



American Probation and Parole Association

A Force for Positive
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c/o The Council of State Governments 2760 Research Park Drive Lexington, KY, 40511-8482 Ph. (859) 244-8203 Fax (859) 244-8001 E-mail: appa@csg.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 1, 2015

New Executive Director Named by the American Probation and Parole Association

PRESIDENT

Susan Burke
Utah

After a nationwide search, Veronica Ballard Cunningham, a 35-year veteran of pretrial, probation and parole systems in Louisiana, Texas and Illinois, has been appointed as the new Executive Director for the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA). She officially takes the helm on January 4, 2016.

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“Ms. Cunningham brings with her the credentials of having worked in the field as an officer and the skills of an executive, both of which we were seeking in a new Executive Director,” said APPA President Susan Burke.

Ms. Cunningham has a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Louisiana State University. She is currently the Director for New Orleans Pretrial Services, a demonstration project through the Vera Institute of Justice. She began her career as a probation and parole officer for the Louisiana Department of Public Safety. She then relocated to Texas and became the Director of Parole Services for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. As director she led service provision to 70,000 clients and directed a staff of 2,400 in 70 offices statewide. After 17 years in Texas, she moved to Chicago to become the Director for Cook County Adult Probation where she had responsibility for a \$45 million budget and staff of 1,000.

Ms. Cunningham also has work experience as a vice president in the non-profit sector promoting successful workforce development for people with criminal records. From 2008 to 2014 she led fundraising and public policy efforts, facilitated strategic planning, secured public and private grants, and led the external communications strategy. She also had a brief stint as a national government relations director for a private company that offered a treatment protocol for individuals with alcohol and drug addictions.

“I look forward to leading the association as its strategic direction evolves to influence the national conversation about the role of community corrections in reducing our reliance on jails and prisons,” said Ms. Cunningham.

The American Probation and Parole Association is an international association composed of members from the United States, Canada and other countries actively involved with pretrial, probation, parole and community-based corrections, in both criminal and juvenile justice arenas. The Association delivers training and education to its membership and other professionals; leads and participates in research and program development for advancing evidence-based practices in community corrections; and promotes national standards and practices for community corrections professionals.