



*A Pre-Release Conference for  
Women of the Maryland Correctional  
Institution for Women*

*Jessup, Maryland*

*Saturday, October 2, 2010*





October 2, 2010

Dear Participant,

Welcome to the third annual “Women Moving Forward” re-entry conference, initiated by the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), the nation’s leading voice for women jurists dedicated to ensuring equal justice and access to the courts for women, minorities, and other historically disfavored groups.

Our goal is to provide resources and information to support your successful transition back to your community. The conference will open with a dynamic keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Yvonne Majett Cooper, founder of “*Missing Link Ministry*” and author of “*God of My Silent Tears*”. You will have the opportunity to attend several workshops on topics pertinent to your return home such as affordable housing, financial management, drug and mental health resources, education, employment preparation and family reunification. Also a number of you will have an opportunity to gain interview experience with potential employers as well as enjoy a lunchtime fashion show featuring business wear apparel.

This conference is a collaboration of legal and lay professionals who have donated their time and talents to facilitate your success. Some of the groups involved with this effort include: Alternative Directions, Marian House, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, Maryland Commission for Women, Maryland Women’s Law Center, Maryland Women’s Bar Association, Baltimore City Council, members of Maryland’s House of Delegates and National Women’s Prison Project.

Special thanks to our sponsors, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Correct Rx Pharmacy Services and The National Association of Women Judges-District 4, for their generous support, for without them, this event would not be possible.

On behalf of our sponsors and committee members, know that we care about you. We thank you for attending and hope you find this conference inspirational and informative. Please know that as you begin this new chapter in your life, the organizations and individuals here today are available to help you help yourself, both inside and outside MCIW.

We wish you much success!

*Cathy H. Serrette*

Judge Cathy Hollenberg Serrette  
Co-Chair

*Rachael A. Campbell*

Rachael A. Campbell  
Co-Chair



**are you  
ready?**



*By: Marlaura Rose*



# *WOMEN MOVING FORWARD*

A COLLABORATIVE RE-ENTRY PROGRAM FOR WOMEN AT THE  
MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

## **2010 STEERING COMMITTEE**

### ***CHAIRPERSONS***

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Rachael A. Campbell

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### ***PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION***

National Association of Women Judges  
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Maryland Correctional Institution for Women  
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Hon. Nancy E. Paige, Maryland Administrative Law Judge  
Alfreda Robinson-Dawkins, National Women's Prison Project, Inc.  
Hon. Adelaide Edelson, U.S. Administrative Appeals Judge  
Jean E. Lewis, Esquire*

*Special Thanks to Our  
In-Kind Service Providers:*

Biddle Street Catering and Events

Carroll Parrish, Warden, Maryland Correctional Institution for Women

Chesapeake Garden Club, Calvert County

The Children's Place, Owings Mills Mall

Choice Research Associates

The Dress Barn, Arundel Mills Mall

J.C. Penney, Owings Mills Mall

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Maryland State Department of Education, Correctional Education Program

Studio "A" Modeling Etiquette & Dance Academy

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Zonta International and the Zonta Clubs of Maryland and Washington, DC

*A special thanks also goes to the many volunteers assisting the  
Conference presenters and facilitators.*



<i>Friday Evening October 1, 7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Gymnasium</i>	<i>Registration &amp; Materials pick up</i>
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*Agenda for Saturday, October 2, 2010*

<i>9:00 a.m. — 9:40 a.m.</i>	<i>Gymnasium</i>	<i>Welcome Introductions: Congresswoman Donna Edwards</i>  <i>Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Yvonne M. Cooper</i>
<i>9:50 a.m. — 10:50 a.m.</i>	<i>See Workshop Schedule</i>	<i>Breakout Session I</i>
<i>11:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Gymnasium</i>	<i>Lunch and Fashion Show</i>
<i>12:35 pm — 1:35 p.m.</i>	<i>See Workshop Schedule</i>	<i>Breakout Session II</i>
<i>1:40 p.m. — 3:15 p.m.</i>	<i>See Workshop Schedule</i>	<i>Employment Interviews Breakout Session III Resource Fair</i>
<i>3:20 p.m. — 4:15 p.m.</i>	<i>Gymnasium</i>	<i>Walking in My Shoes</i>
<i>4:20 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Gymnasium</i>	<i>Closing Ceremonies</i>

