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COALITION FOR JUSTICE

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Road maps



“How-to” Series to Help the Community,
the Bench and the Bar Implement Change
in the Justice System

Problem Solving
Courts

Roadmap to Problem Solving Courts

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Coalition for Justice
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PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

The number of specialized courts that seek innovative solutions to complex social problems faced by the courts has mushroomed during the last decade. As a group, these courts have been referred to as “problem solving courts,” as they each target a specific class of offender, category of offense, geographic area, or type of issue. Problem solving courts include drug courts, community courts, domestic violence courts, mental health courts, unified family courts, and many others. They were created to address problematic issues that have not been successfully dealt with by using conventional court processes.

The judicial system as a whole is generally not known for its ready acceptance of widespread or significant change in its methods of operation. However, problem solving courts are demonstrating that it is possible to use the power of the justice system -- coupled with innovative alliances and options -- to improve outcomes for participants with seemingly disparate needs.

WHAT IS A PROBLEM SOLVING COURT?

Although there are numerous variations on the theme, there are certain components that are key to problem solving courts. In general, what is different about problem solving courts is the activity that takes place after adjudication, as judges and attorneys become engaged in the ongoing monitoring of defendants instead of leaving this job to probation departments or community-based organizations. Judges are actively involved in the process, including monitoring defendants, developing relationships within the community, and working closely with service providers. Citizens become part of these courts through involvement in the planning process and in ongoing advisory roles.

Most successful problem solving courts are connected in some way to treatment for the participating offenders. (Domestic violence courts are a notable exception.) The underlying goal is to get at the root of the problem rather than watch helplessly as the same individuals return again and again to the same court to face the same charges, through the so-called “revolving door.” Collaboration among numerous individuals and entities is perhaps the most important element of a successful and enduring problem solving court.

Greg Berman and John Feinblatt best define the five common principles that problem solving courts share in their article, “Problem-Solving Courts: A Brief Primer:”

- *Case Outcomes*

Problem solving courts seek to achieve tangible outcomes for victims, for offenders, and for society. These include reductions in recidivism, reduced stays in foster care for children, increased sobriety for addicts, and healthier communities.

- *System Change*

In addition to re-examining individual case outcomes, problem solving courts also seek to re-engineer how government systems respond to problems like addiction, mental illness, and child neglect. They promote reform outside of the courthouse as well as within.

- *Judicial Monitoring*

Problem solving courts rely upon the active use of judicial authority to solve problems and to change the behavior of litigants. Instead of passing off cases to other judges, to probation

departments, or to community-based treatment programs, judges at problem solving courts stay involved with each case even after adjudication.

- *Collaboration*

Problem solving courts employ a collaborative approach, relying on both government and nonprofit partners (i.e., criminal justice agencies, social service providers, community groups, and others) to help achieve their goals.

- *Non-Traditional Roles*

Some problem solving courts have altered the dynamics of the courtroom, including at times, certain features of the adversarial process. For example, problem solving courts often engage judges in unfamiliar roles, asking them to convene community meetings or broker relationships with social service providers.

HOW AND WHY DID PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS DEVELOP?

The first example of a problem solving court is the drug court. The earliest “drug courts” were little more than attempts to expedite the processing of the countless drug cases that were flooding the judicial system. It quickly became apparent that these initial attempts simply made the revolving door spin faster. Over time, the drug court model began to evolve into what we recognize today. The first treatment-based drug court was established in Dade County, Florida in 1989.

In the years that followed, the growing success of drug courts nationwide led to the development of other types of courts that used similar program elements. The Midtown Community Court, another milestone in the realm of problem solving courts, was established in New York City in 1993, targeting misdemeanor crimes in the Times Square area. These two pioneering courts became standards for the establishment of hundreds of problem solving courts of all kinds in large metropolitan areas, small towns, counties, rural areas, and suburban settings throughout the nation. Additional details about the operation and development of drug courts, community courts, and others can be found later in this publication.

There are various theories as to why this type of experimentation has occurred in the past ten to fifteen years. Some believe that the breakdown of traditional methods of dealing with societal problems, such as family, neighborhood, and church, has created a void that other parts of society, such as the justice system, have sought to fill. In addition, the rising caseloads in the courts, coupled with the exploding prison population, caused many players in all facets of the justice system to seek new methods of addressing these chronic problems.

