

**Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global)  
Global Advisory Committee (GAC) Meeting  
Summer 2020 Virtual Meeting**

**July 30, 2020  
Meeting Summary**

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative's (Global) Advisory Committee (GAC) held its scheduled summer meeting, utilizing a virtual platform, on July 30, 2020. The Honorable Kevin J. Bowling, J.D. MSJA, Court Administrator, 20th Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts, representing the National Association for Court Management and the GAC Chairman, led the meeting in furtherance of and alignment with Global's charter and mission.<sup>1</sup>

This synopsis includes key highlights from the meeting, as well as the meeting agenda.

**CONVENE AND WELCOMING REMARKS**

Chairman Bowling opened the meeting by thanking all attendees for taking the time to attend, recognizing how the membership is currently working with its respective agencies and associations in developing new policies and strategies related to justice reform and change, while coping with the many challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present to all. Chairman Bowling specifically thanked members for continuing to focus on the GAC mission and enhancing information sharing efforts throughout the nation.

Chairman Bowling facilitated the introduction of federal officials, special guests, and observers and then introduced Ms. Tracey Trautman. He personally thanked Ms. Trautman for the support she provides to Global and the GAC on a daily basis.

**BJA FEDERAL OFFICIALS' REMARKS**

Ms. Tracey Trautman, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and Global Designated Federal Official (DFO), provided welcoming remarks, thanking the members and emphasizing the importance of meeting virtually to keep Global's work moving forward, as well as reminding them of the focus on the grant season and process.

Ms. Trautman introduced Mr. Vince Davenport, Associate Deputy Director Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and Mr. David Lewis, Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and Global Deputy Designated Official.

Mr. Davenport introduced himself to the membership, and Mr. Lewis gave brief remarks updating the various GAC task teams as well as the progress made to date on the Ashanti Alert system.

**PRESENTATION TOPIC: Arizona Jury Trial Virtual Platform Project and Promising Practices**

Chairman Bowling advised that the presentation would be facilitated by fellow Global member Dave Byers, focusing on the developments under way in the Arizona court system, the Arizona Jury Trial Platform Project, and promising practices that highlight the progress being made in Arizona related to information sharing and the use of technology to minimize in-person proceedings, as well as other cost-effective advancements within the Arizona criminal justice system.

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information regarding Global can be found at [www.it.ojp.gov/global](http://www.it.ojp.gov/global).

Mr. Byers provided an in-depth PowerPoint presentation including an overview of the progress related to information sharing and the use of technology to minimize in-person proceedings, off-site cash payments, online dispute resolution, grand juries, and jury trials.

Mr. Byers advised that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, courts have had to shift from in-person proceedings to remote hearings via teleconference and video and that virtual hearings probably will not end with the conclusion of the pandemic.

The following points were highlighted during the presentation:

- The courts have now largely moved from an all-paper document system to an e-file process, to include a new system that would allow protection orders to be requested online. Also discussed was the utilization of pagers and cueing software and how this new process alerts participants of the appropriate time to enter the courtroom.
- Recognizing that one-third of customers operate in cash only and are not in the banking systems, off-site cash payments have been put into use. The Arizona court system stood up the “Pay-Near-Me” process. After receiving a notice, via cell phone or tablet, that a fine is pending, an individual can go into CVS, 7-11, Family Dollar, or other locations and scan the code, and the fine will be collected. The fine funding is then sent to the court. This payment system is working flawlessly.
- Criminal misdemeanor ODR program (online dispute resolution)
  - Defendants can complete the entire process online, including receiving the notice and negotiating with the prosecutor, and the judge can hear the case online as well.
  - Remote grand jury proceedings are in place at Superior Court in Mohave County.
  - This court pioneered Zoom grand juries, and now Zoom is used to screen jurors and select alternates; only those selected may enter the court.
  - Virtual trial juries are in the experimental phase, and various methods of evidence presentation are being examined.
  - Some of these changes may become permanent.
  - “Plan B Workgroup” is focused on developing recommendations that could become permanent in the Arizona court system.

