Collaborating to Improve Justice System Outcomes

The Justice Programs Office (JPO), a center in the School of Public Affairs at American University, has provided expertise to the justice community for almost 30 years.

JPO’s work has led to fairer and more effective justice systems through the provision of training and technical assistance, the development and dissemination of research, and the advancement of evidence-based policies and practices.

Our staff and faculty have deep experience working for and with local, state, federal, tribal, and international policymakers and criminal justice stakeholders.

Unique in the justice policy space, JPO leverages the resources of American University, which is home to leading scholars in public policy, public administration, criminology, law and society, organizational development, political science, and other complex fields.

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Justice Programs Office at American University

FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE TO POLICY AND BACK AGAIN

Director, Kim Ball
Academic Research Together with Practitioner Expertise

JPO provides research, technical assistance, training, program evaluation, and capacity-building services to jurisdictions, organizations, and government agencies throughout the United States and internationally.

Our projects address justice system issues related to policy, program effectiveness, communications, and operations.

Recognizing the value of collaboration, JPO often partners with other organizations in order to provide the most comprehensive services to our clients.

Selected Projects

National Drug Court Resource Center

Equip drug court practitioners with a myriad of drug court resources, including evidence-based practices, publications, webinars, and a searchable online drug court map.

Right to Counsel National Campaign

Lead and coordinate a national awareness campaign to inform and engage policymakers, criminal justice stakeholders, and the public on the importance of meaningfully carrying out the Sixth Amendment right to counsel and the effective delivery of public defense services.

The Justice in Government Project

Provide strategic guidance to state and local officials seeking to leverage civil legal aid to achieve their policy and programmatic goals and ensure the maximum benefit from dollars spent on low and moderate-income people and communities.

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance Initiative

Provide training and technical assistance to juvenile drug treatment courts across the nation and address their needs from behavioral health and program practices perspectives.

Improving Outcomes for Individuals and Their Communities

JPO embodies the importance of improving both fairness and efficacy in justice responses.

With a core professional staff, a large cadre of faculty, and the resources and integrity of a research university, JPO is uniquely positioned to provide the high-quality research, evaluation, technical assistance, training, and analysis needed to ensure the systems we rely on for justice are fair, effective, and driven by data.