

# OCEAN Ripple Effect Newsletter

Overcoming Corruption Empowering All Nations

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## The 1st Amendment of the United States Constitution

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

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# Normalizing Resistance

We all want freedom. But there are many obstacles in the way. We can't all file lawsuits. We can't all march outside. But there are many ways that men can practice daily resistance in their own way. Greenmail us and let us know how you practice daily resistance and remember, "To cooperate passively with an unjust system makes the oppressed as evil as the oppressor." - *Strength and Love*, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "You assist an evil system most effectively by obeying its orders and decrees" - Mahatma Gandhi

## End MSOP Drafts New Bill

**This is Your Chance to Let Your Voice Be heard.**

The End MSOP Coalition is asking for input from those detained at the Shadow Prison. The bill is fairly straight forward, but we don't want to leave any stone unturned. Greenmail Eliseo Padron or Russell Hatton, to share your thoughts. They will share your questions or concerns directly with the End MSOP Coalition. This is your chance to make a difference. Don't let it slip away.

Cyrus Gladden summarized the purpose of this new bill perfectly when he stated: "Let's stop commitment from stopping the end of sexual violence." We all want no more victims. But despite taxpayers wasting over \$1.5 billion on Minnesota's civil commitment scheme, the program has proven to be ineffective in preventing sexual assaults. In contrast, there are other programs in the state that are proven to be very effective. The legislature is effectively *causing* sexual assaults in the State by refusing to allocate funds to effective programs.

The new bill presented by the End MSOP Coalition, when passed, will repeal Minn. Stat. § 253D—the statute that allows the preventive detention scheme known as "civil commitment" in Minnesota. The new law would stop any new commitments to the Shadow Prison and begin to phase everyone out within 18 months of the passing of the law. The \$100 million wasted on the current scheme every year would be reallocated to effective programs that actually prevent sexual violence. Some of the reasons the law needs to be repealed include:

1. The funds wasted on the current system could be better spent on programs like MNCASA, which is 88% effective in preventing sexual violence in Minnesota.
2. The current system is less than 1% effective in preventing sexual violence.
3. In 26 years the program has cost taxpayers over \$1.5 billion.
4. Intensive Supervise Release (ISR) with the DOC is very effective. So far, only 1% of DOC parolees on ISR have reoffended. ISR costs about \$28 a day per person whereas the Shadow Prison costs \$394 a day per person.
5. The current system confines African Americans, members of the LGBTQ community, and other minority groups, disproportionately.
6. Current sentencing guidelines for convicted S.O.s are sufficient.
7. There is already effective treatment in the Department of Corrections.
8. "Clients" are not evaluated properly and the vast majority are no longer a threat.
9. Other states that do not have civil commitment do not have higher S.O. rates than Minnesota.
10. The high turnover rate for employees at the Shadow Prison makes meaningful treatment impossible and the system employs unqualified staff.
11. The current system is Preventive Detention. It is immoral and unconstitutional because it detains people to prevent them from committing a crime.
12. The current system defies logic by turning crimes into mental health diagnosis.
13. The current system keeps people locked up too long.

Contact us for your questions and comments. We will share your thought and concerns with the End MSOP Coalition.

**FYI:** During the week of October 25, 2021 an agent from the Department of Health came to speak with one of our OCEAN Agents about the recent hunger strikes. When asked how she became aware of the strikes, she told our agent, “MARC reports. If you ever want to get the departments attention, make MARC reports.” She was talking about the MN Adult Abuse Reporting Center, (844) 880-1574. This number is on the Approved Attorney Call List.

**“The truth is like a lion, there’s no need to defend it; let it loose and it will defend itself”**

**- Unknown**

## **The Association for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws (ACSOL) Calls for Us to Act!**

On November 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM an anonymous OCEAN Agent, along with about 110 participants across the country, attended a Zoom meeting hosted by ACSOL.<sup>1</sup> The founder of the organization, Janice Bellucci, expressed concern about the proposed S.O. offender registration and notification (SORN) regulations by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Bellucci told the public that it’s time to “make noise” about this before more rights are trampled on. There are three things she urges us to do: 1) make a phone call<sup>2</sup> 2) Have your people send an online message<sup>3</sup> 3) write a letter.<sup>4</sup> In each correspondence, state the following: “I oppose the proposed regulations in the Federal Register, Docket No. OAG 157, AG Order No. 4759-2020.”

