

bc: Bruce,

Sorry we missed. José and I had a very productive visit. I hope to have the opportunity to visit with you when I am next in D.C.

Bill



R. WILLIAM IDE III
President
American Bar Association
1800 M Street, N.W.
Suite 200 South
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 331-2290
(202) 296-7023

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Direct Personal Replies to:

One Peachtree Center
Suite 5300
303 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 527-4000
(404) 527-8460 Direct Dial
Fax: (404) 521-9343
ABA/net:DEWMIII

March 17, 1994

VIA Telecopy and U.S. Mail

José Cerda III
Senior Policy Analyst
Domestic Policy Council
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear José:

Many thanks for your time and hospitality when we met February 18. Enclosed is a copy of the "New Directions" consensus statement that the ABA and other national organizations have issued on crime policies. Also enclosed is our newly released consensus paper on drug policy, entitled "New Directions for a National Substance Abuse Policy," and a description of "Just Solutions," our process for reaching the states with justice system reforms.

The ABA and our national partners are working with lawyers and other local officials across the country to develop comprehensive strategies for reducing drug use and drug-related violence and for restoring a sense of community. We would welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with the federal government to enhance your efforts to rebuild local communities. We hope to meet with Dr. Brown in the near future on this subject.

Your outreach to communities is laudable. The ABA stands ready to assist you in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

R. William Ide III

Enclosures

cc: Hillary Rodham Clinton
Dr. Lee Brown
Bruce Reed

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPROVEMENTS

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE

I. NEW DIRECTIONS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICIES:

- Recognize that the criminal justice system alone cannot solve the problems of crime, and that law enforcement plays an important, but limited, role in dealing with broad societal problems like drug use. Public officials and system practitioners must help to educate the public about the limitations of the criminal justice system and involve citizens in the solutions. They must also ensure that criminal justice policies are informed by solid research findings rather than by simplistic reactions to complex problems.
- Halt the growing trend towards federalization of state crimes. Federal criminal jurisdiction should not be expanded into areas of traditional state authority unless state, local and federal officials agree that there is a clear and compelling case for an increased federal presence.
- Work in partnership with state and local officials in shaping criminal justice policies and priorities, since state and local governments bear the predominant burden of ensuring public safety.
- Restore public confidence in the justice system by giving the needs of crime victims greater attention, and by eliminating racial or other bias -- or the perception of bias. Restoring confidence in the system on the part of minority communities must be a high priority.

II. NEW DIRECTIONS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRIORITIES:

- Focus greater attention on the problems of violence in our society -- including more concerted crime prevention efforts targeted toward domestic violence, child abuse and the unlawful use of guns. Community-based coalitions should play a key role in this effort, but the federal government should help as well, by assisting in development, evaluation and sharing of innovative approaches.
- Make the juvenile justice system a priority. Early intervention strategies are needed to address juvenile crime. The Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention must be given strong, professional leadership and a stable, adequate budget.
- Support a more effective federal role in controlling gun violence in recognition of the importance of getting guns off the streets and out of the hands of teens, drug addicts, and drug dealers.

III. NEW DIRECTIONS IN SENTENCING AND CORRECTIONS:

- Support the use of community corrections for non-violent offenders, thereby helping to ensure availability of jail and prison space for violent and serious offenders who should be incarcerated. Implementation of more innovative, effective approaches to sanctioning offenders can lead to better use of limited public funds and a wiser way to prepare those offenders for return to society. Encourage examination of options such as Community Corrections Acts.
- Encourage the use of creative alternatives to incarceration which can divert non-violent, low-level first offenders from the criminal justice system into programs of treatment, rehabilitation and education.
- Eliminate the growing use of federal mandatory minimum sentences, which result in irrationality, disparity, and discrimination in the enforcement of criminal laws, and decrease certainty and deterrence in sentencing.

IV. NEW DIRECTIONS IN PLANNING AND FUNDING:

- Ensure adequate and balanced funding of the justice system, including support for less "popular" components like indigent defense services. Expenditures for each segment of the system must be allocated with an understanding of how they affect the entire system. "Justice System Impact Statements" should accompany any legislation affecting the criminal justice system.
- Spend limited criminal justice resources more wisely. With all levels of government facing severe budget constraints, better efforts are needed to ensure scarce prison and jail space is available for dangerous offenders, and to limit the system's responsibilities for minor cases and cases of a civil nature that tax the resources of law enforcement, the courts, and corrections without directly affecting public safety.
- Encourage wiser allocation of national drug control resources to focus more attention on drug and alcohol abuse education, prevention and treatment, rather than continuing to place primary emphasis on law enforcement.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

NEW
DIRECTIONS
for
NATIONAL
SUBSTANCE
ABUSE
POLICY



SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE DRUG CRISIS



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

NEW
DIRECTIONS
for
NATIONAL
SUBSTANCE
ABUSE
POLICY



SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE DRUG CRISIS



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION