



Press Release

Alaska Court System, 303 K Street, Anchorage, AK 99501

Contact: Mara Rabinowitz, Communications Counsel, (907)-264-0879
Julie Hasquet, Success Inside and Out Steering Committee, (907)-342-9539

WOMEN PRISONERS AT HILAND MOUNTAIN RECEIVE HELP WITH RE-ENTRY ***Success Inside & Out Program Celebrating a Decade of Service in Alaska***

Anchorage, Alaska, October 21, 2015. Alaska members of the National Association of Women Judges will host the tenth annual Success Inside and Out conference on Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 8:00AM - 3:30PM at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center (HMCC) in Eagle River, Alaska.

As the Success Inside & Out program enters its tenth year, the numbers show there is much to celebrate:

- 734 inmates have participated;
- 63 different workshop topics have been offered;
- More than 1,000 volunteers have given their time;
- 40 sponsors have provided financial and in-kind donations.

Justice Dana Fabe of the Alaska Supreme Court founded the conference to bring professional women together to help inmates nearing their release date prepare for transition to life outside prison. Justice Fabe remarked: *“As judges, we see first-hand the need to stop the revolving door into and out of our courtrooms. We designed this conference to provide an opportunity for women judges and professional women in the community to provide mentorship, life-skills training, and support to inmates who are close to their date of release. We want to help these women succeed upon their release to the community.”*

Over 70 professionals from the community will offer their time and expertise to provide practical guidance on finding jobs, housing, and transportation; continuing their education; handling finances; and maintaining personal health. Inspirational keynote addresses are offered throughout the day. During lunch, a fashion show will highlight appropriate dress in the workplace. Alaska’s First Lady, Donna Walker, will attend the conference.

This year’s conference features Dr. Ellen Cole who will present a session entitled *Celebrating our Strengths*. Dr. Cole is currently a Professor of Psychology at Sages Colleges in New York, and was the Director of the graduate program in psychology at Alaska Pacific University. She is the past President of the Alaska Psychological Association and the Society for the Psychology of Women, and was also one of the original members of the Success Inside & Out steering committee.

Over 100 women inmates scheduled for release within the next year are expected to participate in this year's conference. Co-sponsors include the Alaska Court System, the Alaska Bar Foundation, the National Association of Women Judges, the George Fabe Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and Hiland Mountain Correctional Center along with over 30 conference supporters.

On the day of the conference, members of the media should present their media credentials to the security officer at the entrance to Hiland Mountain Correctional Center facility. Once granted entry into the facility, media members can check-in at the media table in the gymnasium.

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