Bellucci’s experience working in Washington, DC for 9 years has taught her that when Americans are silent about an issue, the government, “does what they want” so she urged the public to speak up—**that includes Shadow Prison detainees.**

On August 30, 2021 the state legislature had their first Predatory Offender Statutory Framework Working Group to look at the effectiveness of the S.O. registry in Minnesota. The group plans to release a report in January, 2022.

Our Agent spoke with Mark Bliven, the Risk Assessment Community Notification Director and chairman of the POR meeting. Bliven echoed Bellucci’s comments stating that “SORNA is a miserable failure.” The Agent told Bliven that the BCA requires detainees to register every 3 months. Bliven agreed that having Shadow Prison detainees register is irrational and said that they will take a “serious look” into this.

According to Bliven, the only people who have their information blasted on the ECRC-DOC website are level 3’s and those who are discharged from the Shadow Prison. This needs to change because Shadow Prison detainees are mental health patients and should not be on any registry. Bliven agreed and stated that the public is becoming more aware that civilly committed people in Minnesota are not necessarily “sex offenders” and should NOT be on the S.O. registry.

The POR working group has about 25 members. When they meet, they break up into 3 different working groups to talk about S.O. Registry. Their large group, with all 25 members, meet every other Wednesday. If anyone wants to get more information about these POR groups, they can go to:

**[mn.gov/doc/about/legislative-info/por-working-group/](https://mn.gov/doc/about/legislative-info/por-working-group/)**

SORNA demonstrates no effect on sexual and non-sexual crime over their period of existence. The policies fail to deliver on the intention of increasing public safety. In fact, studies show that they may ultimately

disfranchise citizens leading to job and housing loss for people, which in turn supports a higher likelihood to offend.<sup>4</sup>

Resisting the SORNA proposal could actually work. The Supreme Court recently declined to hear Louisiana's excuses for stamping "SEX OFFENDER" on citizen's driver's licenses. The state had argued that law enforcement needed the label on the ID so they knew the status of the person. Then they said that the public needed to know the status. These arguments failed in the end.

The Louisiana Supreme Court had struck this practice of humiliation down as unconstitutional. So currently, the State of Louisiana can no longer stamp the S.O. term on State Drivers Licenses. The Louisiana Court had concluded that the requirement to put this on the state ID amounted to compelled speech. Following a bad policy for fear of consequences will never expose injustice. Tazin Hill, the man who challenged the law, rebelled against the "SEX OFFENDER" label on his ID, by covering it with tape, which resulted in the criminal charges that gave rise to this case. This act of civil disobedience ultimately resulted in a win for Louisiana citizens.<sup>6</sup>

At least nine states include designations for sex offender on their ID cards or drivers licenses by using either the term itself or some code or abbreviation.<sup>7</sup>

1. [www.all4consolaws.org](http://www.all4consolaws.org)
2. US Department of Justice: (202) 353-1555 (We are trying to get the number onto the Approved Attorney Call List. Have your unit staff check the computers to see if it's on there under "US Attorney General." If its not there, use a gratis call.)
3. <https://www.justice.gov/doj/webform/your-message-department-justice>.
4. Send a letter to: Attorney General Garland, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001
5. Kristen M. Zgoba, Meghan M. Mitchell, "The Effectiveness of Sex Offender Registration and Notification: A meta-analysis of 25 years of findings," *Jouranal of Experimental Criminology*, Sept. 21, 2021, *Springer*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-021-09480-z>
6. "Supreme Court Declines to Hear Louisiana's Defense of a Law that Stamped 'SEX OFFENDER' on Driver's Licenses" By Jacob Sullum, *Reason Magazine*, Oct. 4, 2021
7. "Supreme Court Won't Consider Whether States can Require ID Cards for Sex Offenders" by Pete Williams, *NBC News*, Oct. 2, 2021

"The question isn't who's going to let me?" Rather it is, "Who's going to stop me?" - Ann Rand

## Together, We Accomplish More.

After the filing of the *Karsjens* case in December 2011, there was a barrage of news articles about the Shadow Prison. However, as the case dragged on, the articles diminish. OCEAN set out to change that.

