



JUSTICE PROGRAMS OFFICE

SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS

April 2017



Kim Ball, Director of the Justice Programs Office (JPO) at American University, Glenn E. Martin, President and Founder of [JustLeadershipUSA](#), and Genevieve Citrin Ray, Senior Program Associate at JPO, at Maintaining Momentum: Redefining the Purpose of Incarceration in the Conversations about Criminal Justice Reform.

Maintaining Momentum

On March 30th, the Justice Programs Office (JPO), along with the School of Public Affairs (SPA) at American University and SPA's Department of Justice, Law, and Criminology, hosted Maintaining Momentum: Redefining the Purpose of Incarceration in the Conversations about Criminal Justice Reform. This event, which drew a crowd of approximately 70 students, professors, policymakers, and practitioners, along with 200 viewers watching on the livestream, focused on the purpose of incarceration and how decisions made at each point in the criminal justice system impact mass incarceration.

The day kicked off with introductions by Dr. Barbara Romzek, Dean of SPA, and Kim A. Ball, Director of JPO, and a captivating keynote presentation delivered by Glenn E. Martin, President and Founder of [JustLeadership USA](#), who discussed his personal experiences as a formerly incarcerated individual and is dedicated to criminal justice reform. He urged the audience to remember the humanity of those incarcerated and consider the individual needs of those in the system. This plea for humanizing those caught in the system was echoed throughout the day.

The energy in the room continued as the audience heard from experts in police and community relations, pretrial release and diversion, defense and prosecution, and sentencing, prison, and reentry. Each panel discussion focused on the criminal justice system as a continuum and how they can use their discretion to divert someone's further involvement in the criminal justice system, offering an array of tools that can be used to solve mass incarceration. Within this context, panelists continually emphasized the importance of rethinking the reasons why we incarcerate people, considering how to use discretion at each point in the system, remembering human dignity, and taking the time to understand incarcerated individuals independent of how they are labeled in the system.

Panels highlighted concepts and programs across the country, such as [Seattle Police Department's SAFEPLACE](#), the [Brooklyn Justice Initiatives from the Center for Court Innovation](#), and the [Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia](#), known for their collaboration and innovation. Additionally, examples of strategic partnerships and bipartisan efforts at the state level, such as in Texas, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, highlighted the wide support for criminal justice reform and the bandwidth for achieving it.

As Kim A. Ball stated in her final thoughts, this event helped start an important discussion regarding the purpose of incarceration in today's justice system and the role we all play in its change. While this summit sparked the conversation, the conversation must continue in order to create real, sustainable criminal justice reform. To continue the conversation, follow [#AUredefine on Twitter](#).

Solicitation Announcement for Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts

Under the U.S. Department of Justice, the [Office of Juvenile Justice Prevention](#) (OJJDP) is seeking applications for funding under the fiscal year 2017 Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program. This program furthers the Department's mission by supporting juvenile drug treatment courts in aligning their practices with the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines and implementing those practices for youth with substance use disorders who come in contact with the court. The [Justice Programs Office at American University](#) and the [National Association of Drug Court Professionals](#) are expected to provide the training and technical assistance for the selected grantees. Applications are due May 2, 2017. For more information, see the [full solicitation](#).

New Report Reveals Need to Educate Americans on Right to Counsel

The right to an attorney in a criminal case hails from the United States Constitution; however, according to a new report, "[Americans' Views on Public Defenders and the Right to Counsel](#)," this is not a wide known fact. Released on March 16, 2017 by the Right to Counsel National Campaign at American University's School of Public Affairs, the report outlines the results of a year-long opinion study focused on how well Americans

understand public defense and their right to counsel. You can read and download a copy of the report for yourself [here](#).

Click [here](#) to view the R2C webinar discussing the release of the report, and click [here](#) to watch a Facebook Live Q&A on the report.

SAA Practice and Research Briefs

As part of the Bureau of Justice Assistance State Administering Agencies Technical Assistance Project, JPO is pleased to release a series, Research and Practice Briefs. By partnering with national stakeholder organizations, these briefs are meant to provide state administering agencies (SAAs) and state and local policymakers with key information about critical issues with which these organizations' respective constituencies are grappling, relevant evidence based and other promising strategies being utilized, and commentary regarding the nuances of these issues and application of promising strategies in different local contexts within a state as well as make known to their constituencies the role of the SAAs in their respective states. Please read below to find out what issues the following stakeholder organizations face.

- [National Legal Aid and Defender Association: Prioritizing Indigent Defense](#)
 - [Tribal Law and Policy Institute: Issues Affecting Tribal Communities](#)
 - [Police Foundation: Using Data-driven, Evidence-based Approaches to Solving Crime Problems](#)
-

The Justice Programs Office (JPO), under the School of Public Affairs at American University, is pleased to present its monthly newsletter. Our current initiatives include 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 Initiative, 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.

Visit our website

Justice Programs Office | 4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 508, Washington, DC 20016

Sent by justice@american.edu in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today