



# THE GRANT SAWYER CENTER FOR JUSTICE STUDIES

Spring 2001

Issue #14

## CENTER NEWS

### Death Penalty Moratorium Controversy

Data on the Bureau of Justice Statistics website from the *Supplementary Homicide Reports, Uniform Crime Reporting Program* (see <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/homtrnd.htm>), reveal that homicide trends have declined sharply since 1990, moving from a rate of 9.8 per 100,000 to 5.7 per 100,000 by 1999. This same site also displays a chart on national execution trends that reveals that thirteen percent fewer inmates were executed in 2000 than in 1999. Although these Bureau of Justice Statistics data on homicides and executions would suggest that homicide trends have decreased within the last decade, and that the mean number of 71 executions within the last five years (1995-2000) is lower than the actual number of executions for either 1999 (98) or 2000 (85) (data from *Capital Punishment, January 2001*, as cited by the Bureau of Justice Statistics Web Site- see <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance.htm>), cautious interpretation of these data is necessary. For example, the mean execution average for 1984-1994 is 21.4, suggesting that these numbers are actually rising. In addition, available data indicate that the death penalty is not a deterrent to murder. Other arguments against such executions include: racial and regional bias, cruel and unusual punishment, and the possibility of innocence. Death penalty abolitionist groups such as Citizens for a Moratorium on Federal Executions (CMFE) are lobbying for a nationwide moratorium on capital punishment until further study about the fairness of federal executions is conducted. There are currently 38 death penalty states. States such as Nevada, California, and Illinois are at the forefront of this controversy. For example, Nevada has recently killed SB 254, a bill that proposed a partial moratorium ([www.jgj.com](http://www.jgj.com), accessed 6/7/01), but the Assembly called for research on the death penalty in ACR 21.

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#### **Science-Related Resources on the Web**

The following national organizations provide science-related resources for the judiciary (e.g. videotapes and publications). Many of their publications are available on-line. See "Study of Science-Based Educational Programs for Judges" on page 2.

**American Judicature Society**

<http://www.ajs.org>

**Federal Judicial Center**

<http://www.fjc.gov>

**National Assoc. of Women Judges**

<http://www.nawj.org>

**State Justice Institute**

<http://www.statejustice.org>

**National Institute of Justice**

<http://ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/contact.htm>

**Federal Depository Library**

<http://www.access.gpo.gov>

### Preventing School Violence

The 1999 Columbine tragedy in Colorado and other events such as the more recent school shootings in California have opened the eyes of many educators, parents, and administrators. The realization that these brutal acts could happen in any community has raised many questions about how this violence could be curbed, and as a result, local and national efforts are underway. Nevada lawmakers have proposed SB 289, a plan for each of the state's 17 school districts to deal with school violence ([www.rgj.com](http://www.rgj.com), accessed 6/7/01). At a 1999 Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation, social scientists proposed papers on "Preventing School Violence." These papers can be found on-line at the National Criminal Justice Reference Service websites: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/180972.pdf> and <http://www.ncjrs.org/txtfiles1/nij/180972.txt>. Researchers Leary, Kowalski, Smith, and Phillips at Wake Forest University in North Carolina have

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#### **New Judicial Studies Program**

In January, 2001 the "Master of Judicial Studies Degree Program" officially became "The Judicial Studies Program (JSP)." Prior to the new program's approval, and since its establishment in 1985 under the direction of James T. Richardson, Ph.D., J.D., the MJS program had offered only the Master's Degree in judicial studies. Judges who have completed the MJS Program may now enter into a degree program (JSP) to obtain a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). This new degree program is available only to graduates of the MJS program. The 2001 Program Description states that "the... program... is intended to provide a formal academic setting in which trial judges or juvenile and family court judges can integrate technical studies of the judiciary with more academic ones in an effort to provide an intellectual assessment of the role of the American judiciary." Under the collaboration of the University of Nevada Reno (UNR), The National Judicial College (NJC) and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), the program provides specially designed courses which treat judicially-related issues from a liberal arts perspective, including the humanities, social, behavioral and natural sciences, and communications; and provides a series of courses treating technical subject matter. Please contact: Denise Schaar-Buis, Program Coordinator,

## **New Leadership at the National Judicial College**

The Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies extends a warm welcome to the new National Judicial College President—William Dressel. President Dressel joins another recent addition to the Judicial College, Dean Ernest Borunda. President Dressel brings to Nevada 22 years of experience as a trial judge in Colorado as well as experience as a judicial educator and former member of the Board of Trustees of the National Judicial College. Dean Borunda has a similar background with 21 years as a trial court judge in San Diego and experience in judicial education. Both President Dressel and Dean Borunda are excited about the future of the National Judicial College. Discussion groups for judges have proved to be valuable in providing a forum for judges to discuss issues with their colleagues. Future areas of focus for the College may include updated substantive courses and teaching techniques; optimal technology use; course effectiveness evaluation; helping judges overcome unchanged environments; creating a career approach to education for judges; a possible advisory council comprised of state judicial educators and distance learning geared to meet the needs of judges in rural settings. The faculty and staff at the National Judicial College continue to receive compliments for their efforts to make sure questions are answered and knowledge is provided in a meaningful way. The College looks forward to continual development of education courses for the judge as a whole person (*NJC Alumni*, vol. xvi, no. 1, Spring, 2001).

