

# **Your First Opportunity at the Second Chance Act**

*A Review of Public Law 110-199  
Emphasizing Sections 101, 211 and 212*

## **Presenter Bios**

**CONGRESSMAN DANNY K. DAVIS**  
**7th Congressional District of Illinois**

Danny K. Davis was chosen by the people of the 7th Congressional District of Illinois as their Representative in Congress on November 5, 1996. He has been re-elected each term since.

In the 111th Congress, Davis sits on the Committees on Ways and Means and on the Government Reform. Congressman Davis is a member of the Black Caucus, the Progressive Caucus, the India Caucus, the Steel Caucus and the Hellenic Caucus and is a Regional Whip in the Democratic Caucus.

Congressman Davis has distinguished himself as an articulate voice for his constituents and as an effective legislator able to move major bills to passage.

Davis has developed an unique and energetic style of communication and interaction with his constituents setting up dozens of advisory task forces to consider significant questions of public policy. He hosts several weekly television and radio shows which feature audience call in and produces regular written reports to every household in the district. In addition, he maintains weekly office hours in the district and is widely sought after as a speaker at district events.

Prior to his election to the Congress he served on the Cook County Board of Commissioners having been elected in November 1990 and reelected in November 1994. Previously, he served for eleven years as a member of the Chicago City Council as Alderman of the 29th Ward.

Before seeking public office Congressman Davis had productive careers as an educator, community organizer, health planner/administrator and civil rights advocate. He has received hundreds of awards and citations for outstanding work in the areas of health, education, human relations, politics and advocacy. He has traveled extensively throughout the United States and has spent time in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and in South and Central America.

Congressman Davis is noted for his volunteer and political work. He has served as Founder/President of the Westside Association for Community Action, President of the National Association of Community Health Centers, was a member of the Harold Washington Campaign Committee and Transition Team in 1983, a cochair of the Clinton/Gore/Braun campaigns in 1992, and has been an officer and member of many other civic, professional and social organizations.

Born in Parkdale, Arkansas, on September 6, 1941, Congressman Davis moved to the Westside of Chicago in 1961, after having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Arkansas A.M. & N. College. He subsequently earned both Masters and Doctorate

degrees respectively from Chicago State University and the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He is married to Vera G. Davis, has two sons, Jonathan and Stacey, is a member and Deacon of the New Galilee M.B. Church. A public servant, a true public interest elected official and politician.

**GARY L. DENNIS, PH.D.**

**Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance**

Mr. Dennis is presently the Senior Policy Advisor for Corrections in the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance in Washington, D.C. Prior to assuming this position, Dr. Dennis was a Senior Associate with The Moss Group, Inc. in Washington, D.C., serving as Project Coordinator for a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections for the implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act

Dr. Dennis retired from the Kentucky Department of Corrections in 2004. During his 34-year career in state government, Dr. Dennis served as Deputy Commissioner, Executive Assistant to the Secretary of Corrections, Director of Correctional Industries, Director of Mental Health, Director of Operations, Director of Corrections Training, and Warden. He began his career in juvenile justice, working as a counselor, chaplain, and assistant superintendent at a reception center for delinquent youth. He was also supervisor of juvenile delinquency grant programs for the Commonwealth under the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. Dr. Dennis had the privilege of serving for three years as Director of Management and Training Services at the National Institute of Corrections' National Academy of Corrections in Boulder, Colorado. As Director of the MTS Department, he was responsible for the majority of training conducted at the Academy for correctional executives, managers, and staff trainers.

Dr. Dennis has also served as the Interim Facility Executive for the Vermont Department of Corrections managing their nine prisons. For the spring semester 2005, Dr. Dennis was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland and an Adjunct Associate Professor at American University teaching both on-line and face-to-face courses in criminal justice.

A native of Russellville, Arkansas, Dr. Dennis holds a BA from Arkansas Tech University, a Master of Religious Education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Master of Science in Social Work and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Louisville.

His spouse, Kathy Black-Dennis, is the Director of Professional Development for the American Correctional Association in Alexandria, VA. They reside on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

**ATANACIO (NACHO) GONZALEZ**

**Illinois ResourceNet: A Funding Access Initiative**

Atanacio (Nacho) Gonzalez is a fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago Great Cities Institute, Associate Director of the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative, and Co-Director of the Illinois ResourceNet.

