

ocean newsletter

Overcoming Corruption Encouraging All Nations
Encouraging Offenders to Become Defenders

Defender: "1. to protect from danger, attack, or harm... 2. To support or maintain, as by argument or action; justify... to make a defense... lat. *Defendere*, to ward off..." (American Heritage Dictionary)

ocean readers must be 18 years or older to comment on contents

1st Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

In this 13th issue of the ocean newsletter, our "A Call to Action" column, The gulag has taken the law into their own hands. They held the stimulus checks for about 10 days before we got this memo. This is clearly illegal. They may or may not be correct that the men at the facility are not supposed to get the stimulus checks. But they cannot hold them. We are sure another lawsuit is soon to follow. In our Ocean Voices Matter column we give an excerpt from author Scott Crampton's publication, "some lessons I have recently learned: a continuation to the folly of Scott Crampton" dated march 8, 2020. We will also look at the tragic stories of how easy a juvenile offenders are giving a life sentence in the Drop Testimonies; of a man who has been detained for over 42 years, and 7 months, without ever being arrested, or convicted of a crime of a sexual nature in the Drop Testimonies. Another man is facing a possible life sentence in the Minnesota gulag after completing the SOCC program in North Dakota. A man expresses victim empathy in the OCEAN Poetry column. In our newest column, Facts vs. Fear, we set the record straight and dispel common myths attributed to those who are detained at the gulag. As always, we end this issue of the ocean newsletter by thanking all of our supporters. Remember, ocean is not an organization. You either are, or you are not Overcoming Corruption Encouraging All Nations.

To learn more about the Minnesota Gulag scam go to Facebook: ajustfuture.org

Questions or comments write to the ocean founders, Daniel A. Wilson [daw] & Russell J. Hatton [rjh] *judicium dei* at, Po box 582, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572. You can also leave a voice message at, (218) 351-1900, Ext. 106021 for daw and Ext. 70887 for rjh

We Want Your Story!

It takes many drops to make the ocean. That means you matter. Send us your story about how you or someone you know has been affected by the "civil commitment" madness where you are. Whether you are detained as a shadow prisoner, or know someone who is, we are interested in your poetry, art and stories. Please follow the following rules for submission:

1. Let us know what facility you or your loved one is in.
2. State that you give ocean permission to put your story in the ocean newsletter.
3. Let us know if you, or others in your story, would like to remain anonymous. If you do not clarify this, we will not use real names. You should know, ocean newsletters are distributed to other facilities around the country and are placed onto the internet. If this is a concern for you, you may want to remain anonymous.

It is important that your story is heard. If you are not comfortable writing and telling your story for any

reason, please write to us and we'll address your concerns. Ocean is written by men who are also civilly detained. We understand.

A call to action!

On May 13, 2020 DHS-Minnesota Gulag Officials , Nancy Johnston, Jannine Hebert and Jim Berg put out the following memo:

MEMO

To: All MSOP Clients

From: Nancy Johnson, MSOP Executive Director
Jannine Hebert, MSOP Clinical Director
Jim Berg, MSOP Deputy Director

Subject: IRS Stimulus Checks

Date: May 13, 2020

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently issued directions related to the Economic Impact Payments (stimulus checks) authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which makes almost all MSOP clients ineligible to receive and/or keep these stimulus checks..

Specifically, the IRS website posted:

Q12. Does someone who is incarcerated qualify for the payment? (added May 6, 2020)

A12. No. A Payment made to someone who is incarcerated should be returned to the IRS by following the instructions about repayments. A person is incarcerated if he or she is described in one or more of clauses (i) through (v) of Section 202(x)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 402(x)(1)(A)(i) through (v)). For a Payment made with respect to a joint return where only one spouse is incarcerated, you only need to return the portion of the Payment made on account of the incarcerated spouse. This amount will be \$1,200 unless adjusted gross income exceeded \$150,000.

The IRS defines incarceration to include an individual who:

- (i) is confined in a jail, prison, or other penal institution or correctional facility pursuant to his conviction of a criminal offense, (ii) immediately upon completion of confinement as described in clause (i) pursuant to conviction of a criminal offense an element of which is sexual activity, is confined by court order in an institution at public expense pursuant to a finding that the individual is a sexually dangerous person or a sexual predator or a similar finding,

If you received a stimulus check either by mail or direct deposit and you meet the definition of incarceration above, it is your obligation to return the funds to the Department of the Treasury.

If the payment was a paper check and has not been cashed:

1. Write "Void" in the endorsement section on the back of the check.
2. Mail the voided Treasury check immediately to the appropriate IRS location listed below.
3. Don't staple, bend, or paper clip the check.
4. Include a note stating the reason for returning the check.

If the payment was a paper check and you have cashed it, or if the payment was a direct deposit:

1. Submit a personal check, money order, etc., immediately to the appropriate IRS location listed below.
2. Write on the check/money order made payable to "U.S. Treasury" and write 2020EIP, and the taxpayer identification number (social security number, or individual taxpayer identification number) of the recipient of the check.
3. Include a brief explanation of the reason for returning the EIP.

Address for Returning funds:

Kansas City Internal Revenue Service
333 W Pershing Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64108

Please be reminded that your daily decisions are reflective of how well you integrate treatment and personal change. Adhering to rules and supervision is a risk factor that is addressed in assessments and SRB/CAP reports. Personal accountability is an MSOP principle and an expectation of all clients.

