



Western Association of Criminal Justice

2026 Annual Conference October 7-9, 2026



The Eldorado at The ROW
Reno, NV



Western Association of Criminal Justice

2026
Conference Program

“Collaborative Pathways in Criminal Justice Research, Education, and Practice”

The Eldorado at The ROW
Reno, NV
October 7-9, 2026

WACJ on the Web at www.wacj.org



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1981-1982	Skip Gillam	Casper College
1980-1981	John Kocher	Lane Community College
1979-1980	Bill Melnicoe	California State University-Sacramento
1976-1979	Karl Hutchinson	Ft. Steilacoom Community College



Western Association of Criminal Justice

History

The Western Association of Criminal Justice (WACJ) was organized in March 1977 (under the name Western and Pacific Association of Criminal Justice Educators) as a result of a decision of its parent organization, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), to regionalize in order to better serve its members. The official name of the organization was changed at the 2008 annual meeting to increase the range of scholarship beyond educational goals. WACJ is the Region V affiliate of the ACJS. It not only draws members from the states within its own region (Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, the Pacific Territories and Possessions, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta) but also from all other ACJS regions.

Goals and Services

The WACJ is working to promote communication and dissemination of information among members, other associations of educators, and agencies of the criminal justice system.

The WACJ's aim is to develop standards of quality education and training in the administration of justice.

The WACJ encourages both limited and long-term planning and research in the criminal justice system.



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2026 Program at a Glance

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

4:00pm	WACJ Board meeting and Meeting w/ Hotel *WACJ Executive and Full Board members only-Meet in hotel lobby at 3:45pm*	Bordeaux/Claret
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Wednesday, October 7, 2026

11:00am-4:00 pm	Registration/Hospitality Desk	Bordeaux/Claret
12:15pm	Afternoon Refreshments (Sponsored by: Sam Houston State University/Criminal Justice)	Bordeaux/Claret
12:45pm-1:00pm	Opening Remarks: Eric Wodahl, WACJ President	Bordeaux/Claret
1:00pm-2:00pm	Event # 1: ROUNDTABLE: AB 992 and the Future of Criminal Justice Education: Workforce Development, Educational Pathways, and the Evolving Public Safety Profession	Bordeaux/Claret
2:10pm-3:00pm	Event # 2: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Policies and Rulings Relating to Criminal Justice	Bordeaux/Claret
3:10pm-4:00pm	Event # 3: ROUNDTABLE: Graduate Education and Careers: A Roundtable for Graduate Students in Criminal Justice	Bordeaux/Claret
4:00pm-5:30pm	Event # 4: Set-up and Judging for Student Poster Competition (only student presenters and judges in the room please)	Tuscany/ Chardonnay
5:30pm	Event # 5: President's Reception (including announcement of the Student Poster Competition results) (Reception & Student Poster Competition sponsored by: Boise State University, Criminal Justice & the College of Education and Public Service)	Tuscany/ Chardonnay



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Thursday, October 8, 2026

8:00am-12:00pm	Registration/Hospitality Desk	Bordeaux/Claret
8:30am	Morning Refreshments (Sponsored by: Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences)	Bordeaux/Claret
9:00am-9:50am	Event # 6: PANEL: Badge to Degree: Credit for Prior Learning and California's Path to Modern Policing	Bordeaux/Claret
10:00am-10:50am	Event # 7: PANEL: "On the Docket: Recent Supreme Court Cases Impacting the Criminal Justice System"	Bordeaux/Claret
11:00am-11:15am	Event # 8: Remarks on Behalf of the ACJS President	Bordeaux/Claret
11:15am	Event # 9: WACJ General Business Meeting **All invited**	Bordeaux/Claret
12:00pm-1:30pm	Event # 10: WACJ Luncheon Guest Speaker: Dr. Lisa Smyth-Roam, Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division	Tuscany/ Chardonnay
1:30pm-3:30pm	Registration/Hospitality Desk	Bordeaux/Claret
1:30pm	Coffee and Dessert (Sponsored by: University of Wyoming)	Bordeaux/Claret
1:30pm-2:20pm	Event # 11: SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Programs and Initiatives at the Reno Police Department	Bordeaux/Claret
2:30pm-3:30pm	Event # 12: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Emerging Trends and Systemic Reform	Bordeaux/Claret
3:40-4:40pm	Event # 13: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Criminal Justice Perspectives on Victim Support, Violence, Recidivism, and Reentry	Bordeaux/Claret
4:45pm	Event # 14: WACJ Quiz Bowl	Bordeaux/Claret