## *Keynote Speaker:* *Rev. Dr. Yvonne Majett Cooper*

Rev. Dr. Yvonne Majett Cooper is a 4th generation native Washingtonian who studied at Washington Technical Institute, Calvary Bible Institute and Nyack School of Theology. She is on the Staff of Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., and founded the "*Missing Link Ministry*" at Allen. This ministry provides services



primarily to those in prisons, halfway houses, shelters and other support facilities. She describes her work with this very special population, as an opportunity to work with, and for, the least, the limited and the lost.

Rev. Cooper does extensive work in and around the United States, working primarily with those who have been incarcerated. She has also taken her work to the Dominican Republic. One of her most passionate desires, is to help women who can't help themselves. Currently, she has added another level to her

work, addressing issues concerning youth who have had a "brush" with the Law.

Dr. Cooper has been heralded in over 40 Newspapers around the country for her tireless work. She sits on numerous Boards and Commissions, including but not limited to, The Rightway Foundation, Kingdom Building Ministries, COINNS, Inc. and Reynold's Fairview Halfway House For Women.

Rev. Cooper, a convicted felon, is the author of an awesome book, "*God of My Silent Tears*", which is her testimony of how God reached way down into the muck and the mire to save her. She has received several commendations for her book which is a tool that is being used in a number of prisons.

Dr. Cooper's favorite Scripture is John 8:36 (GNB) "If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free." She is a widow and the mother of two adult children, Donnell and Dawyn, and the grandmother of Niyale.



## *Workshop Schedule At-A-Glance*

### *Breakout Session I: 9:50 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Education Options: From Basic Skills to Post Secondary Degrees	Classroom #2
2. Post Release Legal Issues	Classroom #5
3. Women Raising Sons	Classroom #4
4. Enhancing Job Retention	Post 27
5. Looking for Housing Options	Visiting Room
6. Avoiding the Grip of Gangs	Library

### *Breakout Session II: 12:35 p.m. - 1:35 p.m.*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. The Power of Positive Thinking	Classroom #2
2. Mediation tools to Prepare for Re-entry	Classroom #5
3. Family Law	Classroom #4
4. Healing From Trauma	Post 27
5. Getting Ready for the Outside While on the Inside	Library
6. Little Things to Avoid Big Problems: Working with Your Parole/Probation Agent	Post 27
7. Finding a Path Past Addictions	Library

### *Breakout Session III: 1:40 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Employment Interviews	Dining Room #2
2. Resource Fair	Gymnasium
3. Credit Matters	Library
4. Re-entry Reality Check	Visiting Room

# *Course & Presentation Descriptions*

## *Breakout Session 1:*

### **1. Educational Options: From Basic Skills to Post Secondary Degrees**

**Presenter: Patty Keeton, Executive Director**

**Workforce Services at Howard Community College**

This program will encourage anyone without a high school diploma to pursue the two high school diploma options available in the State of Maryland. For those ready to move toward higher education, the workshop will provide information on courses available at Howard and other community colleges.

### **2. Post Release Legal Issues**

**Presenter: Rodney C. Mitchell, Esq.**

**Law Office of Rodney C. Mitchell**

Criminal convictions carry legal consequences even after the sentence has been served. This workshop will address post-release legal issues such as ineligibility for certain types of housing, employment-related restrictions, voting restrictions and custody issues, as well as how to deal with some of these concerns that will affect your life.