Even those reluctant to embrace change in the courts began to admit that the status quo was not adequately meeting the needs of any of the stakeholders. One of the basic principles of most problem solving courts is the goal of improving outcomes for victims, offenders, judges, lawyers, and the community at large. As it became increasingly apparent that the public was extremely frustrated with the way justice was being served, and consequently that public trust and confidence in the justice system was frighteningly low, it became more and more important for those within the system to seek ways to more efficiently address the needs of all those participating in it.

HOW DOES A PROBLEM SOLVING COURT GET STARTED?

Problem solving courts have sometimes developed through the efforts of court personnel such as judges and court administrators. In other cases, the prime mover has been a prosecutor or the defense bar; Bar associations have been instrumental in many cases. In other instances, ideas and direction have come from non-lawyers within the community. There is no right place to begin. It is essential, however, that those who take up the challenge of creating a problem solving court are determined and tenacious.

It is critical that all of the potential stakeholders in the proposed new court be included at the earliest possible planning stages, in order to obtain both their valuable input and continued commitment. Some of the groups to consider including in the process, depending upon the exact nature of the court, are: court staff at all levels, judges, law enforcement (including police, parole and probation officers), prosecutors, indigent defenders, private attorneys, government agencies, social service agencies, businesses, churches, community groups, public and private treatment providers, victims' advocates, and bar associations. It is important, especially in the early stages, to be flexible and to allow input from all sources. It is also crucial that planners reach out to those who are likely to be skeptics -- even those who oppose the plans outright -- in an effort to make them better understand the goals and even to participate in crafting the details of the project in a way that they can support.

Depending upon the size and scope of a particular court, there will, of course, be various costs associated with its creation. It is essential that one of the first items addressed in the planning process be how funds will be raised and what sources will be tapped. Another significant factor that should be considered at the outset is the evaluation component. The durability of problem solving courts will likely depend upon the success they can demonstrate in relieving the problems they were created to solve, while maintaining financial responsibility. Therefore, part of the initial plan should include specific means by which achievements can be monitored and measured.

Now that there is more than a decade of history in this arena, it is extremely helpful to those hoping to establish a new problem solving court to be able to benefit from the experts and those who have "been there, done that." This *Roadmap* is intended to serve as a starting point in that process by offering basic information about problem solving courts and providing readers with various resources that will assist in the planning process and troubleshoot roadblocks.

WHAT ARE THE OBSTACLES AND RISKS?

Critics of problem solving courts, as well as cautious supporters who understand the numerous potential pitfalls of tinkering with the delicate balance of our American justice system, have raised questions that must be carefully considered and addressed. Perhaps the most critical deal with the rights of defendants. In general, the first step of diverting a particular defendant into a problem solving court is obtaining that defendant's consent. Procedures must therefore be put into place to assure that such consent is freely given, that the defendant's participation in the program has not been forced, and that none of his due process rights have been compromised.

One of the hallmarks of the American justice system is the presence of fair and impartial judges to carry out the laws of our land. As judges begin to assume new roles and responsibilities in these new court settings, they and those around them must strive to maintain that fairness. There is

certainly reason for caution when judges are developing closer relationships with both defendants and service providers, perhaps creating a perception of favoritism. In a specialized court setting, the presiding judge becomes an “expert” in a particular type of offender or offense, which can appear to threaten objectivity. Problem solving court judges often have greater discretion in the sentencing process, leading to varying outcomes that can be perceived as unfair. These are not insurmountable problems, but rather areas that planners and participants must be diligent in monitoring.

Lawyers, too, are facing different challenges as the traditional role of ardent advocate may be altered in this new setting. Some observers express concern that a defense attorney’s closer contact with prosecutors and treatment professionals can lead to diminution of their capacity for zealous advocacy on behalf of their clients. A similar argument can be made regarding a district attorney who is charged with protecting the safety and interests of the public at large and may feel that the ability to argue for incarceration is compromised. These new processes may change somewhat both parties’ views of just what is the best outcome for their respective clients. While remaining aware of the potential risks, lawyers can carry out their respective tasks in a professional manner.

