

## PURPOSE

The Justice Programs Office (JPO) of the School of Public Affairs (SPA) at American University was established in 1989 to carry out SPA's mission to apply the tools of scholarship and professionalism to the design, management and evaluation of public programs. Since its establishment, the JPO has been providing technical assistance, research, training, and program evaluation services to government agencies and organizations throughout the U.S. and internationally to promote the application of relevant professional standards of practice to the operation of justice system and related agencies. Projects address policy, program, resource, and operational issues relating to the administration of justice, coordination of public programs, and the delivery of justice system and associated public health, social and related services.

## CAPABILITY

The SPA Justice Programs Office has a core interdisciplinary team of faculty, staff and Senior Fellows, augmented by senior practitioner-experts from throughout the U.S., who serve in a consultant capacity. This cadre is supplemented by American University faculty in the fields of law, public affairs, international service, economics, business administration, and the social and behavioral sciences. The Justice Programs Office has access to all of the unique domestic and international information resources in the Washington, D.C. area and the on-campus and off-campus training, research, IT, and distance learning facilities of American University.

## COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

The Justice Programs Office maintains collaborative relationships with most of the U.S.-based national organizations and associations representing the legal, law enforcement, corrections, prosecution, defense, and judicial professions. All projects are undertaken with reference to relevant operational and ethical standards of performance.

## RANGE OF SERVICES

- Short- and long-term technical assistance to government and community agencies
- On-site problem definition analysis
- Documentation of existing policies, resources, operations, and procedures
- Evaluation of public programs
- Training and other professional development services
- Security audits of justice system facilities
- Planning and implementation assistance for a wide range of justice system improvement initiatives, including
  - Expanded pre-trial release and diversion programs
  - Drug treatment court and other problem-solving court programs to promote recovery and reduce recidivism\*\*
  - Management and Delivery of Indigent Defense Services

- Training programs for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement, public health, and general government elected officials

## EXPERIENCE

The Justice Programs Office has conducted over 2,000 technical assistance, research, training, and/or evaluation projects for:

### Federal Agencies

- National technical assistance and training programs in a wide range of areas to support state and local justice system improvement, including:
  - Design and expansion of drug treatment courts
  - Improvement in the management and operation of the criminal and civil case process
  - Development and implementation of pretrial and sentencing alternatives
- Assessment of national drug abuse control strategies
- Federal/state relations regarding:
  - Justice system resource allocation and
  - Cooperative law enforcement and prosecution efforts

### State and Local Governments and Other Organizations

- Improvements in criminal and civil judicial process and dispute resolution alternatives
- Efficient utilization of justice system, public health, and human services resources
- Formulation of orderly systemic processes for policy and programmatic change
- Improvements in interagency coordination and community relationships
- Training programs for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement, public health, and general government and elected officials
- Planning and assessment of correctional options/intermediate sanctions programs
- Planning and implementation of drug court and other problem solving court programs
- Facility planning and security audits

### International Organizations and Agencies

- U.S. justice system seminars for official foreign visitors to the U.S.
- Crisis management training for foreign delegations sponsored by the U.S. State Department
- Comparative justice system analyses and documentation
- International seminars, workshops and conferences and interactive web meetings on issues of current or/and emerging interest
- Information system planning and technology transfer

- MOU's for joint research, educational, and publications efforts with the Organization of American States and the Buenos Aires Magistrates Council



## SPECIAL STRENGTHS

- Multi-disciplinary approach to all undertakings
- Promotion of interagency communication and coordination
- Institutional independence and objectivity in problem analysis
- Incorporation of the most qualified academic and practitioner expertise for each project
- Emphasis on cost-effective, evidence-based, policy focused, pragmatic solutions to justice system issues
- Multi-lingual core staff

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Beginning in 2011, the School of Public Affairs, through the Justice Programs Office, has been offering a one week 30-hour certificate program on justice administration issues, customized as to subject concentration, for groups of 15-25 senior professionals from domestic and foreign justice systems. Simultaneous translation services are available for non-English speaking participants. Courses include: Principles of Jurisprudence and Justice System Administration; Alternative Dispute Resolution Strategies; Incorporating Public Health Services within Justice System Processes; Leadership Development; Critical Management Skills; and Technology Applications to the Justice System. Inquiries regarding the Certificate Program should be directed to:justice@american.edu.

## REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

**Alternatives to Conventional Adjudication: Monograph**  
Sponsor: National Institute of Justice

**Assessment of the Attorney Grievance System**  
Client: Michigan Supreme Court

**Assessment of Felony Case Process and Its Impact on Jail Overcrowding**  
Client: Cook County Illinois Board of Commissioners

**City-County Justice System Evaluation**  
Client: City of Charlotte and County of Mecklenburg, North Carolina

**Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project**  
Client: U.S. Department of Justice

**Design of a Drug Court Program for Bermuda**

Client: Government of Bermuda

**Development of National Standards for Judicial Education**

Client: National Association of State Judicial Educators

**Drug Courts Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project**

Client: U.S. Department of Justice

**Evaluation of Assigned Counsel Training**

Client: New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department

**The Image of Justice - Facility Planning for Courts: Monograph**

Clients: U.S. Department of Justice

**International Experience with Drug Treatment Courts**

Client: Organization of American States (OAS)

**International Symposium on Justice System Reform Issues: Intermediate Sanctions, Victim Assistance, Treatment of the Offender**

Sponsor: The King Baudouin Foundation  
Brussels, Belgium

**Justice System Administration and Leadership Certificate Program**

Client: Fulbright Commission of Argentina

**Management Audit of the Judicial System**

Client: Mayor's Office, Philadelphia, PA

**Management Review of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office**

Client: Prosecuting Attorney, Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Policy Review of Federal Support to the State Courts**

Client: U.S. Department of Justice

**Public Defender Services Organization and Management**

Client: Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office

**Review of Jail Facility Needs Projections in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, Minnesota**

Client: Minnesota House of Representatives

**Right to Counsel: Assessment and Technical Assistance Project**

Client: U.S. Department of Justice

**Statewide Operational and Security Audit of Court Facilities**

Client: Kentucky Supreme Court

**Task Force Report of the President's Commission on Terrorism and Civil Disorders**

Client: U.S. Presidential Commission

**Trial Court Management Series: Financial, Personnel and Records Management- Manuals and Training Video**

Sponsor: National Institute of Justice

**U.S.-Based Training of Management Staff of the Office of the Public Defender**

Client: Ministry of Justice, Israel

**Workshop on Judicial Systems Strategies for Drug Cases**

Client: Republic of Ireland Supreme Court



**SENIOR FELLOWS**

**James Bueermann**

*President, Police Foundation*

**Hon. Legrome D. Davis**

*Judge, U.S. District Court, Philadelphia, PA*

**Hon. Joseph Flies-Away**

*Hualapai Tribal Nation, Peach Springs, AZ*

**Peter French, MA CF FRSA FSyI**

*United Kingdom (Senior Law Enf. - Retired)*

**Hon. Dennis Fuchs (Ret.)**

*Sr. Judge, Salt Lake County District Court,*

**Pamela Q. Harris**

*State Court Administrator, Maryland Court of Appeals*

**Hon. Jamey H. Hueston**

*Judge, Maryland District Court for Baltimore City and Founding Member/First Chair, Maryland Problem Solving Courts Commission*

**David Mee-Lee, M.D.**

*American Society of Addiction Medicine*

**David Owens**

*Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (Ret.)*

**Lawrence Siegel, M.E.E.**

*Private Consultant, Facilities Planning and Security*

**Hon. Andrew Sonner**

*Sr. Judge, Maryland Court of Appeals, Montgomery Co., MD*

**James Summey**

*President, West End Ministries and Executive Director, High Point Community Against Violence, High Point, N.C*

**Hon. Ronald Taylor**

*Sr. Judge, Berrien County Circuit Court, St. Joseph, MI*



**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, DC

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**JUSTICE PROGRAMS OFFICE**

**American University**

Brandywine Building, Suite 100  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC20016-8159

**Caroline S. Cooper, M.A., J.D.**

**Director**

*Research Professor*

*Department of Justice, Law and Criminology*

**Preeti Puri Menon, M.A.**

**Senior Policy Associate**

**VISITING SCHOLAR**

[TEMPORARILY VACANT]

**TEL: (202) 885-2875**

**FAX: (202) 885-2885**

**E-mail:** justice@american.edu

**Website:** www.american.edu/spa/jpo

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Cornelius M. Kerwin, President

Dr. Scott Bass, Provost

Dr. Barbara S. Romzek, Dean,

School of Public Affairs