

STATEVILLE SPEAKS

VOICES FROM THE INSIDE • WINTER 2016

THE POST-CONVICTION APPEAL

By Ronald Haze

Post-conviction petitions are one of the major ways of attacking a criminal conviction. This article explains the basics of how a post-conviction works. It is NOT a complete statement of the law, and there are often exceptions to these rules. But, hopefully you will get a general idea of what a post-conviction case is all about.

The right to a direct appeal is required under the Illinois and U.S. constitutional law. An appeal can only raise issues that can be supported by the trial transcript and other documents associated with the case. No new evidence can be presented to the appellate court in a direct appeal. The appellate court may hear argument on the case before a three-judge panel, but the court often decides the appeal

The public may now begin

FROM THE EDITOR

*UHHWLQJV DQG ZHOFRPH WR DQRWKHU HGLWLRQ

of Stateville Speaks. Even after attending too many meetings and hearings and not having enough answers to all of your reform questions, please know that solid efforts are still being made for positive prison changes.

There is no question that change of any kind is slow, but efforts are being made on many levels for such reforms. Not all of those will help every one of our diverse Stateville Speaks
UHDGHUVKLS EXW WKHUH DUH VRPH WKDW ZLOO EHQH¿W many.

Though efforts to standoff an elder bill have persisted, equally staunch are efforts to continue working on relief for older inmates, as well as retro-sentences of juvenile life without parole (JLOP) and women convicted for post-partum psychosis.

Two areas that have made progress have been with decriminalization of low level
FULPHV HVSHFLDOO\ SRW ZKLFK DOORZV IRU ¿QHVV and not incarceration, and better resources upon
UHOHDVH VXFK DV DFTXLULQJ , 'V PHGLFDO EHQH¿WV DQG FDUHHUV WKDW KDYH ¿QDOO\ RSHQHGX XS WR WKRVH who have previously been incarcerated.

While the number of resources, such as affordable housing and especially the lack of jobs available in many neighborhoods, shows there is still so much do be done, we cannot stress the need for an exit strategy prior to release.

7KH XVH RI VROLWDU\ LVRODWHG FRQ¿QHPPHW has also been under scrutiny in Illinois and the need for more control is still being enacted.

We at Stateville Speaks get so many legal questions, questions we cannot answer, since we
DUH QRW ODZ\HUV RU DI¿OLDWHG ZLWK D ODZ VFKRRO Fortunately, we are able to rely on some for
OHJDO FODUL¿FDWLRQ VXFK DV WKH SRVW FRQYLFWLRQ DSSHDO 1RZ LI ZH FDYVD€0 0

tor doors opened we walked out and entered the hallways and I thought to myself, so this is the place where many men fell victim.

It was a whole other feeling entering into this place, a heavier sense of evil. As we was guided through the hallways we walked past interrogation rooms, little one-room visiting

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÷ QJHU SULQWV \$IWHU ZH WXUQHG DQRWKHU FRUQHU ZH

walked past the bullpens and across from them were windows that had views of downtown, though most of them had blinds covering up the view. They put us in a bullpen and there were two windows in front of it that didn't have any blinds coming down and it showed the view of Lake Michigan. I think I stared out that window for thirty minutes straight before I sat down. It looked like there was no end to it; you could see dark and light parts in the water. I was able to see all the boats in the water and the cars driving down Lake Shore Drive. It was like I was a newborn discovering something new.

WKH VXQ ¶V OLJKW UHÀHFWLQJ RII WKH ZDYHV ERWK WKH

When I turned around to my reality and sat down I noticed that there was a camera smack dead in the middle of the bullpen. I was there, but I wasn't. I just sat there and thought about what I just experienced and how the world has changed. Even when I was observing the people in their cars and all the people I seen walking through downtown, nobody had a sense of awareness. I understood why there were so many commercials on TV about people who lost their life because a person was texting.

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FACE, ASSUMPTIONS, CAUSES, ERRORS

By Christopher Toney

Snapchat me that face.

Face, face, face, face, face.

Look, everybody listen.

On Facebook, Myspace, Twitter and

I'm looking for a hook-up.

Internet slang, lovely lady's code for victim.

Snapchat me that face.

Your typing too good to be real.

Are you a him?

Snapchat me that face.

Inbox messages full of texts,

talking about coming to my place.

No.

Snapchat me that face.

There's money, time and effort spent,

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LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO BE UNHAPPY!

By Manuel (Neckbone) Malave

Rose scented. Cheeks I used to kiss everyday. We used to hold hands every night when we prayed; a life not chosen, but lived and loved. I now surrender you to our father above! Sometimes people can't love because they don't love themselves. There's no need to be angry or seek revenge, they'll be the ones who have to live with their actions!

