

# JUSTICE RESEARCH AND STATISTICS ASSOCIATION

## 2011 STUDENT PAPER CONTEST

JRSA invites submissions for the 2011 Student Paper Contest for graduate students in fields related to criminal or juvenile justice. The winner will receive a commemorative plaque stating his or her accomplishment and a complimentary one-year subscription to JRSA's peer-reviewed journal, *Justice Research and Policy*. In addition, a summary of the winning paper will be published in JRSA's quarterly newsletter, the *JRSA Forum*.

### Entry Criteria

- To be eligible, an entrant must be a graduate student in an accredited university program in the United States at the time the paper is submitted.
- Work submitted must be applied research that was conducted during 2010 and/or 2011 toward fulfillment of a graduate degree. Only one entry per student is allowed.
- The research must fall within a justice area such as corrections, courts, sentencing, civil justice, cybercrime, computer crime, terrorism, reentry, domestic violence, juvenile justice, drug use, victimization, or law enforcement.
- The paper must not have been published in a professional journal prior to August 1, 2011, the date the winner is announced.
- The winner must agree to prepare a four- to five-page summary of the paper for publication in JRSA's newsletter, the *JRSA Forum*.

### Entry Guidelines

- A letter of intent to submit a paper, including the paper's title and abstract, must be submitted by **Friday, April 1**, to [studentcontest@jrsa.org](mailto:studentcontest@jrsa.org).
- Papers must be submitted electronically **by 5:00 p.m. eastern time on Tuesday, May 31**, to [studentcontest@jrsa.org](mailto:studentcontest@jrsa.org).
- Papers must not exceed 25 double-spaced pages in 12-pt. font, exclusive of references and appendices.
- The paper must include standard elements of a research paper, including an abstract (150–200 words), introduction, literature review, methodology and analysis section, findings, and discussion.
- The cover page must include: the author's name (if there are multiple authors, all must be graduate students, only one may enter the contest, and that name must be clearly identified); contact information, including email address; the name of the graduate school; the time period during which the research was carried out; and the date the paper was completed.

### Judging

Submissions will be rated by an independent panel of reviewers. Determination of the winner will be made by JRSA and announced in August. JRSA reserves the right not to award a prize if no entry is deemed qualified. All decisions will be considered final. See judging criteria below.

Staff of JRSA and the state Statistical Analysis Centers are ineligible to apply. Questions should be directed to [studentcontest@jrsa.org](mailto:studentcontest@jrsa.org).

The Justice Research and Statistics Association is a national nonprofit organization. For more information about JRSA, see our Web site at [www.jrsa.org](http://www.jrsa.org).

## **JRSA 2011 STUDENT PAPER CONTEST JUDGING CRITERIA**

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### **Literature Review**

Does student summarize relevant literature? Are all important references included? Does literature review provide justification for study?

### **Methodology and Analysis**

Are data appropriate to answer research questions? Are limitations of the data addressed? Is methodology sound? Is it appropriate for the data? Would different/additional analyses improve the study? Are findings presented clearly?

### **Findings and Discussion**

Are results of data analyses discussed clearly and thoroughly? Does discussion relate back to literature review and purpose of study? Are limitations of methodology addressed? Are directions for future research suggested?

### **Contribution to Literature**

Does the study address an important issue? Does it make a unique contribution to the literature in the substantive area?

### **Policy Relevance**

Is the topic relevant to current criminal justice or juvenile justice issues? Does the research have the potential to contribute to policy decisions at the local, state, or federal level?

### **Overall Content and Presentation**

Is the paper well written? Is it prepared in a professional manner?