If you need assistance with returning your funds, please work with your Client Resource Coordinator or contact your DCT finance representative.

The gulag has taken the law into their own hands. They held the stimulus checks for about 10 days before we got this memo. This is clearly illegal. They may or may not be correct that the men at the facility are not supposed to get the stimulus checks. But they cannot hold them. We are sure another lawsuit is soon to follow.

Why did the checks get sent to the men in the first place? It's not the IRS's fault. They didn't make a "mistake." The gulag has us filing 1099 forms (which is for those who are self-employed). We were on the IRS's list to get the checks because we pay taxes. Perhaps this will trigger the IRS to look into how this happened and see that there is something very wrong here.

The gulag has no business putting us in a position to either take their legal advice, or suffer the consequences of not progressing in "treatment" (which is not much of a threat considering no one "progresses.") Until the IRS tells us what to do with the checks, we don't care what MSOP says. We are not compelled to take legal advice from therapists.

We want to encourage other men in the other gulags to report similar abuses. We must shine light on evil, or it will persist. There is a lot of truth in the old adage, "All evil needs to succeed is for good men to do nothing."

We write these newsletters for at least two reasons: 1) to tell the public, especially elected officials and those who vote for them, the truth about what this system really is. 2) to encourage other detained men to tell the public, especially elected officials and those who vote for them, the truth about what this system really is. It is that simple.

The logo says it all. We shed light on corruption and that is how it will dissipate. "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." (Ephesians 5:11). This is one of the secrets to life. Most people believe that man is basically good, and it feels nice to believe this. But all the sages and prophets of the past have always pointed out that what seems real to the majority, is not the truth. The truth about reality is veiled and only those with open eyes can see. Man is evil. This is not to be mean or negative. It is really more logical than that. What kind of movies do most people watch? Drama, violence, sex, drugs, etc. If too much of the wrong kind of any of these things are in our lives, we will have horrible lives. Most people are not openly looking for drama, violence, sex, drugs, etc. But secretly, most are. Hollywood knows this truth. They sell. We buy. And then we have the audacity tell each other that we are seeking the good in the world and in each other.

It takes effort to avoid drama, violence, sex, drugs and the like. However, it is effortless to seek them because as evil humans, we are drawn to things that seem good, but really cause pain in the end. The next time someone says, "It feels good" no matter what they are talking about, ask them, "But is it good?" Two very different things. "It feels good" sometimes is literally saying that it is not good but it's kind of like good or it has the illusion of good. This is called deception.

What is amazing is how a man can spend years thinking about, and seeking drama, violence, sex, drugs, etc., and even after he has hurt someone, he continues to justify his actions. Even worse, he can even experience the trauma of getting a life sentence and still continue to justify his actions. Drug addicts, woman bashers, sex addicts, and drama seekers, do the same thing. Their reason? It feels good. But if they look around at their situation, they will see that these things are not good. They will also ignore that what feels good today, hurts tomorrow. Basic cause and effect escapes most people.

But we cannot be mad at God for all of this. He gave us fair warning. He told us that we are evil and that we need Him. He showed us that Jesus got it right so we should listen to Him. People get stuck on, "But why would God make the world evil?" Good question. But don't get stuck there. Find the answer to that question and don't ignore how true it is that we are bent toward evil, even if you don't like its true.

There are so many that don't step back to look at the cause and effect of their actions. Sure, the state is guilty, but so are many of us. That doesn't get us off the hook necessarily. Some of us said, "I know the stove is hot, but hot is bad so I don't care, I'm going to touch the stove anyway and it will be the stove's fault." What!? That is ridiculous! If we know that the government is corrupt, that is all the more reason to avoid it, unless of course you wish to expose its corruption. If we are going to interact with the government it is going to be for

the sole purpose of exposing them, like Jesus did. This way, when we experience persecuted, it is for the right reasons.

We live in a fallen world of sinners. Therefore, if we want to be Godly, we must expose evil, not just in the world, but in ourselves too. This is what confession is for (not the kind that involves a priest.) Ignoring our sin is why the church has failed to grow. Too many self-righteous people.

It's all in the logo: "Overcoming Corruption Encouraging All Nations" One might naturally say, "Ok, got it. But how?" Hopefully they notice the candle and the sun. That should point them in the right direction.

"[W]e cannot afford to take part in or be indifferent to oppression or maltreatment of any man who ... has by his own industry, energy, self-respect, and perseverance struggled upward to a position which would entitle him to the respect of his fellow if only his skin were a different hue." Theodore Roosevelt, 1905

Ocean Voices Matter

The following excerpts come from author Scott Crampton's Publication, "Some Lessons I Have Recently Learned: A Continuation To The Folly Of Scott Crampton" Dated March 8, 2020

There certainly are a lot of rules and it is well-nigh impossible to be completely compliant. However, I used to believe, "Being respectful, dignified, transparent and humble will carry you a long way to forgivable. Staff are human also and they will respond, quite naturally, in kind. If you behave like an ass, expect trouble. If you behave kindly, it is reasonable to expect a kindly response."