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Friday, October 9, 2026

9:30am	Morning Refreshments (Sponsored by: University of Wyoming)	Bordeaux/Claret
10:00am-10:50am	Event # 15: ROUNDTABLE: Abolitionist Frameworks and Criminal Justice Reform	Bordeaux/Claret
11:00am-11:50pm	Event # 16: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Treatment, Recovery, and Diversion in Criminal Justice	Bordeaux/Claret
11:50pm	Closing Remarks: Emmanuel Barthe, 2026-2027 WACJ President	Bordeaux/Claret



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Wednesday, October 7

11:00am-4:00pm REGISTRATION/HOSPITALITY DESK Bordeaux/Claret

12:15pm AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS Bordeaux/Claret

Sponsored by: Sam Houston State University/Criminal Justice

12:45pm - 1:00pm OPENING REMARKS Bordeaux/Claret

Eric Wodahl, WACJ President

1:00pm-2:00pm EVENT # 1 Bordeaux/Claret

ROUNDTABLE: AB 992 and the Future of Criminal Justice Education: Workforce Development, Educational Pathways, and the Evolving Public Safety Profession

Moderator: Sigrid Williams, Norco College

Discussant: Selena McKay-Davis, Norco College

Discussant: Mike Leese, Norco College

Discussant: Kimberly Chism, California State University, Sacramento

Discussant: Abdullah Cihan, California State University, Sacramento

California is entering a transformative period in public safety education. AB 992 has elevated the role of higher education in peace officer preparation while creating opportunities for community colleges, universities, law enforcement agencies, and policymakers to rethink educational pathways into the profession. Simultaneously, community colleges are expanding their role through applied bachelor's degree programs, creating new opportunities to meet critical workforce demands in public safety fields. This roundtable explores how colleges and universities can respond to evolving educational requirements, preparing the next generation of law enforcement professionals, and what criminal justice education might look like over the next decade.

2:10pm-3:00pm EVENT # 2 Bordeaux/Claret

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Policies and Rulings Relating to Criminal Justice

Chair: Timothy Griffin, University of Nevada, Reno

Is Social Behavior a Confounding Factor in Observed Reductions in 'Black Swan Homicides'?

Timothy Griffin, University of Nevada, Reno

In the past five decades, the creation of dozens of child protection laws and programs has been associated with a possible, if small, reduction in child abduction-murders ("Black Swan Homicides") and similar crimes in the US. The author presents basic proxy measures derived



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from the Supplementary Homicide Reports consistent with this possible reduction. However, the author also presents evidence suggesting there is a crucial confounding factor. In short, multiple measures of social behavior suggest American children are less exposed to chances for such victimization, rendering any presumed benefit of these “memorial crime control” laws suspect. Important policy implications are discussed.

Lost in Translation: Geocoding Errors in Crime Mapping

Emilee Arias, University of Nevada, Reno

Emmanuel Barthe, University of Nevada, Reno

This paper examines geocoding errors created in the process of translating police report data into geographic locations. With data from three local municipal police departments we examine the source of potential geocoding problems. We hypothesize these errors will be the result of geocoding verification programs and incorrect input of addresses by law enforcement.

3:10pm-4:00pm

EVENT # 3

Bordeaux/Claret

ROUNDTABLE: Graduate Education and Careers: A Roundtable for Graduate Students in Criminal Justice

Chair & Discussant: Eric Wodahl, University of Wyoming

Discussant: Andrew Giacomazzi, Boise State University

Discussant: Emmanuel Barthe, University of Nevada, Reno

This roundtable will provide a forum for graduate students to discuss graduate education and professional ventures after graduate school. Discussants will offer advice and assist students in navigating through these issues.

