


NCJA National Criminal Justice Association

PRESIDENT

Roland Menaf †

Executive Director

Montana Board of Crime Control

June 12, 2012

VICE PRESIDENT

Molly JM Perry †

Executive Director

Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

The Honorable Richard Durbin

United States Senate

309 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

David Steingraber †

Executive Director

Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

Dear Senator Durbin:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cabell C. Cropper †

BOARD MEMBERS

John A. Blackburn, Jr. †

Executive Director

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Robert P. Boehmer

Director

Institute for Public Safety Partnerships

University of Illinois at Chicago

J. Michael Brown †

Secretary

Kentucky Justice & Public Safety Cabinet

DeLynn Fudge

Director of Federal Grants

Oklahoma District Attorneys Council

Jerome Ierome

Executive Director

Commonwealth of N. Mariana Islands

Criminal Justice Planning Agency

Anne Jordant †

Commissioner

Maine Department of Public Safety

Gary Kendell †

Director

Iowa Governor's Office of Drug

Control Policy

Christian Kervick

Acting Director

Delaware Criminal Justice Council

Kristen Mahoney

Executive Director

Maryland Governors Office

of Crime Control & Prevention

Mary Marshall

Public Information Officer

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Karhlton Moore

Executive Director

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services

Robert Neff

Manager of Criminal Justice Programs

North Central Texas Council of Governments

Jeanne Smith

Director

Division of Criminal Justice

CO Department of Public Safety

I write on behalf of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), whose core members are the state, territorial and tribal administrators of federal justice assistance programs. Thank you for your leadership on federal criminal justice policy, in particular the Global Advisory Committee Authorization Act of 2010, or S. 3176, you introduced last week.

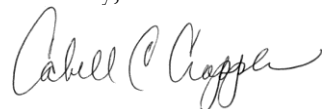
NCJA has been actively involved in the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative Advisory Committee since its inception in 1998. The Global Advisory Committee (GAC) provides a forum for law enforcement agencies, the judicial branch, and correctional systems to discuss information sharing needs and practices, devise solutions for overcoming the technical barriers to systems interoperability, and provide policy recommendations to the Attorney General. Three of the GAC's 32 members are also members of NCJA, including the chair.

Information sharing is the next frontier in crime prevention and crime fighting, and GLOBAL has made tremendous strides in justice database interoperability and information sharing protocols. Because of GLOBAL, information can be shared easily and cost effectively across the criminal justice system using the Global Justice XML Data Model and the National Information Exchange Model, which allow agencies to convert their database information into a common format. These models have become the standard information sharing protocol for law enforcement, courts, corrections, probation and parole.

The representatives of the GAC have also made advances in homeland security policy by publishing the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan addressing intelligence-sharing procedures and the Fusion Center Guidelines for establishing local fusion centers.

NCJA members are keenly aware of the value of the GAC's work, having put these information sharing protocols into practice across their states. By authorizing the GAC, Congress will authorize the Justice Department to continue to provide technical and financial support for its work which will benefit criminal justice practices nationwide and, ultimately, improve public safety. It is a worthy goal for which NCJA members offer their full support.

Sincerely,



Cabell C. Cropper
Executive Director

† denotes Executive Committee