



The Resource Page



WEBSITES OF INTEREST

National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction

<https://niccc.csgjusticecenter.org>

As judges, we know that criminal sentences carry consequences. The ones we usually encounter are the direct ones—the defendant must serve some amount of time in prison, followed by parole or postrelease supervision. But there are a great many other consequences of a criminal conviction. Judges, attorneys, and members of the public who want to understand the criminal-justice system more fully will want to know about them too.

There's now a searchable online database where you can find the collateral consequences for convictions throughout the United States. The project, years in the making, launched in late 2018.

The project came in response to the federal Court Security Improvement Act of 2007, which told the National Institute of Justice to collect and analyze the collateral consequences of convictions in each United States jurisdiction. In 2012, the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section began work on collecting the collateral consequences in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the federal criminal-justice system.

The Council of State Governments Justice Center took over the project in 2017 and launched the new National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of

Conviction website in late 2018. The website is part of the National Reentry Resource Center (<https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc>), a project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

A sample search on the database for collateral consequences of convictions in Kansas showed more than 500 results, each with citation to the statute mandating that consequence. You can click an additional button to add collateral federal consequences.

According to the Council of State Governments Justice Center, most of the collateral consequences of conviction relate to the ability to obtain employment.

In addition to the searchable database, the website also has links to reports about collateral consequences of convictions, model legislation in the area (like the Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act, proposed in 2010), and several webinars available on demand. One of those teaches how to use the National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction database effectively. Others explore how technology has influenced the process for clearing criminal records and how barriers to occupational licensing for people with criminal records might be addressed. Presentation slides used in each of the webinars can easily be downloaded.



NEW BOOKS

TOUGH CASES: JUDGES TELL THE STORIES OF SOME OF THE HARDEST DECISIONS THEY'VE EVER MADE (The New Press, 2018, Russell F. Canan, Gregory E. Mize & Frederick H. Weisberg, eds.). \$26.99 (280 pp.).

Judging can be a lonely calling. Sometimes there's no one you can talk to about the case that's keeping you awake at night.

But other judges have been there before. And thirteen of them have written the story of some of the toughest cases they handled. They tell the stories from a personal perspective, hoping to give the public a glimpse behind the curtain. For fellow judges, though, it's a

chance to hear directly from an experienced colleague about how a case you didn't seek changed the way you look at other cases—or even your career or your life.

In separate chapters, these judges have told the personal story of a case or series of cases they've handled. Some are familiar stories from a new viewpoint: the case to determine whether Terri Schiavo should continue to be on life support, and the trial of Scooter Libby, the chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney. Others were high-profile, though not nationally: an elected judge throwing out a ballot initiative approved by nearly a million voters in Washington State; an appointed judge who presided over the trial to the court of a case in which a mother was charged with murdering her four daughters, whose decomposed bodies were found when eviction papers were served. All of the stories are compelling.

Most of the stories are from experienced judges. One, from Judge Michelle Ahnn in Los Angeles, tells the story of transition to the bench—going from regular cases of “decisional fatigue” in Year 1 to a better, compartmentalized experience in Year 2.

Judges will find themselves in many of the stories, but with the benefit of the considered perspective of another judge. Family members of a judge will get a better sense of the issues and emotions that are part of the job. And members of the public will see inside a branch of government in a way that's rarely available. We're glad these judges took the time to tell their stories.

