

COMMITTEE SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT REFORMS

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Springfield, IL . . .

Illinois citizens will be given an opportunity to comment on reforms to the State's capital punishment system at a public meeting on November 13 at 1 P.M. in Room 400 of the State Capitol Building, Springfield, IL, before the Illinois Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee.

Committee Chair Thomas P. Sullivan said, "the Committee was formed in 2003 to study the impact of reforms to the State's death penalty system. Many of the reforms were enacted in 2003 by the Illinois General Assembly based upon recommendations of the Governor's Commission on Capital Punishment, and others are included in Illinois Supreme Court rules." Reforms within the Committee's purview are available on the Committee website at <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/index.cfm?metasection=dpsrc>.

The Reform Study Committee is required to report to the Illinois General Assembly annually for five years. Its members consist of prosecutors, defense lawyers, legislators and law professors, appointed by various Illinois office holders. Current members are Chair Sullivan, Vice-Chair Richard D. Schwind, and Leigh B. Bienen, James R. Coldren Jr., Kirk W. Dillard, James B. Durkin, Theodore A. Gottfried, Jeffrey M. Howard, Boyd J. Ingemunson, Gerald E. Nora, Edwin R. Parkinson, Geoffrey R. Stone, Randolph N. Stone, Arthur L. Turner and Michael J. Waller. Peter G. Baroni is Special Counsel to the Committee.

Mr. Sullivan said that "a second public hearing will be held in Chicago early next year." He noted that "the Committee's function concerns reforms, and not whether Illinois should have a death penalty."