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BJA's Justice Today



BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE • OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

DENISE E. O'DONNELL, DIRECTOR

May 2016

In the Spotlight

President Obama Hosts Medal of Valor Ceremony

On May 16, 2016, President Obama awarded the [Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor](#) to 13 public safety officers who exhibited exceptional courage in saving and protecting others and whose heroic actions went above and beyond the call of duty. Watch the ceremony [here](#).



The application period for the 2015-2016 MOV opened on **May 31, 2016** at 8:00 a.m. (ET) and will close on **July 31, 2016** at 11:59 p.m. (ET). Eligibility is limited to incidents that occurred between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016.

BJA administers the MOV Program and encourages public safety agency heads to nominate their personnel for incidents that occurred during the eligibility period, and which they deem to be eligible for this award.

For additional information on the MOV, and to submit the required online application, go to the [Medal of Valor web page](#). Interested parties may also contact Gregory Joy, BJA Policy Advisor and Designated Federal Officer for the MOV Program, at 202-514-1369 or Gregory.joy@usdoj.gov.

DID YOU KNOW?

Victim and Witness Intimidation – BJA's Current Efforts to Assist Justice Practitioners

Recognizing that victims and witnesses may often be reluctant to participate in the justice process out of fear, BJA is supporting multiple efforts to address the issue of victim and witness intimidation and provide a range of resources and strategies to encourage their participation with the justice system. To learn more about BJA's efforts in this area, check out the latest *TTA Today Blog post* from the BJA [National Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) (NTTAC).

News You Can Use

NCPC's Intellectual Property Theft Videos Win Telly Award

NCPC's Intellectual Property Theft roll call video series received a Silver Telly award in the 37th Annual Telly Awards. A panel of more than 500 industry professionals judged the competition. Less than 10 percent of entries were chosen as winners of the Silver Telly, the highest honor.

The videos were funded by BJA in cooperation with NCPC as a part of the Intellectual Property Theft Enforcement Program's Public Education Campaign. Partner organizations (including the National Association of Attorneys General, the Chamber of Commerce, and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center) have been sharing these videos widely.



The Telly Awards was founded in 1979 and is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs; video and film productions; and online commercials, video, and films. Winners represent the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators, and corporate video departments in the world.

View the videos on YouTube:

- [The Threat](#)
- [The Big Risk](#)
- [The Need to Investigate](#)

2016 Public Safety Summit



How Much Do You Know About Naloxone?

Communities and police departments play a vital role in stopping the tide of opioid overdose fatalities, which have increased by nearly 400 percent since 1999. Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is a fast-acting prescription medicine that works to reverse overdoses caused by opioids. The DOJ [Law Enforcement Naloxone Toolkit](#) is a one-stop clearinghouse designed to answer frequently asked questions about naloxone and provide resources, including standard operating procedures, training guides, community strategic plans, and memoranda of agreement, to support agencies in establishing

BJA Director Denise E. O'Donnell and National Institute of Justice Director Nancy Rodriguez presented at the 2016 Public Safety Summit, held at Harvard University from April 29 to May 1.



Director O'Donnell, Director Rodriguez, Kieran Towey of Accenture, and Jorge Villegas of the Los Angeles Police Department presented a session titled "Public Safety in a Digital World: Harnessing the Power of Data and Analytics." The session discussed security issues that may arise with digital technologies, as well as new ways to use this technology to prevent crime and target community needs.

BJA Releases New Resource on Solitary Confinement Reform

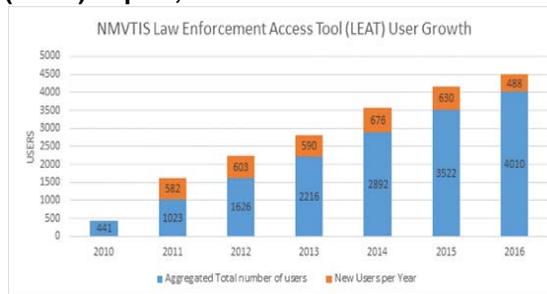
BJA has released [More Than Emptying Beds: A Systems Approach to Segregation Reform](#), a resource that shares lessons learned from one jurisdiction's efforts to reduce its use of restrictive housing in its prison system and improve conditions in a safe and smart way.

The brief, authored by Dan Pacholke, former Secretary of the Washington Department of Corrections, and Sandy Mullins, policy advisor to Washington Governor Jay Inslee, describes the Department's reforms and provides a reform "checklist" for other jurisdictions as they undertake efforts to safely reduce their reliance on segregation. The success of the Washington Department of Corrections' efforts in segregation reform and reduction was a key example on which the U.S. Department of Justice relied to formulate the guiding principles in its *Report and Recommendations Concerning the Use of Restrictive Housing*.

