



## JPO Welcomes New Staff Members



**Zoë Root** joined JPO as a Senior Policy Counsel in January 2017 from the Bronx Public Defenders Office. There, Zoë served as a staff and supervising attorney for five years. One of her focuses as a public defender was working as the project director for The Bronx Defenders' Prostitution Conviction Vacature Project. She also served as the lead staff attorney in the Human Trafficking Intervention Court, representing people charged with prostitution-related offenses. Zoë is most looking forward to the exciting and collaborative work environment at JPO and helping to expand the team's focus on indigent defense. Zoë received her bachelor's degree from Vassar College and a law degree from Northeastern University. Something fun about Zoë: she worked as a scuba diving instructor in Honduras for 9 months.



**Alexandra Dvorientchikova** joined JPO as the Office Coordinator in December 2016. She was a member of Florida International University's Class of 2011, graduating with a Bachelor's in International Relations. In 2014, she went on to get her Masters in Asian Studies with a concentration in identity and security. She worked in the national security sector in Miami, FL prior to moving to D.C. She is most excited to help JPO succeed in its endeavors in the upcoming year as it embarks on working on new initiatives, such as Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts Training and Technical Assistance and the Adult Drug Court Resource Center. Alex has lived in six countries: Russia, Brazil, India, Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States and speaks four languages: Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and English.

## The National Drug Court Resource, Policy, and Evidence-Based Practice Center

Since being awarded this grant by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, staff at JPO have been working closely with web developers to create a new web-based **National Drug Court Resource, Policy, and Evidence-Based Practice Center**. In the meantime, you may still receive updates on events, such as webinars, trainings, conferences, and resources by going to the current [National Drug Court Resource Center](#). The new website will feature a myriad of drug court resources including recent evidence-based findings, training and technical assistance opportunities, publications, webinars, an event calendar, and a searchable online drug court map. The Resource Center will continually update the field on the latest research on best practices in all drug court types. It will produce publications and multi-media resources and disseminate and promote uptake of evidence-based practices in the drug court field. This month, JPO will begin conducting the **Annual Drug Court Survey**, previously conducted by the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI) under the name *Painting the Current Picture*, in an effort to learn more about the populations drug courts are serving, the services that are being provided to participants of drug court programs, and the current state of drug court operations, policies, and practices.

To subscribe to the **National Drug Court Resource Center Newsletter**, please [enter your information here](#).

## Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Project

The Juvenile Drug Treatment Court (JDTC) team at JPO recently met with the training team from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) to review the new [Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines](#) established by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). This collaborative also plans to meet with OJJDP to discuss the foundation of the new guidelines, establish priorities for topic areas, and examine practical application of the guidelines. The JDTC team is working with web developers to create a website where practitioners will be able to access resources, participate in online communities by profession for peer support, request technical assistance, and keep up with current events related to the field of juvenile drug treatment courts.

*Stay tuned for updates on the State Administering Agencies and the Right to Counsel National Campaign in our March newsletter!*

*The Justice Programs Office (JPO), under the School of Public Affairs at American University, is pleased to present its monthly newsletter. Each month, we will send you valuable information on our current initiatives: 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 Project, 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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