As of November 8, all peer reviewer comments for non-successful applicants have been e-mailed. To view the comments, visit the PSOB web site. If you did not receive your comments, please send an e-mail to AskBJA@usdoj.gov.

### FY 2010 Peer Review Comments

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### 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.

### News You Can Use

BJA’s FY 2009 Annual Report

View BJA’s online FY 2009 Annual Report to Congress, which provides a wealth of information in an easily accessible and transparent format to keep our partners and community members informed on how we have used the funds entrusted to us to promote positive changes and advancements in local justice systems.

Save the Date for the 2011 Gang Symposium!

The 2011 National Gang Symposium will take place June 7–10, 2011, in Orlando, Florida. Sponsored by BJA, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and the National Gang Center, this event will offer information on innovative and successful gang-related programs and strategies and provide current updates on gang activities and trends. For more information, go to www.gangsymposium.org.

### Grants & Funding

BJA to Launch Justice Information Center

In early December, BJA will launch the Justice Information Center (JIC). Contact the JIC at 877–927–5657 to ask knowledgeable staff about BJA grant solicitations and information on BJA-supported programs.

FY 2010 Review Comments

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### Featured Program

BJA awarded a grant to the Justice Management Institute (JMI) together with The Carey Group (TCG) to provide training and technical assistance (TA) for state and local teams of justice professionals (prosecutors, judges, defenders, and corrections officials) to implement or enhance research-based sentencing practices to improve offender outcomes. To support this effort, JMI has developed a curriculum that incorporates the latest research and findings pertaining to offense types of particular interest to criminal justice stakeholders as well as tools to assist practitioners in implementing the various components of research-based smarter sentencing. As a result of these training efforts, the State of Arkansas applied to BJA for funding to implement a detailed and in-depth smarter sentencing plan and was awarded funding. The goal of this local project is to explore possible changes to current sentencing practices that would result in not only decreased crime and substance abuse, but also improve the capacity of the criminal justice system and appropriate service providers to work in tandem toward this goal. South Arkansas Substance Abuse and the Thirteenth Judicial District of Arkansas will work together to overcome a “one-size-fits-all” approach to instead focus on individual offenders’ risks and needs to improve community safety. JMI will continue to provide TA to the State of Arkansas as it continues to move forward with the planning and implementation process.

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