## **Justice Around the Center**

**A Model of Pretrial Prejudice in a High Profile Case.** The Sixth Amendment guarantees each criminal defendant a trial by an unbiased jury, one able to evaluate impartially the facts presented as evidence at trial. In high profile cases, this guarantee may be jeopardized due to the amount and kind of media coverage. A research project is underway at the Center that analyzes data from actual venue surveys in capital cases in an effort to develop a model of pretrial prejudgment of defendants. The model will be constructed using variables that are available from the venue surveys, such as attitudes toward the criminal justice system, awareness of the case, information about the defendant and the crime, judgments about the guilt of the defendant, media use, and the social and demographic characteristics of the respondent. Ron Dillehay and Craig New are the primary researchers from the Center responsible for this project. Also involved in this project is J. Scott Shonkwiler, from the Department of Applied Economics and Statistics at UNR. Portions of this research were presented at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Western Psychological Association.

**Study of Science-Based Educational Programs for Judges.** The Center has recently completed a major research project sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center, titled "Science Education Programs for the State and Federal Judiciary at Year 2001." The purpose of the project was to update the findings of the 1992 survey conducted by the Carnegie Commission Task Force on Science and Technology in Judicial and Regulatory Decision Making. Research assistants Mara Merlino (Project Coordinator), Roni Dahir, and Dionne Maxwell, under the direction of Director, Ron Dillehay, were responsible for this project. The current report provides an organized inventory of offerings on science education available to judges during the period 1992 through 2000. As such the report serves to indicate the recent history of judicial science education. It brings together in one place offerings from diverse providers of judicial education (e.g., national education organizations, law schools, institutes, State Court Administrator Offices) that contain at least some component of science in courses, seminars, workshops, or other instructional formats. The report identifies these providers, locates them by state and organization, and classifies their offerings according to the major realm or field of science covered in their educational programs. The report also lists multiple judicial science education offerings for some providers, making it possible to identify institutions or organizations that engage in more substantial judicial education activities.

**Washoe County Office of Court Services Project: Predictors of Failure to Appear.** With the Washoe County Office of Court Services, a project under the supervision of Bryan Edelman, research assistant, and Dr. Ronald Dillehay, Center Director, is underway to explore predictors of successful release into the community of those arrested and awaiting trial and to assess the current release scheme. This study entails an evaluation of existing data that were collected by Court Services, the Washoe County Detention Center, and the court of jurisdiction that presided over each case in 1999. Subjects in this study will be selected from the population of arrestees interviewed by Court Services at the Washoe County Detention Center for early pretrial release in 1999. The sample frame will consist of all arrestees processed by the detention center, and will be provided by Court Services. Data collection began last fall and will be used to predict risks associated with the release of those arrested and awaiting trial in Washoe County by utilizing information collected through the justice system at the time release decisions are made. In addition, a comparison of the domestic violence population to other crime populations will be made to determine if there are different rates of failures.

**Fulton County Project.** In the Fall of 2000, the Center began working on a county-wide data analysis project for Georgia. David Bennett, an independent consultant to criminal justice systems, brought the project to the Center and oversaw the project. Donna Lattin, from Criminal Justice Consulting, assisted in directing the analyses necessary for the project's goals. Dionne Maxwell, under the direction of Ron Dillehay, was the primary researcher at the Center responsible for conducting the relevant analyses. The project used information collected throughout 2000 that tracked individuals charged with crimes through the processing stages in the criminal justice system in Fulton County, Georgia. The goals of the project were to evaluate the pretrial services program currently in place in the county and to identify those factors relating to successful early release and, conversely, those factors related to increased likelihood of re-arrest or failure to appear at later court dates. Work began in October of 2000,



## Conferences/Paper Calls

*The following organizations have announced paper submission deadlines for upcoming conferences at the local and international levels. While some paper call deadlines have passed, these conference dates are still forthcoming.*

