

JPO Newsletter

Welcome to JPO Monthly!

Preeti Menon, JPO Interim Director

American University's Justice Programs Office (JPO) is pleased to present its first monthly newsletter. Each month, we will send you valuable information on our current work such as that with the Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance projects, the Right to Counsel (R2C) National Campaign, and Training and Technical Assistance for State Administering Agencies. We will also keep you informed of justice-related AU-sponsored projects and events. Our newsletter will include sections on project-specific information, upcoming events, including webinars, and JPO on social media. Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues and partners in the field, and feel free to contact me directly if you have any comments, questions or concerns.

Veteran Treatment Courts Update – VTC Survey Report

Monica Fuhrmann, Research Associate

As part of the services provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Adult Drug Court Technical Assistance Project at American University, a special initiative has been launched to provide focused technical assistance services to Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) in addition to the general technical assistance services provided to all adult drug courts and other problem solving courts. To provide a framework for developing the parameters of the services that would be most useful to the field, as well as developing a snapshot of the range of policies, practices and services reflected in VTC programs presently operating, JPO distributed an "Information Inquiry" in March 2015. We will release a comprehensive report, complete with the survey results and information from our technical assistance experience, in mid-September.

JPO is on social media!

*Kelsey Murphy,
Administrative Assistant*

Like us on Facebook at [Justice Programs Office](#) for exclusive content, such as #MeetTeamJPO Mondays, news articles, innovations and more. Want up to date information on criminal justice reform as its happening? Follow us on Twitter: [@AU_JPO](#) as we live-tweet conferences we attend and update you with the latest news in Drug Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, SAAs, and the Right to Counsel.

Right to Counsel Update – Defender Research Consortium

Genevieve Citrin, Senior Research Associate

On July 26 and July 27, 2016, JPO attended the second Defender Research Consortium (DRC) in Detroit, Michigan sponsored by the [National Legal Aid and Defender Association](#) and the [Open Society Foundations](#). Researchers, policy-makers, paralegals, and defenders attended the DRC to discuss indigent defense quality indicators. The meeting began with a recap of the first DRC, which was held in Baltimore, Maryland in the winter of 2015, and with an overview of two sets of quality indicators used in jurisdictions in North Carolina and Texas, respectively. The group then embarked in a two-day, in depth discussion on whether it was possible to set national quality indicators and if so, what they would look like using the framework of the [ABA Ten Principles of A Public Defense Delivery System](#). While consensus was not reached about what the indicators should look like, it was agreed that quality indicators should be identified and utilized in indigent defense delivery systems, and all participants verbally announced their commitment to working together to establish these indicators.

NADCP Annual Conference

Tracy Velázquez, Associate Director

What have we learned from the first eight years of Veterans Treatment Courts? What constitutes judicial leadership in drug courts? How do you deal with challenging cases in your treatment court? As part of our work for the Adult Drug Court Technical Assistance Project funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, JPO staff and consultants answered these and other questions at the four presentations the office organized for the 2016 National Drug Court and Justice for Vets combined conference in Anaheim, California in June. Hosted by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the event brought together thousands of treatment professionals, program coordinators, and members of the bench and bar from around the country to discuss state-of-the-art policies and practices in treatment courts. JPO also coordinated an information table at the conference where attendees could get onsite technical assistance from our expert consultants, meet the JPO staff, and pick up resources such as our three new Fact Sheets, [Veterans Treatment Courts](#), [Management Information Systems](#), and [The Role of Defense Counsel in Drug Courts](#). The slides from JPO's presentations are available in our online resource library [here](#). This fall, JPO staff and consultants will present at several statewide and tribal drug court conferences. If you are interested in having our office present at your next meeting, contact Associate Director Tracy Velázquez at tracyv@american.edu.

JPO Consultants present at NADCP



State Administering Agencies Update – Issue Briefs

Kevin Stewart, Research Associate

JPO's State Administering Agencies (SAA) project, supported by a grant from BJA, provides training and technical assistance to SAAs. In collaboration with our national partners, JPO is developing a series of issue briefs that will focus on a wide range of justice system issues of import to SAAs. National partners include the [American Society for Addiction Medicine \(ASAM\)](#), [American Probation and Parole Association \(APPA\)](#), [Association of Prosecuting Attorneys \(APA\)](#), [National Association for Court Management \(NACM\)](#), [National Sheriffs Association \(NSA\)](#), [National Legal Aid and Defender Association \(NLADA\)](#), [Police Foundation](#), and the [Tribal Law and Policy Institute \(TLPI\)](#). Issue briefs will be made available on the JPO website once they are finalized.

Drug Court Technical Assistance Update – Site Visits

Steve Collins, Senior Research Associate

Over the past few weeks, JPO staff have been hard at work preparing for the FY 2015 BJA Grantee site visits that are to take place between August and October of this year. We are making a number of changes in how we deliver this technical assistance, compared to past years. Beginning in October, we will strive to include a JPO staff member on every site visit that is conducted. We hope doing so will improve coordination while on-site, while also strengthening the link between observations made on-site and the recommendations made in the subsequent site visit Memorandum.

Upcoming August Site Visits

- [Cobb County, Georgia](#)
- [Le Sueur County, Minnesota](#)
- [Beaverhead County, Montana](#)
- [Pulaski County, Virginia](#)
- [Christian County, Kentucky](#)

JPO staff have also been working to update the questionnaire we ask grantees to answer prior to their site visit and the information/questions given to consultants to complete after the conclusion of the site visit. We expect to have these documents revised in time to discuss on our JPO Consultant Training webinar on August 10th. If you are a current consultant, you should have already received information on this webinar, and we hope you are able to join us! If you

are not currently a consultant for us but may be interested in becoming one, send us an e-mail at justice@american.edu and we will send you information on how to become one of our experts.

Contact Us!

4400 Massachusetts Ave NW
Brandywine 100
Washington, DC 20016-8159

www.american.edu/justice
justice@american.edu

Facebook: @aujpo
Twitter: @AU_jpo