



# MACPOST

**SPRING  
2005**

Newsletter of the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers

## From... THE PRESIDENT

Spring is finally arriving and hopefully you all are enjoying warmer weather. This is always a busy time for corrections and the MACPO organization. I encourage you to stay in tune with the various corrections related bills that are being introduced at the legislature.

For more information about what is happening at the Capitol, and what you can do, please contact our legislative committee co-chairs, Steve Paquay and Lana Bjorgum. Capitol Day was a success again this year, and I want to thank all of those who participated in this important event.



*MACPO President  
Melanie Courier*

The MACPO/MCA Winter Conference was well attended and a success once again this year. Meetings are scheduled to discuss continuing this joint effort to provide quality training.

The Training and Education Committee as well as the Membership Committee are busy with plans for the Spring Conference. The conference this year will again be held at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge on May 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. Please note that this year's conference will include a tribute to Ruttger's and the years that MACPO has spent there.

As I have mentioned in the past, the Executive Board has explored some other location options for future conferences due to space restrictions at Ruttger's. I am pleased to announce that the spring conferences in 2006 and 2007 will be held at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, Minnesota. This is a beautiful facility that offers ample space for trainings as well as vendors. There is a variety of activities to be enjoyed at the resort and, of course, a wonderful golf course. For more information about Arrowwood and the Alexandria area, please see their websites at [www.arrowwoodresort.com](http://www.arrowwoodresort.com) and [www.alexandriamn.org](http://www.alexandriamn.org).

This year's conference offers a variety of speakers and training opportunities. Once again an administrative track will be offered, as well as many other training topics. Training brochures and registration forms for this year's conference will be sent out in April. They can also be found on the MACPO website at [www.mncorrections.org](http://www.mncorrections.org). Please remember to watch for award nomination forms as well as absentee ballots for the election of treasurer and president-elect. I look forward to seeing you all at Ruttger's!! Happy Spring!!

Melanie Courier, President

Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers

## MACPO'S SPRING CONFERENCE

### HIGHLIGHTS

**MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> - "CHART YOUR COURSE AND NAVIGATE THE WATERS"**

**BY Janie Jasen**

*Your work is vital, and your energy is needed. Change happens; hold on to the rudder and sail into the wind.*

*Motivational Humorist and Professional Speaker Janie*

*Jasen is the author of the best-selling Book The Littlest Christmas Tree, which has sold a million copies and is becoming a Christmas classic*

**MAY 27<sup>TH</sup> - "FINDING YOUR BALANCE"**

**BY Karel Murray**

*As an accomplished humorist, speaker and author (Straight Talk - Getting Off the Curb...co-authored with K.C. Lundberg), Karel established "Our Branch, Inc.", a public speaking and training company*