4:00pm-5:30pm

EVENT # 4:

Tuscany/Chardonnay

Set-up and Judging for Student Poster Competition

Only presenting students and judges in the room at this time please.



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EVENT # 5

President's Reception

&

**Student Poster Competition/
Awards**

5:30pm

Tuscany/Chardonnay

**(Sponsored by: Boise State University, Criminal Justice &
the College of Education and Public Service)**



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STUDENT POSTERS

Assessing Service for Victims of Teen Dating Violence in Rural and Frontier Nevada Counties

Jillian Adams, University of Nevada, Reno

Emily Berthelot, University of Nevada, Reno

Adolescent survivors of dating violence may come to the attention of healthcare professionals due to injuries, sexual health concerns, mental health concerns, or routine healthcare appointments. Though literature provides in-depth assessment of teen intimate partner violence (IPV) and victims services surrounding IPV (Madkour et al. 2019), less research has focused on how healthcare professionals in rural/ frontier Nevada counties understand the services available to teen victims and how effective they perceive these services are in helping victims, specifically in rural or frontier Nevada. Due to the largely rural/frontier nature of Nevada, it is important to conduct this research to assess the availability, accessibility, and utilization of services for teen survivors of teen dating violence. Utilizing surveys and interviews, we plan to address this gap in research to assess the efficacy of services provided to teen victims of IPV in rural/frontier Nevada.

No Choice in Death: An Ethical Analysis of Execution Method

Emilee Arias, University of Nevada, Reno

This paper analyzes the right for death row inmates to choose their execution method. As the lethal injection paradigm decomposes, state policies have diverged, with some allowing inmates to select their method of execution. Using deontology, utilitarianism, and Rawlsian social justice theory, this analysis argues that states should prohibit inmate choice based on personal preference while maintaining a narrow evidentiary exception for documented medical conditions. The proposed policy shift ensures a structured statutory default that protects the dignity of all stakeholders while limiting exceptions to cases of preventable, medically documented suffering.

Confirming versus Exonerating Evidence: Are Judgments of Guilt Related to Evidence Type?

Natalie Barretto, University of Nevada, Reno

The purpose of this study is to understand how evidence type influence how people evaluate evidence indicating a suspect's guilt or innocence. We conducted an online experiment, in which evidence type and evidentiary direction (exonerating or innocent) were manipulated as within-subjects factors and framing (guilty versus innocent) of the suspect was treated as a between-subjects factor. After providing consent, each participant read 20 vignettes, 10 with incriminating evidence and 10 with exonerating evidence. Results revealed a significant main effect of



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evidence type, a significant main effect of evidentiary direction, and a significant effect of framing¹. These main effects were qualified by a significant interaction between evidentiary direction and framing.

Fear of Police: Preliminary Findings on Trust, Contact, and Action

Laura Flynn, University of Nevada, Reno

Emily Berthelot, University of Nevada, Reno

Brangelitee Orozco Ayala, University of Nevada, Reno

Charlie Kitchen, University of Nevada, Reno

Prior research has explored the consequences of distrust and fear of police but has yet to examine the emotional experiences of fear itself. Using semi-structure interviews ($n \approx 10$), preliminary findings summarize the frequency with which salient concepts and experiences appear across interviews, providing an initial descriptive map of the data prior to formal coding and thematic analysis. Emerging findings suggest that participants rarely describe trust and distrust dichotomously. Instead, they described conditional trust, strategic compliance, selective contact, and desire for accountability. By examining the emotional experience of fear, the study helps understand how individuals manage contact with an institution they may simultaneously view as necessary and potentially harmful.

Emotional Dynamics in Domestic Violence Police Interactions: A Dyadic, Event-Level Analysis of Emotional Expression and Communication

Ariangelys Morales, Washington State University

David Makin, Washington State University

Police officers frequently encounter emotionally charged situations during interactions with the public. This exploratory study examines the dynamics of domestic violence encounters by first documenting the frequency and nature of emotional expression, both positive and negative, observed during these interactions. Rather than treating emotion as something that exists only within individuals, this study looks at how emotion unfolds between people, focusing on how participants influence each other over time. By using systematic social event modeling (SSEM) on 100 body-worn camera footages from a Pacific Northwest police department, we identify event-level emotional cues displayed by all participants, including their type, source, and timing within the interaction. We then look at how these expression shape officer communication patterns, including empathy-based and antagonistic responses, and how those responses influence outcomes such as escalation, compliance, and victim safety. On top of that, this study considers how officers respond to opportunities to provide support or resources, and whether these responses vary depending on the emotional intensity of the interaction. For example, does an officer's communication style change when faced with a highly emotional victim? By taking a staged, theory-informed approach, this research highlights emotion as a dynamic, interactional process rather than a static trait, and the findings have implications for trauma-informed policing,



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de-escalation training, and policy development.

