



GRANT SAWYER CENTER FOR JUSTICE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

CENTER NEWS

Sentencing Project Receives Funding

By Victoria Springer, Center RA

The Sawyer Center is pleased to announce that director Dr. Jim Richardson, received a \$4,100 Scholarly and Creative Activities Grant from the University of Nevada, Reno College of Liberal Arts in support of sentencing research in the state of Nevada. The SCAG award will fund a specific project titled, "Supporting the Future of "Truth in Sentencing" in Nevada: Data Acquisition Program", which is a continuation

of the ongoing sentencing research conducted by the Sawyer Center, and lead by Matt Leone, Associate Director of the Sawyer Center.

In spring 2008, the Grant Sawyer Center was approached by the Nevada Commission on the Administration of Justice Subcommittee on "Truth in Sentencing". Over the course of several months, the center worked closely with the subcommittee, members of the Nevada Supreme Court, and the Nevada

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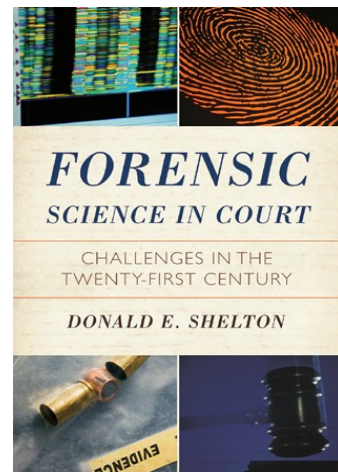
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New Mexico Jury Study Results to be Presented

Data collected by Dr. Markus Kemmelmeier and Sawyer Center RAs Jose Vargas and Lyssette Chavez for the National Science Foundation sponsored New Mexico Jury project will soon be presented for the first time, at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in January, 2011 in San Antonio, Texas. The project involved examining whether bilingual juries differ from all English-speaking juries, and although New Mexico has allowed bilingual juries for the past 8 years, no empirical study has examined their impact on the jury system, or if they impact the system at all. Preliminary results show benefits from the increased structure needed to translate court proceedings for Spanish-speaking jurors, but no changes in conviction rates between only English-speaking juries and bilingual juries. Despite challenges in the initial stages of data collection, the researchers were able to collect data from 10 mock juries and plan to collect more data in the future. A more complete report of results will be submitted to the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Association in the Spring.

Judicial Studies Doctoral Graduate In The News

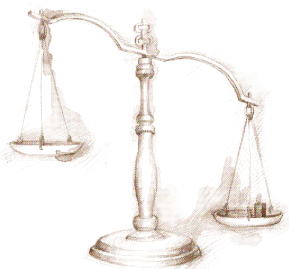
Judge Donald H. Shelton, a recent graduate of the Judicial Studies Ph.D. program was featured in an article on Washtenaw County News through the online outlet, LegalNews.com, published by Detroit Legal News Publishing, LLC. The



Pictured: Cover of textbook written by Dr. Shelton based on his dissertation.

article features Shelton as only the 7th recipient of the Judicial Studies Ph.D. since the program was introduced. An article based partly on Shelton's

See JS Graduate, pg. 5



Sentencing

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Department of Public Safety Division of Parole and Probation to analyze sentencing outcomes for over ten thousand felony offenders who were sentenced in 2007. This seminal collaboration project has resulted in a wealth of research and data analytic experience for the graduate research assistants and has produced over a dozen academic and professional presentations, several manuscripts in preparation, and one peer-reviewed journal publication under journal review. At the conclusion of the research in early 2009, the Grant Sawyer Center and the various state entities involved in the research reviewed financial options for the continuation of the research, with the

intention to include tens of thousands more offenders in a multi-year comprehensive database representing all Nevada felony offenders from 2005 to present. The stage was set for the research partnership to move forward, but the economic collapse that struck the country hit Nevada with exceptional force. The future of the “Truth in Sentencing” project was put on hold indefinitely as funding was no longer available and personnel cuts at the Division of Parole and Probation cut off the potential supply of offender data.