Such sentiment seemed to hold true for a time. However, the high degree of staff turnover seemed to expose a more sinister human characteristic. Everyone has an axe to grind. I found that when the winds of judiciary opinions began to ebb, the axes were ready to fall and all policy became subject to staff interpretation. The 'open-season' attitude was absolutely caustic to client moral. It was truly heart-breaking to witness the despair. One day I walked into the group room and sat my mug on a tabletop directly behind the chair I intended to occupy. Before I had a chance to do anything else, the therapist said, "You cannot put your mug on the table," I looked at her with questioning eyes, and she continued. "It's policy." Now, for the life of me, I cannot begin to understand why there is a 'policy' regarding cups on tables, or why policy takes precedence over common sense or even a small measure of dignity, but I do know that this particular therapist seems to aspire to be the best therapist in all of creation, and has single-handedly eroded any and all faith I had in MSOP!

It has been my experience that people who are blindly obedient are a dangerous lot because they are, simply not rational. That is, it takes exactly zero cognitive energy to be blindly obedience. This is the kind of shallowness the Godfather seeks. After all, as the mantra goes, "If you cannot follow the simplest rules, how can we expect you to follow the laws?"

Everything about the gulag is designed for maximum frustration. My thoughts, wisdom and perceptions mean exactly nothing, except when I articulate something degrading or unwholesome about myself or others. Then the statement is documented as factual regardless of the truthfulness therein.

Individuals mean nothing. It is just a job, nothing personal. But actually everything is personal. I live here. My life has been deduced down into three, small totes. I have no home, nowhere to go, no family or church. I do not go on vacations or holidays. I have forgotten the feeling of seawater and sand between my toes. I cannot lay upon the ground, stare up and wonder about the cosmos. I expect I will die here. This represents the breadth and width of my existence. How can anything not be personal?

Clinical staff are more concerned with numbers and reports than with individuals. It is an extension of "Getting the job done." Who among them raised a foul-play flag regarding the matter of fabricated tools? Was this an example of "Group Think"? Or was there even a group decision?

Anything of a personal value is absolutely temporary. What is okay today will likely become strictly prohibited in the near future. There is nothing I can do about it because the matter has been deemed as a security threat or counter-therapeutic. Of course, anything can be labeled as such.

How much cognitive energy is required to work here? Consider the following:

- All stars are distant objects.
- All distant objects twinkle.
- Therefore, all stars twinkle.

The first and third statements are true. However, the second statement is not true. To understand such requires cognitive energy, just as it does in determining the therapeutic value of an event or thing. If we are looking for evil, we will see it. We will fixate on it to the exclusion of everything else. Ronald Reagan once said, "Don't be

afraid to see what you see.” I never really understood his point, though I am beginning to.

To end for now, there are elderly men here who cannot even walk. Conversely, there are men here who were committed as children. How are they benefitting from this program? You might say to me, “Scott, that is none of your concern.” My response is simple—I am human and, as such, I cannot help feeling grieved by their plight. I also wonder if I might find myself in their place someday—completely and utterly hopeless.

“Human rights are universal and indivisible. Human freedom is also indivisible; if it is denied to anyone in the world, it is therefore denied, indirectly, to all people.”

Václav Havel,
“Task of Independence,” 1992

Drop Testimony Personal Testimony of Dan Larson

Daniel Larson was born in north Minneapolis on March 8, 1961. He lived with his mother and half-sister. He can only vaguely remember his biological father, who left when Daniel was young.

On July 28, 1971, Daniel witnessed the murder of his mother, who was gunned down by her best friend's husband. Daniel, only 10 years old at the time, testified at the trial.

Daniel had moved in with his grandparents. He had behavioral issues and went in and out of juvenile detention centers.

When Daniel was 16, he was charged with sexual assault. However, he was never found guilty of the crime.

It was suggested to him to consent to an evaluation at the Security hospital in St. Peter Minnesota. Without knowing the repercussions, he agreed.

In 1976 Daniel was evaluated at the Security hospital in St. Peter Minnesota. He was 15 years old. On September 27, 1977, a Warrant of Commitment was issued and Daniel was deemed “Mentally Ill and Dangerous” and was confined as a “adult” to the secure facility.

On November 25, 1977 Daniel's status was changed to “Psychopathic Personality.” Daniel was never invited to court to defend his position and he'd never heard of the term: “Psychopathic Personality.” At this time, Daniel was only 16 years old.

Once he was committed to the hospital, Daniel borrowed a DSM from his Unit Psychologist. It stated that no one under the age of 18 is to even be considered for Psychopathic Personality commitment. However, legislatures can pass a law, despite the science.

When Daniel was 39 years old, he spoke with an attorney named Gerald C. McGee. McGee told Larson that one of the alleged victims, for which Larson was committed, was a judge. Daniel believes this may explain why it was so easy to detain him for life, without ever having a chance to defend himself.

By 1995, the public was already informed of the, “...arbitrary incarceration...” of Minnesota's Psychopathic Personality law. However, little fuss has been made about these laws. In October of 1995, 79 men were shipped from St. Peter to Moose Lake Minnesota to a \$20 million taxpayer-funded facility of 100 beds that has since been expanded.

In June, 1995, Daniel met with his attorney, John Grzybek, to strategize how to gain release from the gulag. His attempt at a Habeas Corpus would prove to be fruitless.