As these important issues are examined and dealt with, they must also be kept in perspective. Judging the success of a problem solving court and weighing concerns about new methods should not be done in a vacuum. Each community should take a hard look at its established system and its own past outcomes. In most cases, change has been prompted by the failures of traditional methods. The inevitable risks associated with these changes should be compared to the reality of the status quo -- not to a vision of the way things should be in a perfect world.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED AND PROVEN ADVANTAGES?

Problem solving courts are relatively new and solid research on their effectiveness is just now emerging. When examining the way problem solving courts operate and the reasons for their growing popularity, some advantages become apparent. Anecdotally, judges, lawyers, and other participants in these courts have reported their observations of success. In fact, it is unusual for those who have become involved in such projects not to feel great enthusiasm and optimism about the future, which is too often absent from traditional court settings. In jurisdictions where problem solving courts have been successfully operating, citizens have witnessed positive outcomes that in turn have improved their perceptions of justice. In turn, improved public perception can lead to greater public participation and support for these and other innovative justice improvements.

On a more concrete level, evaluations of some of the longest existing drug courts have found evidence of both reduced recidivism and greater treatment compliance among offenders. An independent evaluation of the Midtown Community Court found that arrests for low-level crimes such as prostitution had dropped significantly. Nonetheless, there is a need for more and deeper statistical research that examines which program elements make a difference and for which populations of offenders. Initial studies also suggest that problem solving courts produce significant cost savings compared to traditional prosecution methods. In addition to direct savings, success of problem solving courts produce indirect societal savings based on more productive workers and fewer future victims.

PROBLEM SOLVING COURT MODELS

Some of the overriding principles of problem solving courts have been discussed above. Drug courts have the longest track record and serve to define the parameters for all subsequent innovations. Community courts have also proliferated, existing in numerous cities across the nation. Other forms of problem solving courts are becoming more prevalent, such as domestic violence courts, mental health courts, unified family courts, youth courts, and several additional courts focusing primarily on other significant issues. There are few hard and fast rules for this new arm of the justice system. Only the resources, enthusiasm, and creativity that can be generated in any community limit the possibilities. What follows is a look at several of the most prominent problem solving court models.

DRUG COURT

In almost every size and kind of community across America, arrests for drugs and drug-related crimes are swamping the court system. An already serious problem escalated dramatically with the proliferation of crack cocaine in the mid-80s. Increased penalties instituted to address the problem served to clog the courts and jam the prisons. Attempts to expedite processing of the expanding number of drug cases sometimes succeeded in reducing the time between a defendant's arrest and conviction, but did nothing to address the underlying problem of addiction. Attempts to link offenders to treatment were few, and those who did receive such referrals were not seen again until they had committed another crime and were back on the treadmill.

As the problems grew, various jurisdictions began to examine ways to break the cycle. It became clear that enhancing collaboration between treatment providers and the criminal justice system was a logical starting point toward reform. Partnerships were developed among pretrial, probation, and parole agencies; law enforcement personnel; and treatment professionals in many jurisdictions. This would later culminate in a more institutionalized structural change that brought courts and the judges directly into the process with the creation of the first treatment-based drug court.

The method of operation in most drug courts is similar, although details can vary. Most drug court participants are non-violent offenders since the current federal laws only allow the use of federal funds for drug courts that accept non-violent offenders, and most drug courts rely heavily on federal funds to get started and maintain operations. Basically, when addicted drug offenders voluntarily agree to participate in drug court programs, they are opting for treatment rather than traditional sentencing (typically incarceration). In exchange for the defendant's successful completion of long-term treatment, the court is authorized to reduce or dismiss the original charges. This is not an "easy way out" for the defendant, however. In many instances the time spent in treatment and under the supervision of the court is far greater than the length of a prison sentence to which the defendant would have been subject. Penalties for dropping out of the program or violating program rules often include extended periods of incarceration as a persuasive tool to encourage participants to complete the program. In drug court, the long-term goal of all parties is to free individuals from addiction and make them productive, law-abiding members of society. Put another way, all members of the drug court team are attempting to halt the revolving door, preventing addicted offenders from returning to court time after time, facing the same charges and increasingly severe sentences.