Richardson’s recent SCAG award will help reestablish the flow of data to the researchers at the Grant Sawyer Center by providing support for students to retrieve additional years of

data from the databases maintained by the Division of Parole and Probation during July-August 2010. The students that will participate in this project have received advanced training in the Crystal Reports software that is used to retrieve data from the Nevada Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) and have passed the official background check required to access offender data. Dr. Richardson and his RAs hope to collect at least 1 and as many as three years of additional data over the summer. Perhaps more importantly, the gathering and analysis of the additional data will be used as the foundation for future grant submissions to federal funding agencies.

Justice Management Program Updates

By Jane Robinson, JD, MBA, Assistant Justice Management Program Director

The JM program participated in the University’s Professional & Graduate School Fair September 16, 2010. Among 53 participants, including 22 law schools, the JM program represented the only fully online master’s program. The fair was open to UNR undergraduates interested in pursuing a graduate degree and the event

showcased the Student Union’s state of the art convention-quality facilities.

New courses offered this Fall include “Managing Information Systems for Justice Professionals,” taught by JM faculty member Thomas Tiefenwerth, Ph.D. This course covers

current developments in information technology and their direct application to justice management.

Improvements to the JM course delivery system include restructured homepages for each student and instructor, offering quick links to courses and resources. Students see a running tally of all forum posts and assignments submitted for the duration of their studies. Instructors see a quick list of assignments to be graded and other features that assist in online “classroom” management. JM program administrators have a number of new tools including automatic enrollment reports, student tracking features, and automatically generated forms populated with each student’s program of study data. This last feature simplifies the process for meeting degree completion requirements.



Pictured: The JM Program’s table at the University’s Professional & Graduate School Fair

Judicial Studies News and Scholarly Updates

By Denise Schaar-Buis, Program Officer

It's hard to believe that summer courses are over and just around the corner will be our 2011 course. On September 27 registration materials for our January course and our February on-line course will be mailed out. Be sure to complete and return as soon as possible as class size is limited to 10. We have full tuition scholarships available to the first 10 registered in each course (January and February courses). The courses for 2011 are:

Language and the Judicial Process

January 3-13, 2011

Taught by: Elizabeth Francis

Scientific Research Methods

February 14-April 8, 2011 (on-line; week of 3/14-18 in residence)

Taught by: Veronica Dahir and Mara Merlino

Literature and Violence (NEW)

June 20—30, 2011

Taught by: Robert Harvey

Science in the Law

July 11—22, 2011

Taught by: David Faigman and Joe Sanders

History and Theory of Jurisprudence (1st two weeks of the course only)

July 11—22, 2011

Taught by: Faculty from Boalt Hall School of Law

Public Policy

July 25-August 4, 2011

Taught by: Tom Burke

The Art and Science of Alternative Dispute Resolution

August 8—18, 2011

Taught by: Mike Havercamp

Thesis Introduction/Orientation

July 14, 2011

9 AM—12 PM

Taught by: Elizabeth Francis

The Program would like to congratulate its summer graduate:

Rory Olsen, Texas—A Most Particular Statutes: The Effects of Section 243 of the Texas Probate Code Upon the Settlement of Will Contests in Harris County, Texas.

Quite a few students are running into “non-continuous enrollment” and “end of time” problems. To avoid these problems please remember:

Students must register for 3 credits in the Spring AND 3 credits in the Fall to be considered “continuously enrolled” and “in good standing.” If a student is not continuously enrolled they will lose their graduate standing and be considered “out of



Pictured: Recent JS graduate, Judge Rory Olsen.

status.” They will also lose access to the university's services. To get back in status, a request to be reinstated to graduate standing must be submitted.

Students have 6 years from the time of matriculation into the Program to complete all the coursework and the thesis for the Master's degree. For Ph.D. students it is eight years from the time of matriculation. If coursework and the thesis/dissertation are not completed within this time period, a justifiable request for an extension of time can be made of no more than one (1) year. If the time period goes beyond this, the Graduate School will not allow coursework older than six years (Ph.D. students – 8 years on coursework beyond the Masters) to be considered toward the degree and may require the coursework to be retaken or additional coursework completed to cover the older work. *The moral of the story is:* The Graduate School is cracking down on all programs, so be sure to continually at your program of study if you want to avoid frustration and hardship in the future.

To help you on your way, the State Justice Institute has scholarships available for UNR, National Judicial College (NJC) and National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) courses. Visit www.sji.gov and click on Grants tab to download the application. For courses offered from January—March, the application deadline is November 1.

