

# JRSA Electronic News

## A monthly briefing for members

October 20, 2011

### JRSA News

#### **SAC Directors Elect New JRSA Executive Board**

The new Executive Committee of the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) was announced at the annual business meeting of state Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) Directors, which was held yesterday. Because there was no annual JRSA conference this year, the meeting was held as a Webinar, and the election of officers was accomplished by mail-in ballots. The new officers are **Phillip Stevenson** (AZ), President; **Stephen Haas** (WV) Vice President; **Carmen Dorsey** (ME) Secretary/Treasurer; **Lisa Broidy** (NM) and **Lisa Shoaf** (OH), Delegates; and **Jackie Vandercook** (TN), Past President. David Olson, Professor, Criminal Justice Department, Loyola University Chicago, will serve as the delegate appointed by President Stevenson to represent non-SAC members.

#### **Statistical Analysis Centers Win Awards for Outstanding Publications and Website**

SACs in **Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, and Oregon** were awarded JRSA's Phillip Hoke Award for Excellence in Analysis. Awards are given in two categories: Statistical/ Management and Research/Policy Analysis. In the Statistical/Management category, Colorado won in the large SAC division for *Crime and Justice in Colorado: 2008-2010*, and Idaho won in the small SAC division for *2008 Idaho Crime Victimization Survey*. In the Research/Policy Analysis category, Illinois was the winner of the large SAC division for *Examining Illinois Probationer Characteristics and Outcomes*, and in the small SAC division, Oregon won for *Longitudinal Study of the Application of Measure 11 and Mandatory Minimums in Oregon*. Links to the winning publications are available on JRSA's Website at [www.jrsa.org](http://www.jrsa.org).

The **Illinois** SAC also received the 2011 **SAC Web Site Award**, which recognizes the Internet Web site or home page of a SAC that "exhibits excellence in the use of the Internet for information dissemination."

#### **SACs Recognized for Technical Innovation**

JRSA's Technical Innovation Recognition honors SACs that have implemented technology-related and other innovative projects that represent innovative approaches or advance the tools for policy analysis/decision making in the criminal justice field. This year three SAC projects were recognized: **Iowa's** Criminal Justice Information Sharing (CJIS) Initiative, which was selected for its incorporation of advanced technologies and justice system-wide impacts; **Toward Enhanced Information and Data Sharing in West Virginia**: Implementation of the LS/CMI Offender Assessment System, which stood out because of the SAC's leadership in the state's adoption of a uniform and system-wide approach to offender risk assessment by the courts, DOC, probation, and parole; and **Wyoming** for WyCST: Wyoming Court Supervised Treatment Information Management System, which was recognized for its user interface that opens with a dashboard providing an overview of trends and other aggregate case information which give indicators of performance and the drug court's system status.

## **National News**

*Information in this section is excerpted from October issues of the National Criminal Justice Association InfoLetter.*

### **FY12 CJS Bill on Senate Floor This Week**

The FY12 CJS appropriations bill is scheduled for debate on the Senate floor this week, October 17. Joined together in one legislative package with the transportation and agriculture appropriations bill, this “minibus” is meant to test whether the packaging together of a few bills can travel successfully through floor debate. Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) is expected to offer an amendment to increase funding for the COPS Hiring Program. An amendment offered by Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission Act (NCJCA) did not garner the 60 votes needed to pass.

### **House Judiciary Committee Postpones Mark-Up of Adam Walsh Reauthorization Bill**

The House Judiciary Committee had the Adam Walsh Act reauthorization bill on its mark-up agenda for the past two weeks, but debate on other bills delayed action. It is back on the agenda for the week of October 24 when the House returns from recess. Fifteen amendments have been introduced, most of which would give states, territories, and tribes additional flexibility to comply with various requirements of the act.

### **Criminal Justice Issues Crowd Supreme Court Docket this Term**

The United States Supreme Court has announced its docket for the 2011-2012 term and there are an unusually high percentage of cases that deal with criminal matters. Taken together these cases could have a major impact on the criminal justice system. The criminal cases will test 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment issues of unreasonable search and seizure and 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment guarantees of fair trial among other issues.

*Florence v. Board of Freeholders*, raises the question of jails conducting strip searches, without suspicion, of every individual arrested, even for minor offenses; *United States v. Jones* involves a warrantless high-tech tracking device used to monitor movement in public places; *Lafler v. Cooper* and *Missouri v. Frye* will focus on plea bargains; *Perry v. New Hampshire* on the use of eyewitness evidence and *Williams v. Illinois* will address the Confrontation Clause. Two additional cases will look at the rights of inmates on death row. In *Maple v. Thomas*, the court will consider whether a clerical error should prevent a death row inmate’s ability to appeal and *Smith v. Cain*, which looks at prosecutorial misconduct.

### **Anti-Trafficking Bill Passes Senate Committee**

Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee took up a bill that would the reauthorize federal programs intended to combat human trafficking and assist victims. The bill, [S. 1301](#), also adds several new requirements, including establishing programs with foreign governments to enhance anti-trafficking initiatives, requiring the State Department to focus on trafficking concerns in various regions of the world, and requiring the Labor Department to monitor and combat forced or child labor in the U.S. According to the committee, as many as 20,000 people are trafficked to the U.S. annually. A companion bill, [H.R. 2830](#), passed a House committee earlier this month.