

JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

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SAC News

Kansas Sentencing Commission Releases 2011 Annual Report

The Kansas Sentencing Commission, which houses the state's Statistical Analysis Center, released its *2011 Annual Report: Analysis of Sentencing in Kansas*. The report statistically analyzes sentencing practice and policies under Kansas Sentencing Guidelines, and summarizes key sentencing issues. During FY 2011, the Commission counted a total number of 14,003 felony sentences, an increase of 1.4% over FY 2010. Of the total number of sentences, 4,958 (35.4%) were prison sentences, 8,270 (59.1%) were probation sentences, and 775 (5.5%) were county jail sentences. Nondrug sentences represented 71.8% (10,059) of sentences and drug sentences accounted for 28.2% (3,944) of sentences.

National News

Laurie Robinson Named to Faculty at Virginia's George Mason University

Laurie Robinson, former Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice, will join the faculty of George Mason University faculty this fall as Clarence J. Robinson Professor of Criminology, Law and Society. She will teach courses related to criminology policy and practice, as well as government. She was named a senior fellow with the university's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy. At the Justice Department, Robinson oversaw a \$2.5 billion criminal justice assistance program for states and localities, as well as research and statistics on crime and justice. During two tenures at DOJ spanning 10 years, she led initiatives related to law enforcement, drug abuse, corrections, and evidence-based programming. Robinson formerly directed the University of Pennsylvania's Master of Science Program in Criminology, and served as a distinguished senior scholar in Penn's Jerry Lee Center of Criminology. She is not related to the late Clarence J. Robinson, a businessman and civic leader in Northern Virginia who funded the scholars program bearing his name.

Publications and Online Resources

NGA Explores Privacy Policies for State Justice Information Sharing Systems

The National Governors Association (NGA) released an issue brief in April on actions taken by states to create privacy policies within their justice information sharing systems, and provide accountability for potential misuse of the system. *A System of Trust: Privacy Policies for Justice Information Sharing*, is available at <http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/1204JUSTICESHARINGBRIEF.PDF>.

New Report Addresses Bridging the Divide Between State and Tribal Justice Systems

According to a new report from the Center for Court Innovation, state and tribal justice systems have taken steps toward shared authority to adjudicate legal matters. The paper, *State and Tribal Court: Strategies for Bridging the Divide*, describes the current landscape of collaboration between state and tribal justice systems, detailing the history, barriers to effective cooperation, and promising recent developments in the field. It also lists tools that state and tribal justice systems have used to work successfully together, including written agreements and tribal-state court forums and publications. The report is available at

<http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/documents/StateAndTribalCourts.pdf>.

New Report from the National Research Council Examines Deterrent Effects of Death Penalty

Does the death penalty have any deterrent effect on homicide rates? A new National Research Council report, *Deterrence and the Death Penalty*, assesses whether the available evidence provides a scientific basis for answering questions of if and how the death penalty affects homicide rates. This new report from the Committee on Law and Justice concludes that research to date on the effect of capital punishment on homicide rates is not useful in determining whether the death penalty increases, decreases, or has no effect on these rates. The report recommends new avenues of research that may provide broader insight into any deterrent effects from both capital and noncapital punishments. Information about the report is available at

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13363.

Report Examines Impact of Two Mental Health Courts on Recidivism

The National Institute of Justice released *Criminal Justice Interventions for Offenders with Mental Illness: Evaluation of Mental Health Courts in Bronx and Brooklyn*, which examines the impact of two New York City mental health courts on participant outcomes. Written by researchers at the Urban Institute, this study identifies characteristics of the Bronx and Brooklyn Mental Health Courts (MHCs) that may contribute to participants' criminal justice outcomes compared to those of other offenders with mental health disorders. The goal of the study is to determine if participation in mental health court reduces subsequent criminal justice involvement, namely, recidivism as measured by new arrests and new convictions. Findings indicate that mental health court participants are significantly less likely to recidivate, as compared to similar offenders with mental illness who experience business-as-usual court processing. For a copy of the report, go to

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/238264.pdf>. The executive summary is available at

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/238265.pdf>.

New Website Promotes Careers in Corrections

Recruiting and retaining qualified talent is one of the toughest challenges facing corrections agencies today. DiscoverCorrections.com is a new Web site established to overcome this challenge. Managed by the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) and funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, DiscoverCorrections.com is dedicated to promoting corrections careers. The Web site enables agencies to reach a local and national audience of informed, interested and qualified candidates; post jobs to a job board; search resumes of registered job seekers; and present candidates with detailed information about the agency. It is also a valuable career tool for students or experienced professionals who are interested in working in corrections. The site is a partnership between APPA, the American Correctional Association, American Jail Association, and Center for Innovative Public Policies.

Bulletin Discusses Child and Youth Victimization

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) violent crimes against juveniles are less likely to be known to authorities than are crimes against adults and they are particularly unlikely to be known to the police. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention released *Child and Youth Victimization Known to Police, School, and Medical Authorities*, which presents the results from OJJDP's National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence regarding authorities' knowledge of victimization incidents involving children and youth, specifically police, school, and medical authorities. The bulletin is available at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/235394.pdf>.

Conferences, Trainings, and Webinars

Webinar Addresses Best Practices for Taskforces

On May 16 at 3:00 p.m. EDT, the National Criminal Justice Association is holding a Webinar on *Establishing Taskforce Best Practices: Oversight and Standardization*, which will explore how two states leveraged existing law enforcement expertise to improve taskforce communication, command, and control structures, operational capacity, and investigative outcomes. The Webinar will focus on Minnesota's taskforce specific and statewide oversight bodies as well as Washington State's successful Taskforce Peer Review model. For more information or to register, go to <http://bit.ly/Irg024>.

NIJ 2012 Conference Agenda Now Online

The National Institute of Justice 2012 Conference, whose theme is *Turning to Science: Enhancing Justice, Improving Safety, Reducing Costs*, will be held in Arlington, Virginia, June 18-20. Stanford University Law Professor Joan Petersilia will provide the keynote address, and plenary sessions will focus on researcher-practitioner partnerships and *Using Science to Improve Officer Safety and Wellness*. Registration is free. For more information, go to http://www.nij.gov/events/nij_conference/welcome.htm.

Registration Open for NAJIS 2012 Conference

Registration is open for the 30th Annual Conference of the National Association for Justice Information Systems (NAJIS), which will be held October 9-12 in Portland, Maine. Conference agenda topics will include social networking and its value for the justice community, cloud computing for government, e-Filing, disaster recovery, mobile apps, and more. Information is available at <http://www.najis.org/>.