Judicial Studies Degree Programs

A Career Education for Judges | University of Nevada, Reno



Sawyer Center Helps with Grants

The Sawyer Center and its associates assisted in preparation of several grants this year, making this the most submissions through the Center for any submission period. Grants completed by or with the assistance of Center personnel include:

1. A Sociological and Socio-Legal Analysis of the Relationship of Legal Pluralism to Human and Civil Rights

PI: Jim Richardson

NSF: amount requested \$589,837 (August 2010, under review)

Two-year multi-site project using qualitative interviews with members of the Muslim community at each location and content analysis to study the effect of a number of variables on development of legal pluralism involving Shari'a law, on what type or form of accommodation with the State is reached, and on how this type of development affects human and civil rights.

2. Judicial Agreement and Disagreement with Sentencing Recommendations: Heuristics and Information Use in Legal Decision-Making

PI: Matt Leone

Co-I: Vicky Springer

NSF: amount requested \$97,283 (August 2010, under review)

One-year project to study whether judicial use of information available in the pre-sentence investigation report (PSIR) by judges in felony sentencing conforms to a common

decision-making heuristic; includes a survey of judges to determine which factors are most influential to develop a model of decision making based on their own thoughts on their use of information, which will be compared to the statistical model that emerges from their actual felony sentencing decisions in 2010.

3. Validity, Reliability, Accuracy, and Bias in Forensic Signature Identification

Joint project with Kentucky State University, PI: Mara Merlino (formerly of the Grant Sawyer Center); KSU Co-I: Tierra Freedman

UNR PI: Veronica Blas Dahir; UNR Co-I: Vicky Springer

NIJ: \$68,182 UNR portion (total project, \$467,000) -- Funded / Pending (July 2010)

Two-year validation study of forensic techniques applied to questioned document examination; includes a survey and laboratory signature identification tasks of both forensic document examiners and non-expert members of the community to determine whether or not there is an empirically discernable "expertise" to signature identification (beyond what lay members of the jury-eligible community are

able to produce).

4. Does Judicial Disagreement with Sentencing Recommendations Reflect Offender Subtyping?

Applied Social Issues Internship Award

PI: Vicky Springer (submitted with Jim Richardson with OSPA)

SPSSI: \$2,492 (Funded, July 2010)

One-year secondary data analysis study of sentencing outcomes in the 2007 Nevada felony offender data to determine if deviations from sentencing recommendations made by the Division of Parole and Probation reflect judicial subtyping of offenders.

5. Individual Contributors, Social Networks, and their Influence on House Policy

PI: Clayton Peoples

Co-I: Pete Martini

NSF: amount requested \$225,841

Secondary analysis of individual campaign contributions to the House (1991-2010) to examine impact of "hard money" (given directly to candidates) on roll call voting in the House.

Civil Jury Instructions Rewritten in Plain English: JS Faculty Assists

The Indiana Model Civil Jury Instructions are now available in plain English with an online subscription the online legal website LexisNexis. The Indiana Judges Association's Civil Instructions Committee drafted the new instructions over a period of two years in an effort to make jury instructions easier to understand. **Elizabeth Francis, a faculty member in the Judicial Students program was hired to prepare the instructions. Francis is also an expert in plain English principles, which involves using the simplest terms possible to express an idea clearly.**

Indiana joins a select number of states that employs plain English jury instructions. Though most jurors tend to be sophisticated, states Superior Court No. 1 Judge Susan Orth,

and most juror questions are unrelated to the jury instructions, these modifications could add clarity and allow jurors to apply the law correctly.

According to a Supreme Court press release, use of the revised instructions, which inform jurors of relevant laws that should guide deliberations, will be discretionary. Lawyers sometimes request the use of certain instructions or agree on a set of different instructions based on case content. The new civil instruction will not be introduced into regular civil court proceedings until November 2010 to allow lawyers to become accustomed to them, though they will be introduced to Indiana judges at the annual meeting of the Indiana Judges Association in September by Association president and

Floyd County Circuit Court Judge J. Terrence Cody. The instructions will also be available in book format to LexisNexis subscribers and in some law libraries beginning in late August.

At this time, there are no plans to revise the criminal jury instructions. These instructions in their current form were developed between 2001 and 2003 and every attempt was made to simply language when possible, according to Supreme Court public information officer Kathryn Dolan.