From Classroom to Courtroom: Examining Criminal Justice Students' Learning Through Court Observation

Estefany Perez Robles, University of Nevada, Reno

Regan Bahmer, University of Nevada, Reno

Naomi Ramstad, University of Nevada, Reno

Criminal justice students and their understanding of court room procedures is dictated by their coursework and experience with court rooms. The proposed study will evaluate the relationships between students understanding of court room procedures and its translation to their understanding of real courtroom experiences. By examining these relationships, our study aims to understand if criminal justice curriculums surrounding court procedures should require real world participation in courtrooms to further student's understandings. This approach might identify important factors that can help contribute to the outcomes of future and current criminal justice students.

Conspiracies And Their Correlation To Violence And Terrorism

Naomi Ramstad, University of Nevada, Reno

The growing prominence of conspiracy theories has raised concerns about their potential relationship to violence and terrorism. This proposed study will draw on moral disengagement theory to critically examine associations between conspiracy beliefs, violent behavior, and terrorist ideologies. By examining these relationships, the study aims to clarify how conspiracy beliefs may be linked to violence and contribute to understand the associated risks. It will also consider whether moral disengagement mechanisms help explain why some individuals translate conspiratorial beliefs into support for violence or terrorism. This approach may identify important factors that distinguish passive belief from active endorsement of violence.

Exploring Safety, Justice, and Resource Awareness: Older Adults' Perceptions of Elder Abuse and Neglect in Rural Communities: Preliminary Findings

Sophia Stefani, University of Nevada, Reno

Jessica Peterson, University of Canterbury

This study examines elder abuse in a rural Oregon (USA) county by surveying adults aged 55 and older about their perceptions of elder abuse and neglect, safety concerns, and justice-related needs. The findings are intended to inform prevention, outreach, and policy efforts that are sensitive to the challenges of rural settings. While the project is rooted in one U.S. county, the issues it addresses are relevant to rural contexts globally. This study contributes to a broader understanding of elder abuse and underscores the need for tailored strategies to protect and support older adults in rural communities.



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Who Gets In? Mapping State Policy on Validated Screening Tools in Treatment Courts

Jasmine Wong-Fortunato, University of Nevada, Reno

Mia Abboud Holbrook, University of Nevada, Reno

Treatment courts work best when validated screening identifies the right participants. The 2026 All Rise Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards identify specific validated screening and assessment tools, yet no study has examined whether state policy directs courts to use them. Using legal mapping methods, this study codes statutes, court rules, and statewide treatment court standards in all 50 states for which tools are named, whether each is mandated or recommended, and whether each is assigned to its intended purpose. This poster presents the study's rationale, design, and coding framework, establishing a baseline for aligning state policy with national standards.



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Thursday, October 8

8:00am-12:00pm REGISTRATION/HOSPITALITY DESK Bordeaux/Claret

8:30am MORNING REFRESHMENTS Bordeaux/Claret

Sponsored by: Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

9:00am - 9:50am EVENT # 6 Bordeaux/Claret

PANEL: Badge to Degree: Credit for Prior Learning and California's Path to Modern Policing

Sigrid Williams, California Community Colleges Credit for Prior Learning Initiative

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is helping transform higher education by recognizing college-level learning gained through law enforcement training, workforce experience, military service, and industry credentials. California's AB 992 supports a new era of professional education by requiring peace officers to earn a college degree or certificate. Through statewide CPL credit recommendations, officers can receive up to 30 units of college credit for academy training and professional experience, reducing time and cost to completion. To date, 36 California community colleges have adopted/adapted the recommendation. This presentation highlights California's model and encourages other states to expand CPL opportunities that strengthen education, workforce development, and professional advancement for public safety personnel.

