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**Parole Board Commissioners' Bios**2 messages

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This is what I have, on the 14 in place at the moment.

**Tina Marie Stanford**, native of Buffalo, NY. Graduated from Fordham University's Honors Program, got her law degree from SUNY Buffalo's Law School, and has been admitted to the NYS Bar. Served as an Erie County Asst. DA for 14 years, in 2007 appointed Chair, New York State Crime Victims Board. She's been a member of the Bar Foundation of Erie County, the NYS Commission on Sentencing Reform, the NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council, the Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking, and the Violence against Women Act Advisory Committee. She worked in the Buffalo City Court, on grand jury, domestic violence/sexual assault, felony trial and appeals bureaus. As a trial prosecutor, she worked directly with thousands of crime victims and their family members seeking justice for crimes ranging from theft to murder.

**Gail Hallerdin** Assistant Attorney General in the Buffalo Regional Office, where she dealt with litigation and complaints submitted by prisoners, including those against parole, and then about her work in jails where she viewed them from another aspect. NYS Office of Children and Family Services helped her to see the connection of offenders to the whole community, including the conditions of children and families. Working as a Hearing Officer for the Office of Temporary Disability Assistance she saw what the offender's family goes through and and what offenders themselves may go through upon release, including seeking gainful employment. She is a native of Queens and received her Juris Doctor degree from University of Buffalo, School of Law.

**Milton Johnson** served as a Special agent with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and also as Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge for the United States Secret Service. He was "born and raised in Queens, in an urban environment". He was case manager to undercover agents on domestic and international cases. When he worked on investigations of cases, where he worked closely with a lot of criminal minds, persons who would do harm to society, there were some cases that were presented to the agency as a threat but which turned out not to be. From that he gained the ability to assess things - to make sure a case is what it appears to be. He believes in giving things a fair look, not just accepting them as presented -- "going through things to make sure what we're talking about here is fair and equitable and that our actions are

the same.” He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia State University.

**Julie Smith** worked as the Probation Director for the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Genesee County Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives monitoring offenders’ needs and what the victims expect. Ms. Smith oversaw a department that provided supervision to approximately 700 adults and juvenile offenders. In addition to her knowledge and experience in felony offender supervision and treatment, she previously served as a caseworker for Genesee County Department of Social Services. Smith, of Batavia. She has an associate’s degree in criminal justice from Genesee Community College, a bachelor’s degree in community and human services from Empire State College and a master’s degree in management from Keuka College. The Genesee county manager said Smith’s appointment to the Parole Board was the conclusion of a “long and drawn-out process” that began about two years ago.

**Walter William Smith Jr.**, from Clarence NY, has been with the New York State Board of Parole since 1996. Prior to his current position, he served as a senior investigator for the New York State Crime Victims Board. Smith says COMPAS A, (a part of the Risk and Needs Assessment tool) helped not only in making release decisions but also in setting conditions of parole supervision. When asked what other criteria was considered, he identified prison behavior, the amount of community support from organizations such as Fortune Society and Osborne Association, program participation, employment possibilities, family support. About the standards used in making decisions, Smith referred to Exec. Law §259-i Sec. 2 (c) (A): reasonable probability that offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law, that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society, and will not so deprecate the seriousness of the crime as to undermine respect for the law, and for those with more than 8 year sentences, the seriousness of the crime. He explained there were 4 Boards a week, for a total of 16 a month, and all but 2 were teleconferences. The advantages are that it offers less security problems for the facility and less travel for the Commissioners. Both of those are also cost saving. The advantages could be increased by increasing the use of medical parole (which sounded like a non-sequitur to this reporter, but nevertheless like a good plan for other reasons). Claims the technology has improved so as to improve the immediacy of the experience and therefore the net effect is a plus. View on releasing sex offenders: Smith said it’s really a matter of following the law, but that there have been amazing advances in the technology; with more accurate polygraphs, and GPS’s for monitoring. He told the story of a person who was suspected of a rape but his GPS showed conclusively that he was innocent. In fact, later when his parole officer felt it was safe to remove him from GPS monitoring, his lawyer argued against it. The man feared he’d be picked up for every sex crime in the community and he wanted the protection provided by a GPS. And the Board does get psychological reports from the Office of Mental Help.

**Sally Velasquez-Thompson** has been a Parole Board Commissioner since 2007. Her prior experience includes 20 years with the New York City Police Department as Detective and narcotics investigator.

