Judicial Ethics and the Same Sex Marriage Debate

by Hon. Bob Pirraglia

One of the most contentious issues on the current American political scene involves the debate over the pros and cons of the legalization of same sex marriages. Proponents say the issue is one of basic fairness and, constitutionally, of equal protection. Opponents say that culturally, traditionally and legally, marriage has been defined over the millennia as the joining of a man and a woman "in lawful wedlock."  

Courts Catalyzing Change: Tools to Reduce Disproportionality and Disparate Treatment of Children and Families of Color

by Tracy Cooper and Paula Campbell

The Courts Catalyzing Change: Achieving Equity and Fairness in Foster Care Initiative (CCC), funded by Casey Family Programs and supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), brings together judicial officers and other systems experts to set a national agenda for court-based training, research, and reform initiatives to reduce the disproportionate representation of children of color in dependency court systems.

An Abundance of Information is Just a Click Away: The Statistical Briefing Book is Available Online

by Melissa Sickmund, PhD

The Statistical Briefing Book is an information resource developed for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. The Statistical Briefing Book can be found online at the OJJDP website.

10 Things You Should Know About Attending an International Judicial Education Meeting

by W. Milt Nuzum, Director, Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College

Most of us fit into one of two categories. At least half of us are in the "homebody" category. We like going home at night to sleep comfortably in our own beds knowing that we will wake up safe and warm with a good homemade breakfast and the local newspaper waiting for us. We look forward to a fulfilling day of work surrounded by colleagues who care about us and our family members who love us. The remaining half of us fall into the "I like home but I might be missing something" category. That is where I find myself.

Features

• BALANCE: Lessons for Law and Life

A publication of the Judicial Conference of Indiana, Judicial Balance includes stories and insights.

• Thiagi GameLetter

Seriously fun activities for trainers, facilitators, performance consultants, and managers.
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The PDF version of the December issue of SJI News is available here.

**SJI Grant to NASJE to Support Training Activities**
The State Justice Institute Board of Directors met in early December and approved an award to the National Association of State Judicial Educators to provide funds to cover some faculty and related training expenses for the 2010 annual conference, similar to the activities supported last year. The focus is on the ever-changing needs of both educators and learners around the diverse technological advances and devices existing today. Additionally, the committee is looking to include educational content on change management—a vital component given the continued financial uncertainties facing the judicial branches, immigration, law and literature, poverty, and presentation skills. This year’s conference will be centered on the theme “Keeping Pace with Technology.” SJI is happy to be able to provide the additional funds to support this educational agenda.

**Changes in SJI Guidelines for 2010 Grants**
SJI would like to remind all state judicial educators that the guidelines for grant applications have changed slightly for 2010. In view of the serious budget problems faced in most states, SJI has changed two of its small grant programs in hopes of providing additional help for the educational programs for court personnel. In the past the Curriculum Adaptation and/or Training Grants (CAT) included up to $20,000 for single jurisdictions or states to support training programs for their staff. In the past the Curriculum Adaptation and/or Training Grants (CAT) included up to $20,000 for single jurisdictions or states to support training programs for their staff. In the past the Curriculum Adaptation and/or Training Grants (CAT) included up to $20,000 for single jurisdictions or states to support training programs for their staff. This year, considering the serious budget shortfalls, SJI raised the amount to $30,000. The Technical Assistance (TA) Grants now provide up to $50,000. Both of these small grant programs require a small cash match. In fact the 50% match is still in effect, but only 20% of the match needs to be cash. Therefore, a grant of $30,000 would require a $15,000 total match, but only $3,000 in cash. The balance of the total match ($12,000) would be in-kind match.

A number of jurisdictions have turned to these small grant programs to offset the cuts often being taken in the judicial educational programs by the state or local jurisdictions. TA grants have allowed a number of states to work with the National Center for State Courts to bring ICM training programs into their jurisdiction, thus reducing the need for travel funds while still being able to offer the needed educational programs. In other cases, jurisdictions have used the CAT grants to support bringing in faculty for a specific program designed for a specific jurisdictional issue. Both of these grant programs are seeing increased requests and SJI is pleased to be able to provide support for these activities.
The next application deadline is February 1, so if anyone has questions about the programs, please feel free to give SJI a call. Either Janice Munsterman (ext. 202) or Jonathan Mattiello (ext. 210) will be happy to discuss the programs with you.

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FY 2010 APPROPRIATION WILL ENABLE SJI TO CONTINUE FOCUSING ON NATIONAL COURT ISSUES

On December 16, 2009, the President signed into law the FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3288), which provided $5,131,000 for SJI. This is an increase of $1,031,000 over FY 2009, and marks the third consecutive year that SJI has received an increased budget from Congress. The Act also increased the available funding for SJI’s Strategic Initiatives Grants program to $850,000. This will allow SJI to continue working on critical issues facing the state courts. In addition, SJI received over $1 million in grant applications for the 1st quarter of FY 2010. Therefore, this funding will enable SJI to address this increased demand for grant funding.