Mr. Gonzalez has a long record of work in community organizing, housing and economic development. He is treasurer of the Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation, one of the most successful affordable housing organizations in Chicago and president of the Humboldt Construction Company, which is community staffed and builds low-income housing. He has been a consultant in organizational development and organizer training since 1982. He has authored or participated in numerous research projects on economic and community development with the UIC Center for Urban Economic Development, the UIC Voorhees Neighborhood Center and the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative.

Mr. Gonzalez holds a Masters in Urban Planning and Public Policy degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from California State University at Los Angeles, and a Certificate in Business Administration from UIC.

**RICHARD S. KORDESH, PH.D.**

**Illinois ResourceNet: A Funding Access Initiative**

Mr. Kordesh has led, taught about, and written about community development, public policy, and family empowerment for over thirty years. He is Co-Director of Illinois ResourceNet: A Funding Access Initiative, a Faculty Fellow in UIC's Great Cities Institute, and a Visiting Faculty member at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

*Author of Restoring Power to Parents and Places: The Case for Family-Based Community Development*, Dr. Kordesh focuses much of his research and training on how to integrate diverse public policies around communities of place, with an emphasis on building up the productive roles of families. A current active project focusing on these issues takes place in the Gedam Sefer community in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in Urban Planning and Social Work at UIC, in Political Science and Policy Analysis at Penn State-University Park, and in Political Science at Indiana University-Bloomington. He has led two

statewide community-building initiatives from governors' offices in Illinois and Pennsylvania.

Mr. Kordesh has a Master's degree in Community Development and Planning from UIC and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Indiana University-Bloomington.

**VALERIE F. LEONARD**

**Illinois ResourceNet: A Funding Access Initiative**

Valerie F. Leonard is a community development consultant with a mission to strengthen the capacity of organizations to make a positive impact on the communities they serve through technical assistance, specialized workshops, resource and organizational development and project management. Some of her past engagements include convening stakeholder meetings for the North Lawndale Employment Network in connection with the development of a Lawndale community reentry advocacy team; creating comprehensive capacity building plans for affiliates of the Chicago Area Project; and recommending optimal program structures for After School Matters and LISC as they address issues of fitness, nutrition and truancy prevention in select Chicago communities.

Ms. Leonard is also a technical assistance provider with the Illinois ResourceNet: A Funding Access Initiative. In this capacity, she reviews organizations' federal grant applications prior to final submittal; and serves on a team to develop curriculum for conferences and workshops. Ms. Leonard will also be teaching an online course in finance and budgeting for nonprofits through the University of Illinois Great Cities Institute Professional Education Department.

Ms. Leonard has a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Spelman College, and a Master of Management degree in Finance and Marketing from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

**DANIELLE PLEAS**

**Department of Labor-Employment and Training Administration**

Danielle Pleas is a Federal Project Officer with the Department of Labor-Employment and Training Administration in Region V. She is the Youth Offender Initiative and Green Jobs Initiative Region Lead. Danielle manages discretionary funded workforce development programs at ETA that focus on high growth jobs, apprenticeship and reentry training. Danielle received her BS in Agriculture Business and Economics from Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA and MS in Public Policy from DePaul University, Chicago, IL.

**DEBRA G. WESLEY-FREEMAN**  
**Sinai Community Institute**

Debra G. Wesley-Freeman has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Sinai Community Institute since Sinai Health System established it in 1993. Sinai Community Institute is a community based health and wellness family support resource center serving over 22,000 individuals annually.

Ms. Wesley-Freeman, whose master's degree in Social Work is from University of Illinois at Chicago, joined Mount Sinai Hospital in 1987 as Director of Family Planning and later became Director of the Department of Family and Community Health Services and then Assistant Administrator for the Division of Community Health Programs to Assistant Vice President at Mount Sinai Hospital over Community Health Programs. She has developed innovative, community-based programs that have received national recognition. She completed 5 years as the founding President of the North Lawndale Employment Network Board of Directors, is a Member of the Legacy Charter Elementary School Board of Directors, Member of the Westside Association for Community Action Board of Directors, Member of Governor's Community Support and Advisory Council and recently completed 4 years as a member of the Board of Directors for Young Women's Leadership Charter School. She is also a Denali Initiative Class II Harvard University Social Entrepreneurial Fellow.