### IN MEMORIAM



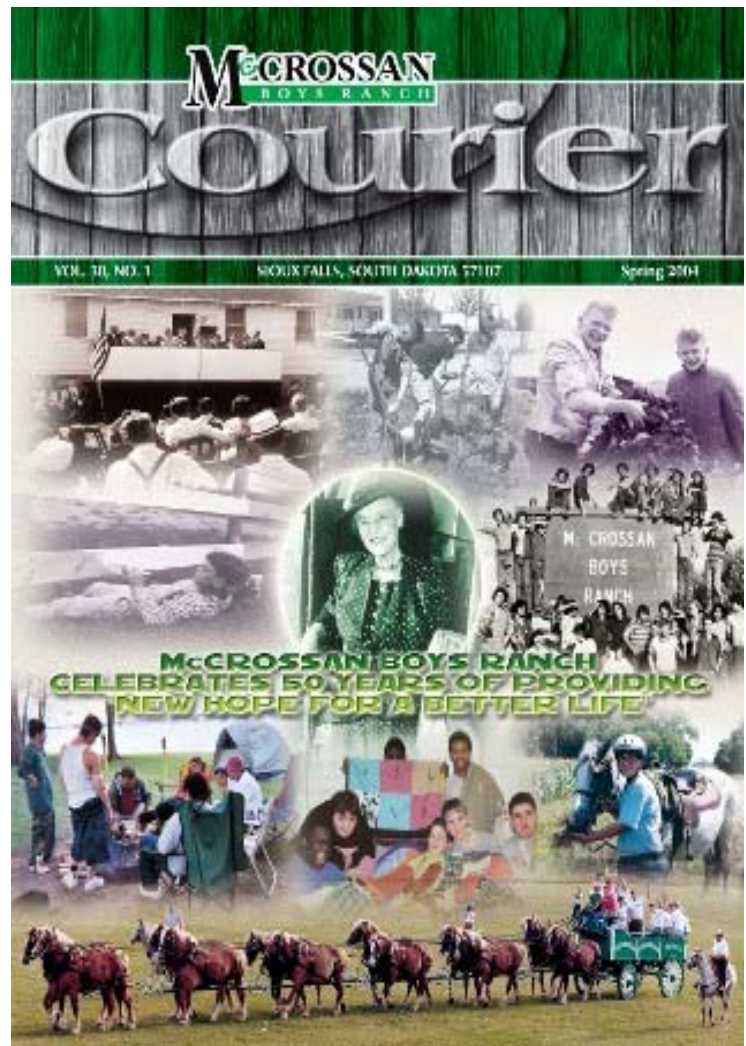
This Spring MACPOST is the first issue I have gotten out without the help and creative assistance of Judy Burford. Judy and her husband died in a recent snowmobile accident. Judy did the entire layout for the newsletter and she was my friend as well. She worked for Brown County Probation as support staff and, as can be imagined, they were stunned and saddened by her passing. Judy was a person who simply just sparkled; a "riot" to talk with and a joy to work with. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Anne

### *McCrossan Boys Ranch*

Just over the border near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, sits a program that has used an old-fashioned common sense approach in helping thousands of boys from Minnesota and surrounding states. And this is a proud time for McCrossan Boys Ranch. June of 2005 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ranch caring for troubled boys. Brian Roegiers, Executive Director says, "I can only think of how proud our founder, Melinda McCrossan would be, if she could see that her hopes and dreams for boys have become a reality and that the very heart of her vision has been sustained for now a half century."

At the core of the McCrossan program is a belief in the ability to create an environment conducive to transforming lives. While at the Ranch, young men are given an opportunity to make positive changes through experiencing the work hard ethic of country living that has always been a part of our nations backbone. The Ranch formulates this work hard atmosphere in conjunction with a vast array of treatment and educational services. McCrossan Ranch is a nationally accredited program through the American Corrections Association (ACA), that offers clients individual therapy and group counseling, on-site school programming, chemical dependency programming, 4-H, Boy Scout Venturing, Native American programming, treatment focused equine activities and a vast array of recreational and outdoor activities. Executive Director, Brian Roegiers says, "our program offers so many different treatment options that most boys in need of services can be helped in this environment. We believe that a balance of nurturance, accountability and opportunities to make choices, creates a real life environment best suited for developing long lasting change." As McCrossan Boys Ranch turns 50 this year, plans are being made to ensure its existence for another 50 years and beyond. McCrossan Boys Ranch, providing "New Hope for a Better Life" for boys in need.



**Hold on, Ed! Seems to me that if this fella came a zillion miles to get here, he just MIGHT have us out-technologied.**



## ***SEX OFFENDERS, METH USERS TO BE TOP PRIORITY IN 2005***

St Paul (AP) Minnesota may look back to an earlier era – when a parole board decided when criminal could leave prison – in an attempt to prevent sex crimes by repeat offenders.

The state hasn't had a parole board since 1982; two years after Minnesota turned to sentencing guidelines intended to make sure people who committed similar crimes got similar punishment.

Those guidelines helped shape national policy. But now, two separate panels are recommending longer prison terms for sex offenders and open-ended sentencing, controlled by a release board, for at least the most heinous sex crimes.