### **3. Raising Him Alone: Strategies for Single Mothers Raising Male Children**

**Presenter: Catrice Alphonso, MM—The Institute for Interactive Instructions, Inc.**

**Betty Blaze**

Raising Him Alone is an exciting workshop for single mothers raising boys. The workshop provides mothers/grandmothers with information and strategies designed to support positive male development. The workshop will cover information ranging from coping with the daily struggles of being a single mother raising a male child in a toxic society to creating a positive peer culture surrounding your son. Other information presented will focus on ways to reconnect fathers and punishment vs. discipline.

### **4. Enhancing Job Retention**

**Presenter: Ann Hosmer**

This workshop will help you develop the skills to handle the unwritten rules of the work place and to manage work place problem solving.

### **5. Looking for Housing Options**

**Presenter: Valie Leonard, Founder/CEO—The Light of Truth Center Inc.**

**President—Baltimore Area Association for Supportive Housing**

A big challenge for women leaving MCIW is finding independent housing. A big challenge for our cities is to provide affordable housing. Planning for your housing and identifying options in your community needs to be carefully considered. This workshop will focus on some of those considerations.

### **6. Avoiding the Grip of Gangs**

**Presenter: Tony Avendorph**

Gang life is violent, brutal, dangerous and likely to get you re-incarcerated. So why do women find their way into gangs and how do they find their way out? A counselor who has been working with men, women and teens in gangs will come and bring some new insight for women who need to know more about the dangers of gangs for them and their families.

# *Course & Presentation Descriptions*

## *Breakout Session II*

### **1. The Power of Positive Thinking**

**Presenter: Mary Pat Donelan—Maryland Cure**

"The Power of Positive Thinking" -- Are you anxious about life on the "outside?" Need some skills to deal with the pressure to deliver and the resulting stress that might occur? Learn about the mind-body connection and the power of positive thinking. Come find out how positive thinking can change your life and increase your chances for success.

### **2. Mediation Tools to Prepare for Re-Entry**

**Presenters: Tyler Keyworth, Joy Newheart & Jonathan Brandly**

This workshop will provide you tools to resolve problems and issues while inside the institution and once you are back in the community reunited with your family and friends.

### **3. Family Law**

**Presenters: Hon. Julia B. Weatherly & Jennifer L. Muskus, Esq.**

Mothers may need to seek court orders to regain legal and physical custody of children or parental access (visitation) upon returning home. Guardianships obtained by grandparents or third parties to care for children while parents were unavailable may now need to be dismissed so that parents can make legal decisions for children. This workshop will cover a variety of family law issues including custody, parental access, support, divorce, foster care, termination of parental rights and domestic violence.

### **4. Healing From Trauma**

**Presenter: Bea Zipperle, LCSW-C**

Trauma is all too often a common experience of women in our communities and especially women who have been incarcerated. This workshop will help you identify the symptoms of trauma and how it affects your life. The workshop will provide skills to help women to cope with symptoms in their current placement and to provide resources for when you re-enter society.

### **5. Getting Read for the Outside While on the Inside**

**Presenter: Mary Davis**

MCIW residents who have obtained employment or training opportunities while incarcerated will speak on the various programs available at MCIW to help you obtain employment upon your release.

### **6. Little Things to Avoid Big Problems**

**Presenter: Tanique Brown—Department of Parole and Probation**

So everyone knows that picking up a new charge will get you in trouble. But there are many little things that will create problems too. A seasoned agent from Parole and Probation will share her secrets on how to avoid those problems that can bring you back into the system.

### **7. Finding a Path Past Addictions: Getting the Support You Need to Avoid Relapse**

**Presenters: Delores Cohen and Gerald Carter—Tuerke House**

Upon release people who have battled drug and alcohol addictions need support and treatment. This workshop will provide directions to getting to the programs that will help you stay healthy.

## *Course & Presentation Descriptions*

### *Breakout Session III*

#### **1. Credit Matters**

**Presenter: Michelle Singletary—*The Washington Post***

Preparing yourself for the financial responsibilities of life outside of prison is a necessity for successful re-entry. Banking, budgets, savings and credit are important to your financial security. Michelle Singletary, *The Washington Post* financial columnist, has important lessons for women going home.

