



Western Association of Criminal Justice

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-12:00pm

EVENT # 16

Bordeaux/Claret

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

Chair: Paul D. Gregory, University of Wyoming-Casper

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.



Western Association of Criminal Justice

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.

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.

12:00pm

CLOSING REMARKS

Bordeaux/Claret

Emmanuel Barthe, 2026-2027 WACJ President