

Focus on: Rehabilitative Alternative Probation

Judge Lauds Program Graduates, Staff

Every program at TASC is a partnership between our clients, the entities and people who fund our programs, and the web of government systems and social service programs that our clients often must navigate in order to be successful. TASC’s role is to tie resources and system requirements together to help guide clients to success.

The Cook County Rehabilitative Alternative Probation (RAP) program is an example of this important collaboration. Since its inception in 1998, RAP has helped more than 1,100 men and women break the bonds of addiction.

A collaborative effort between the Cook County courts, TASC, and community-based service providers, RAP is an intensive, two-year program that works with people who have chronic addictions as well as long arrest histories for non-violent offenses. In researchers’

services they need to be successful.

Once a client completes one aspect of a program—for example, 120 days of treatment at the beginning of RAP—there is a risk for the person to then return to previous peers and behaviors.

“This program could not work without TASC. This program could not work without Ron Jones.”

-- Judge Charles Burns

terms, these are the “high-need” clients whose rehabilitation significantly reduces costs and burdens to courts and communities.

“That’s where TASC comes into play,” said Judge Burns. “And we’re going to give an award today to Mr. Ron Jones from TASC.”

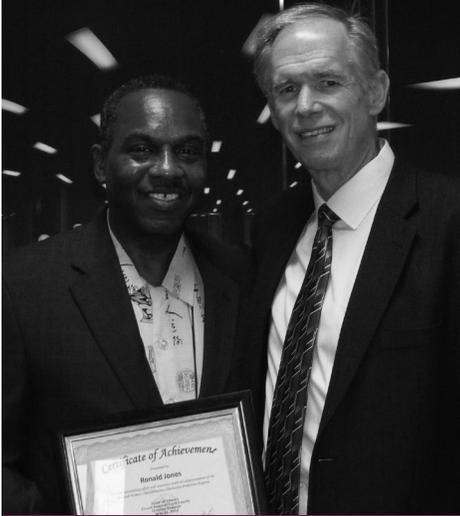
At a recent RAP graduation ceremony, Cook County Criminal Court Judge Charles Burns spoke to a group of proud RAP graduates, family members, and program staff. He said it takes a number of people and organizations to make a program like RAP succeed, from the judge to the public defender and state’s attorney’s office to community treatment providers.

Judge Burns praised Mr. Jones’s ability to find treatment and services for clients, even at a time of budget cuts. “Places tell me they have no (treatment) beds. He makes a phone call; there’s a bed. People tell me they have no money; he takes care of it in fifteen minutes. He is a wealth of information.”

To the program graduates, Judge Burns said, “Ron—in every single case—made a difference in your life. He found the right fit for all of you. He stayed on top of everything.

“This program could not work without TASC. This program could not work without Ron Jones.”

“Behind the scenes we have somebody that works for TASC,” he said. TASC’s role is to screen participants for the program and make recommendations to the court. Beyond that, TASC’s key value is in placing clients into the right types and levels of treatment programs, and ensuring that they are getting the



Judge Burns (right) presents the 2012 Distinguished Service Award to TASC’s Ron Jones.

In This Issue

Focus on: RAP/Judge Lauds Program Graduates, Staff 1
President’s Corner: Why Systems Matter 2
TASC Welcomes New Board Members 3
Join TASC 2012 Honorees/Register for December 12 Luncheon..... 4

TASC, Inc. (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) is an independent, statewide, nonprofit agency that advocates for people in need of health and other rehabilitative services. We work in partnership with Illinois courts, prisons, child welfare programs, and community-based service providers to help adults and youth get the help they need to rebuild their lives.
Please visit us online at www.tasc.org.

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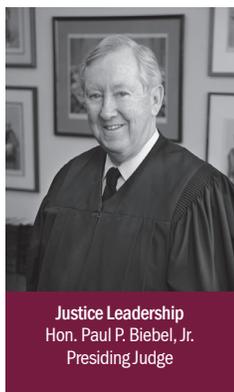
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Join TASC 2012 Honorees *Register Today for December 12 Leadership Awards Luncheon*

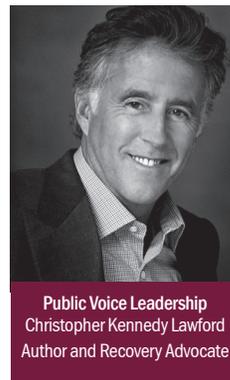
Please join TASC on December 12 as we present our 2012 Leadership Awards to Cook County Judge Paul P. Biebel, Jr. and author Christopher Kennedy Lawford.

The Honorable Paul P. Biebel, Jr. will receive TASC's Justice Leadership Award for his work in elevating collaboration and science as critical tools in criminal justice practice. As presiding judge of the Criminal Division in Cook County,



Judge Biebel engages health scientists and community partners in helping to confront the pervasive challenges that addiction and mental health conditions impose on justice systems. Judge Biebel is widely respected for his commitment to science-based solutions that serve both public safety and public health.

Christopher Kennedy Lawford will receive TASC's Public Voice Leadership Award to for his tireless work to promote addiction recovery worldwide. He partners with numerous corporate, government, and non-profit groups to advance the dialogue around addiction and other complex public health issues. In recovery for more than 26 years, he has written two New York



Times bestselling books, *Symptoms of Withdrawal: A Memoir of Snapshots and Redemption* (2005) and *Moments of Clarity: Voices from the Front Lines of Addiction and Recovery* (2009). His newest work, *Recover to Live, Kick Any Habit, Manage Any Addiction*, will be released January 1.

TASC's annual luncheon will take place at the Westin Michigan Avenue in Chicago from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE: Visit www.tasc.org and click on our luncheon links.



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