From October 2020 to October 2021, OCEAN has made it a point to create a "Detainee Presence" in the civil commitment conversation. By working with other groups like the End MSOP Coalition, The Legal Pad, CURE-SORT, A Just Future, Woman Against Registry, Once Fallen, The PAD Group, NARSOL, and many others, we have shed a new kind of light on the Shadow Prison. In the last 12 months, we have triggered, or were mentioned in, an average of 3 Public Acknowledgments a month.

The following Public Acknowledgments can be referenced for years to come—even once we are all free—to educate others and help prevent this tyranny from ever happening again.

1. **CURE-SORT News**, "Corrected Information on APA Article in Civil Commitment" Vol. 29, Is. 3, 3rd Quarter 2020, (Cir. Oct. 2020) p. 4 (OCEAN makes correction in CURE-SORT newsletter)

2. **Williams Institute**, UCLA, "Civil Commitment of People Convicted of S.O.'s in the United States" Oct. 2020, Trevor Hoppe et. al. p. 20 (OCEAN makes correction in UCLA Report)
3. **Minneapolis Star Tribune**, "S.O.s Decry Virus Policy: Outbreak Fuels Long-simmering Tensions Over Civil Commitment after Sentences." By Chris Serres, *Star Tribune*, 1/19/21
4. **Minneapolis Star Tribune**, "S.O.s Refuse to Eat: Hunger Strike at Moose Lake Facility is a Protest over Long Confinements" By Chris Serres, *Star Tribune*, 1/27/21
5. **Duluth News Tribune**, "Some Moose Lake S.O.s on Hunger Strike: Clients and their Supporter are Calling for an End to the State Program that discharged few of the hundreds of the men it locks up" by Tom Olsen, *Duluth News Tribune*, 1/27/21
6. **The Dobbs Wire**, "The Dobbs Wire: Minnesota!" By William Dobbs, *The Dobbs Wire*, 2/5/21
7. **Bring Me The News**, "Men at Moose Lake S.O. facility end 2-week Hunger Strike" by Melissa Turtinen, *Bring Me The News*, 2/8/21
8. **Reason Magazine**, "Civil Commitment of S.O. pretends Prisoners Are Patients: The practice evades constitutional constraints by casting punishment detention as treatment" by Jacob Sullum, *Reason*, 2/10/21
9. **Minneapolis Star Tribune**, "Offender Program to Get Review: federal court to decide if state's treatment system is constitutional." By Chris Serres, 2/25/21
10. **Reason Magazine**, "They Served Their Sentences. Now They Want to Know When They Can Go Home" by J.D. Tuccille, 4/2/21
11. **Danviet** (Vietnam), "The Psychologist was Accused of 'Having Sex' with Two S.O.s Many Times" 4/25/21
12. **CURE-SORT News**, "OCEAN Minnesota Conference and Rally Scheduled in July" Vol. 30, Is. 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021 (Cir. May)
13. **The Legal Pad**, "OCEAN Takes MSOP Protest to the Top" by Cyrus Gladden, Vol. 5, Is. 7, 7/1/21
14. **Minneapolis Star Tribune**, "Hunger Strikers Land in Hospital" by Chris Serres, 7/13/21
15. **Duluth News Tribune**, "Officials Dispute Numbers after Moose Lake Protest" by Teri Cadeau, 7/14/21
16. **Duluth News Tribune**, "Hunger Strike Ends at Moose Lake Facility" by Andee Erickson, 7/21/21
17. **Women Against Registry**, "Woman Against Registry Joins OCEAN Community Rally Against Civil Commitment" 7/25/21
18. **Prison Legal News**, "Resisting a Prison Without End: Litigation and Hunger Strikes in Minnesota Expose Faults in Civil Commitment Policy" by Jayson Hawkins and Panagiati Tsolkas, p. 28, Aug. 2021, Vol. 32. No. 8
19. **Pioneer Press** via TwinCities.com, "Moose Lake Hunger Strike Spurs Capitol Discussion on S.O. Programs" by Dana Ferguson, *Forum News Service*, 8/2/21
20. **Duluth News Tribune**, "Moose Lake Hunger Striker Spurs Discussion" by Dana Ferguson, 8/4/21
21. **THE POTLUCK**, "Protesters to Rally in St. Paul Against Minnesota's S.O. Treatment Program" by Rilyn Eischens, 8/12/21
22. **Texas Against Civil Commitment (TACC)**, "Long Weekned Protest Rocks Minnesota's Shadow Prisons" 8/29/21
23. **The Legal Pad**, "MSOP Legislative Hearing Reveals Ugly Truth" 9/2/21
24. **CURE-SORT News**, "#EndMSOP Rally in Minnesota Tells Personal Stories" p. 2
25. **The Outspoken Offender Podcast**, "Locked Up in Moose Lake – A Civil Commitment Death Sentence"
26. **Perilous Chronicles**, "Detainee Resistance at MSOP 'Shadow Prison' Intensifies" By Ridley Seawood, 9/22/21
27. **The Crime Report**, "Minnesota's 'Shadow Prison' for S.O.s" by Derek W. Logue, 9/28/21
28. **Derek Logue**, "Two Reasons Why MN S.O. Program Should End," by Derek Logue, 9/29/21
29. **NARSOL**, "Action Alert appeal from NARSOL's Paul Shannon," by Paul Shannon, 9/30/21
30. **The Legal Pad**, "MSOP-ML Internal Protests – Episopde 2: Officials Try Disciplinary Tickets & Ad Seg to Coerce an End, But Protesters Still Meet; Outsiders Mull Support Moves..." 10/1/21