In “treatment” Daniel tried to learn all he could, convinced that he could one day be released. However, he continued to run into hurdles. “Sometimes I didn't understand everything so I asked questions,” Daniel says, “I was told I was being disruptive and rude. We were also told we should give our point of view and I did and I was told I was being disruptive.”

Daniel has been detained for over 42 years, and 7 months, without ever being arrested, or convicted of a crime of a sexual nature. Now, whenever Daniel goes before the Special Review Board (SRB) to request his release or reduction in custody, the allegations from 1976 are used to support his continued confinement.

"I have, despite all disillusionment, never, never allowed myself to feel like giving up. This is my message today; it is not worthy of a human being to give up."

Alva Myrdal, 1980

Drop Testimony

Personal Testimony of Ricky Smuda

My birth name is Ricky Allen Smuda. The state of North Dakota and the state of Minnesota named me Richard Smuda. There is about 20 people on the internet with the same name of Richard Smuda, but Ricky is my true name.

In 1984 I went to church and said "I think I'm God." I was not hurting myself or others at that time. They immediately put me Holdal, which is a psych medication for a thinking disorder.

They sent me to the state hospital in Jamestown, North Dakota. They agreed to keep me on the Holdal. For the next few years, I went in and out of the hospital about 8 times. About two years afterward, I decided to sexually offend against my girlfriend. She was 22 at the time. I was 20. They kept me on the Holdal, which raised my sex drive, and took me to evaluations. They eventually decided I was competent to stand trial for the rape. I went to prison into North Dakota prison in 1987. I served my time. When I got out, I had to do one year of probation.

I met another woman and she started living with me. I was still on Holdal. We were having consensual sex for a year until one day I decided to offend against her. She was 29 and I was 24 at the time. I was off probation at this time. I went back to the hospital for another evaluation to see if I could stand trial, and they said I could. So I went back to the penitentiary in Bismarck, North Dakota with the understanding that my treatment would be to talk to a counselor and take my Holdal.

Upon my release from prison, I broke probation by dinking and then went back to prison again and again completed my sentence.

Every time I was discharged from the penitentiary, the state's attorney general was asked to civilly commit me. However, he refused to do so at least four times. Finally, he gave in and had my photo on TV and told the public I had "escaped" treatment four times and that if he had to personally keep me in treatment, he would.

After being discharged from prison for auto theft in 2004, they sent me to Jamestown, North Dakota to be evaluated again, under Dr. Belanger and Dr. Therington. Dr. Belanger was later busted with child pornography at his work, school, and home and was given 7 years in prison.

In the meantime, there was plenty of controversy about whether Dr. Belanger was even completing his own evaluations or if Dr. Therington was working overtime to do evaluations credited to Belanger while Belanger was spending time downloading child pornography.

I got committed in 2004. I was a level 2. While in treatment I was often harassed by my peers as well as the staff. One day, I had enough and hit one of the staff members. The courts gave me 5.5 more years in prison. When I was discharged from prison, I was sent back to the hospital to continue treatment.

In 2016, Jamestown hospital was sued and forced to change their program. The program was deemed unconstitutional as they were billing clients and not letting anyone out. The plaintiff's won the lawsuit (*Ireland v. Jones*), and major changes were made to the program. I was finally able to complete and I graduated the program within 3 years. When I got discharged, I was at a 0 risk to reoffend. In fact, the final stage was a CTC house, which stands for, "Community Transitional Center." In this housing, I was able to go shopping, cook my own meals and even work in the community.

Two doctors evaluated me and said that because I missed two doses of my medication, I was told I needed to stay another two years. I appealed in to the Supreme Court. 5 of the 9 Justices agreed to let me out, and turned it back to the district court. In the meantime, when I was in prison for the assault, they changed my

medication and said I was bipolar and should have never been on the Holdal. I was on Holdal for 20+ years. I stopped taking it in 2014 as they said I should have never been on it. I noticed a major decreased sex drive.

When I left North Dakota "civil commitment" and moved to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota with my mom, my risk level was changed from a 2 to a 3. I got very busy taking care of my mom. I didn't take my medications for 3 months as I didn't feel that I needed them. My mom started to worry about me. She eventually called the police because I was not taking my medication. The police came and tazed me and cuffed me and took me to the emergency room in Detroit Lakes. I went from there to Fargo and then to Anoka. I was not on probation or parole and was not court ordered to take medications, so they could not take me to jail.

In the meantime, Becker County Human Services decided to petition the courts to civilly commit me to the gulag in Minnesota. I am currently sitting in the facility on a hold, and will likely go to court within a few months.

I would say that 75% of the documents I have concerning me is lies as therapists, social workers, counselors, psychiatrists and psychologists are accountable to no one.

Drop Testimony

Personal Testimony of Chris Fretham

Chris Fretham. When I was 14 I was found in possession of child pornography. I had 54 pictures of children between the ages of 3-17. I was sentenced as a juvenile and went to MCF-RW for treatment. When I turned 19 my time expired and I was to go home but instead my therapist recommended me for "civil commitment." In treatment I also disclosed other contact offenses that were used against me in the process used to detain me even though I was never charged with them.

