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**CHAIRMAN'S  
NO. 13-2001**

**MEMORANDUM  
MAY 1, 2001**

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**TO: SHERIFFS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, COMMISSIONERS OF  
CORRECTION, POLICE CHIEFS**

**RE: INMATE ACCESS TO LEGAL REFERENCE MATERIAL**

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Due to recent court decisions that conflict with the Commission's minimum standards, questions have been raised by local facility administrators regarding their obligation to provide inmates with access to legal reference material. Specifically, it has been asked whether inmates who are represented by legal counsel must be provided access to legal reference material.

To answer the above question, attached please find a legal opinion from Brian M. Callahan, an attorney in the Commission's Office of Counsel. If you should have any questions after reviewing this opinion, please feel free to contact either myself or the Commission's Office of Counsel, and we will be glad to assist you.

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**Alan J. Croce, Chairman/Commissioner**