10:00am - 10:50am EVENT # 7 Bordeaux/Claret

PANEL: "On the Docket: Recent Supreme Court Cases Impacting the Criminal Justice System"

Chair: Dan Fetsco, University of Wyoming

Discussant: Stephanie Mizrahi, California State University, Sacramento

This presentation will provide an overview of significant United States Supreme Court decisions from the past year that pertain to criminal law, criminal legal procedure, corrections, and issues related to criminal justice. The discussion will highlight key rulings, discuss their implications for the criminal justice system, and provide analysis relevant to practitioners, policymakers, and scholars. By examining recent trends and doctrinal developments, I aim to offer a clear and accessible synthesis of the Supreme Court's impact on the evolving landscape of criminal justice in the United States.

11:00am-11:15am EVENT # 8 Bordeaux/Claret

Remarks on Behalf of the ACJS President

Stephanie Mizrahi, Sacramento State University



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11:15am

EVENT # 9

Bordeaux/Claret

BUSINESS MEETING

Future Directions by WACJ Executive Board

Financial Report by Andrew Giacomazzi, Treasurer

Organization Updates by Marianne Hudson, Secretary

*****ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES ARE INVITED TO THE BUSINESS
MEETING*****



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EVENT # 10

WACJ LUNCHEON

12:00pm - 1:30pm, Tuscany/Chardonnay

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lisa Smyth-Roam, Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division

Popular TV crime shows have created the "CSI Effect," a widespread belief that forensic science is fast and perfect. In the real world, forensic analysis relies on methodical teamwork and rigorous laboratory standards. This presentation debunks common myths across six key areas: crime scenes, DNA, fingerprints, firearms, drugs, and toxicology. By comparing television fiction with real lab standards and practices, attendees will learn how to realistically evaluate forensic evidence as a supportive legal tool rather than a magical solution.

Dr. Lisa Smyth-Roam is an accomplished forensic scientist, supervisor, and educator dedicated to solving crimes through modern molecular biology. Originally from Ireland, she moved to the United States in 2000 and earned her Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Physiology and Pharmacology from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) in 2005. She joined the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division in 2006, advancing to DNA Technical Leader in 2011 and Supervising Criminalist in 2013. Today, she directs forensic biology services supporting 13 of Nevada's 17 counties, overseeing DNA analysis for cases ranging from burglaries to homicides and serving as a trusted expert witness across northern Nevada. An advocate for operational excellence, she has secured over \$6 million in federal and state grants and was honored as a Nevada Women's Fund 2024 "Woman of Achievement." Committed to inspiring future investigators, Dr. Smyth-Roam also serves as an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice Department at UNR, teaching the Foundations in Forensic Studies course.

Featured Sponsor: The University of Nevada, Reno



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1:30pm-3:30pm **REGISTRATION/HOSPITALITY DESK** **Bordeaux/Claret**

1:30pm **COFFEE AND DESSERT** **Bordeaux/Claret**
Sponsored by: University of Wyoming

1:30pm-2:20pm **EVENT # 11** **Bordeaux/Claret**
SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Programs and Initiatives at the Reno Police Department
Chair: Emmanuel Barthe, University of Nevada, Reno

2:30pm-3:30pm **EVENT # 12** **Bordeaux/Claret**
PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Emerging Trends and Systemic Reform
Chair: J. Mitchell Miller, University of North Florida

Specifying Necessary Size of Force: An Overview of the US COPS Staffing Analysis Model
J. Mitchell Miller, University of North Florida
Brenda Vose, University of North Florida
Wesley Jennings, University of Mississippi

The lingering "Defund the Police" movement and ongoing controversy associated with ICE have intensified recruitment and hiring during challenging times for law enforcement. Toward empirical specification of necessary size of force, the US COPS Staffing Analysis Model (SAM) provides a 9 stepwise arithmetic process by which to calculate the number of sworn officers/deputies needed (supply) to address calls for service/CFS (demand) as adjusted by shift relief factors (e.g., vacation, sick leave, desk duty, court days). Developed through two US COPS Office grants, the model specifies an agency's immediate hiring and, through measurement of agency attrition trends and jurisdiction population growth, near future (5 years) hiring recommendations. Findings constitute scientific evidence supportive of funding requests to county commissions, city councils, and federal hiring grant opportunities.

