

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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Maryland's 3rd Annual Comprehensive Re-Entry Conference for Female Inmates "Women Moving Forward"

TOWSON, MD (September 29, 2010)--- On Saturday, Oct. 2, a unique opportunity will be offered for women soon to be released from the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCI-W). The Women Moving Forward conference, initiated by the National Association for Women Judges (NAWJ), and hosted by MCI-W, is a collaborative effort of organizations and individuals, including among others, the Maryland Women's Bar Association, the Maryland Women's Commission, the National Women's Prison Project and Alternative Directions.

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards, of Maryland's 4th Congressional District, will attend the conference and offer the women her unique insight and encouragement.

The approximately 150 participants will be able to attend several workshops on topics including job retention, money management, motherhood, family reunification and mediation, substance and mental health resources, educational opportunities and legal issues post-release.

"Our annual Re-entry Conference is a great resource available to our residents. It lets them know about opportunities and resources available to them after release," said MCI-W Warden Carroll Parrish. "The events and activities are meant to provide our residents with the opportunity to network and gather resources from professionals in society. Moreover, participation by the judges demonstrates that if the participants apply themselves, they can put their past behind them and move forward."

Michelle Singletary, the Washington Post financial columnist, will moderate a workshop on banking, budgets, savings and credit.

MCI-W houses over 800 women and is the only female prison within the Maryland Division of Correction (DOC). With so many offenders returning to society each year, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) and DOC are dedicated to providing transitional preparation. Programming is provided on a regular basis for offenders in the area of job readiness, re-entry and family maintenance with the help of employees, volunteers and community organizations.

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Media is invited to attend, please RSVP to Erin Julius above. She can be contacted on the day of the event at 443-506-9172.

Schedule of Events:

- 9am** **Congresswoman Edwards addresses participants.**
- 10am – 3pm** **Workshops**
- 11:30am** **A fashion show featuring Girl Scouts and their incarcerated mothers, who participate in Girl Scouts Beyond Bars at MCI-W, will be held during lunch.**

The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services protects the public, its employees and the detainees and offenders under its supervision.

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