SJI greatly appreciates the continued support from both the President and Congress. This funding is critical to supporting worthwhile projects that improve the administration of justice in the state courts.

BOARD AWARDS GRANTS FOR THE 1st QUARTER

The SJI Board of Directors met on December 11, 2009, to award grants for the 1st quarter of FY 2010. Twenty (20) new grants were awarded, totaling $967,543. Three (3) Project Grants were awarded, including: support to the National Association for Court Management (NACM) for a national curriculum development project to provide education for court managers and leadership judges; funding for the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to assist the state courts with the use of videoconferencing technology; (continued on page 2)

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and, a grant awarded to the Wisconsin Director of State Courts Office for an evidenced-based sentencing project to enhance public safety, hold offenders accountable, and reduce court and correctional costs.

Ten (10) Technical Assistance (TA) Projects were awarded, including: an assessment of alternative dispute resolution services in New Mexico; an organizational review of the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts; a rural justice re-engineering project in Minnesota; support to the Vermont Supreme Court for implementation of an action plan for the court interpreter program; a review of the administrative infrastructure of the South Dakota Unified Judicial System; support to the Kentucky AOC to develop a formula for reimbursement of Title IV-D child support services; and a courthouse security assessment for the 4th Judicial District in Nebraska. Seven (7) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were awarded, including: faculty training and certification for the Arizona AOC; judicial training for the Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator; updating an appellate judges course for the National Judicial College (NJC); and support for training programs provided by the National Association of State Judicial Educators (NASJE).

U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE/SJI PARTNER GRANT PROVIDES TRAINING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE COURTS

The USMS/SJI Partner Grant directly supports a component of the USMS Judicial Security Fellows (JSF) program that includes joint training with court administrators at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). This training includes coordination of public and media relations in high visibility trials, coordinated approaches to policy and procedures, and consolidated training for court staff in security awareness and response. Furthermore, the NCSC assists the JSF and his/her court counterpart in developing close working relationships for analyzing security needs and formulating action plans to improve security in the state or location jurisdiction they represent. The JSFs also achieve an understanding of court security needs from a state court perspective.

In November 2009, NCSC conducted its third training on court security for a new class of JSFs and their state court counterparts. The trainees noted the depth and wide-reaching capacity of NCSC’s court security resources and educational courses. The focus on interactivity throughout the program was praised as having the additional effect of showing the trainees real-life applications of their training, as they received it. (continued on page 3)
The one aspect of the course that proved especially advantageous was the
teambuilding that occurred between the JSF and his/her court staff
counterpart. This teambuilding was critical given that the trainees entered the
program with little to no understanding of each other’s roles and organizations
within the framework of court and judicial security in their jurisdictions. A
common theme that emerged from the training is that court security is a shared
responsibility among law enforcement and court staff. The next training is
scheduled for the spring of 2010.

GUIDANCE ON SUPPLANTATION
OF STATE AND LOCAL FUNDS

The new SJI Grant Guideline for FY 2010 provides guidance on the
justification of personnel compensation for state courts and other
governmental agencies. Specifically, Section IV. A.4(a) of the Grant
Guideline (describing the Budget Narrative) states: “No grant funds or cash
match may be used to pay the salary and related costs for a current employee
or new employee of a court or other unit of government because such funds
would constitute a supplantation of state or local funds in violation of 42
U.S.C. 10706, Sec.(d)(1); this includes new employees hired specifically for
the project. The salary and any related costs for a current or new employee of
a court or other unit of government may only be accepted as in-kind match.”

In addition, Section IV.A.4(k) of the Grant Guideline (describing Indirect
Costs) states: “Indirect costs are only applicable to organizations that are not
state courts or governmental agencies.” Recently, SJI has received grant
applications where either the state court or another governmental entity was
applying an indirect cost rate to all grants, regardless of source. This practice
is being employed with more regularity because of the reduced budgets in
many states and jurisdictions. Regardless, SJI is not permitted to allow these
indirect costs per 42 U.S.C. 10706, Sec.207(d)(1), and will not accept
applications from state courts and other governmental agencies that include
them.