Starting in 2013, BJA has supported a number of jurisdictions to undertake restricted housing reforms. In partnership with the Crime and Justice Institute and the Vera Institute of Justice, BJA has supported data-driven reforms to restrictive housing states — Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, and South Dakota — as well as local jurisdictions — Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Middlesex County, New Jersey; and New York City. *More Than Emptying Beds* is a valuable new resource to inform these efforts.

The NMVTIS Law Enforcement Access Tool (LEAT) Tops 4,000 Users

The NMVTIS Law Enforcement Access Tool (LEAT) provides law enforcement with vehicle information from multiple data sources. LEAT is intended to assist investigations of vehicle-related crimes, providing information on vehicles involved in violent crimes, smuggling, and fraud; helping identify vehicle theft rings using cloned VINs and fraudulent titles; and facilitating the identification of other criminal enterprises involving vehicles.



LEAT was developed by BJA in conjunction with the NMVTIS Operator, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, as a requirement of the NMVTIS [Statute](#) and [Final Rule](#). In 2010, LEAT was made available through the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) and then expanded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal users. Since that time, the number of users of LEAT has reached 4,000. These users represent over 2,265 federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, military, and Canadian agencies. Of the over 4,000 users, approximately 30 percent classify themselves as auto theft investigators.

In August 2015, the newest version of LEAT was released with a new look and a number of enhancements. All of the improvements were in response to recommendations BJA received from LEAT users. Officers and agencies interested in gaining access to NMVTIS LEAT can get additional information [here](#) or look for the NMVTIS LEAT link while logged in to RISS or Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP). If you have any questions, email NMVTIS@usdoj.gov.

Assessing the Impact of South Dakota's Sentencing Reforms: Justice Reinvestment Initiative

On May 5, the Urban Institute released the BJA-funded assessment of South Dakota's presumptive probation policy reform, titled "Assessing the Impact of South Dakota's Sentencing Reforms:

naloxone programs. Learn more in the BJA NTTAC news [post](#).

FEATURED PROGRAM

JAG Updates

On May 16, BJA posted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 State and Local Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program solicitations on the [BJA JAG web page](#). BJA's JAG Program continues to be a leading source of federal justice funding to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions. In FY 2016, there are a total of 56 states/territories and 1,161 local applicants (accounting for disparate groupings) eligible for JAG funds, with a total of \$274,906,565 available (approximately \$188.5 million to states and territories, and \$86.4 million to local units of government).

BJA has updated the "[Controlled Expenditure](#)" list, which was first developed and posted last year. Additional information on JAG controlled and prohibited expenditures, along with the process for requesting approval from BJA for any controlled expenditure, can be found within the [JAG FAQs](#).

If you have a JAG Success Story you would like to submit, sign into your [My BJA account](#) to access the Success Story Submission form. Once reviewed and approved by BJA, all Success Stories will appear on the new [BJA Success Story web page](#).

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Justice Reinvestment Initiative,” which can be found [here](#). The report finds that although Senate Bill 70’s sentencing reforms had their intended impact (prison admissions and sentence lengths for affected offenses declined), the number of convictions for eligible offenses increased. The brief offered policy recommendations to build on the success of SB 70.

Grants & Funding

Visit our [Funding Page](#) to view all BJA solicitations open in May.

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

 [Funding Resource Center](#)

In Focus This Month

National Drug Court Month

May was National Drug Court Month. Drug courts across the country held special graduation ceremonies and educated stakeholders and communities on the accomplishments of drug courts and the need for continued support. Because of drug courts, thousands of lives are saved, countless crimes are prevented, more families are reunited, more infants are born drug-free, more education is achieved, and more employment is gained. All of this is due to the incredible dedication and compassion of the people who make drug courts work every day.



Director Denise E. O’Donnell attended the 22nd National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) conference in Anaheim, California, on May 31, 2016 and welcomed more than 6,000 attendees representing adult, family, juvenile, DWI, tribal healing to wellness, and veterans treatment courts. The NADCP conference is the world’s largest event on substance abuse, behavioral health, and the justice system. This year’s conference theme was “Reform, Recovery, and Results” and the director contributed to the theme by providing agency updates, leading the discussion on criminal justice reform, and actively listening to the field’s drug court treatment needs. Director O’Donnell concentrated on the [Justice Reinvestment Initiative](#), working to identify solutions for state-based drug treatment needs, and facilitating discussion to reduce cultural disparities in drug courts.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program

Updates to PSOB Website

On April 6, 2016, a notice regarding the new protocol for determining 9/11 exposure claims was posted to the PSOB website at www.psob.gov.



Enacted in 1976, the PSOB Program provides death, disability, and education benefits to those eligible for the program. Visit the [PSOB website](#) to apply for these federal benefits for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders killed or catastrophically disabled in the line of duty. For questions regarding these new resources or the PSOB Program, call the PSOB Office at 888-744-6513 (toll-free) or 202-307-0635.

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