



# JUSTICE PROGRAMS OFFICE

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## SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC AFFAIRS

August 2017



## Justice Programs Office Presents at National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference

Several JPO staff members presented at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) Annual Conference at the National Harbor from July 9-12, 2017. Preeti Menon, Steve Collins, Kierra Zoellick, and Anna Koozmin presented, coordinated, and facilitated multiple valuable sessions on behalf of the [National Drug Court Resource Center](#), including "VJO Specialists: A Key Component of the Veterans Treatment Court," "Veterans Treatment Courts: Lessons being Learned through Research," and "Making the Most of the National Drug Court Resource Center." Zoë Root presented on behalf of JPO's [Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts \(JDTC\) Initiative](#), along with Jen Tyson and Leanetta Jessie, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and Anne Caron, NADCP, about OJJDP's new JDTC *Guidelines*, and training and technical assistance services and resources available to programs nationwide.

## The Justice in Government Project

[Karen Lash](#), the former White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable (LAIR) Executive Director and US Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice Deputy Director, joined JPO in Spring of 2017 as Practitioner-in-Residence and Director of [The Justice in Government Project](#), *Getting Results with Legal Aid*. As the principal architect for [LAIR](#), Karen and her colleagues brought together representatives from 22 federal executive branch agencies to raise awareness about the role civil legal aid plays in making numerous government programs more effective, efficient, and fair.

The Justice in Government Project (The JGP) similarly identifies opportunities to embed civil legal aid into existing state priorities, programs, and appropriations to ensure maximum benefit from dollars spent serving low-income and underserved people and communities. State and local government programs help people remove obstacles to employment, stabilize housing for needy families, escape domestic violence, halt elder abuse, respond to disasters, secure appropriate benefits, and more. Too often those programs do not include legal aid, but could achieve even better results if they did.

The JGP aims to fix that by partnering with leaders in four pilot states: Arizona, California, Mississippi, and Wisconsin. Together, they will test new models to support legal aid and government programs for low-income and underserved populations, and then share the findings in a toolkit and via webinars. Policymakers at all levels of government will be able to learn from these experiences.

**Thank you to the [Open Society Foundations](#) and [Public Welfare Foundation](#) for supporting [The Justice in Government Project](#), and key partners including the [National Legal Aid & Defender Association](#) and the California, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Mississippi Access to Justice Commissions.**

For more information, [visit our website](#) and contact [Karen Lash](#) ([klash@american.edu](mailto:klash@american.edu)) and [Loralys McDaniel](#) ([loralys.mcdaniel@student.american.edu](mailto:loralys.mcdaniel@student.american.edu)).

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## National Association for Court Management Annual Conference

On Tuesday, July 11, [Jon Rapping of Gideon's Promise](#) delivered an inspiring plenary to a packed house at the National Association for Court Management's annual conference in Washington, DC entitled, The Power of Culture: Working Together to Achieve Justice. If you missed it, you can catch the recording [here](#).

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## National Forum on Criminal Justice

Genevieve Citrin Ray, Senior Program Associate at the Justice Programs Office at American University, will be presenting on behalf of the Right to Counsel National Campaign at the National Forum on Criminal Justice in Long Beach, California. Other panelists include Maha Jweid, Acting Director, Access to Justice, and David Carroll, Executive Director, 6th Amendment Center. Their session will focus on the Justice for All

Act of 2016, and the funding made available to support Sixth Amendment Rights and specifically the Right the Counsel. The panel will discuss the various roles and partnerships that can be developed, the resources that will be made available through training and technical assistance, and engage the audience to identify areas that should be explored in upcoming years. If you are attending this conference, be sure to stop by this session on Tuesday, August 1 at 9:15-10:15 am.

## Violent Crime Reduction Strategic Development State and Local Government Working Group Meeting

On August 2, 2017, staff from the Justice Programs Office (JPO), in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), the National Governors Association (NGA), and the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center will host a working group meeting with key state leaders, policymakers, and local stakeholders representing nine states and ten cities participating in the U.S. Department of Justice's, [National Public Safety Partnership \(PSP\)](#) in Long Beach, California. This partnership focuses on violent crime reduction strategies with state and local jurisdictions. This working group meeting will provide an opportunity for participants to share current crime reduction strategies and explore opportunities to leverage and coordinate resources.

Following the daylong meeting, JPO will provide follow-up training and technical assistance to jurisdictions that signed up for this opportunity at the working group meeting. JPO staff and subject matter experts will conduct conference calls and site visits with strategic site liaisons, PSP team members, a representative from the state administering agency, criminal justice policy adviser from the Governor's Office, and a representative from corrections to check in on the progress sites are making in implementing their action plans devised from the working group meeting in Long Beach.

*The Justice Programs Office (JPO), under the School of Public Affairs at American University, is pleased to present its monthly newsletter. Our current initiatives include the National Drug Court Resource, Policy, and Evidence-Based Practice Center, the Right to Counsel (R2C) National Campaign, the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Initiative, and Training and Technical Assistance for State Administering Agencies. Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues and partners in the field. If you have been forwarded this email but would like to receive it directly, email [justice@american.edu](mailto:justice@american.edu).*

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