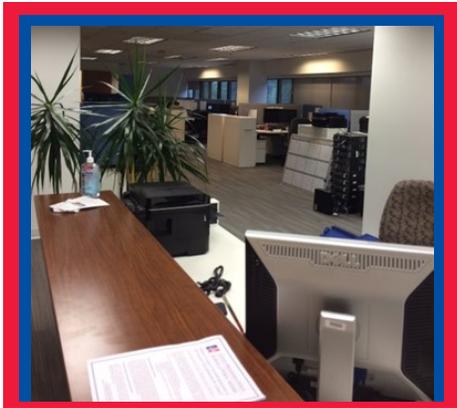


JPO Monthly

Welcome to JPO Monthly!

American University, School of Public Affairs, Justice Programs Office (JPO) is pleased to present its second monthly newsletter. Each month, we will send you valuable information on our current initiatives such as the Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court Technical Assistance projects, the Right to Counsel (R2C) National Campaign, and Training and Technical Assistance for State Administering Agencies. Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues and partners in the field, and if you have been forwarded this email but would like to receive it directly, email justice@american.edu.



We've Moved!

As part of a broader American University initiative, JPO moved to the Spring Valley building in August. The physical address is 4801 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 508, Washington, DC 20016. The building formerly housed the Washington College of Law. While the office still is a “work in progress,” JPO hopes to have an open house later this fall.

JPO Staff Changes

JPO is pleased to announce the hiring of two new program assistants, Blaine Stum and Anna Koozmin. Blaine is currently working towards his master's degree in Political Science here at American University; and Anna recently graduated from the University of Maryland. Both bring significant experience in issues related to the justice system and substance abuse. We are also pleased to announce that Kierra Zoellick has transitioned from the Office Coordinator position into a Program Associate. All three will be primarily working on the Drug Court Technical Assistance Project.

JPO is also fortunate to have a graduate assistant, Jessica Cobian, for the fall semester. Jessica is pursuing her master's degree in public policy at American University School of Public Affairs (SPA) and will be working on a variety of projects, including organizing a meeting with representatives of the Buenos Aires Magistrates Council later this fall.



Anna Koozmin and Blaine Stum

Right to Counsel National Initiative

Our next Right to Counsel Quarterly Webinar will be on Thursday, September 8th at 2 PM EST. The webinar will focus on a variety of ways to create policy and systemic change when working towards improving state and local public defense delivery systems. Topics will include an update on federal legislation and national reform efforts by Madhu Grewal, The Constitution Project; discussion about how indigent defense research can impact change and be combined with other strategies to push for reform by Andy Davies, New York Office of Indigent Legal Services; and a presentation on how community organizations can aid indigent defense advocacy efforts by Allison Gibbs, Just City. To attend this webinar, please register here: <https://bj-a-au.webex.com/bj-a-au/onstage/g.php?MTID=ef2543e0e9de70d467fd62fffb65dfe34>

Please contact Genevieve Citrin at citrin@american.edu if you have any questions. We hope you will be able to attend!



Missouri State Public Defender Director Pushes Public Defense Funding Into National Spotlight

On August 2, 2016, Missouri State Public Defender (MSPD) Director Michael Barrett assigned Missouri Governor Jay Nixon to be the appointed counsel in a criminal case. While a judge ruled on August 25, 2016 that only the court can assign cases, the original assignment has attracted national attention. What prompted this unusual action? To learn more, go to the full article on the Right to Counsel website, <http://www.rtcnationalcampaign.org/spotlight-missouri>

MSPD Director, Michael Barrett

State Administering Agencies Update

JPO staff attended the National Criminal Justice Association’s annual conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Held August 6 – 9, the focus of the conference was on Integrating Policy, Research and Technology to Improve Public Safety. Topics included law enforcement assisted diversion to implementing evidence-based practices, strategies for combatting the opioid epidemic, jail diversion for those suffering from mental illnesses, juvenile justice initiatives, and using risk assessments. While at the conference, JPO staff also hosted a breakfast table and engaged conference attendees in discussions on the Right to Counsel Initiative.

Drug Court Technical Assistance Project Update—Site Visits and Webinars

Upcoming September Site Visits

- Pulaski County, Virginia
- Valley County, Montana
- Bernalillo County, New Mexico
- Fairfax County, Virginia
- St. Joseph’s County, Michigan
- Mono County, California

JPO is also planning the fall webinar schedule. As dates and times are confirmed, we will post these onto the Rural Drug Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and general Drug Court listservs. If you would like to receive information as the final programs are announced (or would like to join one of these listservs), please email justice@american.edu. The planned topics are:

1. Creating & Maintaining a Trauma-Informed Problem Solving Court. October 5th, 1 p.m. EST
2. Treatment Court Sustainability: Should we start a 501(c)(3) nonprofit?
3. The Role of the Prosecutor in a Problem Solving Court.
4. Data Driven Drug Courts: Risk & Need Assessments.
5. Emerging issues in Treatment Courts: Synthetic Drugs.
6. Veterans Court: The Role of the VJO.

Contact Us!

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