The Justice Programs Office (JPO), a center in the School of Public Affairs at American University, uses translational research, innovative solutions, and collaboration to advance an equitable justice system that promotes human dignity and respect. Since 1989, we have worked to ensure the fair administration of justice in criminal and civil legal matters, focusing especially on issues related to drug misuse, juvenile crimes, military veterans, problem-solving courts, racial and ethnic disparities, criminal justice reform, and the Sixth Amendment right to counsel.

Our staff and consultants have deep experience working for and with local, state, federal, and tribal policymakers. We connect directly with justice professionals by providing training and technical assistance, developing and disseminating research, and advancing evidence-based policies and practices.

JPO maintains a portfolio of multi-year projects, as well as smaller, short-term engagements, where our expertise can be of significant benefit. Recognizing the value of collaboration, we often partner with other organizations to provide the most comprehensive services to the field.
Current initiatives include:

**National Drug Court Resource, Policy and Evidence-Based Practice Center**
We manage the nation’s leading resource for treatment court practitioners. This hub of tools and information to help drug courts run more effectively features a searchable online drug court map, sample operational forms, state legislation tracking, a podcast, opioid use disorder resources, and more.

**Right to Counsel National Campaign**
We lead 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**
We 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 Courts Training and Technical Assistance Initiative**
As one of the leading federal training and technical assistance providers in the country, we work with juvenile drug treatment courts across the nation and help them apply evidenced-based practices in their programs to improve outcomes for the youth they serve.