If there are questions about the Grant Guideline, potential grant applicants are
strongly encouraged to contact SJI prior to submitting applications.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

➢ Next grant and scholarship application deadline: February 1, 2010
(2nd Quarter, FY 2010).
NASJE Board Conference Call Minutes

These are the abridged minutes from the November NASJE Board Conference Call.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity Committee:
The committee plans to have a monthly conference call. Goals include publication of articles in the NASJE newsletter, such as synopses of classes or seminars from the annual conference and helpful tips on diversity programming. Other goals are to recommend courses for the upcoming Annual Conference, working with other committees to get more members involved within the committee, and maintenance of a full range of diversity topics with regard to judicial education.

Education Committee:
The conference’s theme for 2010 is “Technology”. As a result, the committee is reaching out to the Technology Committee and was working to incorporate “Blended Learning” as an overall goal for the conference (using both face-to-face and electronic instruction). A sub-committee has formed to begin working on the 2011 Joint NACM/NASJE Conference.

Membership Committee:
The Membership Committee did not report, but two thirds of current NASJE members will renew their membership in December. Currently, NASJE has 163 members.

Mentor Committee:
The Mentor Committee is looking forward to a rejuvenated year. The current goal is to identify members that may want to serve as mentors and reconnect with mentors of the past.

Nominating Committee:
A survey will be sent out this year to see if anyone has recommendations for, or is interested in, Officer or Regional Director positions. Three years as a member are required to serve as a Regional Director, and five years are required to serve as Vice-President.

By-Laws Committee:
Judith Anderson explained she awaits the final updates from last year which involved “electronic communication and electronic vote.”
**Curriculum Committee:**
This newly established committee will work on curriculum development and core competencies. In addition, it will apply for an SJI Grant to assist with this work.

**Fund Raising Committee:**
The first conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18th at 12:30 EST.

**Futures Advisory Committee:**
Some goals for the committee include submission of a quarterly article for publication in the NASJE newsletter, a future program on retired judges, a future program on technology and ethics, and asking members via survey to suggest programs to add to the Catalog of Futures Oriented Programs.

**International Committee:**
The first conference call is scheduled for later this month. The committee’s goals include development of the international interest and skills database of our membership, as well as a proposed 2010 workshop – possibly involving immigration issues.

**Newsletter Committee:**
The Newsletter Committee did not report, but it is continuously looking for ways to make the newsletter more visually appealing.

**Website and Technology Committee:**
The committee’s goals are to establish a WebCT website containing curricula and other educational information for NASJE members, review the use of electronic voting consistent with the bylaw, and assist in development of a live online NASJE event scheduled for December 7, 2009. The committee would also like to review the NASJE website for content, appearance, and accessibility, as well as continue the development of the online curriculum builder. Education technology, both face-to-face and online modalities, remains a relevant investigation for judicial education.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES**
Amendments to the September Board Meeting minutes were passed.

**REPORT OF ORGANIZATION’S BUSINESS & ACTIVITY**

**Treasurer’s Report:**
Assets totaled $109,471.79. Income less expenses for the year are a $4,955.86 loss, but membership dues are paid in December. A $16,000 SJI grant offset the $14,000 loss on the Conference.

**President’s Report:**
An update was provided on the SJI Grant Application, and others are encouraged to write letters of support. Past-President Kenny Miller passed away.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Conference Updates:**
2011 There will be a sub-committee conference call on November 30th. Geoff Dallas will be leaving the National Center for State Courts at the end of November.
2012 A contract is in place for the Boston meeting.
2013 The 2013 conference will be held in the Southeastern Region.
SJ Grant Application Updates: 
NASJE has requested $22,000 from SJI to support the Annual Conference.

Attendance at National Conferences (e.g., COSCA): 
David Boyd of Iowa has been appointed as NASJE’s liaison to COSCA. Christy Tull would like to know if anyone plans to attend any national conference.

Memorial Tribute to Kenny Miller: 
Discussions were opened for ways to honor Kenny Miller, such as a memorial fund, NASJE scholarship in his name, or slideshow at the 2010 meeting. Other ideas included naming part of the Annual Conference after him, but some reminded to be cautious of the financial precedent such a decision would set. The discussion was tabled until the financial costs could be further analyzed.

Next Conference Call: 
The next conference call is scheduled for December 14th and will last 1.5 hours.
Kyrgyzstan Delegates Visit Nevada Supreme Court

by David Gordon

As a part of the Kyrgyzstan Judicial Reform Assistance Project, members of the Kyrgyzstan Judicial Council/Supreme Court Leaders' Study Tour visited the Nevada Supreme Court on October 26, 2009. The group included Ms. Larisa Gutichenko, the Chair of the Judicial Council of the Kyrgyz Republic, and Judge of the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz republic, as well as a number of other judges and a member of Kyrgyz Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament). The group was escorted by Project Officers from DPK Consulting, a firm that implements United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded justice reform projects in developing countries.

