

PURPOSE

The Justice Programs Office of the School of Public Affairs (SPA) at American University was established to carry out SPA's mission to apply the tools of scholarship and professionalism to the design, management and evaluation of public programs. The Justice Programs Office (JPO) provides technical assistance, research, and training services to domestic and foreign government agencies and organizations. Its projects address policy, program, resource, and operational issues relating to the administration of justice, coordination of public programs, and the delivery of justice system, social and related services.

CAPABILITY

The SPA Justice Programs Office has a core interdisciplinary team of faculty, staff and Senior Fellows, augmented by senior practitioner-experts from throughout the U.S., who serve in a consultant capacity. This cadre is supplemented by American University faculty in the fields of law, public affairs, international service, economics, business administration, and the social and behavioral sciences. The Justice Programs Office has access to all of the unique domestic and international information resources in the Washington, D.C. area and the on-campus and off-campus training, research, IT, and distance learning facilities of American University.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

The Justice Programs Office maintains collaborative relationships with most of the U.S.-based national organizations and associations representing the legal, law enforcement, corrections, prosecution, defense, and judicial professions. All projects are undertaken with reference to relevant operational and ethical standards of performance.

RANGE OF SERVICES

- short- and long-term technical assistance to government and community agencies
- on-site problem definition analysis
- documentation of existing policies, resources, operations, and procedures
- evaluation of public programs
- training and other professional development services
- security audits of justice system facilities
- planning and implementation assistance for justice system improvement initiatives

EXPERIENCE

The Justice Programs Office has conducted over 1,700 technical assistance, research, training, and evaluation projects for:

Local and State Governments

- improvements in criminal and civil judicial process and dispute resolution alternatives
- efficient utilization of justice system and human services resources
- formulation of orderly processes for policy and programmatic change
- improvements in interagency and community relationships
- training programs for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and general government elected officials
- planning and assessment of correctional options/intermediate sanctions programs
- planning and implementation of drug court and other problem-solving court programs
- facility planning and security audits

Federal Agencies

- assessment of national drug abuse control strategies
- federal/state relations regarding:
 - (a) justice system resource allocation and
 - (b) cooperative law enforcement and prosecution efforts
- national technical assistance and training programs in a wide range of areas to support state and local justice system improvement

International Organizations and Agencies

- U.S. justice system seminars for official foreign visitors to the U.S.
- crisis management training for foreign delegations sponsored by the U.S. State Department
- comparative justice system analyses and documentation
- international seminars, workshops and conferences on issues of current or/and emerging interest
- information system planning and technology transfer
- U.S. liaison for the Moscow Research Center for Human Rights



SPECIAL STRENGTHS

- Multi-disciplinary approach to all undertakings
- Promotion of interagency communication and coordination
- Institutional independence and objectivity in problem analysis
- Incorporation of the most qualified academic and practitioner expertise for each project
- Emphasis on cost-effective, pragmatic solutions to justice system issues
- Multi-lingual core staff

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

Alternatives to Conventional Adjudication: Monograph

Sponsor: National Institute of Justice

Assessment of the Attorney Grievance System

Client: Michigan Supreme Court

Assessment of Felony Case Process and Its Impact on Jail Overcrowding

Client: Cook County Illinois Board of Commissioners

City-County Justice System Evaluation

Client: City of Charlotte and County of Mecklenberg, North Carolina

Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project

Client: U.S. Department of Justice

Design of a Drug Court Program for Bermuda

Client: Government of Bermuda

Development of National Standards for Judicial Education

Client: National Association of State Judicial Educators

Drug Courts Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project

Client: U.S. Department of Justice

Evaluation of Assigned Counsel Training

Client: New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department

The Image of Justice - Facility Planning for Courts: Monograph

Clients: U.S. Department of Justice

International Experience with Drug Treatment Courts

Client: Organization of American States (OAS)

**International Symposium on Justice System Reform Issues:
Intermediate Sanctions, Victim Assistance, Treatment of the
Offender**

Sponsor: The King Baudouin Foundation
Brussels, Belgium

Management Audit of the Judicial System

Client: Mayor's Office, Philadelphia, PA

Management Review of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Client: District Attorney, Monterey, CA

Policy Review of Federal Support to the State Courts

Client: U.S. Department of Justice

Public Defender Services Organization and Management

Client: Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office

**Review of Jail Facility Needs Projections in Hennepin and
Ramsey Counties, Minnesota**

Client: Minnesota House of Representatives

Statewide Operational and Security Audit of Court Facilities

Client: Kentucky Supreme Court

**Task Force Report of the President's Commission on
Terrorism and Civil Disorders**

Client: U.S. Presidential Commission

**Trial Court Management Series: Financial, Personnel and
Records Management- Manuals and Training Video**

Sponsor: National Institute of Justice

**U.S.-Based Training of Management Staff of the Office of
the Public Defender**

Client: Ministry of Justice, Israel

Workshop on Judicial Systems Strategies for Drug Cases

Client: Republic of Ireland Supreme Court



SENIOR FELLOWS

Bennett Brummer

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State Public Defender, WI

Hon. Legrome D. Davis

Judge, U.S. District Court, Philadelphia, PA

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