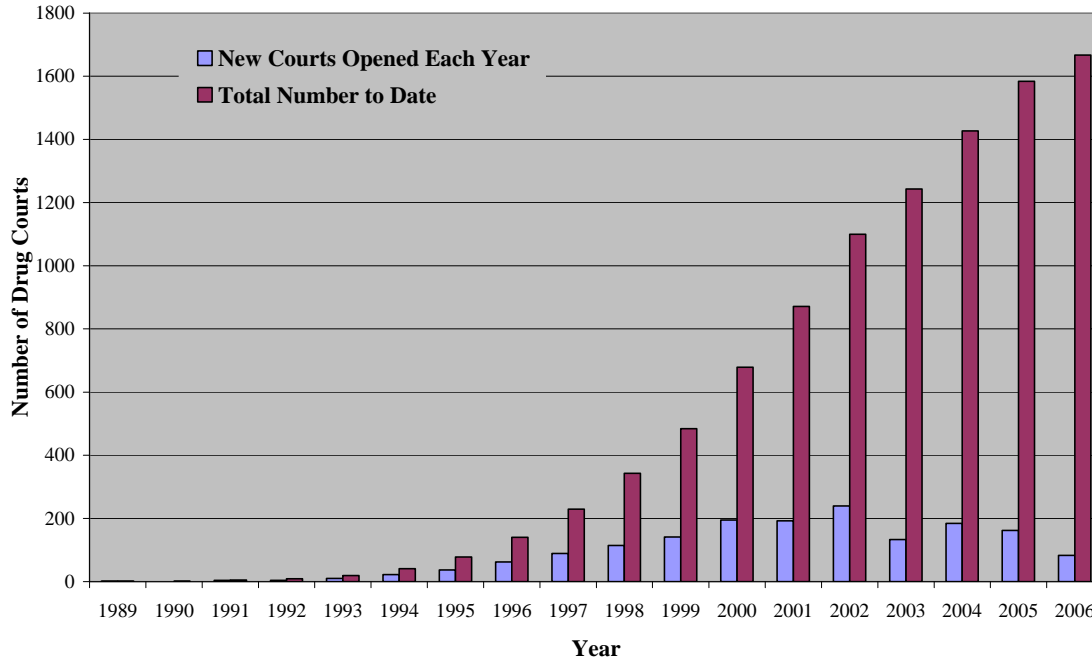
The cornerstone of the drug court is a team of professionals that is led by the drug court judge and includes prosecutors, defenders, clerks, case managers, and treatment providers. Each individual treatment program is closely monitored by the court, which provides various rewards to defendants for compliance and sanctions for failures and setbacks. The rules and conditions to which participants are required to adhere are set forth clearly and followed strictly. Sanctions include short-term jail sentences in certain instances. Participants are tested regularly, sometimes even daily, for drug usage. Treatment providers report each participant's status to the court almost immediately; therefore consequences are clear and swift. This environment supports treatment methods and encourages compliance, allowing the participants to have control over outcomes and giving them the greatest likelihood of success. Beyond treatment, most courts require that participants obtain a GED (general education degree), be gainfully employed, and be fiscally responsible (such as being current on child support payments). Many programs also require the participant to undertake community service. An ongoing challenge for all drug courts is what to do about continuing care after graduation from the drug court program. Although many drug court programs last 18-24 months, studies suggest that continuing support is crucial to reducing long term recidivism rates.

Some of the early skeptics of drug courts were, perhaps predictably, prosecutors and police. A major concern for those groups was the misconception that criminals who opted in to drug courts were being coddled and were not receiving sufficient punishment for their offenses. These same critics are now among the strongest supporters of drug courts nationwide. In addition to the rigorous expectations of a defendant as described above, time has shown that the drug court model has achieved measurable success. For example, a recent study [Gottfredson, D. C., Najaka, S. S., and Kearley, B. (2003). Effectiveness of Drug Treatment Courts: Evidence from a Randomized Trial. *Criminology and Public Policy*, 2] found the recidivism rate for drug court participants 15% lower than for offenders who underwent standard prosecution. Completion of drug court programs is crucial to achieving the full benefit. A study conducted in 2006 on the Suffolk County Drug Court in Massachusetts, found that participants in the program were 33% less likely to be rearrested, while graduates of the program were 70% less likely to be rearrested.