Cracking down on sex offenders and fast-multiplying methamphetamine crimes are the top public safety priorities for the legislative session that starts Jan. 4. Lawmakers failed to toughen sex offender laws last session, despite agreement between the House, Senate and Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

Just a few years after the Legislature increased penalties for sex crimes in the wake of Katie Poirier's murder by repeat offender Donald Blom in 1999, the abduction and murder of college student Dru Sjodin last year prompted proposals for more changes. Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., a convicted sex offender released after serving a 23-year sentence, is charged in Sjodin's kidnapping and death. He'll stand trial in 2006.

"I hope we will put together a bill that will reflect what the people of this state want, and that's public safety and sex offenders locked up and away from their children." Said Rep. Steve Smith, R-Mound, chairman of the House Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee.

Taking a hard line costs money. The state's prisons are already full, with a growing number of convictions for drug and sex crimes. The number of Minnesota prisoners will continue to rise about 1,000 every two years, Corrections Commissioner Joan Fabian said – and that doesn't include proposals to keep sex and meth offenders in prison longer.

Fabian needs \$2.8 million to cover the cost of renting space outside the state prisons in the current two-year budget period that ends June 30, and another \$70 million for the two years after that.

## ***BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND FIREARMS***

A qualifying MCDV (Misdemeanor Crimes of Domestic Violence) is an offense that:

- ❖ **Is a federal, state, or local offense that is a misdemeanor under federal or state law;**
- ❖ **Has as an element the one or attempted use of physical force, or the threatened use of a deadly weapon; and,**
- ❖ **At the time the MCDV was committed, the Defendant was:**
  - **A current or former spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim;**
  - **A person with whom the victim shared a child in common;**
  - **A person who was cohabiting with or had cohabited with the victim as a spouse, parent, or guardian; or**
  - **A person who was or had been similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim.**

**EXCEPTIONS: A person has not been convicted of a qualifying MCDV:**

- ❖ **If the person was not represented by counsel – unless he or she knowingly and intelligently waived the right to counsel;**
- ❖ **If the person was entitled to a jury trial AND the case was not tried by a jury – unless the person knowingly and intelligently waived the right to jury trial; or,**
- ❖ **If the conviction was set aside or expunged; the person was pardoned; or, the person's civil rights – the right to vote, sit on a jury, and hold elected office – were restored (if the law of the applicable jurisdiction provides for the loss of civil rights under such an offense).**

**BUT: This exception does NOT lift the federal firearms prohibition if:**

- ❖ **The expungement, pardon, or restoration of civil rights expressly provides that the person may not ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms; or**
- ❖ **The person is otherwise prohibited by the law of the jurisdiction in which the proceedings were held from receiving or possessing any firearms.**

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Legislative session is finally up to speed, and things will only get more hectic. The first deadline for new bills to be heard in committee is April 5<sup>th</sup>, so we can expect a deluge of new bills in the next few weeks. Our lobbyist is busy tracking these bills and making sure that the Legislative Committee can review pertinent ones and take necessary action. As you can imagine, we are not able to review every bill that is submitted. If MACPO members learn of a bill which impacts our membership, feel free to contact me or our lobbyist.



We held our Capitol Day event on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We feel that it was a success in that we had a good turn out of probation officers and legislators. Many agents were able to meet with their local legislators and discuss corrections issues either at the breakfast, or later in their legislator's office. Our speakers, Senator Ranum, Representative Steven Smith, and Harley Nelson of the DOC, were very informative. In spite of the early hour, this event continues to be an effective method of connecting with key legislators and explaining our MACPO legislative initiatives.

The governor has submitted his initial budget and a revised budget, so we know what to expect about new State funding for probation services..... **nothing!** So far the only proposed probation funding is connected to Level III sex offenders. The Governor's budget contains no increase in funding for CPO and State Contract counties, or for the statewide Probation Caseload Reduction funding. We are effectively frozen for two more years at a funding level which was reduced 8% from FY 2003 levels. Unless additional funding is obtained, the counties will be forced to continue to make up the difference due to reduced State funding for probation services. This State funding reduction has already had a great impact on our local county budgets. In light of this continuing situation, the MACPO Legislative Committee is actively pursuing a plan to generate additional funds for probation services. At this time the actual bill is still being drafted. We have discussed the basic concepts with a variety of corrections and county organizations, which are supportive of our efforts. Our goal is to create a stable funding stream which would provide additional statewide funding for probation supervision, and would provide sorely needed funding to each county's Chemical Dependency Treatment fund. We will keep you informed of our progress and we will request the support of the MACPO membership.

