

NEW YORK CRIMINAL BAR ASSOCIATION

December 5, 2006

WHEN HENRY STEINGLASS CALLED AND INVITED ME TO BE HONORED AT YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY, MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS THAT I DID NOT REALIZE YOUR ASSOCIATION HAD EXISTED LONG ENOUGH TO GET DOWN TO HONORING THE Ws. I WAS ALSO SURPRISED BECAUSE I KNOW HOW FRUSTRATING IT IS FOR MANY OF YOU TO WALK IN TO PART N ON A WEDNESDAY WHEN YOU HAVE A 180.80 DEFENDANT, ONLY TO FIND THE JUDGE CLAPPING, TALKING ABOUT URINE TESTS AND LECTURING DEFENDANTS. ALTHOUGH I NEVER THOUGHT WHEN I WAS IN LAW SCHOOL THAT I WOULD BE LEARNING ABOUT ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOR, I ALSO NEVER KNEW HOW REWARDING IT WOULD BE TO SEE A DEFENDANT WHO HAD BEEN USING DRUGS FOR YEARS, NEVER HELD A JOB, HAD BECOME DISCONNECTED FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS, BARELY ABLE READ NOW LIVING A SOBER LIFE, WORKING, STUDYING AND REUNITING WITH FAMILY. TO HAVE A DEFENDANT LOOK UP AT YOU AND SAY THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME MY LIFE BACK OR TO HAVE A CHILD WRITE AND SAY THANKS FOR GIVING ME MY MOTHER BACK IS PRICELESS.

WE HAVE ALMOST AN 80% SUCCESS RATE IN PART N. THAT MEANS OUT OF EVERY HUNDRED PEOPLE WHO ENTER MANHATTAN TREATMENT COURT 80 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TREATMENT AND ARE NOT ARRESTED WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THOSE ARE PRETTY IMPRESSIVE OUTCOMES.

MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE FAILED DRUG TREATMENT AND HAVE BEEN SENTENCED WRITE TO ME. THEIR LETTERS FROM PRISON ARE NOT LIKE THE LETTERS I RECEIVE FROM OTHER SENTENCED DEFENDANTS ASKING FOR THEIR SENTENCES TO BE REDUCED. THOSE WHO FAIL IN TREATMENT COURT USUALLY WRITE TO APOLOGIZE AND TELL ME THAT THEY ARE IN TREATMENT IN PRISON OR STUDYING TO OBTAIN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GED OR SOME LICENSE. I ALWAYS WRITE BACK AND TELL THEM THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO ME. THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH THEIR ADDICTION AND THAT MANHATTAN TREATMENT COURT WILL BE THERE WHEN THEY GET OUT IF THEY NEED HELP.

I RECEIVE LETTERS FROM TREATMENT COURT GRADUATES YEARS AFTER THEY GRADUATE UPDATING ME ON THEIR COMINGS AND GOINGS.

**I AM TRULY FORTUNATE TO HAVE A JOB THAT MAKES A
DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLES' LIVES. YOU TOO HAVE CHOSEN A JOB THAT
MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLES' LIVES AND I AM TOUCHED THAT YOUR
ASSOCIATION THOUGHT FIT TO HONOR ME.**