The economic impact is also impressive. Although there are startup costs and costs for treatment that are generally not associated with traditional courts, studies suggest long-term savings, especially compared to the high cost of imprisonment. It is estimated that the average annual cost of incarceration per person is at least \$5,000, while the cost for treatment in drug court related programs is between \$1,200 and \$3,000, depending on jurisdiction. This comparison doesn't even take into account other savings to the criminal justice system. Less measurable, but perhaps even more substantial, are the reduced costs to society when thousands of individuals are more likely to be gainfully employed rather than reliant upon public assistance or stuck in the cycle of continued criminal behavior resulting in immeasurable costs to victims.

If measured by rate of replication, the success of the drug court movement is staggering. It is estimated that more than 1,662 such courts now exist nationwide as of January 1, 2007, and the numbers continue to grow. This has been made possible over the past decade through the efforts of organizations such as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the National Drug Court Institute, the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Substance Abuse, and many other public and private entities. Additionally, as a result of a provision in the Crime Act passed by Congress in 1994, the United States Department of Justice, through its Drug Courts Program Office and the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program, has awarded hundreds of millions of dollars to plan, startup, and upgrade drug courts nationwide.

Growth of Drug Courts Nationwide



Although the process of planning a drug court has become easier as more courts have had first-hand experiences, one must venture into this arena with great deliberation and caution. There are numerous people, organizations, books, articles, and Web sites to assist in this process, many of which are referenced in the “Resources” section of this publication. Although it is not possible to detail all of the steps and considerations here, an overview may be helpful for those considering launching such a program.

Initial participants in a drug court planning process should include one or more judges, the court administrator and/or clerk, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement personnel, probation officers, representatives of the correctional facilities, and community organizations or private citizens. The blueprint for the court should set forth eligibility criteria and screening methods and should clearly define the part each individual and entity will play in the final product. Planners must also consider where the necessary resources will be obtained and how information will be coordinated, communicated, and processed. As indicated earlier in this *Roadmap*, a plan for the ongoing evaluation and assessment of the court should be put into place from the outset. Methods of measuring outcomes such as recidivism rates, long-term compliance with treatment, and improvements in participants’ lifestyles (such as education and job retention) are a few of the factors that may be measured.

As with all problem solving courts, not every drug court is perfect, and not every participant succeeds. There are many challenges faced by those planning and executing such a new drug court. However, the rewards can also be many for the participants, the courts, the lawyers and the public.

As there are more than 1,662 drug courts operating today, and more in the planning stages, the landscape is constantly changing, and the nuances and variances from court to court are countless. Rather than single out any court here, below is contact information for the key players in the field.

For extensive information about drug courts contact the Bureau of Justice Assistance, **Drug Court Clearinghouse**, The American University; Tel. 202/885-2875; Web site: www.american.edu/justice or e-mail: justice@american.edu

For technical assistance, mentor courts, drug court standards, research and more contact the **National Association of Drug Court Professionals** (NADCP) and the **National Drug Court Institute** (NDCI), 4900 Seminary Road, Suite 320, Alexandria, VA 22311; Tel. Toll-free: 877-507-3229; Tel. 703/575-9400; Fax: 703/575-9402; Web sites: www.nadcp.org and www.ndci.org.

COMMUNITY COURT

The New York State Unified Court System launched the Midtown Community Court in October 1993. This was the first of what would grow into another trend. Located in New York City's Times Square neighborhood, the Midtown Court targeted misdemeanor "quality of life" crimes in that specific geographic area. The court mobilized both residents and businesses to collaborate with the criminal justice system by developing and supervising community service projects and by providing needed services to defendants. The Center For Court Innovation site (www.communityjustice.org at "Community Court") lays out the basic principles of community courts:

- Restoring the community;
- Bridging the gap between communities and the courts;
- Knitting together a fractured criminal justice system;
- Helping offenders deal with problems that lead to crime;
- Providing better information to each involved member of the court;
- Reflecting the community in the courthouse's design.