#### **2. Re-Entry Reality Check**

**Presenter: Alfreda Robinson-Dawkins—National Women's Initiative Project, Inc.**

The real lowdown on getting ready for release. A no-nonsense discussion about balancing dreams and desires with realistic plans and expectations. Alfreda Robinson-Dawkins talks to the residents of MCIW who are heading home. Realistic re-entry from the perspective of those who have experienced it.

### *Plenary Session*

#### **Walking In My Shoes**

**Moderator: Mary Joel Davis**

Oftentimes, re-entry can be a formidable prospect for many incarcerated adults attempting a successful return to the community. Therefore, this very popular workshop has been revisited and expanded as a plenary for all to participate. A panel group of highly successful re-entrants will address the audience, speaking on topics to include getting out of gangs, being free from drug addiction and/or drug marketing, living with HIV and overcoming domestic violence.



# FINDING SUCCESS

*Tonya Abner*

N I I F A M I L Y E N I M M A U I E  
E S S E C C U S C D H M P O T E C H  
C E R S L F I A N U E C O P I N G B  
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Achievement  
Business  
Career Minded  
Challenges  
Communities  
Coping  
Courage  
Determination  
Dreams  
Education  
Faith  
Family  
Freedom  
Goals  
Happiness  
Healing  
Health  
Hopeful  
Life  
Love  
Opportunity  
Patience  
Perseverance  
Positive  
Reconnecting  
Reintegrate  
Reunification  
Roadblocks  
Society  
Strength  
Success  
Transition  
Wishes

## *Conference Presenters & Facilitators*

**Tony Avendorph** is a court recognized expert on several major street gangs and has appeared on the television series *Gangland* on two occasions. Mr. Avendorph has lectured on gangs to judges, police departments throughout the United States, in schools and jails.

**Mary Joel Davis** is Founder and former Executive Director of Alternative Directions, a Baltimore-based nonprofit, to provide civil legal aid to women in prison. The organization opened in 1979; and has operated a program since 2000 to help women make the difficult transition from prison to the community. Alternative Directions boasts a recidivism rate of 20 percent among its clients.

**Mary L. Davis** is a Training Consultant with over 15 years of experience serving the ex-offender population. Her training expertise includes Employment Readiness Services, Financial Literacy, Parenting, Starting Your Own Business and Women's Health and Nutrition. Ms. Davis has national certifications for both Offender Workforce Development Specialist and as an Offender Workforce Development Specialist Instructor.

**Mary Pat Donelan** is the Director, Human Resources Division, IRS Office of Chief Counsel, Washington DC where she manages 37 employees that provide HR functions to 2700 employees nationwide. She is also the Vice President of Maryland CURE, a prison reform advocacy group. Finally, she is the facilitator/coach of I-WISH (Incarcerated Women Inside Seeking to Help), a group for women with life sentences at MCIW.

**Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards** represents Maryland's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Elected in 2008 as the first African American woman to represent Maryland in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Edwards serves on the Committees of Transportation and Infrastructure, Science and Technology, and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. She is a Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Progressive Caucus, and was recently chosen to co-chair the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's "Red to Blue" task force. A graduate of Wake Forest University and Franklin Pierce Law Center, she has lived in Prince George's County for more than 25 years and currently resides in Fort Washington. She is the proud mother of a son who is attending Drew University.

**Ann Hosmer** is a seasoned trainer with expertise in the development, implementation, and evaluation of specialized programs, with special emphasis upon personal empowerment, effective communication, conflict resolution, financial competence, and employment readiness. Having spent fifteen years in public education and nearly twenty years in the private practice of insurance and investments, Ann is a Chartered Life Underwriter. Ann holds certification in community and family mediation, and is an Offender Workforce Development (OWDS) Certified Trainer.