I have been in MSOP for almost 15 years. In the beginning of my time here I was pro treatment. I went to every group, every module, I did every assignment and was generally a positive person. I worked really hard for a little over three years and got very far in "treatment." In January of 2009 I had all but 7 of the Dynamic Risk Factors managed and out of those 7 only 4 of them had to be fully managed before I qualified for MSI (now CPS). My treatment team told me to give them one more trimester addressing the Dynamic Risk Factors still left open and if I did this they would send me down to MSI. I worked harder. I did Relapse Prevention 5 and Behavioral Therapy the next trimester. I addressed the 4 areas of core group still left open on my ITP and things were looking good.

Then my whole world came crashing down. The next trimester MSOP changed their treatment model and gave me a new ITP and opened up all areas on it and told me to start over. I asked if I would be giving credit for the work I had done and was told no, that the work I had done was in an old treatment model and I had to do everything over in the new incarnation of the MSOP treatment model. I felt helpless and hopeless. I withdrew from treatment for 6 months to take all of this in. When I came to treatment I was on a new unit designated as the Young Adult treatment unit. Everyone on the unit was under 25 years of age.

I once again started working hard in "treatment" and going to every group, every module, I did every assignment, etc. When I felt I was doing well enough I asked for my phase 2. The treatment team told me that I was indeed doing very well but that they wanted one more quarter of me maintaining my positive behavior and they also told me that I was almost there. I maintained my positive behaviors for a quarter and then went back to the treatment team and was told the same thing as the last quarter: "Keep going, you're almost there, maintain your positive change," etc. So I did what they asked. And again I went back and was told the same thing. This pattern went on for about 9 months.

I then started to question the treatment team as to why I was not moving forward. I got no answers so I continued to ask and eventually I was moved to the "Corrective Thinking Unit" (CTU) for "treatment interfering factors" because of my arguing to move forward. I viewed moving to CTU as a fresh start. I was in a new building with new peers and new clinicians. I put my best foot forward and even though I had a chip on my shoulder, I did well in treatment.

In 2011-2012 I eventually got to the point of being approved to take my maintenance polygraph and considered for phase 2. However, a week before my polygraph I self-disclosed that I had sexual relations with another client 6 months prior. I was asked to address this issue in core group over the next quarter and then I would be back on track for phase 2. I did everything asked of me for the next quarter and awaited the polygraph. The next quarter my primary therapist left MSOP and I got a new therapist. I asked her when I was getting my polygraph. She stated that she knew nothing about me moving forward and that I had to prove to her that I was ready for phase 2.

The chip on my shoulder grew but I continued to struggle forward. Over the next year or so I went through numerous primary therapists and had to start over for each of them. I eventually got tired of starting over every time I got a new therapist that I withdrew from treatment. I stayed out for about a year when I had yet again a new primary therapist. She asked me what it would take for me to come back to treatment. I told her that I was not willing to do all the things that I had already done and that I wanted credit for all the hard work I had previously done in treatment. She told me that I would need to start coming back to core group for 1 quarter and then she would put me up for my maintenance polygraph and if I passed it I would be phase 2. This was acceptable to me and I started to work hard for it and I did indeed get my phase 2.

I then started to work independently with my primary therapist doing RP2 part 1 so that the next quarter I could

take RP2 part 2 and then take my PPG and Full Disclosure. I was engaged and excited to be moving forward. Shortly after this MSOP went back to requiring clients to take 2 modules a quarter and I was told by my primary that she was enrolling me in RP2 part 1—breaking our agreement. I was then moved to a conventional treatment unit up my request and once again, was asked to start over. The plan that I had with my previous primary went out the window and I was asked to go along with my new primary's way, and I did. Now I have MSOP and the SRB's support to move down to St. Peter into CPS. It has been a long road and now it's just a waiting game. The biggest challenge for me here has been developing intimate relationship skills. Not having any life experiences and not knowing how to function or live on my own.

Drop Testimony

Personal Testimony of Armando Mendez Jr.

Hello, my name is Armando Mendez Jr.

I am a 29 year aged young adult and am originally from San Antonio, Texas where I had been a ward of the state from the age of 5 to 19.

I will start off where I can remember at the ages of only 5-8 were in foster care.

I had been in the types of family's that were not caring and only cared about a state check and only ever to make me into somebody I was not, which hindered my identity as a Mexican American. At this time I was subjected to experimental medications which I only just recently found out was the terminology. During that time some of the meds I was started out on were mood stabilizers for my excessive amounts of energy. The doctors said it was not normal for me to have that much energy at the age I was, but why 5 different medications for "hyper activity" or ADD I don't know. I don't recall the names of the medications but it felt like I was dying for the first time due to the side effects.

One time a family burned some of my cloths because they felt they were too identifying with Latino/Mexican traditions and replaced them with their own preferred style which was the church going types. This made me angry.

I was hit by their biological kids if I did not fall in line, as was the same for my foster brothers and sisters when I fought back against the abuse for myself. I was removed because of these situations and placed in other foster homes and I started to withdraw and build up walls. I was not cared for in the right ways. Child Protective Services (CPS) even approved restraints if I became a problem and this made me fear potential homes.

I remember one time in 1995 I walked in on my foster father and his son and one of my foster brothers having sex with a foster sister of mine. Then thinking to myself could this happen to me, I ended up getting beat up to where it was obvious to my case worker, but nothing was ever done but I was let go to another home.