The Midtown Community Court developed a plan of individualized sanctions designed to restore both the victim and the neighborhood and to prevent offenders from repeated involvement in the criminal justice system. Offenders are sentenced to perform community restoration -- painting over graffiti, sweeping the streets -- in the neighborhood they have harmed. Combining punishment with help, the Court addresses the root causes of crime by engaging defendants in drug testing and treatment, HIV and other medical testing, health education, group counseling sessions, homeless services, and the like. Sentences take advantage of the moment of arrest to link offenders immediately to treatment. At the core of this approach is a variety of outreach and assessment groups held daily at the court.

The results have been extremely encouraging. Arrests for several quality of life offenses decreased in spite of law enforcement emphasis in those areas. In an independent evaluation conducted by the National Center for State Courts, researchers found that prostitution arrests over the first 18 months had dropped 56 percent and illegal vending was reduced by 24 percent. The court's compliance rate for community service sentencing was an unprecedented 75 percent, with offenders contributing labor valued at more than \$175,000 annually. (See *Dispensing Justice Locally* in Resources.) The residents and businesses in Midtown Manhattan are able to watch their justice system at work and have experienced positive outcomes in the form of cleaner streets, fewer vagrants and prostitutes lingering in front of their homes and stores, and an overall safer neighborhood. Best of all, they have been part of making it happen.

It was several years before other communities began to follow the example of the Midtown Court. The growing frustration of citizens and the positive example set in New York have led to the development of more than 30 such courts nationwide. As in the case of drug courts, expansion has been aided by the Department of Justice through technical assistance and seed grants. Each new court reflects the unique needs of the community it serves, but there are some key components that can be found throughout.

A community court serves a targeted neighborhood. Community service is a common sanction, providing compensation directly to the community, with sentences commencing immediately, and cases concluded more quickly than in traditional misdemeanor courts. Citizens and businesses within the community are involved in both the planning of the court and its ongoing operations. As with drug courts, the power and authority of the court is used to encourage successful treatment of health and addiction problems and to link offenders with necessary social services.

The planning of a community court, perhaps to an even greater extent than the drug court process described above, is complex. There are many resources available to assist in this undertaking, as listed in the “Resources” section that follows. A few general guidelines regarding planning are reviewed here, many of which are very much like those suggested for the development of other problem solving courts.

Considering its scope and complexity, the development of a community court is best steered by a full-time director or coordinator who can focus on this project from start to finish. Partnerships are essential. Early planning sessions should include all possible stakeholders from the courts, city or county government, social service agencies, prosecutors and defenders, business leaders, and community groups.

It is important to determine exactly who is part of the “community” a particular court seeks to serve and involve. Town hall meetings, door-to-door surveys, focus groups, and individual interviews may be useful tools. Planners may wish to attend regular neighborhood meetings, meetings with business groups, church gatherings and the like. Once interested parties are identified, they can become a part of advisory panels that assist with decisions as diverse and far-reaching as priorities, funding, community service projects, location, and more. Some courts facilitate ongoing communication with their constituents through a court newsletter.

Determining the geographic location of the court is a pivotal decision in the planning process, which is usually closely linked to the community needs and the focus of the court. In a downtown business setting, the goals may be to revitalize an economy plagued by low-level crimes and thus allow residents and businesses to exist in harmony. Some courts established in inner city areas that are primarily residential tackle the issues of high crime rates, abandoned housing, open drug usage, and housing issues.

Selecting a physical structure to house the community court is also crucial. Space requirements must be met while retaining a sense of both accessibility and visibility. Cost is often the controlling factor. Although a single location to house court functions, social services, meetings, and community activities is the ideal model, it is not always a practical reality. Some community courts are successfully operating using a combination of an existing traditional courthouse and a nearby community center or various other neighborhood locations.

Planners must carefully consider the scope of crimes and/or types of offenders that will be included in the court’s jurisdiction. The earliest community courts limited their scope to criminal matters, but some are now expanding into areas such as housing code violations, environmental infractions, and various juvenile and family matters.

