



In the Spotlight

VP Biden and AG Holder Present Medal of Valor to Public Safety Officers

On February 11, Vice President Joe Biden, Attorney General Eric Holder, and Assistant Attorney General Karol Mason spoke at the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor ceremony to recognize 22 extraordinary individuals for their quick thinking, selflessness, and exceptional courage.



These law enforcement officers and firefighters went beyond the call of duty to risk—and in two cases, to give—their lives for their fellow citizens and for their colleagues.

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, authorized by the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001, is the highest national award for valor presented to a public safety officer. The medal is awarded to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life. Including these 22 awardees, a total of 95 medals have been presented since the first recipients were honored in 2003.

Watch a [video of the ceremony](#), read the [White House press release](#), and learn about the [recipients](#).

News You Can Use

Learn about Crime Analysis

On March 25–26, 2015, BJA and the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training are presenting "[Building Analytical Capacity: A Workshop for Law Enforcement Executives](#)." This free training will be held at Wayne County Community College in Taylor, Michigan.

New Resource on Cost-Benefit Analysis

With support from BJA, the Vera Institute of Justice's Cost-Benefit Knowledge Bank for Criminal Justice (CBKB) released the [Cost-Benefit Analysis and Justice Policy Toolkit](#), which provides a step-by-step CBA guide and features several examples from the criminal justice field.

Grants & Funding

Visit our [Funding page](#) to view all open BJA solicitations, including:

- Smart Supervision: Reducing Prison Populations, Saving Money, and Creating Safer Communities
- Smart Prosecution Initiative
- Second Chance Act Reentry Program for Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Disorders
- Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Disease
- Wrongful Conviction Review Program
- Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program
- Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program
- Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program
- Smart Defense Initiative: Improving Public Defense Delivery Systems

And look for other opportunities on [OJP's Funding Resource Center page!](#)



In Focus This Month

Apply to Become a BJA Visiting Fellow!

BJA has recently released the FY 2015 solicitation for the [BJA Visiting Fellows Program](#). The objective of the Fellows Program is to address emerging issues and build capacity to improve the administration of criminal justice. By hosting up to five Fellows, BJA will collaborate with practitioners and researchers to build capacity to address gaps in priority and emerging issues in the criminal justice field. The intent is to leverage state, local, or tribal subject-matter expertise to assess areas of need and to develop strategies, tools, and policies in collaboration with BJA staff for the benefit of the criminal justice field. For FY 2015, BJA is seeking Fellows under five priority areas:

1. Justice Information Sharing, Analysis, and Cyber Crimes
2. Law Enforcement Human Trafficking
3. Reentry and Corrections Second Chance Act
4. Corrections: Reforming Corrections Policies and Practices to Reduce Recidivism and Enhance Outcomes
5. Strategic Initiatives, Implementation Fidelity

[Watch an online informational webinar about the program.](#)

Applications are due **April 2, 2015**.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program

Enacted in 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death, disability, and education benefits to those eligible for the program. For details regarding these federal benefits for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders killed or catastrophically disabled in the line of duty, call the PSOB Office toll-free at 888-744-6513 or 202-307-0635, or visit the [PSOB web site](#).



DID YOU KNOW?

Justice System Use of PDMPs

Under the guidance of BJA, Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative partners and subject-matter experts from across the country supported development of a new resource: [Call to Action and Issue Brief: Justice System Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs—Addressing the Nation's Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Epidemic](#). Focusing on states' prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs)—an extremely useful but often underutilized tool—this resource offers justice practitioners and policymakers valuable, practical, hands-on sections such as the PDMP best-practices checklist, a compendium of resources and references (including BJA's [Law Enforcement Naloxone Toolkit](#)), and next steps to help them address this critical public safety and public health challenge.

FEATURED PROGRAM

BJA NTTAC Helps LCPD Prioritize Probation Supervision

Law enforcement agencies and community corrections departments are often stretched thin by the demands of overseeing a large group of probationers. In an effort to make the best possible use of its resources, Lee County (Florida) Probation Department (LCPD) sought assistance from the BJA [National Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) (NTTAC) to help differentiate its probation supervision to ensure those who needed the most oversight were receiving it. Find out more about what BJA training and technical assistance provider, The Carey Group, recommended to LCPD in the [BJA NTTAC Spotlight](#).



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