Judges are hoping that including simpler language in jury instructions will help jurors better understand the law and their duties as jurors, and eliminate discrepancies in the application of the law in civil cases.

Sawyer Center Involved in Studies of Islamic Law

Sawyer Center director Jim Richardson has been invited to participate in two major international efforts to study the ways in which Islamic norms and laws are integrated into Western societies. He was invited to be a visiting scholar at the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Islamic Societies at the University of Western Sydney this past summer, and spent four weeks there working with other scholars developing research plans to compare how Australia, the United States, Canada, and also Singapore are dealing with the presence of sizeable

Muslim communities in those societies.

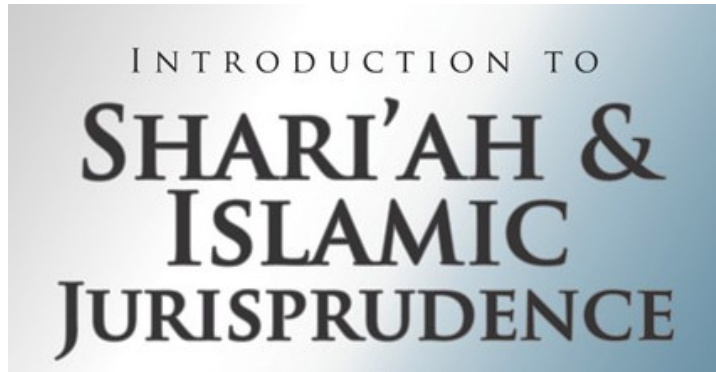
While there he also delivered two public lectures, one entitled "The European Court of Human Rights and Minority Religions" and another entitled "Religious

Freedom and Shari'a Law."

Richardson has also been invited to participate in a five year project developed by scholars at the University of Ottawa heading a project that will involve Shari'a law as well. The project, headed by

professor Lori Beaman, is entitled, "Religious Diversity Project," and will discuss religious diversity in Canada and compare ways it is addressed with the methods used in other Western societies.

Richardson is one of 36 professors from 24 universities in Canada, the United States, France, and Australia. Part of this effort is to facilitate research projects in other countries, and Richardson is attempting to obtain funding for comparative studies in Australia, the U.S. and Canada.



JS Graduate

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dissertation also recently appeared in the ABA Judges' Journal (vol. 49, no. 3). Shelton defended his dissertation, titled "Criminal Adjudication: The Challenges of Forensic Science Evidence in the Early 21st Century," in April before a five-member faculty committee.

Shelton explains his research as focusing "on new challenges to the scientific basis for many forms of forensic evidence that have been routinely accepted in criminal cases. The emergence of DNA, and the resulting DNA exonerations, has revealed that many innocent persons have been convicted based on such evidence and recent studies have found a lack of true scientific bases for many forms of such evidence."

Dr. Shelton has also written a textbook based on his dissertation, titled "Forensic Science in Court: Challenged in the Twenty-first Century," which will be published October 16 by Rowman and Littlefield.

SSRJS Study Recognized in Washington Post

A study conducted by University of Nevada Reno sociologists Drs. Mariah Evans and Jonathan Kelley was featured in a Washington Post Local Living Section column by Jay Matthews. The column establishes the clear impact this study has on challenging how people think of educational attainment between children of differing socioeconomic classes, across cultures.

According to the study, the availability of reading material strongly impacts children's education, regardless of the effects of parental education, father's occupation, gender, nationality, political system and gross national product. Even children of poor, illiterate parents in China attained, on average, the same academic achievement as children of college graduates if they had the opportunity to read in the home. Children with 500 or more

books in the home got, on average, 6.6 more years of schooling than those without books; this significant effect carried over into the United States as well, but without such stark results.

Using a narrative, anecdotal style, Matthews demonstrates how his own wife reaped the benefits of having books in the home as a child, the daughter of two uneducated but skilled workers who went on to attend a selective university. The exposure through this column to Drs. Evans and Kelley's work will greatly benefit the field of education research, modifying the model of educational attainment, and offer suggestions to uneducated parents who wish to contribute to their children's education.

CJS Staff Updates: See What We've Been Up To!