In one case in 1996 in a foster home my family let me down when they put me on other medications like Ritalin, Prozac, Lorazapan and then said they could not handle me and then dumped me in a Psychiatric Institution. This only added to my feelings of neglect and opened me up to the types of treatment that was used to "control" the "mentally ill." I felt lost and out of place. It was in this institution that when I became so depressed and my anxiety was high, I was sad and I ended up placing a noose around my throat in a coat closet. I was almost dead but the "white coats," as I called them, brought me back via mouth to mouth and then I was placed on 9 other medications that put me in a sluggish numbing existence and I could not even recall feelings or the days and time that went by.

Only in one of the foster families, out of five, was there for me and I felt genuine family care. My foster mother set me up with a family doctor who was helping to track my medications and then I actually ended up living back with my biological father for a little while in '97 until the end of 98/99.

In 1999-2006 when I started to bounce around from psychiatric institutions to group homes this is where the mental, emotional, physical, even sexual abuse increased in stages from the ages of 8-16 and the medications like Depakote, Seroquel, Adderall were added to the other meds that I was already on and if the doctors had told me why I needed them, I can't recall why or when they told me but I felt like an animal. I had times when counselors would tell me I was not worth their time and to where I started to believe them and I felt sad, humiliated, frustrated and then rage.

And when after a time when I did stand up for myself, I ended up being shoved around and made fun of. I become violent to them and ended up being restrained. I once ended up with a carpet burn that covered my entire right side of my face. It turned out the staff member whom restrained me was trying to show off for a female co-worker this was late 98-99.

I remember one of my personal victimizations when I was sexually abused. There are others that I've blocked out. All I get with those are blurry faces and missing times. But one I remember is when I was molested by a psychiatrist in his own office in a place called the Nelson Intuition in Dallas, Texas. I tried to say no, stop, and even tried to push him away but was unable to. During that I ended up blacking out and ending up in a seclusion room which felt like a long time went by, like for three to four months, until my case worker came to only move me around some more. This was in 2000.

I ended up in a sexual offender program in the wilderness called Woodside Trails in Bastrop, Texas and stayed there for the next four years. I spent the first two years with a wall up and was hostile to everyone and anything. I still remember peoples harsh words and could not really understand why I had the walls up until recently looking at it. After the facility was closed down in 2004 because of the lack of therapist not having the right certification/licensing and other staff being registered sex offenders working with us. As well as staff counselors having relationships with patients both females and males, as well as I think for the state not wanting to fund that facility. I was disappointed because at the turn of the third year I put more effort into the treatment to no avail.

And so I was relocated to one last facility where those who committed sexual offenses were housed and where treatment was continued on until I ended up leaving in 2005.

This is where I started group homes. Two in Houston where I went to middle school like a normal teen and then started high school which were both enjoyable. Only until I found out the reality of how outside society felt about wards of the state going to their schools and that only added to my low self-esteem and low self-worth. In these homes there were a mixture of races, mostly African Americans. It was alright for the most part.

Until one day in the middle of March or April late 2006 a female staff member was having a bad day and the other house members were being too disturbing for her. I ended up being the one to blame and was punished by having to stare at a wall for a certain time, half of which I was trying to calm myself down but only seemed to bother her and I found myself being man handled by her.

I respectfully asked that she let me go and she only continued and I told her she needed to let me go because she had no right to handle me like this and if she would not, I was going to hit her. As she said, "I dare you" and raised her chin at me I took the swing but at the last moment changed my aim to the window behind her. I severely injured my right arm which put me in the hospital for serious cuts and blood loss. The scars and loss of my right bicep still causes me pain to this day. I felt in that whole 30 minutes scared, sad, confused. I felt like I was a scapegoat for the other kids behaviors.

I was then put into one last psychiatric institution where I remained for a month or two. It was actually here that a doctor that I had known from some other place had reduced the medication that I had been taking for so long. Those 20 different meds were then gone and Prozac, Depakote, Seroquel and Adderall were the only ones left and I still remember the relief and joy of not having them meds from morning, afternoon and night.

I ended up in a group home in Bulverde, Texas where I stayed for four more years, like I had in one other place and where also it started to seem to me like in the other place I had been. That I was just like a piece of luggage for the state. I hate that it took that long for me to come to that recognition.

Eventually I was let go in 2010 from the home because of a misfortune where I was then allowed to go live with a family member. Then I found myself here in Minnesota in late October 2010. I was committed in 2012 only after a year and two months of freedom from institutional life.

Out of all these experience's, the other two institutions have been the most worst for me. Not knowing what was going on with my sisters, mother and father. They had become strangers and where I had times where I could see their faces, had become someone else's, until they were gone from my mind. I started to blame the idea of family for my situations, until I could not even differentiate between right and wrong and reality to fantasy.

I find it with all my knowledge of treatment to be frustrating because of the lack of progression and recognition is so lacking in this facility. I see my peers try and try and only seem to go around in circles and fear this

happening to me.

Because I see myself doing what is needed to be done to get out but can't if the ones who treat me also bar the way out.

But this has been my beginning. I am now 29, almost 30 and still have some road ahead of me. I am working to better my time in this place called MSOP.

Drop Testimony

Personal Testimony of "Mark".