**Lisa Beth Elovich** has served on the New York State Board of Parole since 2007. She served as an Administrative Law Judge for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and as a Deputy Attorney General for the New York State Attorney General's Office with a focus on juvenile justice and crime prevention programs. [As an interesting side-note, Commissioner Elovich is also the state's only licensed female professional boxing promoter and the owner of Pugnacious Promotions, a promotional company based in New York's Capital Region.] She emphasizes that "we must remember the Board is independent when it comes to making release decisions". She mentioned how inspirational her visits to the Fortune Society had been in terms of seeing parolees who are making successful reentries. She claims to believe we as a society need to put more focus on crime prevention by early interventions, working to change negative behaviors before they become habitual, being aware of the challenges facing the children of an incarcerated parent.

**Joseph Crangle:** assistant court analyst with the NYS Office of Court Administration, assigned to the Domestic Violence Part of the Buffalo City Court where he monitored defendant's compliance with court orders; a probation officer with the Genesee County Probation Department, where he oversaw the Pretrial Release Under Supervision program. Mr. Crangle has a bachelor's degree from Canisius College and his JD from the City University of N.Y.

**James Ferguson:** Administrative Law Judge at NYS Division of Parole, Jan 1999 – May 2005; Assistant District Attorney, Bronx District Attorney's Office, Aug 1992 – Jan 1999. Education: Marist College B.S., Political Science/Psychology; Pace University School of Law, Juris Doctor.

**Christina Hernandez** served as Commissioner of the New York State Crime Victims Board, as a Commission Member of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct. In 2009, Ms. Hernandez was selected as one of nineteen parole board commissioners from across the United States to participate in a pilot training, "Integrating Evidenced-Based Principles into Parole Board Practices," created by the National Institute of Corrections, U.S. Department of Justice. Ms. Hernandez holds a Bachelor of Arts from Buffalo State College; a Masters in Social Work from the School of Social Welfare and a Certificate of Graduate Study in Women and Public Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, at the University at Albany. Additionally, she has completed all course work towards a PhD at University at Albany-SUNY School of Social Welfare.

**G. Kevin Ludlow** is a Lawyer in Utica, New York June 21, 2006 - June 18, 2011  
Pataki

**Ellen Evans Alexander**, Rhode Island AG's office, R.I. DOCS Assistant Director for Administration for 12 years and Chief Legal Counsel for six years. Chief assistant county attorney in Binghamton, NY.

**Edward M. Sharkey**, from Olean, attended Buffalo Law school, Air Force, 14 years in private law practice, 3 terms in DA's office.

**Marc A. Coppola**, former NYS Senator (for about 7 months), member of City Council of Buffalo NY, formerly worked with Div. of Parole and as a liaison with the Parole Board, working on the Board's application for Accreditation. In Buffalo he had worked as Deputy Sheriff (under Sen. Gallivan who was the Erie County Sheriff at that time).

Tina M. Stanford	Hon. Andrew Cuomo	6/19/2013	2/6/2019
Walter Wm Smith, Jr.	Hon. George Pataki	12/17/1996	7/6/2017
James Ferguson	Hon. George Pataki	4/12/2005	7/6/2017
Christina Hernandez	Hon. George Pataki	6/14/2006	6/2/2017
G. Kevin Ludlow	Hon. George Pataki	6/21/2006	6/20/2017
Lisa Beth Elovich	Hon. George Pataki	12/13/2006	12/31/2019
Sally Thompson	Hon. Eliot Spitzer	6/14/2007	5/4/2019
Joseph Crangle	Hon. David Paterson	6/19/2008	6/16/2014
Edward Sharkey	Hon. Andrew Cuomo	6/20/2012	6/18/2018
Marc Coppola	Hon. Andrew Cuomo	6/20/2012	6/18/2015
Ellen Alexander	Hon. Andrew Cuomo	6/20/2012	6/18/2014
Gail Hallerdin	Hon. Andrew Cuomo	6/19/2013	6/18/2018
Milton Johnson	Hon. Andrew Cuomo	6/19/2013	7/6/2017
Julie Smith	Hon. Andrew Cuomo	6/19/2013	2/7/2017

987 people with A-1 violent offence convictions were released to parole from 2009-2012. Since then only 2 have returned with new felony convictions. Source: DOCCS FOIL request #2012-1836