As always, should you have any questions about MACPO's legislative activities, feel free to contact either me or Lana.

## JANUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

We have just completed our second joint winter conference with MCA and we are in the process of "balancing the books" with regard to the conference. It may be another month before all the Counties get their payments to us. I will report on the financial outcome of the conference in the next MACPOST.

I submitted a financial report to the membership at our Winter Conference business meeting on February 17, 2005. Here is our current fund balances as of March 9, 2005.

Wells Fargo Checking Balance      \$20,282.04

Bremer Bank Certificate of Deposit    \$16,201.46

Waddell & Reed Money Market Account  
\$16,313.87

Waddell & Reed Intermediate Bond Fund  
\$10,219.35

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## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

In the year 2004, the membership committee worked hard to renew memberships and recruit new members. A total of 246 people were in attendance at the Spring Conference at Ruttgers, Bay Lake Lodge. The MACPO organization currently has 300 members. Our committee sent out letters to past members reminding them to renew their membership. Our goal is to have a member from each CPO County in the state of Minnesota.

The membership committee members have attended college fairs throughout the year to promote the MACPO organization and encourage students to become members. We also provide students with information regarding the field of probation and information on internships. We have scheduled speaking engagements at colleges throughout Minnesota.

We promote the MACPO Student Scholarship and Memorial Scholarship to students across the state. At the Spring Conference in 2004 our Student Scholarship winners were Jackie Neve of Mankato State University and Amelia Hoskins of Bemidji State University. The Student Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jackie Neve. At our Joint Winter Conference in 2005, our scholarship winners are Amanda Odendahl of Mankato State University and Pat LaVine of Winona State University.

MACPO Committees are always looking for committee volunteers. If you are interested in joining the membership committee, please contact the committee chairs listed below to get a schedule for future meetings.

Thank you to all members for your continued support! A special thanks to all MACPO committee members for all of their hard work this past year!

Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Darnell Brethorst

Amy Hertzog

(Wright Co. 763-682-7711)

(Wright Co. 763-684-4510)



### **TRAINING AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

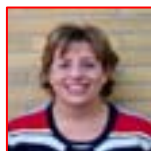
The Spring Conference is right around the corner so mark your calendars for May 25-27, 2005. I am excited about the agenda, which includes a variety of topics; including humor, enthusiasm and lots of motivation. The brochures will be coming out in April, so watch the mail and the MACPO website. This conference will be a special event, as it will be the Farewell to Ruttgers! The MACPO Board has decided that we are outgrowing Ruttgers and we will have the 2006 and 2007 Spring Conference at Arrowwood in Alexandria. We are sad to leave Ruttgers but are anxious for the new location. Have a happy spring and I look forward to seeing most of you at Ruttgers.

Traci Green

MACPO Training and Ed Chair

Brown County Probation

(507) 233-6634



### **PROBATION OFFICERS GAIN AN EYE IN THE SKY**

Martha Stewart isn't setting the trend on this one. After being released from prison Friday, Stewart was given a tacky electronic ankle bracelet so that her probation officer can monitor her whereabouts. Next week some Northeastern Minnesota probationers are getting a better thing – a new and trendy piece of monitoring technology. They'll be issued cell phones enabled with a Global Positioning System feature. The GPS phones will allow the offenders carrying them to be tracked and ordered to immediately respond when their

probation officers phone them. It's another tool for supervision. As probation officers say – but maybe Martha wouldn't – this is a good thing.