Harvesty, who discussed the significance of the Judiciary’s role as a separate and equal branch of government. The General Counsel and Executive Director of the Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline, Mr. David Sarnowski provided a briefing on the role of the commission and the processes related to complaints about judicial conduct, findings, and consequences. Mr. David Gordon provided an overview of Nevada’s initial and continuing judicial education requirements.

The group asked questions regarding the source of the judicial education requirements (statutory, and by supreme court rule), and were interested in the incentives provided to judges who achieve certain levels of educational accomplishment (Nevada provides awards in the form of certificates, plaques, etc for achieving 240, 440, 640, and 100 hours of education during a career). They were also interested in the process by which curricula and faculty are agreed upon.
National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law to be Held in Las Vegas in March

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is sponsoring the National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law, formerly known as the National Conference on Juvenile Justice. The conference will be held March 14-17, 2010, at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

As part of this redesigned conference, NCJFCJ has embarked on a collaborative approach to improve outcomes for children, youth, families, victims and communities. Learning opportunities will include the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) Resource Center showcasing hands-on Internet tools; meeting with conference faculty at the end of each day to discuss seminars attended; and visiting more than 75 exhibitors showcasing their support.

Who should attend?
Conference registration is open to judges, juvenile and family court personnel, related system professionals, and all others interested in better outcomes for children and families.

For more information or to register, visit the NCJFCJ website.
Regional News

The latest regional news, including the latest issue of the Southeast Regional Newsletter, and minutes from regional meetings, is available here.
Southeastern Region

NASJE’s Southeastern Region consists of

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Florida
DIRECTOR
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Comments are closed.

The National Association of State Judicial Educators is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action, ADA organization, and admits participants of any age, race, color, gender, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin.
Greetings NASJE Colleagues!

2010 promises to be a tremendous year with significant benefits to all NASJE members and our organization. The following is a summary of some of the highlights. Please take full advantage of your membership and participate. NASJE will:

- Conduct our 1st “Virtual NASJE Member Conference” with the use of web-conferencing on January 29th, 12:00 pm (Pacific), 1:00 pm (Central) or 3:00 pm (Eastern). Register online now for this 2-hour conference.

- Develop a NASJE curriculum for judicial branch educators based on our core competencies to be used for future NASJE conferences and for state educational programs.

- Create an automated curriculum builder as a planning tool available at no charge to NASJE members.

- Explore the viability of internet-based professional networking through web-based meeting services like WebCT, and schedule webinars for our members.

- Make JERITT monographs available to members via the NASJE website.

- Plan our 35th annual conference, which will take place in San Antonio, Texas from August 8-11, 2010.

- Coordinate planning with NACM for our joint NACM/NASJE conference in 2011.

- Expand NASJE’s membership and diversify our financial foundation.

- Fulfill the many goals and engage in the activities of NASJE’s twelve standing and non-standing
committees.

Though the temperatures dip and rise, my hope is that your spirits will remain cheerful through the new year. It remains an honor to serve as your president and I admire the contributions and devotion of our fine Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, members, and all of you who choose NASJE as one of the places where you make a difference.

Warm regards,
M. Christy Tull
NASJE President
One of the most contentious issues on the current American political scene involves the debate over the pros and cons of the legalization of same sex marriages. Proponents say the issue is one of basic fairness and, constitutionally, of equal protection. Opponents say that culturally, traditionally and legally, marriage has been defined over the millennia as the joining of a man and a woman “in lawful wedlock.”

While this all makes for an interesting intellectual discussion of a most controversial topic, what makes it of particular interest to judges and those who provide for their education is that like so many unresolved policy issues facing our nation, this debate has been framed in legal terms for resolution in a court of law. And for the judges confronted with deciding such cases, this involves a keen understanding and a studied application of their state constitutions and laws as well as the Canons governing their behavior both on and off the bench.

The Iowa Example
Early in 2009, a unanimous Iowa Supreme Court declared a state law banning same sex marriages was unconstitutional, based on the Court’s interpretation of the equal protection clause of the Iowa state constitution. This ruling presented Iowa judges who had the discretion to solemnize weddings along with local clergy with a dilemma. If they were personally opposed to such “marriages,” in view of the Court’s decision, must they perform them? And if they refused to perform them, could they be forced to perform them by another judge and/or ultimately by the same state Supreme Court that had overturned the ban in the first place. And if they refused to perform such marriages, could and would they subject themselves to an ethics complaint based on bias and prejudice that could result in their reprimand, censure, suspension, and removal.

And what if they were asked about their position on these matters while attending a public gathering, especially when they were engaged in a campaign for election/re-election? Could they say they were personally opposed to such relationships without also saying that notwithstanding, they were bound by law to comply with the decision of the Supreme Court in this regard?