Beyond the Myth: What Can Be Done About White-Collar Crime?
Nayeli Nuno-Ledezma, Sonoma State University
Bryan Burton, Sonoma State University

White-collar crime causes substantial financial, physical, psychological, and social harm, yet it remains widely misunderstood. One persistent myth is that little can be done to prevent or respond to these offenses. This project challenges that assumption by examining how individuals, communities, organizations, and government institutions can reduce white-collar crime and its harms. Drawing on empirical research, historical cases, contemporary examples, and interviews with experts in the field, we identify strategies for prevention, accountability, and reform. The goal is to provide individuals with ways to protect themselves while empowering communities to demand greater accountability and action from institutional and political leaders.



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It's a lifesaver! Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in a Carceral Setting

Roger Schaefer, Central Washington University

Sara Toto, Central Washington University

The current study employs an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis to provide an in-depth understanding of the lived experience of incarcerated individuals participating in MOUD treatment. Our qualitative data were gathered through 22 face-to-face interviews, which were conducted at the Kittitas County Jail. Interview transcripts and field notes were analyzed, leading to the identification of three primary themes, each with multiple and intersecting subthemes. The three primary themes are fear, pain, and compassion. The narratives illustrate how fear and pain are related to opioid use, while MOUD coupled with compassion creates pathways to recovery, and recovery empowers long-term desistance from crime.

3:40pm-4:40pm

EVENT # 13

Bordeaux/Claret

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Criminal Justice Perspectives on Victim Support, Violence, Recidivism, and Reentry

Chair: Sriram Chintakrindi, California State University, Stanislaus

Examining the Relationship between Low Self-Control and History of Violence among Female Parolees

Sriram Chintakrindi, California State University, Stanislaus

In this paper, I am interested in examining the relationship between Gottfredson and Hirschi's (1990) low self-control theory and its ability to predict violent offending behavior among female parolees. I will be conducting a secondary data analysis of a pre-existing dataset on female parolees (Morash et al., 2018). More specifically, an additive scale for measuring low self-control among female parolees will be used to predict history of violence and other non-violent offending behaviors while controlling for available demographic data, drug use history, and size of social network (Social Learning Theory). The findings from this study will add to the scholarship on criminogenic risk factors and may have policy implications for developing more reliable risk-assessment tools for inmate classification.

Predicting Public Opinions of Victim Support in the Criminal Legal System

Britni L. Adams, University of Nevada, Reno

Mia Holbrook, University of Nevada, Reno

Adam Dunbar, University of Nevada, Reno

Research on victim support has focused on access to resources and protections for victims of crimes, notably for victims of violent crimes. Less is known about public opinions regarding victim prioritization within the criminal legal system. This study investigates how trust in the criminal legal system and favorable view of the courts predicts specific views about how the



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system and courts integrate victims into the criminal legal process. Findings indicate that general views and victimization predict opinions about victim support, but not always in expected ways. This study identifies areas of improvement for victim support within the criminal system.

Preliminary Findings and Research Notes From An OWI Treatment Court Recidivism Study

Paul D. Gregory, University of Wyoming-Casper

This presentation includes preliminary findings, and research method notes from an Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) Treatment Court Study. OWI Programs, also referred to as Sobriety, Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), or Drinking Under the Influence (DUI) Courts, emerged in the mid-1990's from Adult Drug Treatment Court Programs, and target individuals convicted of multiple drunk driving offenses. Data presented here stem from an OWI Treatment Court Program that began in 2014 in the Midwest. Recidivism results of treatment group participants will be presented along with research method notes on creating a comparison group of Felony probationers via propensity score matching.

