



Calvin Duncan Wins Clerk of Court Race

In a historic election, Calvin Duncan declared victory as the Clerk of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, with 68% of the votes. Duncan was wrongfully incarcerated for 28 years, and spent much of that time in Angola. Also known as the Jailhouse Lawyer, Calvin Duncan is working to create transparency and improve public access to the courts. With such a win for a formerly incarcerated person (FIP), Duncan declared, "I hope that all those people who died in prison because we couldn't get their records are looking down now. I hope they're proud of me. We never stopped fighting for each other's rights, and I will never stop fighting for yours."

"Elections Have Consequences!"

Checo Yancy, LA CURE President

Louisiana CURE is back, and it's because of a few wonderful people. First, my friend, the Secretary for LA CURE, Jay Jackson. The next Board Member is Linda Fjeldsjo; new to our Board, Elyse Jones (mad skills on the website); then my Brother Mark Lubbock, who rebuilt our website; and finally, Father Dan Kruz. Without them, we would not have been able to continue. Thanks.

Louisiana Citizens for Rehabilitation of Errants (LA CURE), yes, we are coming back even stronger, and our fight continues! One of our members went back to look at what happened at the Capitol in August 2024. We took a giant step backwards in parole and sentencing. **Elections have real consequences.** When we look back at history, the only thing we can say is, "**People didn't go vote,**" by allowing close to 50 years of reform to begin a flush down the drain. Here's what happened: In an Act of Regression, the Louisiana lawmakers have been successful in rolling back sentencing discretionary parole and good time, **basically, doing away with good-time and parole in Louisiana, now people are doing 85% of their sentences.**

So, we have our work cut out for us, with only 29 Democrats on the House side and only 11 Democrats on the Senate side, our fight is real, the passage of HB 9, that went into effect August 1, 2024. While other states are looking at reform, Louisiana is setting sentencing reform back decades! Of course, the current administration is saying it's all about "public safety"! We are about to swell the prisons with thousands of human bodies, that's going to cost us the taxpayers billions of dollars. This seems to be out of touch with other states that are allowing reform to happen, we know that nothing is perfect, it's going to take us all, lawmakers, law enforcement, victims and those people that go astray. I say, let's all educate ourselves on both sides of the coin.

If we have decided to treat people like animals on the inside, my question is, when they are let out, how will they know how to act like a regular human being? Let's educate ourselves on these issues and get involved with LA CURE, our website is www.louisiana-cure.org and remember, "**Elections Have Consequences!**"

Resources for Incarcerated People and Their Families

Elyse Jones, LA CURE Media Coordinator

Our mission is one of service. Our nonprofit, Louisiana CURE, has three main goals: the first is to keep you informed & up to date, second is to provide resources for currently incarcerated people (CIP) & their families, and third is to continue the fight toward reform through advocacy.

We've recently updated our website! The LA CURE website is a hub for information and resources. We post newsletters throughout the year, as well as post current events & news. We also have an entire page dedicated to resources, which includes, but is not limited to: legal resources, reentry & housing, healthcare & mental health, legislative & government resources, resources for refugees & immigrants, resources for families of CIP, and advocacy & reform. We encourage you and your loved ones to visit our website at louisiana-cure.org.

How can we be of service to you? Email ejones@louisiana-cure.org; we would love to hear from you.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

This newsletter is a publication of Louisiana CURE. Louisiana CURE is a non-profit organization whose goal is to reduce crime through criminal justice reform.

The opinions and statements contained in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors of Louisiana CURE.

Contributions of articles, letters to the editor, notices, etc. are welcome, but may be edited or rejected for space considerations.

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Elyse Jones

Louisiana CURE meetings are held at the Taylor Building, 251 Florida Street, Suite 400 on the second Tuesday of each month from 6-7:30 p.m. Please go to website to get Zoom information.

Memberships and inquiries can be sent to:

Louisiana CURE
P.O. Box 181
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
www.louisiana-cure.org
LA CURE is a 501(c) 3 organization

LA CURE is a volunteer organization. Letters are answered by volunteers. We appreciate the letters you send and do read them. We may not be able to answer them all, but we are interested in hearing from you and will do our best to address your issues and concerns, either by writing back, through our newsletter, or by taking other action.

Please do not send legal documents to LA CURE. LA CURE does not offer legal services.

Please note that All Memberships due for 2026: CURE memberships will run from January to December

Louisiana CURE... Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Jay Jackson, LA CURE Secretary

Approximately 20 years ago when I attended my first Louisiana CURE meeting at the Catholic Life Center, I met some wonderful people who were very passionate and committed about criminal justice in Louisiana. They all seemed to be keenly aware of the conditions inside our prisons, prison policies, to bills introduced up at the state legislature! I realized at that first meeting that I had so much to learn from their wealth of knowledge.

