



Chief U.S. District Judge Brown and U.S. Senator Cassidy Address Concerns Regarding Returning Citizens

On September 4, 2019, Chief United States District Judge Nannette Jolivette Brown and United States Senator Bill Cassidy jointly convened a Reentry Task Force, the purpose of which was to discuss a system-wide approach to identifying issues and developing solutions relating to the transition of individuals who have been incarcerated back into the community. Judicial officers from throughout the Eastern District of Louisiana who implement reentry courts, local government representatives, state and federal pretrial and probation officers, business owners and other professionals who provide or want to be involved in providing assistance with effective, predictable and safe transition of these citizens returning to our communities, and other stakeholders in and around Louisiana were invited to join task force subcommittees. These stakeholders were challenged to share information concerning mental illness, drug addiction, learning differences, housing and employment, funding, policies, procedures, and gaps in coverage. With this information sharing, the Chief Judge and Senator hope to create a more proactive, systemic approach to transitioning returning individuals back into the community, one which assists individuals from the time of initial arrest through

release, and one that supports and enhances the safety of our community as a whole.