4:45pm

EVENT # 14

Bordeaux/Claret

WACJ Quiz Bowl

Emcee: Andrew Giacomazzi, Boise State University

Sponsored by: University of Wyoming

Do you have what it takes to be crowned the 2026 WACJ Quiz Bowl champs? Form a team, then get ready for a fast-paced game of knowledge, speed AND anticipation! Your answer could be the difference between moving your team to the bonus round, or letting your opponents take over! Questions include criminal justice trivia, as well as how well you know our organization and host city. See you at WACJ QUIZ BOWL, and let's have some fun!



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Friday, October 9

9:30am

MORNING REFRESHMENTS

Bordeaux/Claret

Sponsored by: University of Wyoming

10:00am – 10:50am

EVENT # 15

Bordeaux/Claret

ROUNDTABLE: Abolitionist Frameworks and Criminal Justice Reform

Moderator: Ishanie Kaushik

Discussant: Roger Schaefer, Central Washington University

The purpose of this roundtable is to hold a conversation about the intersection of abolitionist frameworks and criminal justice reform. Abolition is a theory, philosophy, and organizing strategy rooted in Black, Indigenous, feminist, queer, disability justice, anti-colonial, and anti-capitalist traditions. It examines how punishment, surveillance, and state violence cause harm and contribute to inequality, while advocating for non-reformist reforms that reduce carceral power and strengthen communities. Abolition calls for transforming conditions, meeting individual and collective needs, and building life-affirming institutions through mutual aid, transformative justice, and non-carceral crisis responses. It frames safety through principles of harm reduction, self-determination, and interdependence.

11:00am-11:50pm

EVENT # 16

Bordeaux/Claret

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Treatment, Recovery, and Diversion in Criminal Justice

Chair: Jennifer Lanterman, University of Nevada, Reno

Deflection and Diversion for People Living with Behavioral Health Disorders in Rural Nevada

Jennifer Lanterman, University of Nevada, Reno

Brian M. Lee, University of Nevada, Reno

Behavioral health disorders are common among people who are justice-involved. Over the last five years, legal system actors, behavioral health practitioners, and researchers in Nevada have collaborated to develop and expand programs to prevent or reduce justice-involvement among residents with severe behavioral health needs in urban, rural, and frontier areas. This presentation shares findings related to the Mobile Outreach Safety Team co-responder model and the Forensic Assessment Services Triage Team jail reentry model.



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Guiding Relationship Change: Drug Court Staff Strategies for Addressing Participant Social Networks and Recovery

Talia LaSane, Temple University

Drug court participants often enter programs with strained family ties, substance-using peers, unstable romantic relationships, and survival-based networks that can both support and undermine recovery. Drawing on 12 semi-structured interviews with drug court staff across three adult drug courts in Missouri, this study examines how practitioners assess and respond to participants' social relationship challenges. Preliminary findings explore strategies such as boundary setting, family engagement, mentorship, peer replacement, and building prosocial support while addressing the difficulty of separating from harmful relationships tied to housing, money, or emotional survival. Findings highlight relationship management as a critical component of drug court practice and participant recovery.

11:50pm

CLOSING REMARKS

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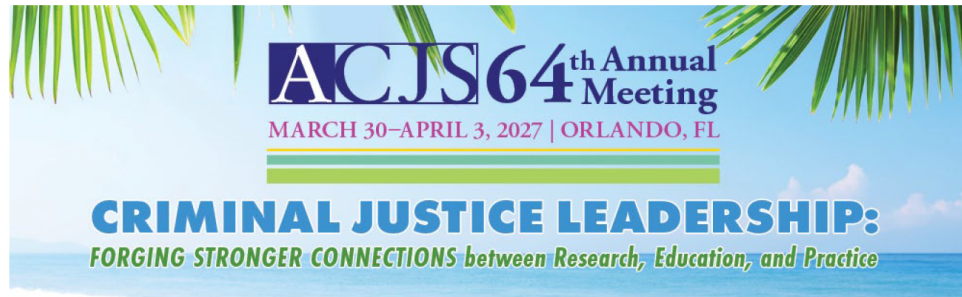
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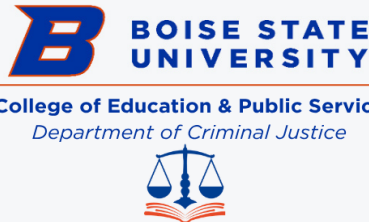
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