

# The Resource Page: Focus on Drug Courts

## WHAT IS A DRUG COURT?

The mission of drug courts is to stop the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and related criminal activity. Drug courts offer a compelling choice for individuals whose criminal justice involvement stems from [alcohol or drug] use: participation in treatment. In exchange for successful completion of the treatment program, the court may dismiss the original charge, reduce or set aside a sentence, offer some lesser penalty, or offer a combination of these.

Drug courts transform the roles of both criminal justice practitioners and ... treatment providers. The judge is the central figure in a team effort that focuses on sobriety and accountability as the primary goals. Because the judge takes on the role of trying to keep participants engaged in treatment, providers can effectively focus on developing a therapeutic relationship with the participant. In turn, treatment providers keep the court informed of each participant's progress so that rewards and sanctions can be provided.

Excerpt from U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Drug Policy Office, *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components* (1997).



## DRUG COURT ACTIVITY

No. of programs today	275
No. of programs planned	155

Source: Drug Court Programs Office, U.S. Department of Justice (as of June 1998).

Court Review thanks Marilyn McCoy Roberts of the Drug Court Programs Office, Judge Peggy Fulton Hora and Judge William G. Schma for their contributions of information for this page.

## CLINTON ANNOUNCES DRUG COURT GRANTS

WASHINGTON, July 11 (AP) – Testing of criminal defendants in 23 of the nation's biggest cities shows a strong connection between drugs and crime, a government study found. But drugs of choice vary widely by region, and President Clinton said today he is releasing \$32 million in grants to help local officials tailor local responses.

Clinton used his weekly radio address to announce \$27 million in federal grants to create special drug courts in 150 new jurisdictions. There are now more than 270 drug courts around the country, combining supervision with sanctions, testing and drug treatment to coerce criminals to end their drug habit.



## CONTACT LIST

### American University Drug Court Clearinghouse

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### National Association of Drug Court Professionals

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### Drug Courts Program Office USDOJ Office of Justice Programs

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## INTERNET SITES FOR INFORMATION ABOUT DRUG COURTS

### American University Drug Court Clearinghouse

<http://www.american.edu/justice>

This is the place to start for information about drug courts. Under an agreement with the Justice Department, American University maintains this information base on drug courts. If you don't find what you want on-line, contact them and they can get you to the right place.

### National Association of Drug Court Professionals

<http://www.drugcourt.org>

This group has the text of lots of publications about drug courts available on-line, as well as lists of resources and contacts throughout the country.

### Drug Courts Program Office, US Justice Department

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo>

The Drug Courts Program Office administers the federal grants program. Information about the grants, including application packets, are available on-line.

### Related Sites:

### National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information

<http://www.health.org/index.htm>

### National Institute on Drug Abuse

<http://www.nida.nih.gov>

### Office of National Drug Control Policy

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>



# The Resource Page



## NEW PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

G. Thomas Munsterman, et al., *Jury Trial Innovations* (1997) (334 pp.).

All of the proposals for jury reform are catalogued here with pros, cons and citations to cases and articles discussing each one. Topics covered include juror questioning of witnesses, juror note-taking, and juror discussion of evidence during trial. To order, send \$18 (which includes postage & handling) to National Center for State Courts, Fulfillment Dept., P. O. Box 580, Williston, VT 05495-0580 - or call 1-888-228-NCSC - or e-mail: [ncsc.orders@aid-cvt.com](mailto:ncsc.orders@aid-cvt.com).

Jona Goldschmidt, et al., *Meeting the Challenge of Pro Se Litigation: A Report and Guidebook for Judges and Court Managers* (1998) (113 pp. plus 30-page appendix).

This guidebook is a thorough, readable manual for helping *pro se* litigants, with an appendix of additional resources, including contact names and a bibliography. Detailed information is provided about successful programs throughout the country. The book is available for \$15 plus \$3.50 postage and handling from the American Judicature Society, Suite 600, 180 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60601 - (312) 558-6900. Other AJS publications are listed on their web site at <http://www.ajs.org/pubs1.html>.

*Juries for the Year 2000 and beyond: Proposals to Improve the Jury System in Washington, D.C.* (1998) (112 pp.).

Who ever heard of a committee report so well written, thorough and timely that it was a "must read?" For those interested in reform and improvement of the jury system, it

has happened. Led by D.C. Superior Court Judge Gregory Mize and D.C. U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan, this committee has prepared thorough recommendations for jury system improvements in D.C. that are worthy of study throughout the nation. The report, which contains detailed references and analysis, expands on jury research projects previously undertaken in Arizona and elsewhere. Copies are available from the Council for Court Excellence, 1150 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 620, Washington, D.C. 20036-4104 - (202) 785-5917. The Council asks for a \$5 payment to cover postage and handling. A summary of the recommendations can be viewed at <http://www.courtexcellence.org/recommendations.html>.



## INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST

Internet sites won't provide the ease of searching and breadth of case law, statutes and law review coverage of LEXIS and Westlaw, but they do provide coverage of U.S. Supreme Court, federal courts of appeals, recent state decisions and access to legal organizations, government web sites, federal and many state statutes and even on-line CLE. Here are some of the best sites:

**findlaw.com**  
<http://www.findlaw.com>

Findlaw is very easy to use. Federal and state materials are easy to locate. On-line CLE will teach you how to do legal research on the Internet, using findlaw and other primary Internet legal research sites.

**WashLaw**  
<http://washlaw.edu>

The Washburn University School of Law Library staff keeps this site up-to-date. Provides links to lots of other

useful sites as well, ranging from legal and government sites to one at which you can find the 9-digit zip code for any address.

**Cornell's Legal Information Institute**  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu>

One of the first Internet legal research sites and still one of the best, most of what's accessible on the web is listed or linked here somewhere. However, some of the links we checked on state law weren't fully up-to-date.

**alllaw.com**  
<http://www.alllaw.com>

A good layout and easy-to-use search screen make this a user-friendly site.

**National Center for State Courts**  
<http://www.ncsc.dni.us>

Aside from providing an overview of the work of the National Center for State Courts, this site also provides links to other sites of interest, including local courts throughout the country that have web sites.



## DRUG COURT RESOURCES

Resources on drug courts are found on page 39.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR THE RESOURCE PAGE

Please let us know of resources you have found useful in your work as a judge so that we can tell others. Write to the editor, Judge Steve Leben, 100 N. Kansas Ave., Olathe, Kansas 66061, e-mail: [sleben@ix.netcom.com](mailto:sleben@ix.netcom.com).