Mark was convicted of a sexual crime 35 years ago in 1985. He was out on bond until 1987, when he finally made a plea bargain, and went in for 3 years. While he was in prison, Mark completed a treatment program. The program was not mandatory, and Mark did it voluntarily. In 1990, he was released. Mark did not have to register, and did not have an ECRC level.

Upon his release, Mark opened a construction business in 1991. He met a beautiful woman in 1993, and stayed with her for 20 years. They had two wonderful children who are now both in college. As his kids grew up, he was always involved in their Parent Teacher conferences, medical appointments, and Girl Scout events. Mark even had a Chrysler Town and Country Minivan.

Mark and his family biked in the Black Hills, Hiked at Taylors Falls, and Canoeed on the St. Croix River. They went to Wisconsin Dells in the Winter and went to resorts up north in the summer. Mark's family went to the movies every week, and Mark never missed a school event if his kids were involved. He encouraged his kids to defend themselves by keeping them in Martial Arts long enough for both of them to receive significant accolades in the sport.

Mark was a good Father and never hurt his children.

Both of Marks kids are currently in college and turned out to be self-sufficient, respectable adults.

Mark started to have serious back issues from working construction for so many years. He was on the Pain Program, receiving 180 Oxycodone a month for his pain. Being on such a heavy dose of narcotics, he began to struggle staying alert at the job site and developed an addiction to the medications. In Marks struggle to find other options to ease his pain, he found the new medicinal marijuana movement to be an fascinating option. As he began to research, he found certain "White Strains" of marijuana are bred to treat significant pain without extreme side effects.

Mark began to grow that strain of Marijuana and soon after opted out of the Pain Program.

During this time, he was renting a room in the lower level of his house and a search warrant was obtained for that renter. During the search, Mark's plants were discovered.

Mark received 17 months stayed. In this situation, if Mark could maintain the conditions of his probation, he would stay out of prison. However, the probation officer did not allow Mark to work his construction job because he was required to travel—a necessity unfamiliar to his probation agent. Unhappy with Mark's job, and unwilling to compromise with him, Marks probation was revoked in 2015. However, Mark did not go straight to prison. Mark was the sole provider for his children and had to make sure they had housing and finished high school before he turned himself in. One week before Mark turned himself in, he was pulled over in. Mark was sent to Washington county jail, Mark assaulted a fellow inmate. The inmate threatened Mark's daughter. The inmate was in jail for sex trafficking minors and said to Mark, "I saw your daughter in the visiting room. I'm going to find her on Facebook and put her on Back Page." At the time Back Page was known for advertising prostitution. Mark reacted the best way he knew how at the time.

Mark was charged with 2nd degree assault, but plead to a 3rd degree. This gave additional time to Mark's sentence, and altogether Mark had to do 2.5 years in prison.

All through prison, Mark worked and stayed out of trouble. Mark was never written up in prison.

60 days before his release, Mark had a Hearings and Release Unit meeting. Because of the 1985, Mark was given an ECRC level of 3. Mark was approved to go to Daniascus Way in Anoka Minnesota. 2 days before Mark's release from prison, the Anoka county sheriff picked Mark up and took him to jail for a 210 Hold hearing.

In Mid-November, Mark went to civil court. One of the reasons for committing Mark is that they claimed Mark

never completed a treatment program. However, Stillwater prison did not keep any treatment records from 1989.

Mark has not had any sexual issues for 35 years. Since Mark has been at the Gulag, he has been confused as to how to approach treatment. Generally, he feels anger, betrayed, and frustrated.

Mark has dealt with significant health issues while at the Gulag. He is a type 2 diabetic who has not had his blood sugar checked for three months. For the last two weeks, his blood pressure has averaged 175/103, and that's on the low end. He goes in everyday to have his blood pressure taken and nothing has been done. He asked the nurse why he cannot go to the hospital. She said that it's not up to her. The Registered Nurse looked at his legs and said, "You possibly have heart failure," which is a long reach for a RN to make. A Nurse Practitioner tried to increase his heart medications—a Beta Blocker—from 100 Mg to 200 Mg without consulting a doctor. Mark has repeatedly asked for a doctor to manage his medication changes because he knows a Beta Blocker will increase his blood sugar levels. Facility staff confiscated Marks' blood testing kit when he arrived at the Gulag. Increasing his Beta Blocker would put Mark in great danger.

If the average person had blood pressure as high as Mark's, they would be rushed to the hospital. He has had blood pressure as high as 185/115, with is emergency levels. The nurse agrees that Mark is close to having a stroke, but she says, "I can't help you without permission. You need to push the panic button in your room in the middle of the night to get to the hospital to get the proper medical attention." It is alarming that the nurse has to give secret tips to the men at the facility so that they can received the medical attention any "normal" person would otherwise receive.

"Make it a practice to keep on the lookout for novel and interesting ideas that others have used successfully.

Your idea only has to be original in its adaptation to the problem you are working on."

Thomas Alva Edison

Drop Poetry
By Chris Fretham

~ Victim Empathy

This was an assignment I did for one of my modules. I do not remember which one. I have struggled with getting in touch with my feelings and so I decided to do this poem solely based on what victims of sexual violence may feel. Not only did it help me get in touch with my feelings I believe it helped me get in touch with the feelings of others.