31. [kitelineradio.org](http://kitelineradio.org), Progressive Punishment, Podcast #271, 10/1/21, Ridley Seawood
32. [kitelineradio.org](http://kitelineradio.org), Minnesota Shadow Prison, Podcast #272, 10/8/21, Ridley Seawood
33. NARSOL, *The Digest*, "Hot Button: NARSOL Supports Moose Creek, Minnesota, Hunger Strike," by Paul Shannon, Vol. XIV, Issue 5, Oct/Nov 2021, p. 2
34. *The Legal Pad*, "End MSOP Mulls Submitting a Bill to Repeal SPP-SDP Law" by Cyrus Gladden, 11/1/21 (Released in mid-Oct.)
35. *The Legal Pad*, "Resisting the Endless Gulag" by Jayson Hawkins & Panagioti Tsoikas, "Resisting a Prison Without End," 32(8) Prison Legal News 28 (Aug. 2021) by Cyrus Gladden, 11/1/21 (Released in mid-Oct.)
36. *The Legal Pad*, "Letter from Frank Joseph Offers Help, Encouragement in Fight Against SOCC" by Cyrus Gladden, 11/1/21 (Released in mid-Oct.), p. 10

## **A Letter Sent to All Legislators from the End MSOP Coalition**

To all Legislatures:

The End MSOP Coalition was formed in order to do exactly that, to end the shadow prison known as the MSOP... civil commitment does not work to reduce crime in the state of Minnesota. We are passionate about bringing awareness to how the detainees at the MSOP are not treated respectfully or receiving proper therapy... move towards doing the right thing and end civil commitment in Minnesota. Here is why MSOP must end:

- \$96 million price tag, with over \$80 million of that being just for salaries.
- In 2019, the Minnesota State Legislature appropriated ONLY \$750,000 for two years starting in 2020 for a new Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Program—just IMAGINE if programs like this had \$96 million to work with!
- 88 (now 89) people have died since the MSOP opened and only 14 have been fully discharged.
- Detainees are approximately 6 times as likely to die while at the MSOP versus being released.
- Those on provisional discharge are subjected to harsher guidelines and rules/regulations than those on ISR from prison and at a much higher price tag.
- LGBTQ+ detainees are not fairly represented or provided quality access to care.
- MN commits more individuals per capita than any other state at a price tag of over \$143,000 per year, per person.
- 30 states do NOT have SPP/SDP civil commitment and they do NOT have a higher crime rate than states with civil commitment.
- MSOP has been the center of multiple scandals, including employing a Treatment Psychologist who is now charged with felonies for having sex with clients.
- MSOP is most definitely unconstitutional. Just take one look at how many punitive policies they have for punishment versus treatment oriented goals and progression.

As a former employee of MSOP, I can attest that this place is not designed for treatment. This place is focused on nothing more than security and punitive measures for a population that several of the staff have openly admitted to detesting:

- Security has been heard stating they could solve the MSOP problem with a bullet for each client.
- Heard other Supervisors, unit directors, clinicians and security refer to clients in derogatory, racist, and

discriminatory ways.

