



# MAPSA MATTERS

Winter 2013/2014

## Letter from the MAPSA President

### Greetings MAPSA Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and have kept warm this freezing winter. Your MAPSA Board Members have been busy over the last year and as many of you, we are looking forward to thawing out this spring.

The board has been planning the 2014 MAPSA Conference and we are excited for what the conference will have to offer. The conference will be on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and we will be returning to the Mystic Lake Casino. We received excellent feedback on the new venue and we look forward to the return. The day will start with our keynote speaker, Cherise Fanno Burdeen, NAPSA President. MAPSA is excited and honored that she will be speaking at the conference. She has developed innovative strategies to raise awareness of pretrial justice issues and she has extensive experiences with the criminal justice system. There will be many other interesting speakers throughout the day with a wide variety of topics.

Also, please consider joining the MAPSA Board. Our goals are to work with NAPSA to review pretrial practices in Minnesota and to be an excellent resource for our members. The board meets monthly and we are always looking for new energetic members who want to be involved. During the 2014 conference we will be accepting nominations for the following positions: Vice-President, Secretary and Regions I, III, V and VII. MAPSA will also be presenting the MAPSA Board of Director's Award at the conference. Please contact a MAPSA board member if you have a nomination. You can also email [mapsa@mapsa.us](mailto:mapsa@mapsa.us) with your nominations.

Conference brochures and registration will be coming soon. Take care and I hope to see you at the conference.

Amy Olson  
MAPSA President



### MAPSA Board of Directors Award Nomination

This award will be given to a person or program who that has demonstrated outstanding dedication and professionalism in the field of divers, pretrial screening or pretrial services.

Please visit

[www.mapsa.us](http://www.mapsa.us)

to submit your nomination.

Make sure your peers are recognized for all their hard work!

The award recipient will be announced at the 2014 MAPSA Conference on May 1, 2014.

### Financial Report:

November 2013: \$4,547.50

January 2014: \$4,547.25

February 2014: \$4,547.25



# Highpoints



## 2014 MAPSA Conference

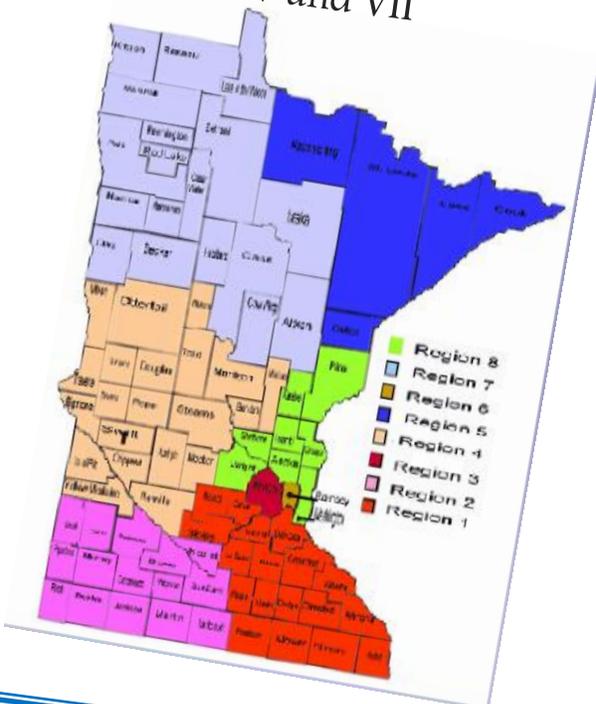
### Mystic Lake Casino

### May 1, 2014

**Register Online at [www.mapsa.us](http://www.mapsa.us)**

Nominations will be accepted for  
open board positions at the 2014  
MAPSA Conference:

Vice-President, Secretary and Regions I, III,  
V and VII



**NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**  
OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

**April 6-12, 2014**

**Theme:**

**"30 Years: Restoring the  
Balance of Justice"**

Visit the website for more  
information:  
[www.ovc.ncjrs.gov](http://www.ovc.ncjrs.gov)



## Laura and John Arnold Foundation develops national model for pretrial risk assessments

November 14, 2013

New York -- Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF) today released the results of a large-scale, two-year research project focused on the role that data and analytics can play in helping judges determine what risk defendants who have been arrested pose to public safety and whether they should be detained in jail or released prior to trial.

The research found that scientific, data-driven, risk assessments can assist judges in making decisions about what risks defendants pose and allow jurisdictions to spend less money on pretrial incarceration while better protecting the public.

More than 60 percent of people in our nation's jails today are being detained prior to trial and have not been convicted of a crime—at a cost of \$9 billion annually. Less than 10 percent of courts currently use data-driven, objective, risk assessments to help them make decisions about the risk to the community that a defendant poses. As a result, research shows that many non-violent, low-risk defendants are held in jail prior to trial, while high-risk defendants are frequently released.

