

**Occasional Series on Reentry Research
Women, Incarceration and Reentry**

December 15, 2006

Natasha A. Frost, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Northeastern University and her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the City University of New York's Graduate School and University Center. Dr. Frost's primary research and teaching interests are in the areas of punishment and social control. Specifically, she is interested in punitiveness (both individual and state level), formal and informal social control, and the effects of incarceration and prisoner reentry on individuals, families, and communities. She is currently working with the Women's Prison Association (WPA) on an assessment of state-level variations in punitiveness towards women. She is Associate Editor of *Criminology & Public Policy*.

Ann L. Jacobs is the Executive Director of the Women's Prison Association (WPA), a non-profit agency working in New York City to create opportunities for change in the lives of women prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families. WPA provides programs through which 2,500 women a year acquire life skills needed to end their involvement in the criminal justice system and to make positive, healthy choices for themselves and their families. WPA provides alternatives to incarceration (ATI), services in the jail and several prisons, as well as a range of community-based programs including reentry services and family preservation case management.

In existence for almost 160 years, WPA maintains a tradition of public information and advocacy designed to increase public awareness of and support for effective, community-based responses to crime. WPA is expanding its public policy advocacy and technical assistance capacity through the national Institute on Women & Criminal Justice.

Before coming to WPA, Ms. Jacobs worked in the New York City Mayor's Office. As Deputy Director of the Office of Program Planning for the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, she directed staff engaged in the contracting, monitoring and evaluation of \$25 million of criminal and juvenile justice programs. She was a member of Mayor Dinkins's Study Group on Drug Abuse in New York City, headed by former U.S. Attorney General, Nicholas Katzenbach. Later she served as Assistant Director of the Mayor's Office of Operations, responsible for oversight of the public safety related departments of police, fire, corrections, probation, and juvenile justice.

Vicki Lopez Lukis is currently the Chairman of the Governor's Ex-Offenders Task Force, a 17-member panel appointed by Governor Jeb Bush whose responsibilities include identifying barriers to successful reentry and providing recommendations that would eliminate these barriers. She also serves as the Chair of the Community Partnership Initiative Committee, whose responsibilities include the development of a model program for ex-offenders based on the research and reforms recommended by the Task Force.

Stemming from an investigation during her tenure on the Lee County, Florida Board of County Commissioners, Mrs. Lopez Lukis was sentenced to 27 months in a federal prison for one count of mail fraud and self-surrendered on August 9, 1999 to the federal women's camp in Coleman, Florida. On November 21, 2000, President Clinton commuted her sentence and on December 9, 2004, her civil rights were restored in Florida by Governor Jeb Bush and his Cabinet.

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Upon her return to South Florida, Mrs. Lopez Lukis continued her career in public service, specifically focusing on the needs of girls and women in detention and correctional facilities. She served as Executive Director of Cool School, a therapeutic, after-school gang prevention program providing social services to at-risk children and their families in Miami-Dade County; as Chair for the Girls Advocacy Project (GAP) Committee, the only comprehensive project in the state of Florida which serves girls while they are in detention; and as a member of the Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center's Community Advisory Board. She also developed a writing workshop entitled *Bridging the Gap*, through which a published anthology of the writings of women inmates is shared with girls at-risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, and she partnered with the ARISE Foundation to develop a training program for Department of Juvenile Justice staff geared specifically for girls. She has received numerous awards commending her leadership on behalf of young women in the juvenile and criminal justice systems.