These were the very types of questions that were discussed and debated at an educational program created by judges from the Judicial Division of the ABA and presented last June to a couple hundred
Iowa judges in Des Moines.

What made the program particularly helpful to troubled attendees is that the presenters took a point-counterpoint approach to each of these questions in the hope of providing the judges in attendance with a useful ethical framework within which to make the hard calls dealing with this difficult issue involved.

**An Issue Coming Your Way**

Even for those states where there is a legally intact ban on same sex marriages, this is an issue where judges still need education and guidance. Among the questions these jurists might face are these:

- What if a same sex couple married in Iowa comes to a state that doesn’t recognize such marriages, establishes residency and then later petitions a state court for a divorce. Must the judge personally opposed to such unions hear and decide the case in comportment with the “full faith and credit” clause of the U.S. Constitution?
- Can such a judge as a matter of conscience refuse to hear such a case by recusing himself/herself?
- What if the pastor of a judge’s church asks the judge to give his/her opinion on such “marriages” or more difficult still, what if this cleric asks the judge to publicly condemn such unions?
- What if a judge is asked by a same sex couple seeking a divorce to order the clerk charged with taking and filing the divorce petition to take it after he/she refused to do so “on religious grounds?”

I could go on but these are just some of the issues judges all across the nation will soon be confronted with as this contentious debate makes its way across America.

**The Need to Prepare**

Whether you create and implement such an interactive program using your own resources or by reaching out to an organization like the ABA, this is an emerging issue that like it or not will confront your state judiciary in the immediate years ahead. And the sooner the hard-to-make decisions this issue gives rise to are discussed and debated by your judges, the better prepared they will be to answer the challenging personal and professional questions the same sex marriage issue will present to them.

For further information on the Iowa program, contact Eugenia Taylor at the ABA in Chicago at 312-988-6716.
The Courts Catalyzing Change: Achieving Equity and Fairness in Foster Care Initiative (CCC), funded by Casey Family Programs and supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), brings together judicial officers and other systems experts to set a national agenda for court-based training, research, and reform initiatives to reduce the disproportionate representation of children of color in dependency court systems.

A major goal of the CCC Initiative is to provide concrete guidance, strategies, and tools to assist dependency court systems in taking specific actions to reduce racial disproportionality and disparate treatment of children and families of color. One tool specifically designed to transform judicial practice on the bench in child abuse and neglect cases, is a preliminary protective benchcard designed with a racial equity lens. The benchcard is the first step in enhancing the NCJFCJ’s RESOURCE GUIDELINES and is designed to assist judges to conduct the preliminary protective hearing with a clear and deep consideration of culture, reasonable efforts, and the minimally adequate standard of care. The Portland, Oregon, Los Angeles, California, and Omaha, Nebraska Model Courts are currently serving as pilot research test sites for implementation of the benchcard.

Evaluations conducted from the implementation of the benchcard are important in determining its effectiveness for reducing disproportionality and disparate treatment within the juvenile dependency court system. Findings and lessons learned from the pilot testing and evaluation process will be published in a technical assistance brief to provide guidance to other jurisdictions as they proceed with the implementation process. Following the pilot, the benchcard will be released to all Model Court jurisdictions upon participation in critical training regarding implicit bias and institutional and structural racism.

Additionally, the Courts Catalyzing Change National Agenda Implementation Guide was recently released at the NCJFCJ Model Courts All-Sites Conference in October. The Implementation Guide outlines five preliminary steps to aid courts in implementing the National Agenda in their jurisdictions, and offers current implementation highlights from Model Court jurisdictions. The Implementation Guide, as well as the Courts Catalyzing Change National Agenda and other resources, can be downloaded from the CCC website.

Tracy Cooper and Paula Campbell are Information Specialists with the Permanency Planning for Children Department of the
An Abundance of Information is Just a Click Away: The Statistical Briefing Book is Available Online

by Melissa Sickmund, PhD

The Statistical Briefing Book is an information resource developed for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the research division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. The Statistical Briefing Book can be found online at the OJJDP website.

The Statistical Briefing Book is a comprehensive online information resource that describes various topics related to delinquency and the juvenile justice system, including the latest information on juveniles living in poverty, teen birth rates, juvenile victims of violent crime, trends in juvenile arrest rates, and youth in residential placement facilities.

FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions provide the latest answers to the most commonly asked questions about juvenile offending, victimization of juveniles, and the involvement of youth in the juvenile justice system.