The community court concept is extremely flexible, and its fundamental structure can be expanded and adapted in many ways to meet the needs of the particular community. Portland, Oregon set up a system of community courts throughout the city, each unique to its own neighborhood, some of which hold court inside community centers. In Brooklyn, N.Y., the Red Hook Community Justice Center is the most comprehensive of those established to date, with countless services and programs housed under one roof. The Justice Center utilizes Americorps members to assist in the provision of services, includes a peer youth court, and encourages its attorneys to become part of the community as Little League coaches, mentors, and the like.

Whatever the focus or location, the planning of a community court should not be rushed. It is critical that all aspects of the project be carefully considered. Funding and other support must be put into place. Critics should be given the opportunity to voice their concerns, as the project uses all available means to bring its message throughout the community.

For background and contact information of all active community courts in the U.S. visit Center For Court Innovation online at www.courtinnovation.org, or link directly to the list at www.communityjustice.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Document.viewDocument&documentID=669&documentTopicID=17&documentTypeID=10.

For information about the **Midtown Community Court** contact Angela Tolosa, Project Director, 314 W. 54th Street, New York, NY 10019; E-mail: atolosa@courts.state.ny.us.

For information about the **Hartford Community Court** contact Chris Pleasanton, Community Court Coordinator, 80 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106; E-mail: Chris.Pleasanton@jud.state.ct.us.

For information about the **Indianapolis Community Court** contact Tina Thien, Community Court Coordinator, 902 Virginia Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46203; E-mail: TThien@indygov.org.

For information about the **Red Hook Community Justice Center**, contact James Brodick, Project Director, 88 Visitation Place, Brooklyn, NY 11231; E-mail: JBrodick@courts.state.ny.us.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

For many years, courts, prosecutors, and the police viewed domestic violence as a family problem that should be worked out behind closed doors and that had no impact on the community at large. In recent years, many elements of society began to recognize that domestic violence is indeed a public problem that can no longer be ignored. The seriousness of the problem is seen in the growing numbers of victims. The ABA Commission on Domestic Violence reports that almost one third of all adult women have experienced at least one incident of physical assault. In addition, in homes where spousal abuse occurs, the children in the family are likely to be mistreated as well. The problem is compounded by the fact that victims and perpetrators have ongoing relationships, causing victims to be reluctant to bring charges against the offender.

Recognizing these facts and building upon the successes of other problem solving courts, many jurisdictions began to re-think how cases involving domestic violence should be addressed. One result is a growing number of domestic violence courts found in urban, suburban, and rural jurisdictions. In “What Makes Domestic Violence Court Work? Key Principles,” the Center For Court Innovation outlines the four basic principles of domestic violence courts. These principles are:

- Victim Services – Providing victims with immediate access to advocates, keeping victims informed, scheduling cases promptly, and creating “safe spaces” within the courthouse;
- Judicial Monitoring – Assigning a permanent judge to the case, supervising defendants continuously, exploring new methods of judicial monitoring, dedicating additional staff and resources for monitoring, and creating a separate compliance docket if there is a high volume;
- Accountability – Building strong relationships with service providers, holding batterers programs accountable, thinking creatively, and using technology to enhance access to information;
- Coordinated Community Response – Creating strong linkages with a wide range of partners, convening regular meetings with criminal justice and social service partners, and providing court personnel and partners with domestic violence education and training.

Partnerships are as critical here as in other problem solving courts. Unlike other problem solving courts, the emphasis in domestic violence courts is on the victim and victim safety. Victims are quickly connected with an advocate who assists with obtaining services such as shelter and counseling, encourages the development of a safety plan, and reinforces self esteem. The advocate also keeps in close touch with victims to encourage court appearances and assist in the immediate reporting of further abuse. In order to assure continued protection for the victim, communication must be forged among the court, police, probation officers, service providers, and victims groups.

Unlike other problem solving courts, most domestic violence courts do not follow a therapeutic model. Many offenders, particularly in felony domestic violence courts, end up in jail or prison. Even while a case is pending and a defendant is out on bail, the court undertakes strict monitoring. Violations of protective orders are dealt with quickly and resolutely.