#### **PRESENTATION TOPIC: Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council Update**

GAC member and CICC Chairman Mike Sena gave an overview of the latest activities related to the CICC. The members were advised of the monthly update calls conducted by the CICC and were given updates on the following task teams/projects:

- Tips and Leads and Threats to Life Task Team
- National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan
- The Automatic License Plate Reader Task Team

Mr. Sena also discussed the STAC Working Group and its continued focus on the issue of single sign-on.

#### **PRESENTATION TOPIC: NIJ Strategic Plan(s) Corrections, Courts, Policing Overview**

Chairman Bowling then introduced the next presentation, thanking Dr. Linda Truitt for coordinating with the committee on the very timely discussion encompassing the three National Institute of Justice (NIJ) strategic plans currently in place related to courts, corrections, and policing. Chairman Bowling noted that the plans have specific goals and objectives related to information sharing, data collection, and technology-driven solutions, all of which have ties to the Global mission. Chairman Bowling provided remarks highlighting Director Muhlhausen’s extensive background, particularly his work with juveniles in the Baltimore, Maryland, justice system.

Mr. Muhlhausen provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation with an overview of three of the six current strategic plans developed by the NIJ: Policing, 2017–2022, Corrections, 2018–2023, and Courts, 2020–2024.

Mr. Muhlhausen advised that the Policing Strategic Research Plan focuses on three strategic priorities to promote and support research: optimizing workforce development for officers and civilian personnel, police practices, and the relationship between policing and communities. Describing the purpose of the plan and its focus on the critical need in policing, he highlighted six notable projects:

- Use of body-worn cameras
- Police use of force and de-escalation
- Recruitment of women in policing
- Police decision making and use of force
- Building trust and homicide investigations
- Third-party policing and crime reduction

In his briefing on the Corrections Strategic Research Plan, Mr. Muhlhausen noted three strategic priorities to promote and support the research: optimization of the workforce development for corrections personnel, enhancing corrections practices, and examination of the experiences of individuals involved in the correction system. Both institutional and community corrections are addressed in the plan, and the following projects were highlighted:

- The impact of restrictive housing on inmate and officer well-being, offender misconduct, and step-down programs
- The impact of reentry programming on recidivism, employment, and housing
- The use of body-worn cameras in a jail setting

Mr. Muhlhausen then transitioned to the NIJ Court’s Strategic Research Plan, highlighting its purpose, sponsor research, development, and evaluation to identify court tools, programs, and policies that satisfy criminal justice goals.

An overview of the following four priorities was given, with key objectives supporting each priority discussed.

- Priority 1. Promote and support research to develop the court’s workforce and enhance court workgroups
- Priority 2. Promote and support research to advance court practice
- Priority 3. Promote and support research on the fair and impartial administration of justice
- Priority 4. Promote data and research capacity building

Following this presentation, Chairman Bowling thanked Mr. Muhlhausen and NIJ for their work and willingness to present to the Global members. The following Global members asked questions related to the presentations:

Judge Barbara Mack, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges—Proposed a question to NIJ related to its work on third-party policing work with hotels on drug trafficking, inquiring whether NIJ focuses on human trafficking, and advised of the work being conducted to combat human trafficking and raise awareness with nonprofits and hotel and motel managers. Judge Mack also offered her association’s assistance to NIJ moving forward.

Mannone Butler, National Criminal Justice Association—Referencing the Arizona Courts presentation, inquired about the interest from the defense bar. Chairman Bowling correlated the Arizona court system’s progress with work being conducted in Michigan and advised that the defense bar in Michigan saw cost benefits to clients.

Paul Embley, National Center for State Courts—Supported Chairman Bowling’s answer, stating that he is aware that the defense bar has advised it can handle more cases in a more effective manner.

The roundtable discussion was opened, and Chairman Bowling facilitated the conversation by calling upon each member in attendance for any questions on the day’s presentations and/or updates from his or her organization.

Sheriff Mike Milstead, National Sheriffs' Association—Advised of Global's potential role in providing technical assistance and is hopeful that the federal partners will continue to work with Global and its many representative police associations when discussing police reform. Sheriff Milstead also advised of Global's willingness to assist the AG with this endeavor.