Some mistakes are harder than others to be corrected! I was a young man on a confused journey, lost inside of my own world; misled to a glamorous path that never existed, a child of the ghetto who grew up on the South side of Chicago. down 51st and Wood! I grew up to be a man with no vision and no presence! Outside my world appeared sunny, but inside my heart was full with pouring rain. The only love I ever knew was the streets and my boys. Until it divorced me, leaving me all alone in this cell house at Menard C.C. West House 806!

I became a victim in my own savage game untamed until I was forced into lock & chain A.D. never will I cry! Everyday is now a blessing by losing a winner I became! It took me a long time to you, Mija, Merry Xmas.

, WKDQN P\ ORUG *RG IRU KLV KHOS DQG KLV SDVVLRQ *RG ILYH PH; IUDFH WR I the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed and the wisdom to distinguish one from another, living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace.

Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is not as I would have it. Trusting that you will have all things right! If I surrender to your will, so that I may be reasonable, happy in this life and VXSUHPHO\ KDSS\ ZLWK \RX IRUHYHU LQ WKH QHVW « \$ PHQ Y

STATEVILLE SPEAKS

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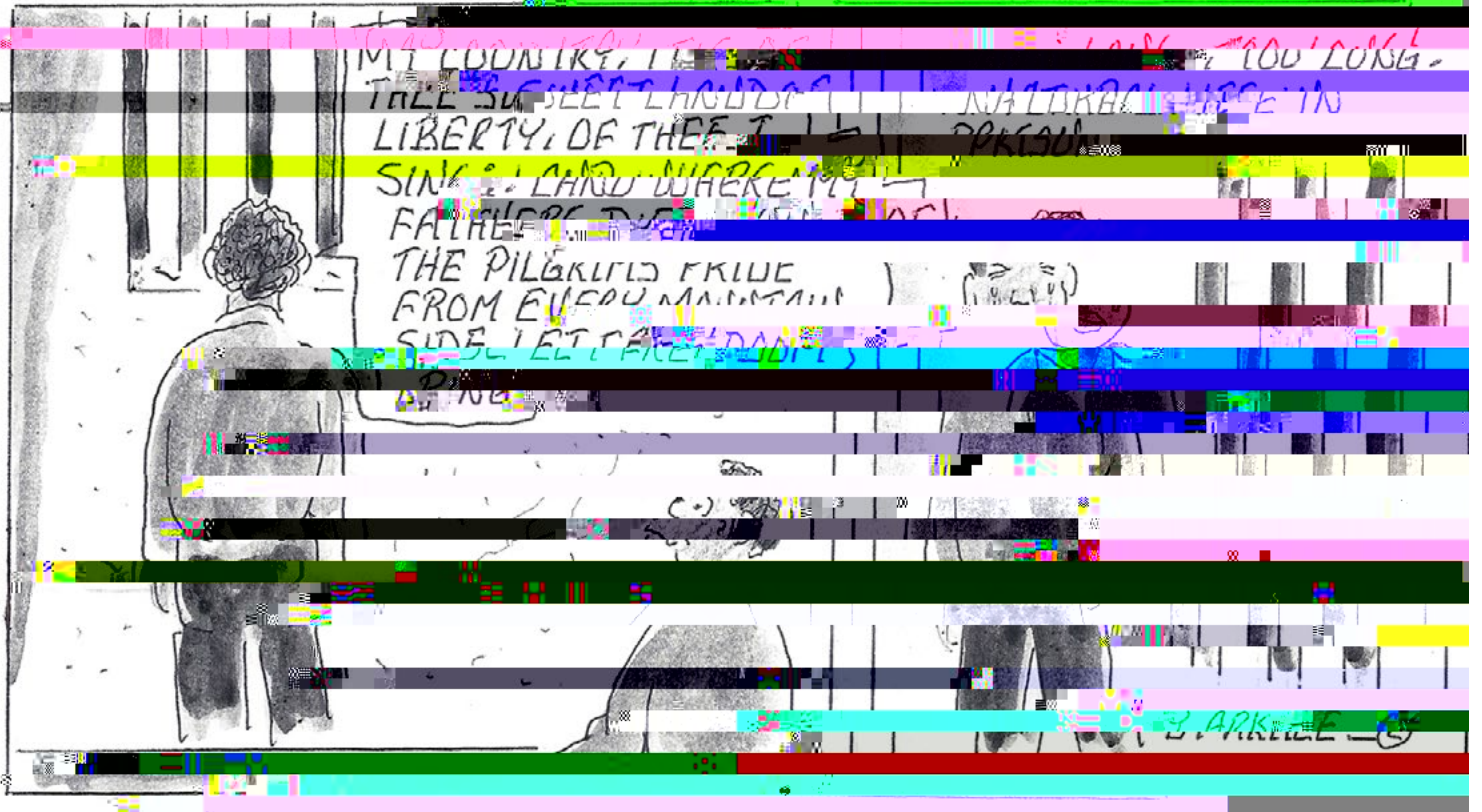
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