S e x u a l i z e d

T e r r o r

O p p r e s s e d

P o w e r l e s s

S c a r e d

E m p t y

X e n o p h o b i c

U s e d

A b u s e d

L o s t

V i o l a t e d

I n s e c u r e

O f f e n d e d

L o n e l y

E x p l o i t e d

N u m b

C a u t i o u s

E x p o s e d

Now, after reading it, it strikes me as very insightful and powerful and I do hope to help be a voice for sexually brutalized people with this small poem.

Facts vs. Fear

OCEAN is determined to share the FACTS about the psychological, emotional, and financial cost of preventive detention and dispel the myths of the media, Hollywood and Legislators.

FEAR

Pre-crime commitment schemes require careful attention from the courts lest they circumvent the "great safeguards which the law adopts in the punishment of crime and the upholding of justice." ¹

vs.

FACT

The Court of Appeals' hands-off approach is insensitive to the warning of Justice Scalia that "incarceration without a criminal charge [is considered] 'an act of despotism' that is 'so gross and notorious . . . as must at once convey the alarm of tyranny.'" ²

FEAR

Mass media prides itself on: "Digging Deeper" to tell the whole story and to uncover the truth.

vs.

FACT

Beginning in the 1990s, this country developed an intense fear about the dangers posed by sex offenders. The mass media repeatedly reinforced the message that sexual predators posed threats that were both real and prevalent, and that no one and no place was safe. Heather Ellis Cucolo and Michael L. Perlin, "*They're Planting Stories in the Press: The Impact of Media Distortions on Sex Offender Law and Policy*, 3 U. Denv. Crim. L. Rev. 185, 191-200 (2013). ³

FEAR

Justice Kennedy, justifying this conclusion...wrote that the recidivism rate "of untreated offenders has been estimated to be as high as 80%." The treatment program, he explained, "gives inmates a basis ... to identify the traits that cause such a frightening and high risk of recidivism."⁴

vs.

FACT

The Court's casual approach to the facts of sex offender re-offense rates is far more frightening than the rates themselves, and it's high time for correction. ⁵

FEAR

The Minnesota Gulag exists to: "...promote public safety by providing comprehensive treatment and reintegration opportunities for civilly committed sexual abusers." ⁶

vs.

FACT

I dissent from the majority's conclusion that the district court was right in sending appellant to be "warehoused" in a confined institution, likely for the rest of his life, unless the Minnesota Legislature does

something (which they talked about-but did nothing). During the 2013 legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature had an opportunity to implement recommendations of a Sex Offender Civil Commitment Advisory Task Force, but the bill did not pass the full House. *Karsjens v. Jesson*, ___ F. Supp. 2d ___, 6 F. Supp. 3d 916, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20911, 2014 WL 667971, at *2 n. 10 (D. Minn. 2014). And the governor directed the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to oppose future petitions for provisional discharge and suspend any transfers. *Id.*⁷

FOOTNOTES

1. "Brief of Law Professors As Amici Curiae in Support of Petition For Writ of Certiorari." at 4
2. *Id.* at 4, 5
3. Amicus Brief for Criminology Scholars and The Fair Punishment Project, at 8
4. "Frightening and High": The Supreme Court's Crucial Mistake About Sex Crime Statistics Ira Mark Ellman*, Tara Ellman**, at 495
5. *Id.* at 508
6. Minnesota Sex Offender Program Treatment Theory Manual
7. Court of Appeals Judge Edward Randall dissenting in Eric Eischens case in June 2014

Welcome to ocean. Ocean is an acronym that stands for, “overcoming corruption encouraging all nations.” The institutional organization of ocean is a new creation, received through prayer. However, ocean – the concept – has been alive forever.

As humans, one primary quality we share is our ability to overcome our own impurities, disabilities and shortcomings. The founders of ocean have struggled in the past with sexual immorality. However, whatever it is, we are all able to overcome the corruption within us. In turn, this victory encourages others to also challenge themselves. Confronting corruption starts within. However, it inevitably leads to addressing the external corruptions in the world around us. When we do this – when we overcome – we become an encouragement to others, transcending racial, political, and religious barriers.

We have found that we could overcome our infirmities, we found a duty to send an urgent message to those that continue to suffer in the bondage of corruption: you have a choice!

Thank You from Ocean

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Thank you to all the domestic and sexual assault programs and those advocates who are working harder than anyone can conceive to prevent this violence from occurring. Our hearts and prayers go out to you all and if there is anything OCEAN can do to contribute, please let us know.

Thank you to the ethical social workers who are putting their best effort forward to ending child abuse throughout the homes all across America. The trauma's your eyes have seen are unknown to many.

Thank you to all the grandmas, aunts, mothers, and sisters; all the teachers, for such kind hearts who are waking every morning to raise the young males in your lives to grow up with strong values and morals; to prevent the cycle of abuse that has stricken many generations. You are appreciated beyond words!

Thank you to all those courageous men who stand up against the status quo of the “bro code” that any form of violence against the youth, against girls and boys, against women, against those who are poverty afflicted, is acceptable in this year and age. It is Not!

Thank you to my brother Daniel for his unwavering support in these trying times. Your wisdom and perseverance is inspiring to my heart and soul. And motivates me to continue striving towards what it means to be a real man, father, brother and human being. You are appreciated my brother.

To all those in the communities who support the movements of OCEAN, you all know who you are and are greatly appreciated.

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