Paul Halvorson, Administrative Office of the United States Courts—Advised of a pending court disposition that he will report on at a future meeting.

Veronica Cunningham, American Probation and Parole Association—Advised that most conferences now are in a virtual format and that a pending conference will support 30 live workshops, with 2,000 participants registered to attend. The association is also partnering with CJIS to raise awareness of NDEX among probation and parole officers.

Mike Lesco, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board—The August 17, 2020, in-person meeting has been moved to a virtual format. The FBI is still supporting the transition of UCR to NIBRS, and a task force (Beyond 2021) is working on post-transition activities.

Nick Megna (attending on behalf of James Gerst), representing the Federal Bureau of Investigation, CJIS Division—Advised that the use-of-force publication is now available for viewing and that the narrative contains information from all agencies that participated.

Mike Fergus (attending on behalf of Vince Talluci), representing the International Association of Chiefs of Police—Advised that both the fall IACP conference and the drug and alcohol conference will be held in a virtual format. All information related to the conferences can be found on the IACP website.

John McMahon, Major County Sheriffs Association—Advised that the association is watching the state and local policing discussion very closely, as well as the virtual court project.

Barbara Mack, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges—Working with courts around the country on the impact of technology. Some courts report increased participation, while others do not. Next steps include expectations related to the use of technology. Also, reports of abuse continue to rise, and the Council will work with the challenges courts face.

James Bethke, representing the National Legal Aid & Defender Association—Tremendous backlog in cases, to include 41,000 in Harris County. The challenge related to jury trials is not necessarily scheduling but difficulty in selecting a jury. An increase in virtual proceedings, as well as an increase in number of prisoners and sheriffs' staff with COVID.

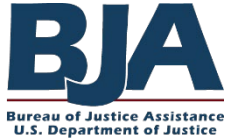
Maria Cardiello, Executive Director, IJIS Institute—Advised that the mid-year meeting will be held in a virtual format. Challenges related to the pandemic and other issues will be the theme of the meeting. There is no cost to register for the event, and IJIS is asking for suggestions or priorities that the GAC feels would have an impact.

Steve Mabeus, Office of the Director of National Intelligence—Advised that the meeting was very informative and related updates to the new Director of National Intelligence's priorities.

Chairman Bowling ended the meeting with some closing comments and advised that the September 17, 2020, GAC fall meeting will be held in a virtual platform as well.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m., ET.

**Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global)  
Advisory Committee (GAC, Committee)  
Summer 2020 Virtual Meeting**



[GAC Virtual Teleconference Meeting Link](#)

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**July 30, 2020**

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**Agenda**

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| <b>2:30 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.</b> | <b>Welcoming Remarks</b><br><i>Mr. Kevin Bowling, Court Administrator, 20th Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts, Global Advisory Committee (GAC) Chairman</i>  |
| <b>2:35 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.</b> | <b>Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Federal Officials' Remarks</b><br><i>Ms. Tracey Trautman, Principal Deputy Director, BJA, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and Global Designated Federal Official</i><br><i>Mr. David Lewis, Senior Policy Advisor, BJA, OJP, DOJ, and Global Deputy Designated Official</i> |
| <b>2:40 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.</b> | <b>Arizona Jury Trial Virtual Platform Project and Promising Practices</b><br><i>Mr. David K. Byers, Administrative Office of the Courts, Arizona Supreme Court, Director, GAC Member</i>   |
| <b>2:55 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.</b> | <b>Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council (CICC) Update</b><br><i>Mr. Mike Sena, Director, Northern California Regional Intelligence Center, Chairman, CICC</i>   |
| <b>3:05 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.</b> | <b>National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Strategic Plan(s) Corrections, Courts, Policing Overview</b><br><i>David B. Muhlhausen, Ph.D., Director, NIJ</i>   |
| <b>3:35 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Roundtable Discussion</b><br><i>Facilitated by GAC Chairman Bowling</i>  |
|                              | <b>Adjourn</b>  |