I remember the attendance at those monthly meetings always fluctuating. Relatives of men and women in prison would just show up wanting to find out whatever information they could about their love one's situation. They would come...and then go...as soon as they found out the information they came looking for. The core members, however, would always be there for every meeting, month after month.

I learned a lot about the criminal justice system in our state by just attending the meetings. I found out who my state representative and my state senator were. I started to pay closer attention on how my elected officials voted on certain bills. I began feeling confident enough to write letters to legislators...and was rather surprised when I started receiving replies from some of them!

After I retired from my job and my schedule allowed, I followed through on suggestions I got from fellow CURE members and started attending several legislative committee meetings...watching the process on how a bill becomes a law – firsthand! Can I tell you...it was quite an education! Sponsors of bills spoke, legislators spoke, and ordinary citizens spoke!

One day, when a bill to abolish the death penalty was being debated in committee...not only did I fill out a green card (which indicates that I am in favor of the bill being discussed) but I also checked off the box requesting to speak before the entire House Committee on Criminal Justice! I DID IT...and it was awesome!

Louisiana CURE has shown me how the system works! Louisiana CURE has given me the tools and the information I need to participate in a system that I was TOTALLY unfamiliar with. That is what an organization like Louisiana CURE is supposed to do – provide information and guidance so I can become a more effective citizen...and they do it well!

AND THEN COVID HIT!

The monthly CURE meetings at the Catholic Charities came to a screeching halt once COVID hit! Attendance at meetings had reached some very healthy numbers before COVID and then the meetings stopped. Gallant attempts to continue meeting through (stay at home) ZOOM meetings proved to be less interactive, and less productive. Month after month attendance (and interest) seemed to diminish. Where did everybody go?

(cont'd)

Louisiana CURE... Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

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AFTER COVID...

It's tough to pick up the pieces from where you left off. Some of CURE'S core members have gone...some have moved, some have passed on, and some are not as healthy as they were a few years earlier. Other members have seen their loved ones, once incarcerated, finally get out of prison and come home! As some describe it..." the playing field has changed"! So, what does Louisiana CURE do now?

GO BACK TO BASICS

During the last 7-8 years, many non-profit criminal justice organizations have now popped up and offer information about bills, committees, schedules, etc.

We all know that knowledge is power and with the many organizations and websites now available, one would be hard pressed to not find something they were looking for.

Where does the organization, Louisiana CURE, fit in today? Maybe Louisiana CURE needs to focus on what they do best! Louisiana CURE can continue providing members with the information they are looking for...like who is your state representative? Who is your state senator? How can you contact them? When and where do they meet? Where are the committee rooms?

Louisiana CURE is a wonderful organization that not only provides information (the WHAT), but also provides information on WHEN, WHERE, HOW, and most importantly the WHY!

GET INVOLVED

Remember, nothing gets done when nothing is done! Getting involved and learning more about how the criminal justice system works is a start! Attending a Louisiana CURE meeting is a start! Learning who your state representative and your state senator is a start! Writing them or contacting them is a start! Attending committee meetings is a start!

You may, one day, decide to fill out a card at a committee hearing and speak to the members of the committee!

LA CURE Meets in Person and Online

For families of incarcerated people, Louisiana CURE meets in person every few months. The location is in the Taylor Building, **251 Florida Street** in Downtown Baton Rouge. There is free parking in the commercial parking lot next to the Taylor building. Everyone is welcome.

Can't make it in person? Our meetings are also held online via Zoom, to encourage state-wide participation. You can get Zoom information by emailing checo_yancy@yahoo.com. You are invited and encouraged to participate, thanks for your patience!

Stay updated on all Louisiana CURE activity and current events by Joining our Mailing List. You can join by visiting the Louisiana CURE website and adding your email to the 'Join our Mailing List' pop-up, or by emailing ejones@louisiana-cure.org with an inquiry to join.

LOUISIANA CURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

P.O. BOX 181

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**CURE – Citizens United for
the Rehabilitation of Errants**

is a nationwide grass roots organization dedicated to reducing
crime through reform of the criminal justice system.

Renew Your Membership!

Please fill in and mail this application to:

Louisiana CURE, P.O. Box 181
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Incarcerated Person \$5.00 Basic \$10.00

Family \$20.00 (7 Stamps acceptable)

Other New Member Renewal

If your address is changed, you must let us know, all returned newsletters
will not be re-mailed, postage is too high, we will delete you from our
mailing list.

CURE is a 501(c) 3 Organization

Let's Keep the Ball Rolling

