## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 13, 2016



MEDIA CONTACT
Janine Vaccarello
Janine@CrimeMuseum.org

## JUDGE BELVIN PERRY IS AMONG ALCATRAZ EAST CRIME MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD

Alcatraz East Crime Museum continues the museum's educational outreach as it announces board members such as Judge Belvin Perry.

**Pigeon Forge, TN –** Positioned as *the* museum to attend to learn about crime, the consequences of crime, and law enforcement in America, Alcatraz East has lined up an extensive Advisory Board whose breadth of knowledge encompasses aspects of crime and punishment in America.

Bringing together experts from chief medical examiners and detectives, to military special operators and criminal investigators, <u>Alcatraz East Crime Museum Advisory Board</u> supports the museum's mission to educate, entertain, and inspire.

<u>Kellie Ann Barhight</u> has been a detective with the Ayer Police Department in Ayer, Massachusetts for over 7 years. Her primary focus is on domestic violence, elder abuse and sexual assault investigations. Her career also includes four years as a patrol officer in Randolph, Vermont. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Norwich University.

A specialist in counterterrorism and law enforcement, and a former military bodyguard, **Derwin J. Bradley** has provided advanced tactical police training to U.S. Army Special Forces, British Army Special Forces, and police SWAT Teams. Bradley is also the author of two books, "Black and Blue: Understanding Modern Law Enforcement in your America" and "The Operator Fear No Evil," bringing his extensive involvement law enforcement experience and training to the museum.

As President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board for Leland Enterprises Inc., <u>Ken G. Dixon</u> brings the financial and accounting authority to the Advisory Board of Alcatraz East. With degrees in management and accounting, and decades of experience in finance, Dixon brings an understanding of business to the museum.

<u>Sandy Jones</u>, an avid collector of 1930s outlaw memorabilia, serves as a historical expert on the museum's board. As a researcher and historian for over 40 years, Mr. Jones has compiled quite an extensive database on the subject. Former owner of the John Dillinger Historical Society and Outlaw Museum, Jones has worked with artifacts as John Dillinger's car, handwritten poems by Bonnie Parker, and artwork by Machine Gun Kelly.

As vice president of Communications at *National Center of Missing & Exploited Children* (NCMEC), **Avery Mann** supervises the department's three divisions - Media Relations, Digital

Media and Outreach. Mann joined NCMEC in the fall of 2011. Prior to NCMEC, Mann spent 14 years with "America's Most Wanted," and show host (NCMEC co-founder) John Walsh. At AMW, Mann was Walsh's publicist, the program's spokesman, and head of media, public relations and marketing. Mann's responsibilities included planning and coordinating Walsh's media appearances and working with FOX and other networks to promote the show's content. Mann was also responsible for on-air brand integration and cross promotion with FOX network advertisers. Mann's background also includes experience with crisis communications, breaking news comment and long lead pitching. Mann holds a Bachelor of Arts in Politics & Criminology and a Master of Science in Justice.

Robin Maynard is a Certified Crime Scene Investigator with 14 years experiences in Orange County, Florida, both as a Paramedic and as a CSI in the major case Forensics Unit at the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Robin brings her expertise in Fingerprinting, Blood Spatter Analysis, Crime Scene photography and more. Robin is known for her investigation on major cases including the East Side rapist, the Richard Kannanen case and the Casey Anthony case. CSI Maynard received multiple awards and recognition throughout her career to include the investigative award from the FBI for her work on the Casey Anthony case, Unit Citations from Sheriff Berry and Sheriff Demmings, as well as the Women's Achievement Award and the National Association of Social Workers "Public Citizen of the year" Award for her volunteer service in the community.

<u>Judge Belvin Perry, Jr.</u> is most known as the trial judge in the case State of Florida v. Casey Anthony. Perry is currently a personal injury attorney with the law firm of Morgan & Morgan. Prior to joining the Morgan Law Firm in September of 2014, he was the Chief Judge of 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit for nearly18 years and a circuit judge for nearly t24wenty-four years, before retiring in August 2014. He has served as President of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, the first African American Chair of the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges, and on numerous other boards, receiving many awards and honors.

As a decorated combat veteran and Navy SEAL Chief, <u>Anthony Rivera</u> is an expert in domestic and foreign weapons, demolition and tactics. Anthony served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn in the Al-Anbar Province of Iraq. He also advised Foreign Government on Special Operations Tactics, Techniques and Procedures to countries such as Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Oman, Yemen, Qatar, Bahrain, and several other partner forces fighting the War on Terror. Anthony's post-active military pursuits include leadership development, mentoring and volunteering his time to members of the military and their families.

<u>Dennis Sobin</u> spent 10 years in prison after he refused to plead guilty and accept probation for a crime he did not commit. While he was incarcerated, he used his time to work on art, learning to read music and play classical guitar. Upon his release in 2003, Dennis formed the Prisons Foundation with two other wrongly incarcerated individuals, Helen Thorne and Jim Pruitt. Funding was received from Lloyd Rubin, an international entrepreneur, art collector, and former prisoner. The Prisons Foundation exhibits art made in prison at art galleries, schools and festivals across America, publishes over 1,000 books written by prisoners, and produces prisoner-oriented musicals and dramas at the Kennedy Center. www.PrisonsFoundation.org

<u>Joshua D. Stephany, MD</u> is the Orange County Chief Medical Examiner and Division Manager of the District Nine Medical Examiner's Office, which includes Orange and Osceola counties. Previous to his appointment, Dr. Stephany served as Interim Chief Medical Examiner, following the retirement of Dr. Jan Garavaglia (Dr. G) in May 2015. He has appeared on The Dr. G

Show, and has been published in "The American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology." Among Stephany's extensive list of credentials, he has previously served as Associate Medical Examiner to the District Nine Medical Examiner's Office and clinical assistant professor in forensic pathology at Florida State University College of Medicine.

<u>Wyndell C. Watkins, Sr.</u> is a retired Chief of Detectives for the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C. and author of "YouVestigate, Don't Speculate—See What You Have Been Missing." Chief Watkins has and continues to provide training and presentations regarding his expertise both nationally and internationally. He is also a Court Certified Expert Witness regarding investigative techniques, police policy and procedures. Additionally, he is also a licensed private investigator and expert for the TV shows "Mysteries at the Museum" and "True Crime Series." Chief Watkins has been featured in over 100 iTunes podcasts.

<u>Jim Willett</u> spent 30 years with the Texas prison system and retired as the warden of the historic Huntsville "Walls" Unit. He is now the director of the Prison Museum in Huntsville, Texas, and has added first hand perspective to Alcatraz East's exhibits.

###

## About the Alcatraz East Crime Museum

Alcatraz East's mission is to provide guests of all ages with memorable insight into American history from a different perspective. Five unique galleries burrow deep into the studies of criminal intent, criminal profiles, the penal system, victims, crime prevention, forensic science, law enforcement and our justice system. The museum is 25,000 square feet spread over 2 floors and includes over 100 interactives.

The museum is located at 2757 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863. www.alcatrazeast.com