Data Analysis Tools: Data analysis and dissemination tools available through the Statistical Briefing Book give users quick and “easy access” to detailed statistics on a variety of juvenile justice topics. These tools allow users to create national, state, and county tables on juvenile populations, arrests, court cases, and custody populations. The Statistical Briefing Book makes it easy for policymakers, judges, juvenile justice practitioners, students, the media, and the general public to access timely and reliable statistical information on juvenile justice. The Statistical Briefing Book is an invaluable resource even for users outside the juvenile justice system. In fact, the Easy Access to Juvenile Populations data analysis tool, the most visited area of the site, is a terrific place to get population data for the denominator of rate statistics or to include a grant application.

So, make the Statistical Briefing Book your first stop for statistical information on juvenile populations and juvenile justice.

Data Analysis Tools

- Easy Access to Juvenile Populations provides access to national, state, and county level population data detailed by age, sex, race, and Hispanic ethnicity. Users can view population profiles for a single jurisdiction or create state comparison or county comparison tables.

- Easy Access to the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports gives users access to more...
than two decades of data on homicide victims and homicide offenders, including information on the age, sex, and race of both victims and offenders, the victim-offender relationship, and the type of weapon used. Users can also view multiyear state homicide profiles.

- **Easy Access to NIBRS: Victims of Domestic Violence** allows users to analyze data on victims of domestic violence, including information on the age, sex, and race of both victims and offenders, the victim-offender relationship, and injuries to the victim, as well as characteristics of the incident, including presence of a weapon, location, day of week, and clearance type.

- **Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics** provides access to national, state, and county level arrest statistics. Users can choose between displays of arrest counts and arrest rates for juveniles, adults, or all ages combined. Displays present arrest statistics for 29 detailed offense categories.

- **Easy Access to Juvenile Court Statistics** lets users access data on juvenile court processing of more than 30 million delinquency cases, including information on the age, sex, and race of juveniles involved, the use of detention, adjudication, and disposition.

- **Easy Access to State and County Juvenile Court Case Counts** gives users quick access to the state and county juvenile court case counts for delinquency, status offense, and dependency cases.

- **Juvenile Court Statistics Databook** lets users view pre-formatted tables describing the demographic characteristics of youth involved in the juvenile justice system and how juvenile courts process these cases.

- **Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement** was developed to facilitate independent analysis of national data on the characteristics of youth held in residential placement facilities, including detailed information about the youth’s age, sex, race/ethnicity, placement status, length of stay, and most serious offense.

- **Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook** contains a large set of pre-defined tables detailing the characteristics of juvenile offenders in custody. Users can view custody population profiles for a single jurisdiction or state comparison tables.

- **National Disproportionate Minority Contact Databook** presents national DMC data for the juvenile justice system and Relative Rate Index Matrices along with written interpretations of the findings. Users can review the raw counts and rates that characterize the processing of delinquency cases by the juvenile justice system and then study the Relative Rate Index Matrix that helps to pinpoint and quantify the levels of racial disparity introduced at various decision points within the system.

**Other Resources**

- **Compendium of National Juvenile Justice Data Sets**
- **Links to more than 25 web-based resources**
- **OJJDP’s flagship statistical publication, Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report**, which offers a clear view of juvenile crime and the justice system’s response at the beginning of the 21st century, is available for download.

If you can’t find the information you need, please feel free to contact a Statistical Briefing Book staff person at 412–227–6950 or ncjj@ncjj.org.
10 Things You Should Know About Attending an International Judicial Education Meeting

by W. Milt Nuzum, Director, Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College

Most of us fit into one of two categories. At least half of us are in the “homebody” category. We like going home at night to sleep comfortably in our own beds knowing that we will wake up safe and warm with a good homemade breakfast and the local newspaper waiting for us. We look forward to a fulfilling day of work surrounded by colleagues who care about us and our family members who love us. The remaining half of us fall into the “I like home but I might be missing something” category. That is where I find myself.

We too like home, our colleagues and families, but not enough to forego risking the inevitable discomforts and hoped-for rewards that come with hopping on a plane and going to some distant place to seek the adventure of experiencing a new culture. I just rewarded/punished myself with such an experience by attending the International Organization of Judicial Training (IOJT) meeting in Sydney, Australia. Before you go too far, I want to assure you that IOJT was on the reward side of that slash in the previous sentence. Getting there and back was on the punish side. Here are the 10 things you need to know:

1. One does not “hop on a plane.” While this is an expression as old as airline travel, keep in mind that you have to get to a busy airport and find a parking place at least two hours before you are scheduled to depart. Your bag has to weigh less than 50 pounds. However, it must be packed to keep you fit to appear in formal and informal sessions for up to two weeks half way around the world in another hemisphere where it is spring when you arrived and fall when you left. You must remember to get your passport AND visa well in advance. Then you have to not break a sweat or look shifty eyed while going through (1) immigrations, (2) customs and (3) airport security. By the way, remember to wear socks without holes in them. When you make it to your departure gate, the plane will inevitably be delayed. You will find yourself exhausted deciding whether you need a stiff drink of expensive liquor or a shot of caffeine at Starbucks while you are waiting for the boarding announcement. When they actually call your flight, you most assuredly will not be able to find your boarding pass. If you are like me you will find it in the inner lining of your ball cap because you did not want to wrinkle it while carrying your Starbucks coffee. You then find that you actually shuffle onto the plane. There is no hopping while shuffling. You will eventually find your seat only to discover that you are the only person on the plane who actually checked in a bag. Everybody else, including the 11 seatmates in your row carried theirs on leaving you with no place to put your backpack except on your feet.
2. Modern airplanes are not designed for your comfort unless you are willing to add a second mortgage to your home to fly in first class. Assuming you are not willing to do so (as I am not), you then have the joy of becoming well acquainted with your fellow coach class passengers. The person in front of you will lean the seat back leaving you with about 8 inches of living space for the next 14 hours. You cannot sit for 14 hours without going to the bathroom unless you have a very elastic bladder. I do not. You will arise and visit the lavatory. God forbid you have claustrophobia. When you return to your seat, you discover that the guy in front of you who leaned back to sleep in your lap has awakened and is waiting for you to return. He wants to know if you found his false teeth. You assure him that the only teeth you have are your own. He looks at you suspiciously like you are probably lying, but has to accept your word for it. This actually happened to me. It had a happy ending. When we arrived in Sydney, the flight attendant announced as we were pulling up to the gate that if anybody lost their false teeth, that person could claim them at the rear galley. The fellow was so happy; he jumped up and hit his head on the overhead luggage compartment yelling, “They found me choppers! They found me choppers!” All I could think about was what were his choppers doing in the galley where my food was prepared?

3. Hotels outside the United States and Canada are different. Here in North America you can get a King or Double room. Everywhere else you can get a King or Twin room. I spent an hour on the website trying to figure out whether the Australian definition of twin was the same as our double (meaning two queen size beds) or did they, in fact, mean two twin beds. After all, Australians have a very British heritage. In Australia, you take the lift, not the elevator. You have mates, not friends. You have “no worries” in Australia. They also drive on the wrong side of the road. In any event, the size of the bed made a difference to me because my wife and adult son accompanied me on the trip and we planned to share the room. I decided to forego an expensive international call to get a clear answer to this question deciding that, “twin,” was the Australian English language equivalent to our, “two doubles.” I was wrong. Needless to say that my wife, son and I slept less comfortably than I expected. This is a good segue to the next topic.

4. Sleep is no problem when you are 15 time zones away from your home. The only problem is that you are sleepy when you need to be awake and vice versa. Drugs can help but not a good idea when you are going to make a presentation to a distinguished audience of judges and judicial educators who may or may not speak your version of the English language. We now arrive at another segue.

5. The IOJT did an excellent job of providing translators for the plenary sessions. For non-English speakers, they have these cool headphones that enable the wearer to look good and understand the speaker in any number of native tongues. All presentations were made in English so I could understand just fine but I did not look cool without a headset. I succumbed to the temptation to put fashion above understanding by putting on a headset to look cool. Understandably, since I am a monolingual American, I had no clue about what was going on around me. I finally and reluctantly went back to my naked ears and found that I learned some things I did not know. Here we arrive at yet another segue.

6. The IOJT agenda was full of useful sessions applicable to a U.S. judicial educator. Two of them featured me as a speaker. I learned what I already knew about learning. I highly recommend teaching if you want to learn something really well. However, by listening to the other presenters, I was fascinated to learn that the problems of the judiciary and judicial educators around the world are not so much different from our own. I even learned that judicial
educators in five countries on three different continents with vastly different forms of government are collaborating using technology to develop courses for delivery to judges in each of those five countries. As I thought about how that type of collaboration breaks down cultural barriers, I was extremely impressed.

7. If I walked away from IOJT with nothing else, I walked away with a network of new acquaintances who are interesting and influential people in the world. There were judicial educators, judges, Supreme Court justices and chief justices from states, provinces and countries on every continent except Antarctica at this conference. In my life, I have found that developing and using a network of friends inevitably leads to good things and success.

8. IOJT reinforced for me that the things that unite us as people far outweigh the things that separate us. Here is just one example. There was a terrible tragedy in Iraq that occurred while the conference was underway. There was an attack on the Iraqi Ministry of Justice Building in which many innocent people and employees of the court were killed. The Chief Justice of the Iraqi Supreme Court and two of his colleagues were in attendance at the IOJT meeting. We united as attendees from around the world in one group to convey our heartfelt condolences to these gentlemen who lost friends and colleagues in that senseless bombing.