Several features make the new technology attractive to Tom Roy, who is directing the pilot project. Roy is executive director of Arrowhead Regional Corrections, which serves five Northeastern Minnesota counties. Roy said that while it costs \$50 to \$100 a day to house a person in jail, an offender can be monitored using GPS technology for \$1.50 a day. The GPS phones cost \$60 each and the computer software invested in the program was about \$200. Roy hopes to recoup all costs through offender fees. An offender will be required to answer the phone anytime it rings, 24 hours a day. The phones have the call-out feature removed so that offenders can't use it to place calls. "It's more than a monitoring relationship," Roy said. "The P.O. (probation officer) can text-message his offenders; he can converse with them about case treatment issues, and so it becomes a lot more of a therapeutic than traditional monitoring," Roy said. Roy said his staff has a couple of tongue-in-cheek names for the pilot project: the "pocket probation officer project" and the "cellular jail project."

Stewart's traditional ankle bracelet monitoring allows probation officers to determine if she is within 150 feet of a monitor attached to her home telephone. There is a receiver and a transmitter, and the signal is sent from the bracelet to the receiver. With GPS technology, satellites orbiting the earth determine the approximate location of the phone, expressed in latitude and longitude. Those locations can be uploaded by cellular phone technology to software on a Web-based computer mapping program to see the distinct location of the person carrying the GPS device. The "real-time" technology allows a probation officer to look at a computer screen and see on a map where the client has traveled – as if a trail of bread crumbs were left along the route. "What this will give us is an additional tool for accountability," said Mike Nash, an Arrowhead Regional Corrections probation supervisor in Duluth.

Mark Stodghill, News Tribune Staff Writer





Front row: Debbie Krist, Terryl Arola, Sherry Johnson  
 Back row: Kris Gross, Denise Christensen, Cheri Humphrey, Jeremie Reinhart, Jody Stanley, Sarah Hoffmann  
 Missing: Robin Wimmer

## PINE COUNTY HIGHLIGHT

Pine County is a mid to large-sized county located in East Central Minnesota on the Wisconsin Border. The county seat is 60 miles north of the Twin Cities on I-35, which runs north 52 miles through the county towards Duluth. The county seat is Pine City, despite a vote in 1916 and again in 2004 to try to move it to Hinckley. Pine County is still one county, despite a vote in 2002 to try to split the county. The votes resolved long-standing issues as county employees look forward to the construction of a new justice center in Pine City to house the jail and court functions.

The 2002 estimated population for the county is at 27,340. The suburban crawl is evident. About 40% of the population works outside the county with 17 % commuting over sixty minutes to work. There is a large tourist population year around with lakes, resorts, state parks, and Hinckley Grand Casino. District III of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwa is in the county. The per capita personal income is the fifth lowest among Minnesota Counties. Within this geographic and local political environment, the Court Services Department handles the county probation services.

Pine County Court Services provides probation services for juvenile, adult misdemeanor, and adult gross misdemeanor traffic and domestic offenders. Currently there are ten employees in the department, although all are not full-time. The Court Services Director, Terryl Arola, provides both administrative responsibilities and supervision for adult misdemeanor offenders. Five other full-time equivalent correction agent positions supervise offenders. Agents Kristen Gross and Sherry Johnson deal with low to moderate risk juvenile offenders. Agent Jody Stanley provides intense supervision for a smaller caseload of high-risk juvenile offenders including the sex offenders, EJJ, and parole cases. Agent Sarah Hoffmann and Agent Cheri Humphrey are half-time agents in a job share position. Agent Hoffmann handles adult domestic abuse offenders. Agent Humphrey supervises the gross misdemeanor offenders. Lastly, Agent Jeremie Reinhart provides intensive supervision and special programming for repeat DWI offenders.

There are three support staff. Debbie Krist is at the front desk as administrative assistant. She also provides computer data management, office management, probation fee accounting, and general agent support. The case aide, Denise Christiansen, monitors a caseload of low risk juvenile traffic and petty offenders as well as minor adult cases. Robin Wimmer works up to ten hours per week handling the remote electronic alcohol monitoring. Robin Wimmer is also on an independent contract to provide juvenile Diversion services as funded by limited Caseload-Workload Reduction dollars.

