Pennsylvania.

The delegation participated in four days of activities including workshops on voter mobilization strategies and conducted voter registration in Philadelphia neighborhoods hardest hit by voter ID laws and other disenfranchisement policies.

According to organizers, there are

an estimated 400,000 Philadelphians with conviction histories and many of them don't realize they can register. "That's one reason we've invited allies to come from other states to share their experience in winning voting rights," said Malissa Gamble, whose organization, the **Returning Citizen Voter Movement**, hosted the delegation. "We do our best here but the spirits of the people get down. We wanted to show that there are people out here with the same struggles all over the US" explained Gamble. The delega-



FICPM Delegation Stops Traffic in Philly!

tion received a citation from the Philadelphia City Council honoring their efforts to assist people with conviction histories overcome the obstacles they face in voting.