- Have had supervisors tell me, and other clinicians, we had to lower the scores of quarterlies and annuals to avoid progressing detainees.
- Associate Clinical Directors have personal relationships/friendships with Supervisors and Clinicians so there is no objectivity—they even go on vacation with their subordinates.
- Nepotism: promotions are not based on qualifications—it's all about who you know or date.
- There is no compassion when a client dies from either Security or Clinical—most will just laugh and say “good” or “one less for us to put up with.”
- When a client dies, several staff will refer to it as “another graduated the program.”
- Client reports of abuse or assault are not taken seriously by staff.
- Client health concerns are not taken seriously by staff. I have several examples (all well documented) of this as it has taken outside support to get the minimal care for clients from health services.
- I have heard conversations between staff and clients and then read the reports and staff have blatantly lied about what was said.

Other areas that show MSOP is not treatment:

- Several research articles and reports show that the DSM-5 is being misused for diagnosis for civil commitment; however, MSOP continues to misuse the DSM-5 with no regard for the client or accuracy of their reports.
- A multitude of research has shown that sex offender treatment should be no longer than 3 years.
- In the statistics provided by MSOP, it takes an average of 17 years just to get to phase 3.

We implore ALL of you to move towards ending the MSOP by utilizing a phase out process and get these people home to their loved ones. If you refuse, than all of those that die in the future in that facility, their blood is on your hands and it will be your fault.

- End MSOP Coalition

## **The True Shadow Prison Mission Statement**

Adapted from pages 219-221 of *1984* by George Orwell

Obedience is not enough. Unless the client is suffering, how can we be sure that he is obeying our will and not his own? Power is in inflicting pain and humiliation and tearing the client's mind to pieces and putting it together again. It is the exact opposite of the stupid utopias that the old reformers imagined. Progress in our world is progress toward more pain. Our civilization is founded upon hatred. There will be no loyalty, except loyalty toward the Shadow Prison. There will be no love, except the love of Shadow Prison. There will be no laughter, except the laugh of triumph over a dead client. If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a client's face—forever.

# The OCEAN Mission

Alongside likeminded groups and free world activists, OCEAN is abolishing preventive detention from the front lines of the most egregious preventive detention facility in America. To replace the current system, OCEAN is allocating funds and resources toward effective, evidence based, solutions to address mental illness and crime in Minnesota. As we accomplish these goals locally, OCEAN will gradually focus on accomplishing them nationally.

## Support Us

OCEAN is a project of *Positive Attitude Development*, a non-profit organization in Duluth, MN. To support the OCEAN movement, donate online at **thevoicesofocean.net**, or send a check or money order to *Positive Attitude Development*. Write "OCEAN" in the Check Description or Memo section so that 100% of your contribution goes specifically to the OCEAN movement. Mail your contribution to:

Positive Attitude Development  
PO Box 231  
Duluth, MN 55801

## Contact Us

### Write to us at:

OCEAN  
PO Box 582  
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

### Leave a voice message at:

(218) 351-1900  
Ext: 70887 for Russell J. Hatton



# What is OCEAN?

OCEAN is an acronym for, “Overcoming Corruption Empowering All Nations.” Corruption exists in and around all of us. Overcoming that corruption by exposing it, and then replacing it with something better, empowers all people – despite race, culture, creed or gender – to also overcome corruption. This is OCEAN. OCEAN is not an “organization”. If we are forced to call OCEAN anything, we will call it a **MOVEMENT** and the qualification for “membership” is this: you either are or you are not, Overcoming Corruption Empowering All Nations.

## Attention

**We don't want *more* readers. We want the *right* readers.**

Please understand, the OCEAN reading materials are NOT meant to be “positive.” They are not easy reading materials for your “pleasure.” In fact, they are meant to stir your heart and mind to motivate you to fight corruption in your own life, especially if you or someone you love is being held hostage in a so-called, “civil commitment” center. If you do not want to receive the OCEAN Ripple Effect Newsletter, please let us know and we will take you off of our mailing list.

## Thank You!

Thank you to Janice Bellucci for her great passion to protect our U.S. Constitution. Thank you to Paul Shannon, the founder of the National Association for Rational Sex Offence Laws (NARSOL) for taking a fresh new look at civil commitment issues. Thank you to the End MSOP Coalition, The Legal Pad, CURE-CORT and every other organization that continues to push forward, despite the hurdles we face. Thank you to all of the detainees both in Minnesota and across the country. We pray you are able to stay strong and endure. We are winning this fight and we are **ENDING** the so-called civil commitment scam in America.

**“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.” - Mahatma K. Gandhi**