Justice Research and Statistics Association

2020 SAC Publication Contest

Deadline: Friday, September 4, 2020

JRSA is pleased to sponsor the annual SAC Publication Contest for the Doug Yearwood Award to recognize outstanding efforts that inform justice policy. Awards are given in two categories: 1) statistical/management, and 2) research/policy analysis. Within each of the award categories, two SACs (one large and one small) will be recognized.

- SACs with four or fewer full-time equivalent staff classify as small;
- Those with five or more full-time equivalent staff are large.

Criminal justice experts familiar with the work of SACs will evaluate the contest entries. All publications, whether research reports, newsletters, or articles, qualify as long as they were published after June 18, 2019 (either in hard copy or online) and at least 50% of the work was conducted by SAC staff (e.g., writing, data collection, cleaning, and/or analysis). A SAC may enter only one publication in each category.

The 2020 Doug Yearwood National Publication Award winners will be announced at a virtual event in the late fall of 2020.

NOTE: 2019 winners are ineligible to compete in the same category for 2020. We will be reaching out to 2019 winners to confirm their willingness to serve as judges in that category for this year

Criteria

The judging criteria and their weights toward a total score of 100 are as follows:

Statistical/Management Reports

Reports in this category present statistical data that identify and describe one or more justice-related issues. This type of report usually includes tables and graphs, with some text that explains and summarizes the data depicted. The FBI’s Crime in the United States is an example of this kind of report as are most of the bulletins and reports produced by BJS. Submissions will be evaluated on the following components:

- effective and objective use of data to improve understanding of issues (10)
- clear and concise discussion of data elements and methods (10)
- accurate and objective interpretation of data (10)
- thorough discussion of data sources and limitations (10)
- effective use of graphics, design, and text to interpret data for non-technical audience (20)
- clear summary of relevant findings, results or highlights (20)
- writing is understandable (10)
- thorough and innovative presentation (10)

Research/Policy Analysis Reports

Reports in this category pose one or more specific research or evaluation questions and typically employ a specific research design to address the issues raised. They usually involve the collection and analysis of data (either quantitative or qualitative), summarize findings, and offer conclusions and recommendations. Examples of this type of report include most of the reports funded by the National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Assistance. Submissions will be evaluated on the following components:
• Soundness of Research/Analysis (40 points)
  o appropriateness of methods used, given topic, research question and data (10)
  o effective use of analytical methods (10)
  o soundness of research design (10)
  o comprehensive scope and innovativeness of research methods/design (10)

• Policy Impact/Implications (40 points)
  o thorough background on the literature, research or policies relevant to the topic (10)
  o clear conclusions and recommendations supported by findings (10)
  o potential influence and relevance for policy decisions (10)
  o comprehensiveness of research findings for use by policymakers (10)

• Presentation (20 points)
  o organization and flow (5)
  o clarity and conciseness (5)
  o effectiveness of visual presentation of information (5)
  o thoroughness and innovativeness of presentation (5)

Submitting a Publication

Please complete and submit the attached form and include a link to the publication.* If you are submitting a publication in both categories, make a separate copy of the form to submit with each submission; clearly indicate the category for each submission!

Winners of the publication contest this year will be ineligible to submit a report next year; however, they will be asked to serve as judges next year.

The deadline for submissions to be received at JRSA is Friday, September 4, 2020. If you have any questions, contact Brad Brick at (202)503-3525, or bbrick@jrsa.org.

Good luck!

* If this publication isn’t available on your website, we can upload it to ours where it will be accessible only to the judges. If it’s not available electronically, please send three copies to be forwarded to the judges.
**2020 SAC Publication Contest for the DOUG YEARWOOD AWARD**

**Entry Form**

When filling out this form, please include a link to the URL† of the publication being entered in the SAC Publication Contest (no more than one entry per category for each SAC). You may be asked to send a hard copy of the publication at a later date.

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<th>SAC Director:</th>
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<tr>
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**SAC Size:** When determining SAC size, include all professional and support staff.

- [ ] Small SAC (four or fewer staff, full-time equivalent)
- [ ] Large SAC (five or more staff, FTE’s)

**Additional Comments:**

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*Return to JRSA by*

e-mail to: bbrick@jrsa.org
Or mail to:
Publication Awards
Justice Research and Statistics Association
1000 Vermont Avenue NW
Suite 450
Washington, DC 20005

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