RECENT PRESENTATIONS (partial list):

- Cahoon, K. L., Springer, V.A., & Larsen, B.L. (2010, November). Final thoughts at the hour of death: Last statements of Texas death row inmates. Paper to be presented at the American Society of Criminology annual conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Elliott, M., & Springer, V. (2010, August). Gender differences in the determinants of distress and alcohol misuse. Paper presented at the American Sociological Association annual conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Larsen, B., Cahoon, K.L., & Springer, V. (2010, November). They all died in Texas: Profiles of executed capital offenders 1982-2010. Poster submitted to the American Society of Criminology annual conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Uz, I., & Kemmelmeier, M. (2010, April). *Ambivalent identification in response to social identity threat*. In M. Kemmelmeier (Chair), *Intergroup Relations: Prejudice, Conflict, and Identity*. Symposium at the annual conference of Western Social Science Association, Reno, NV.
- Uz, I. (2010, April). *Consequences of globalization: Homogenization, polarization or hybridization?*. In B. Berberoglu (Chair), *Globalization in the 21st Century*. Symposium at the annual conference of Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, CA.
- Uz, I., Kemmelmeier, M., & Yetkin, E. (2010, January) *To belong or not to belong: Ambivalent identification*. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS (partial list):

- Merlino, M.L., Springer, V., & Sigillo, A. (in press). Admissibility of forensic expert testimony. In C. Henderson & J. Epstein (Eds). *The Future of Evidence*. Chicago, IL: American Bar Association.
- Merlino, M.L. & Springer, V. (in press). Context and controversy: Why questions of validity and reliability are seldom resolved in an adversarial setting. *Tulsa Law Review*.
- Flores, D.M., Miller, M.K., Chamberlain, J., Richardson, J.T., & Bornstein, B.H. (2010). Judges' perspectives on stress and safety in the courtroom: An exploratory study. *Court Review*, 76-89.
- Chomos, J. & Miller, M.K. (2010). AP-LS Teaching, Training, and Careers Committee Presents: Publishing in a Variety of Journals Relevant to Law and Psychology. *American Psychology-Law Society News*, 30, 10-11.
- Sicafuse, L.L., Chomos, J. & Miller, M.K. (2010). Report on federal jurors' perceptions of jury duty. Research report for the Southern District of Iowa

RECENT AWARDS (partial list):

Sawyer Center RA Irem Uz was awarded the following in Spring 2010 by the Graduate Student Association: Graduate Student Paper Aware (2nd Place), Graduate Student Poster Award (1st Place), Outstanding Graduate Student Award. The Graduate Student Poster Award and Outstanding Graduate Student Award both also came with cash awards. Congratulations Irem!

Sawyer Center RA Vicky Springer was also awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Graduate Student Association for 2010, and received Honorable Mention from the Western Social Science Association for Outstanding Student Paper. Congratulations Vicky!

Don't forget! After June 30, 2010, the current Center for Justice Studies email address (cjs@unr.nevada.edu) will no longer be in service. After that date, please use the following address for all email correspondence: cjs@unr.edu.

JUSTICE-RELATED FUNDING/FELLOWSHIPS

Call the Grant Sawyer Center if you want to prepare a grant proposal and we will be pleased to assist.

Funding Organization

American Statistical Association (<http://www.amstat.org/>)

Law School Admission Council

www.lsac.org/LSAC.asp?url=lsac/lsac-legal-education-grant-program.asp

National Institute of Justice (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>)

National Science Foundation (http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?org=SBE)

Law and Social Sciences

Social Psychology

Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants

Public Welfare Foundation

www.publicwelfare.org/grants/criminal_justice/2003_grants.asp

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

<http://www.spssi.org/awards.html>

State Justice Institute (www.statejustice.org/)

Scholarships

Submission Deadlines

Various

February 1 & September 1

Various

August 15th & January 15th

July 15 & January 15th

August 18th & January 18th

No deadline

Various

Various

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EDUCATION OFFERINGS

<u>Association</u>	<u>Conference Location</u>	<u>Conference Date</u>
Western Association of Criminal Justice	Lake Tahoe, CA	October 13-15, 2010
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion	Baltimore, MA	October 29-31, 2010
American Academy of Religion	Atlanta, GA	Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2010
Conference on Empirical Legal Studies	New Haven, CT	November 5-6, 2010
American Society of Criminology	San Francisco, CA	November 17-20, 2010
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	Toronto, Ontario, Canada	March 1-5, 2011

