

J. MICHAEL HANNON \*  
DANIEL S. CROWLEY \*†‡  
PARTNERS

HANNON LAW GROUP, LLP  
COUNSELORS AND ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
333 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002  
EST. MARCH 17, 2006

WILLIAM CLAYTON BATCHELOR \*†  
OF COUNSEL

ANN-KATHRYN SO §  
TALON R. HURST \*§  
ERIK H. FAWCETT ||  
DAVIS C. RAJTIK †  
ASSOCIATES

T (202) 232-1907 | F (202) 232-3704  
www.hannonlawgroup.com

\* ALSO ADMITTED IN MARYLAND  
† ALSO ADMITTED IN VIRGINIA  
‡ ALSO ADMITTED IN MASSACHUSETTS  
§ ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW JERSEY  
|| ADMITTED IN MARYLAND ONLY;  
UNDER SUPERVISION OF J. MICHAEL  
HANNON

April 15, 2020

**PRESS RELEASE ON BEHALF OF  
THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS LABOR COMMITTEE**

This evening, the Correctional Officers working at the D.C. Jail have filed a Class Action lawsuit against the District of Columbia and the D.C. Jail in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. The lawsuit alleges that the District's failure to protect Correctional Officers from infection by COVID-19, and possible death, violates the District's obligation to provide a safe workplace to its employees.

The lawsuit seeks an award of penalties against the District and the D.C. Jail amounting to \$10,000 per violation, per Correctional Officer, and per day. These violations began on February 28, 2020, when the Mayor activated the Emergency Operations Center and ordered all D.C. agencies to implement the District Response Plan to continue operations safely in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The potential award could reach well into the millions of dollars.

In addition, the lawsuit seeks an immediate order from the Superior Court to require the District and the D.C. Jail to provide Personal Protective Equipment to all Correctional Officers and inmates, as well as the implementation of CDC protocols for educating Officers and inmates how to respond to the crisis. In addition, the lawsuit demands a complete disinfection of the D.C. Jail and creation of an emergency hospital space for infected and quarantined inmates.

The lawsuit follows by only a few hours an oral report by *Amici Curiae* provided to the United States District Court Judge overseeing the federal lawsuit filed there by inmates. In that oral report, as described in the Correctional Officers' lawsuit, the *Amici Curiae* describe dirty cells and Housing Units; soiled inmate clothing; soiled, ill-fitting and unconventional face masks being used by staff and inmates; broken sinks and toilets; inadequate medical documentation of inmate symptoms; isolation of infected inmates in their cells 24/7 without contact with the outside world; and, a greatly diminished staff caused by COVID-19.

The Correctional Officers attorneys will request the Superior Court to hold an emergency hearing on Friday, April 17, 2020, to rule on the motion for an emergency restraining order.