

# Global Justice Information Network: *Our Mission*

With criminal organizations routinely organizing across jurisdictional boundaries, justice information sharing has become a necessity of modern law enforcement. It is incumbent on justice professionals that they seek to understand how sharing justice data works. The *Global Justice Information Network (Global)* investigates the barriers to justice information sharing across agencies, disciplines, and levels of government in an attempt to develop and implement standards to facilitate seamless information exchange.

*Global* advises the federal government, specifically through the U.S. Attorney General, on justice information sharing and integration. Through counsel on related activities and initiatives, *Global's* goal is to facilitate standards-based electronic information exchange throughout the justice community. This last part is fundamental, because public safety is best secured when all players—from patrol officers to prosecutors, from courts officials to corrections personnel—have access to timely and accurate information.

The U.S. Attorney General reached out to key personnel from local, tribal, state, federal, and international justice entities to form the Global Advisory Committee (GAC). This "group of groups," or "Global Network" of dedicated justice professionals, works collaboratively to address the policy, connectivity, and jurisdictional issues that have hampered effective justice information sharing. The GAC is comprised of justice agency executives and policy makers; justice automation planners and managers; justice information practitioners; and, most importantly, end users. The members are

dedicated to the issue of information sharing because they are the producers, consumers, and administrators of crucial justice data.

Leaders of the GAC are elected every two years by fellow committee members. Mr. Gary Cooper, Executive Director, SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, currently serves as the GAC Chairman. Mr. Gerry Wethington, National Association of State Chief Information Officers, and Chief Information Officer, State of Missouri, serves as the Vice Chairman. Together they work to further *Global's* mission: "*To improve the administration of justice and protect the nation's public by promoting practices and technologies for the secure sharing of justice information.*"

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft stated, "Americans have a history of great courage and great resolve. We must continue that great tradition. And so, like the many courageous generations before us, we must act. We can act to prepare and protect our families and communities." *Global* has taken measures to meet this challenge, and the GAC continues to examine dynamic issues such as facilitating access of necessary justice information while maintaining privacy rights. Committee members will also pursue full participation in data exchange for all disciplines. Indeed, the ability to share critical information at key decision points across the entire justice community has become essential to agency effectiveness and national public safety.

October 2002