JUSTICE... around Nevada

Upcoming CLE courses for attorneys: For more information, see the Nevada Bar Association website at: <http://www.nvbar.org>

October 2010

IMMIGRATION LAW: THEORY, PRACTICE, PADILLA AND THE COURTROOM
Las Vegas—Friday, October 22
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - 6 CLE Hours

POWERPOINT FOR LAWYERS
Reno — Friday, October 8
Las Vegas—Friday, October 15
9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. - 6 CLE Hours

November 2010

ETHICAL DAY AT THE MOVIES
Reno — Wednesday, November 3
Las Vegas—Friday, November 5
2 CLE Ethics Hours

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CONFERENCE
Las Vegas—Friday, November 5
9:00 AM—5:00—6 CLE Hours

GAMING LAW CONFERENCE
Las Vegas—Friday, November 5
9:00 AM—5:00—6 CLE Hours

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCE LAW—Pt. II
Reno—Friday, November 12,
Las Vegas—Friday, November 19,
9:00 AM—4:45 PM —6 CLE Hours

ETHICS YEAR IN REVIEW
Reno — Friday, November 19
Las Vegas—Friday, **December 3**
1:30—4:45 PM—3 CLE Ethics Hours

Don't forget! The State Bar of Nevada also offers quality audio continuing legal education programs (both in mp3 and audio CD format) and streaming online CLE programs in numerous practice areas (*see <http://www.nvbar.org> for purchase*).

All audio programs come with written materials, and all are approved for Nevada CLE credit (and for credit in many other states as well).

Audio available for the following practice areas:

ADR	Criminal Law	Law Practice Management
Administrative Law	Estate Planning/	
Business/Tax Law	Ethics	Trial Practice
Civil Litigation	Family Law	...and more!

All streaming online CLE programs can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and will remain accessible for 30 days after the purchase date.

Online programs available for the following practice areas:

Appellate Practice	Discovery	Gamin Law
Arbitration	Ethics	...and more!
Bankruptcy	Family Law	

National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges

See <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/285/378/> for more details.

PROGRAM

Regional Child Abuse and Neglect Institute
Enhancing Judicial Skills in Elder Abuse Cases
Enhancing Judicial Skill in Domestic Violence Cases Workshop

CITY/STATE

Atlanta, GA
Phoenix, AZ
Santa Fe, NM

DATES

October 12-15, 2010
October 24-27, 2010
December 5-8, 2010



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Email: cjs@unr.edu
www.unr.edu/justicestudies/

Website Directory

The following sites offer information on grant funding and job opportunities or other justice-related resources.

American Political Science Association
www.apsanet.org

Bureau of Justice Assistance
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/

Bureau of Justice Statistics
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs

Center for Studies on New Religions
<http://www.cesnur.org/default.htm>

Community Court Resources
www.communityjustice.org

Federal Judicial Center
www.fjc.gov

Global Legal Info. Network
<http://www.glin.gov/aboutGlin.do>

Government Statistics
www.fedstats.gov

Justice Management
<http://www.unr.edu/justicemanagement/>
<http://www.justicedegree.org/>

Judicial Studies Program
www.judicialstudies.unr.edu

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research
<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/index.html>

International Law Association
www.ila-hq.org

Law School Admissions Council
www.lsac.org

Legal Information Institute
www.law.cornell.edu

National Center for State Courts
www.ncsconline.org

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
www.ncjfcj.org

National Criminal Justice Reference Service
www.ncjrs.org/fedgrant.html

National Institute of Justice
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/>

National Judicial College
www.judges.org

National Science Foundation
www.nsf.gov

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program
ojjdp.ncjrs.org/grants/grants.html

Project R.E.A.L.
<http://relevantlaw.org> and <http://lawforkids.org/>

The Project on Scientific Knowledge and Public Policy
<http://www.defendingscience.org/index.cfm>

School of Social Research and Justice Studies
<http://www.unr.edu/ssrjs/index.html>

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
<http://www.sssrweb.org/>

State Justice Institute Grant Info
www.statejustice.org

Substance Abuse Policy Research Program
www.saprp.org

United Nations Crime & Justice Information Network
www.uncjin.org/

United States Department of Justice
<http://www.usdoj.gov/>