The Pine County Probation Advisory Committee evaluates the county probation programs and outcomes. Their Comprehensive Plan report goes to the county board, judicial bench, and DOC each year. The advisory committee is an active group of community representatives. Their grassroots support and evaluation of the Repeat DWI ISP program was instrumental in 2001 when the county took over the funding of the grant program that had started in 1999. Another successful project coming out of the advisory committee is our Restorative Justice Project. The community panels started working with juvenile offenders in Pine City in 2004 with current expansion at this time to Hinckley as well.

The court services agents are experienced dedicated professionals. Although community resources are often limited, agents are creative in meeting the needs of the offenders. They collaborate well other county departments and local agencies. All the staff is a wonderful asset to Pine County



## EVENTS AND TRAINING

(Some direct links work – use cursor and follow directions to open))

**COME ONE COME ALL  
TO THE  
MACPO SPRING CONFERENCE  
MAY 25-27, 2005**

**RUTTGER'S BAY LAKE LODGE  
DEERWOOD, MN**



**Media Kit** July 17-23 2005

**Probation,  
Parole &  
Community Supervision  
Week**

[www.appa-net.org](http://www.appa-net.org)

The APPA logo is a circular emblem with a black border. Inside, the letters 'A' and 'P' are at the top, 'PROBATION' is in the middle, and 'P' and 'A' are at the bottom.

**Summer Conference  
August 6 - 11, 2005**

<http://www.aca.org/conference/summer05/>

**MN ASSOCIATION OF PRETRIAL SERVICES  
AGENCIES**

**9<sup>TH</sup> Annual Training  
Landmark Center, St. Paul  
April 14, 2005**

**Visit the MAPSA website for more information**

**MINNESOTA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS  
ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS  
STILLWATER PRISON TOUR  
MAY 10, 2005**

**SSCA Annual Training Conference  
Southern States Correctional Association  
Ponte Vedra, Florida  
July 17-20, 2005 (See website for more information)**

**NMHA's 2005 Annual Conference  
Justice for All  
Washington, D.C. June 9-11, 2005**

**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF JAIL  
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**2005 SPRING CONFERENCE  
APRIL 13 - 14, 2005  
BECKER COUNTY - DETROIT LAKES**

**Topics on the Agenda  
Cinda Lutz - DEA; Meth  
Programs Discussion panel / Women offenders  
FBI - Posse Comitatus in MN  
Mental Health Issues / Gang Updates  
Dennis Gilbertson: Day Break & Offender jobs  
(See website for more information)**

**MINNESOTA RESTORATIVE SERVICES  
COALITION  
PROGRAM SHARING GATHERINGS**

**June 13, 2005 – Duluth  
August 8, 2005 – Brainerd  
October 10, 2005 – Willmar  
December 12, 2005 – Shakopee  
([mrsc@mnmrsc.org](mailto:mrsc@mnmrsc.org))**

## **MACPO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 2005-2006 MACPO OFFICERS**

### **President**

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### **Secretary**

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### **Communications Co-Chairs**

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## ***COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE Co-Chair Corner...***



Spring is at hand at last! That means that the MACPO Spring Conference at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge is just around the corner. Mark your calanders and plan to go May 25th-27th, 2005. Our Training Committee has, once again, put together a great event with wonderful training, events and entertainment for us all.

We are excited to have as our keynote speaker, Janie Jasin, humorist and best selling author of "The Littlest Christmas Tree". The title of her presentation is "Chart Your Course and Navigate the Waters".

The MACPO Spring Conference will be out last conference at Ruttger's Resort. Come to get trained, play golf, eat and relax, and see old friends. I will see you there! Anne

**DON'T FORGET THAT JULY 17-23, 2005 IS NATIONAL PROBATION, PAROLE & COMMUNITY SUPERVISION WEEK. CHECK OUT OUR TRAINING PAGE IN THIS ISSUE FOR LINKS AND MORE**

We also have Karel Murray, Humorist and author of "Straight Talk-Getting off the Curb". Ms. Murray will present a workshop on "Finding Your Balance".

**"Martha Stewart was convicted of four counts of lying and obstruction of justice and could serve up to 20 years in Congress."** Craig Kilborn



INFORMATION.