

Drug Policy Alliance

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New Report Examines Rockefeller Drug Law Reforms on One Year Anniversary of Drug Law Reform Act of 2004

70 Percent of Those Eligible for Re-sentencing Remain Behind Bars; Further Reform Needed, Report Finds

Teleconference Featuring Report Author, Family Members, Advocates, to Discuss Report and Much-needed Next Steps to Achieve Real Reform

What: News teleconference to discuss release of *One Year Later: New York's Experience with Drug Law Reform*

When: 11 a.m., Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Who: Bill Gibney, report author and attorney at Legal Aid Society; Gabriel Sayegh, policy analyst, Drug Policy Alliance; Cheri O'Donoghue, mother of Ashley, who is serving 7-21 on a Class-B felon, making him ineligible for current reforms.

Dial-in Information: 800-247-5110 passcode: Rock Report

New York - A year after partial reform of New York's draconian Rockefeller Drug Laws, a new report released on December 14 by The Legal Aid Society finds hundreds eligible for early release under the new provisions remain behind bars. Only 30 percent of A-1 felons who qualify for re-sentencing have been released under the new guidelines, the report shows.

The report, *One Year Later: New York's Experience with Drug Law Reform*, found that while New York's Drug Law Reform Act of 2004 (DLRA) lowered some drug sentences, it fell short of allowing most people serving under the more punitive sentences to apply for shorter terms and did not increase the power of judges to place addicts into treatment programs. Additionally, reform is slowed by some district attorneys who often fight re-sentencing by asking for high sentences for offenders, the report found.

The report will be released at a news teleconference on Wednesday, December 14th at 11 a.m. Copies of the report will be available after the teleconference. The report author will discuss the accomplishments and shortcomings of the DLRA, the past year's experience with the DLRA and recommended next steps.

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