<b><u>Association/Website/Submission Deadline</u></b>	<b><u>Conference Location</u></b>	<b><u>Conference Date</u></b>
<b>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) 64th Annual Conference</b> <i>http://training.ncjfcj.unr.edu/Conferences.htm</i>	Monterey, California	July 15-18, 2001
<b>American Bar Association 2001 Annual Meeting</b> <i>www.abanet.org</i>	Chicago, Illinois	August 2-8, 2001
<b>American Political Science Association (APSA) Meeting</b> <i>http://www.apsanet.org/mtgs/</i> <i>Submission deadline: 11/15/00</i>	San Francisco, California	August 30-Sept. 2, 2001
<b>Institute for Law and Justice, National Conference on Science and the Law</b> <i>http://nijpcs.org/upcoming.htm</i> <i>Submission deadline: 8/31/01</i>	Miami, Florida	October 4-6, 2001
<b>Society for Personality and Social Psychology</b> <i>http://www.spsp.org/confer.htm</i> <i>Submission deadline: 7/2/01</i>	Savannah, Georgia	Jan. 31-Feb 2, 2002
<b>Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences</b> <i>http://acjs.org/program_2001.htm</i> <i>Submission deadline: 10/1/2001; Theme: Justice Problems, Social Change and Accountability: Raising Social Consciousness and Taking Responsibility</i>	Anaheim, California	March 5-9, 2002
<b>American Psychology Law Society (AP-LS)</b> <i>http://www.unl.edu/ap-ls/2002/</i> <i>Submission deadline: 10/1/01</i>	Austin, Texas	March 7-10, 2002
<b>Pacific Sociological Association (PSA)</b> <i>http://www.csus.edu/psa/index.html</i> <i>Submission deadline: 10/15/01; Theme: Social Justice</i>	Vancouver, British Columbia	April 18-21, 2002

## Grants and Other Funding

<b><u>Funding Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline(s)</u></b>
<b>National Science Foundation</b> <i>Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (e.g. Law and Social Science Division)</i> <i>http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/docdiss</i>	8/15/01 (Law & Social Science)
<b>National Institute of Justice</b> <i>Criminal Justice Research and Development-Graduate Research Fellowships</i> <i>National Institute of Justice Visiting Fellowships</i> <i>Data Resources Program: Funding for the Analysis of Existing Data</i> <i>W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship Program: NJ Residential Research Opportunity</i> <i>http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm</i>	9/14/01; 1/15/02 No deadline, open for 2001 9/25/01; 1/25/02 2/1/02
<b>American Psychology-Law Society, Division 41 of the American Psychology Association</b> <i>Dissertation Improvement Grants</i> <i>http://www.unl.edu/ap-ls/2002/</i>	9/30/01; 1/31/02
<b>The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)</b> <i>Grants-in-Aid Program</i> <i>http://spssi.org/gia.html</i>	11/13/01; 4/1/02
<b>State Justice Institute (SJI)</b> <i>This institute offers Project Grants, Technical Assistance Grants, Scholarships, and others Judiciary-related.</i> <i>http://www.statejustice.org</i>	Please see SJI's website



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## ***Preventing School Violence...cont'd. from page 1***

recently conducted an intensive case study of the 15 school shootings that occurred between 1995 and 2001. This paper, which is currently under review, addresses risk factors that tend to characterize the shooters: a pre-existing interest in firearms; a pre-occupation with Satanism or death; or certain psychological problems, such as sadistic tendencies, controlling impulse; and depression (personal communication via email, April 11, 2001). The U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services are also sponsoring a joint initiative entitled, "2001 Safe Schools/Healthy Students" to enlist ideas for the implementation of community-wide strategies for creating violence-and drug-free schools. Deadline for applications is July 16, 2001. Please see <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/about/01juvjust/010525.html>. In addition, the National Institute of Justice is also soliciting proposals for a Web-based school safety curriculum with additional components for educators, school staff, parents, students, public safety officials and citizens. The deadline for this solicitation is July 17, 2001. Please see <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>.

## ***Updated Website Directory***

The following website addresses or names have been updated since the previous issue of the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies Fall, 2000 newsletter was distributed. The following sites offer information on grant funding and job opportunities or other justice-related resources.

<b>Amer. Political Science Ass.</b>	<a href="http://www.apsanet.org">http://www.apsanet.org</a>	<b>National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)</b>	<a href="http://www.ncjrs.org/fedgrant.html">http://www.ncjrs.org/fedgrant.html</a>
<b>Community Court Resources</b>	<a href="http://www.communityjustice.org">www.communityjustice.org</a>	<b>OJJDP Funding Opportunities</b>	<a href="http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/grants/grants.html">http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/grants/grants.html</a>
<b>Global Legal Info. Network</b>	<a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/glin">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/glin</a>	<b>SJI Grant Info.</b>	<a href="http://www.statejustice.org">http://www.statejustice.org</a>
<b>Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)</b>	<a href="http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/home.html">www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/home.html</a>	<b>Substance Abuse Policy Research Program</b>	<a href="http://www.saprp.org">www.saprp.org</a>
<b>International Law Ass.</b>	<a href="http://www.ila-hq.org/">http://www.ila-hq.org/</a>	<b>Supreme Court Rulings</b>	<a href="http://www.supremecourtus.gov/">http://www.supremecourtus.gov/</a>
<b>Legal Info. Institute</b>	<a href="http://www.law.cornell.edu">http://www.law.cornell.edu</a>	<b>United Nations Justice Info.</b>	<a href="http://www.uncjin.org/">http://www.uncjin.org/</a>
<b>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)</b>	<a href="http://www.ncjfcj.unr.edu">http://www.ncjfcj.unr.edu</a>	<b>Villanova Center for Info Law and Policy</b>	<a href="http://www.law.villanova.edu">http://www.law.villanova.edu</a>