Researchers studied 750,000 cases from more than 300 jurisdictions across the nation and tested hundreds of possible factors that might correlate to a defendant's risk level. After evaluating these factors, researchers identified nine factors, based largely on the defendant's prior criminal history, that were the strongest predictors of risk.

Using those findings, LJAF developed a comprehensive, universal risk assessment—the Public Safety Assessment-Court (PSA-Court)—that can accurately, quickly, and efficiently assess the risk that a defendant will engage in violence, commit a new crime, or fail to come back to court.

“Giving judges data-driven, analytic tools to assist them in making pretrial decisions can create safer communities, save taxpayer dollars, and make our criminal justice system fairer,” said LJAF Vice President of Criminal Justice Anne Milgram.

All of Kentucky's 120 counties have been using the PSA-Court since July 2013, and early results are extremely promising. The tool will soon be deployed in other pilot sites and will be followed by a national rollout.

The research summary may be accessed at [www.arnoldfoundation.com/research/criminaljustice](http://www.arnoldfoundation.com/research/criminaljustice).

### About Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Laura and John Arnold Foundation is private foundation that currently focuses its strategic investments on criminal justice, education, public accountability, and research integrity. LJAF has offices in Houston and New York City.

[www.arnoldfoundation.org](http://www.arnoldfoundation.org).

## Study Finds Defendants Released on Unsecured Bonds Pose No Greater Threat to Public Safety and Appear in Court as Regularly as Those Who Post Secure Bonds

# FACT SHEET

## Does Requiring Money Upfront Make a Difference? Yes. It needlessly detains.



For the first time ever, a study compares pretrial release outcomes by money bond type, *controlling for the statistical risk level of defendants released pretrial*.

PJI compared *unsecured* bonds (no money upfront, but a promise to pay the full amount if one fails to appear) with *secured* bonds (whether cash or surety, one must pay upfront in order to be released) in 1,919 cases in Colorado.



Unsecured bonds are as **effective at achieving public safety** as secured bonds.



Unsecured bonds **use far fewer jail beds** than do secured bonds because more releasable defendants leave jail (94% unsecured versus 61% secured), and leave sooner.



Unsecured bonds are as **effective at achieving court appearance** as secured bonds.



Unsecured bonds are as **effective at preventing** defendants who failed to appear from remaining **at-large on a warrant** as secured bonds.



Higher dollar amounts of secured bonds are associated with **more pretrial jail bed use** but not increased court appearance rates.

For the full research report, see Jones, M. R. (2013). *Unsecured Bonds: The As Effective and Most Efficient Pretrial Release Option*. Washington, DC: Pretrial Justice Institute. This project was supported by Grant No. 2012-DB-BX-K001 awarded by BJA. BJA is a component of the OJP, which also includes BJS, NLJ, OJJDP, OVC, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice."

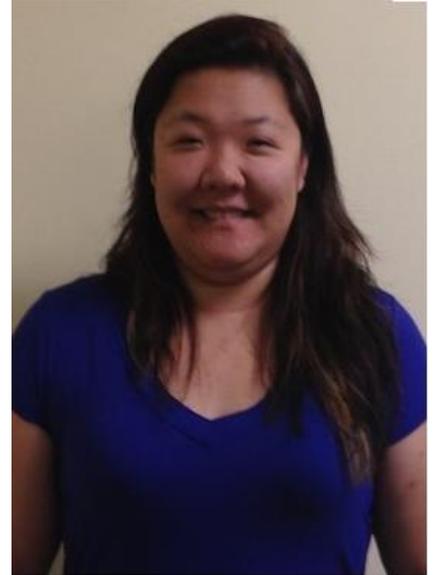
## Meet the Board: Linnea Brown

*What is your current position and where do you work?*

*Currently, I am a Diversion Case Manager at Project Remand.*

*How long have you been involved in MAPSA and what is your role?*

*I have been attending MAPSA conferences since I started at Project Remand in 2006. However, I am new this year to the MAPSA board representing Ramsey County.*



*How did you end up in the field of Criminal Justice?*

*I have always been interested in people, and when the boy I had a crush on in high school told me about the field of criminal justice, I decided to try it out for myself. I haven't looked back since.*

*What is your favorite winter activity?*

*Eating. Seriously. It is all I seem to do right now. Winter needs to be done! I also enjoy going to movies and taking very short winter hikes.*

*What is your favorite food?*

*I love all foods, but, my grandma's spaghetti and meatballs recipe is incredible. I dream about it.*

*If you could have any job in the world, what would it be?*

*I would be a travel guide author, or a highly paid sous-chef, or a jewelry designer, or a probation officer.*