



THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS  
2009 SPRING CONFERENCE

INTERBRANCH WORKING GROUP

Coeur d'Alene Golf & Spa Resort

May 17, 2009

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

MEETING SUMMARY

Presiding:

Co-Chair: Senator Dan Kelly, Kentucky

Co-Chair: Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, Alabama

**Members in Attendance**

Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, Alabama

Representative Bob Damron, Kentucky

Judge Bob Hunter, North Carolina

Senator Dan Kelly, Kentucky

Representative Kim Koppelman, North Dakota

**Guests and Staff in Attendance**

Representative Patrick Bauer, Illinois

Representative Sharon Block, Idaho

Ms. Jennifer Boyter, CSG

Secretary J. Michael Brown, Kentucky

Representative Mike Cherry, Kentucky

Representative Patricia Colloton, Kansas

Senator Bart Davis, Idaho

Ms. Mary Dusenberry, CSG

Hon. Daniel T. Eismann, Idaho

Ms. Lau Farley, NCSC

Representative Linda Foster, New Hampshire

Ms. Wanda Fowler, CSG

Mr. Keith Gingery, WVA

Senator David Givens, Kentucky

Mr. Wendell Hannaford, CSG-East

Ms. Patricia Kempthorne, Idaho

Representative Gerald Lange, South Dakota

Senator Ted Little, Alabama

Senator Tim Owens, Kansas

Mr. Jack Penchoff, CSG

Mr. Fred Stine, Kentucky

Senator Robert Stivers, Kentucky

Mr. Michael Thompson, CSG Justice Center

Ms. Patti Tobias, Idaho

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Kentucky Senator Dan Kelly called the meeting to order at 3:40. Sen. Kelly welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the topic and introduced the panel of speakers that included Michael Thompson, Secretary Michael Brown, (KY), Rep. Pat Colloton (KS), Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb (AL), Patricia Kempthorne (ID) and Chief Justice Daniel Eismann (ID).

### **“Managing the Addicted Offender to Reduce Overcrowding in Prisons and Jails”**

Michael Thompson, CSG’s Justice Center presented an overview of the issue explaining how we got here and successful strategies used by states. He presented case studies from Texas, Michigan, Arizona and Kansas. He cited two factors that drive prisons: who is coming in and how long they stay. Interbranch cooperation is needed to address the issue —use data to drive decision-making, ensure judicial engagement, make the process bipartisan, recognize distinction between growth and system downsizing, reinvest effectively and hold people accountable for projected results.

Secretary Brown described the strategies employed in Kentucky to address the issue of the addicted offender, including improving the probation/parole system and diversion programs. Rep. Colloton and Chief Justice Cobb gave highlights of their state programs which have been successful in saving limited state dollars. Justice Cobb stressed the importance of challenging the sentencing culture and the role of the judiciary branch in finding solutions.

Former Idaho First Lady, Patricia Kempthorne discussed the role of the community and highlighted the work of Join Together in creating “Blueprint for the States,” policies to improve the ways states organize and deliver alcohol and drug prevention and treatment. Chief Justice Daniel Eismann who founded one of the original drug courts in Idaho, discussed its implementation and why drug courts are effective.

The session was adjourned at 5:05 by Senator Kelly.