**Jennifer Muskus** practices family law with the law firm of Muskus & Muskus, LLC in Fort Washington, Maryland. She is a member of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland, Past President of the Prince George's County Chapter. She serves on the Executive Board of Directors of the Prince George's County Bar Association, the Professionalism Committee of the Maryland State Bar Association and a Leadership Academy Fellow. Jennifer is a member of the Maryland Association for Justice and serves as Secretary on the Board of Directors of Community Legal Services and is a Board Member of Resource Connections of Prince George's County. Jennifer's community service includes participation with the Maryland Disability Law Center and its Children's Education Project and through her membership with the Prince George's County Chapter of the Women's Bar Association she has served as speaker at National Adoption Day and participates yearly at mentoring events at the Thomas J.S. Waxter Detention Center in Laurel, Maryland.

## *Conference Presenters & Facilitators*

**Joy Newheart** For 15 years, Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center has provided community mediation services to citizens in the county. Our mission is to provide an avenue other than court or violence or estranged relationships to resolve conflict of all kinds - large or small.

**Alfreda Robinson-Dawkins** learned advocacy while serving a ten year Federal sentence, advocating on behalf of the needs of women who like her, were learning how to survive the horrors of prison life. Since her release from Federal Prison in 2000, she has continued to advocate on behalf of women and was voted Baltimore's Best Advocate in 2005. She founded the National Women's Prison Project in 2002 and has worked to create sanity in sentencing, advocating for women to be treated like human beings and to recognize their gender difference. Much of her advocacy is implemented behind the fence, helping women to see that they are a part of the struggle – even while doing time. Her major goal is to “snatch the women out of the lion's den” and show them a more excellent way. Working with women both behind the fence and those released, she provides workshops and education to women who are affected and infected by the realities of life.

**Adrienne Watson-Carver** affectionately known as “Mrs. A”, Adrienne Watson Carver is a “Super Woman”! This wife and mother is a gifted dancer, teacher, model, life coach, personal/professional development trainer, and motivational speaker/workshop facilitator. She is the Owner and Executive Director of Studio “A” Modeling, Etiquette and Dance Academy and the Founder of the Studio “A” Foundation Scholarship Cotillion Program in Randallstown, MD. She is a graduate of Hampton University where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. She has done graduate work in the Masters of Divinity Program at Howard University. Also a former National Director of the NAACP Stay-in-School Program, and Baltimore County Public School teacher, her passion lies with the development of America's youth.

**Inez Watson**—Zeni Enterprises was started in March 1995 by Inez Watson after working as an administrator in the medical field for over 30 years. She became a licensed clothier with a "Passion for Fashion", bringing to her public, beautiful women's clothing, through private home fashion shows, and other shows throughout the Baltimore Metropolitan area. In the fall of 1996, she added a new dimension, Studio "A" Models. Known today as Studio "A" Modeling, Etiquette and Dance Academy located in Randallstown, Maryland. Studio "A" Academy is owned and operated by her Daughter, Adrienne Watson Carver. In partnership, they have produced shows for departments stores, chain stores, boutiques, community organizations, churches and many other non profits groups and organization. To name a few, Baltimore City Health Department, Coppin State Alumni Association, Catherine's Dress Shop, The Dress Barn-Arundel Mills Mall, The Children's Place-Owings Mills Mall. Together they have ventured into this millennium by a storm expanding their operation with a new attitude. "It's A Family Affair".

**Julia B. Weatherly** graduated from the University of Michigan in 1975, and George Washington University in 1978. Following graduation from law school, she began to practice law in Prince George's County. In 1981 she and her partners opened their practice as Weatherly, Schiszik & Isen in Riverdale. A significant portion of her law practice was devoted to family law. In 1987 she was appointed as a full time Master of Domestic Relations in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. She was appointed as an Associate Judge of the Prince George's County Circuit Court in September 2000.

**Bea Zipperle, LCSW-C** has 15 years experience working with the mentally ill. Ms. Zipperle has been in private practice for three years and provides clinical therapy for individuals and families. A majority of her clients have trauma histories.











NO TURNING BACK ....  
NO TURNING BACK ....



*Denise  
Boal*