9. The foregoing tragedy illustrated for me that serving as a judge or judicial educator requires extreme acts of bravery in many places in the world. We are accustomed to metal detectors in our own judicial buildings in the U.S. We have had our own senseless tragedies, but working in countries where political unrest and terrorism is the rule rather than the exception gives one pause to think what it would be like to live under the pressure serving justice on a daily basis knowing that your life could be taken at any moment. There are some very courageous people in our profession.

10. Despite the annoyances inherent in travel, it is a life enriching experience to attend a conference where you meet people from different cultures to exchange ideas and realize that we are not so different from one another and that we strive for common goals.

My advice is to love your home but make sure you don't miss something. Buy a travel guide. Make sure you know which snakes and spiders will kill you and where the crocodiles lurk. Then shuffle onto a plane and get out there to seize the day. Make some new friends and return with some good stories to tell. Who knows, they might invite you to come back.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Milt Nuzum, Director of the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College, represented NASJE recently at the IOJT meeting in Sydney, Australia. Here are the materials from his presentation:
1) Distance Learning for Judges (PDF)
2) Education and Training of Long-Serving Judges (PDF)
Judicial Balance - Lessons for Law and Life

A publication of the Judicial Conference of Indiana, Judicial Balance includes stories and insights.

- **November 2009 (Web)**
- **January 2010 (Web)**

**Resources**
- Judicial Ethics and the Same Sex Marriage Debate
- Courts Catalyzing Change: Tools to Reduce Disproportionality and Disparate Treatment of Children and Families of Color
- An Abundance of Information is Just a Click Away: The Statistical Briefing Book is Available Online
- 10 Things You Should Know About Attending an International Judicial Education Meeting

**Features**
- BALANCE: Lessons for Law and Life
- Thiaqi Gameletter
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This is an appeal for donations to help us publish and distribute my online Thiagi GameLetter. I will keep it brief. In 2009, we received $260 in donations from our readers. It costs us much more to keep the newsletter going. (Not counting my time, we estimate that it costs us about $30,000 a year.)

My financial advisor says that I should stop publishing the newsletter and spend my time in revenue-generating activities instead. But I don't want to stop publishing the newsletter because I am addicted to designing new training games and sharing them with my friends.

Can you send a donation to help us continue writing, publishing, and distributing the Thiagi GameLetter? Just visit http://thiagi.com/tgl-appeal.html.

The November 2009 issue contains:

- LEADERSHIP DIRECTIONS, a structured sharing activity for translating principles into practice
- ENVELOPES, a framegame for rapidly designing your own training games
- 20 INTERVENTIONS, a text game for improving human performance
- An invitation to a game design workshop in Singapore with Thiagi and Tracy
- This month’s guest-gamer interview with Leif Hansen about a spark that ignites a whole person
- SCULPTED PLAYFORMATION, an improv game by Leif Hansen for transforming you from being stuck
- A 99-words article on what to do if you get lost by Brian Remer
- Articles by Brian about reinventing the wheel and the importance of taking into account the relationships between the parts of systems
- A review of (and links to) video podcasts about board games with Scott Nicholson
- Tracy’s survey about getting certified to conduct a Thiagi workshop
- Results from last month’s survey on going green in the workplace

The December 2009 issue contains:
• A new and improved version of the classic job aid, "Laws of Adult Learning"
• 20 REASONS, a textra game that justifies the use of learning activities
• SHAPES AND COLORS, a rapid jolt that explores partial information and hasty generalization
• TIME TRAVEL, an interactive storytelling activity about improving your creativity
• A Guest Gamer interview with Marla Allen, who will make you laugh
• FUN WITH SNOWBALLS for use anytime, anywhere, and in any season 99 words from
• Brian Remer on not severing your links
• Brian's review of MakeBeliefsComix, a website that helps you create your own comic strips
• COMIC RELIEF by Brian Remer, an interesting game that incorporates comic strips
• A link to Roger Greenaway's provocative idea of conducting a debriefing session before conducting training
• Tracy's challenge for achieving world peace
• Results from last issue's single topic survey by Tracy

The January 2010 issue contains:
• An article about synthetic culture activities, which are a special type of simulation game
• A positive psychology activity about five approaches to increasing your feelings of subjective well-being
• An article that identifies 10 ways to waste your training dollars
• A Guest Gamer interview with Scott Nicholson
• A Textra game with the immodest objective of bringing about world peace
• 99 words of advice from Brian Remer on how to ride out life's turmoils
• Articles and activities by Brian about different aspects of breathing
• Information about game design workshops in Zurich and Chicago
• Tracy's single topic survey about new-year's resolutions
• A report on last month's single topic survey
• An invitation to our podcasts, hosted by Matthew Richter

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