

1/13/09

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED
TO THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
By John T. Ryan, Probation Expert
Psychiatric Security Review Board**

Senator Looney
Representative Janowski
Members of the Committee:

It is a privilege to appear before you today as Governor Rell's nominee for reappointment to the Psychiatric Security Review Board, as a person with experience and expertise in the field of probation and parole. I have had the honor of serving in this capacity since the inception of the Board in 1985.

I have worked in the field of probation for approximately thirty (30) years, and have served at all levels of involvement; ultimately retiring mandatorily as Deputy Chief United States Probation Officer in December 2000. I am presently employed by the Wethersfield Board of Education and report to the Superintendent of Schools in matters of registration, residency and security.

In addition to these duties, I also serve on the Advisory Boards of Catholic Charities and House of Bread; both of which serve the needs of the impoverished in the Greater Hartford area.

On a personal note, I am a married resident of Newington. My wife Theresa and I have two sons and five grandchildren.

As the committee members are aware, the Psychiatric Security Review Board has jurisdiction over those persons found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect. The Board, through an administrative hearing process, determines the level of treatment, supervision and placement required in order to ensure that the acquittee does not pose a danger to the community. This is a significant public safety responsibility carried out on behalf of the citizens of Connecticut.

In public service to the Board, I spend approximately twelve (12) hours per month attending hearings and the same amount of time in preparation for those hearings.

In conclusion, I consider public service to be an honor and a privilege. In my twenty-three (23) years with the Board, it has been a challenge to ensure public safety while also considering the needs of the acquittees and their victims, and that has provided me with a great sense of community purpose and accomplishment. Thank you. I welcome any questions the committee may have.