Another difference between domestic violence courts and other problem solving courts is in how success is measured and to whom service is offered. While batterers intervention programs may be offered, it is not easy for domestic violence court employees to determine whether the actions being taken by the court are deterring further violence in the home. Instead, a domestic violence court's efforts are not generally directed towards the defendant's rehabilitation but are focused on helping victims achieve independence. As more research is being conducted, domestic violence courts will have more data to guide their efforts.

As research into the effectiveness of domestic violence courts continues, a growing debate is developing within those working within domestic violence courts and those in domestic violence groups as to usefulness of domestic violence courts, their impact on the victims of domestic violence, and if they focus resources too much on the perpetrator instead of the victim.

New York has recently restructured their domestic violence courts so that as of January 2007, New York has 37 Integrated Domestic Violence Courts (IDV), which allow one judge to hear a multitude of different types of cases that result from a common source instead of appearing in one court for domestic violence, one for family (child custody), and one for matrimonial issues. How the shift in New York to IDV courts will impact the current debate about the effectiveness of domestic violence specialty courts will possibly lead to innovative changes in other specialty courts.

For information about New York **Domestic Violence Court**, contact Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Court Operations and Planning (Tel. 800/268-7869 or E-mail: question@courts.state.ny.us), New York State Unified Court System, Office of Court Administration, 25 Beaver Street, New York, NY 10004; online at: www.courts.state.ny.us/courts/problem_solving/dv/home.shtml.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Other offenders that courts have found increasing in number are those suffering from mental illness. Much as is the case with addicted offenders, traditional methods of dispensing justice have not succeeded in helping mentally disturbed offenders or protecting communities from ongoing

criminal acts by those offenders. While approximately 5% of the U.S. population has a serious mental illness, Department of Justice reports show that 16% of the U.S. prison population suffers from severe mental illness. This has led some jurisdictions to adapt the drug court model to address this problem by targeting the underlying issue of mental health and providing treatment monitored by the court. Today there are over 150 mental health courts nationwide, with more being planned. The growth in mental health courts was aided by the passage of the America's Law Enforcement and Mental Health Project Act in 2000 authorizing support for additional mental health court programs, although the program has never been fully funded. Therefore the majority of federal funding for mental health courts has come from earmarks in the Byrne Discretionary grant program.

Most mental health courts operate in similar fashion to drug courts. Participants are identified and given the option of choosing the program, where they receive mandatory treatment closely supervised by the court. Teams of court personnel and mental health clinicians follow a defendant from start to finish. Upon successful completion of treatment, charges may be dismissed or suspended, or a defendant may plead guilty and receive credit for time in treatment. Some of the unique components of these courts include an intake evaluation (often within 24 hours), specialized training of court personnel, and close scrutiny of participants.

The Crime and Justice Research Institute recently conducted a study of the practices of the first four mental health courts. The shared procedures and goals that characterize the mental health courts' approach are described in the white paper, "Rethinking the Revolving Door: A Look at Mental Illness in the Courts," published by the Center for Court Innovation, and are as follows:

- Problem Solving – Mental health courts take a critical look at the issues that defendants with mental illness pose for the courts and craft a new set of responses.
- Public Safety – By responding to widespread concerns about how courts deal with defendants with mental illness, mental health courts attempt to shore up public trust and confidence in the justice system.
- Therapeutic Jurisprudence – In linking defendants with mental illness to treatment alternatives, many mental health courts see themselves as practicing "therapeutic jurisprudence" – an approach that seeks to produce positive life changes for defendants.
- Identification – Mental health courts develop new systems to identify defendants with mental illness.
- Targeting – After identification, each court has created eligibility criteria that target a certain type of defendant. Most programs require that defendants have symptoms of severe mental illness and face non-violent, misdemeanor charges.
- Dedicated Staff – Each mental health court has a dedicated judge and some additional specialized staff. The specialized staff are usually mental health clinicians who screen cases for eligibility, prepare treatment plans, and report to the judge on defendants' progress in treatment.
- Non-Traditional Roles – Mental health courts have altered the dynamics of the courtroom, including, at times, certain features of the adversarial process. Mental health courts may engage judges in unfamiliar roles as well, asking them to convene meetings and broker relationships with service providers.
- Voluntariness – Participation in mental health court is voluntary – defendants must affirmatively "opt-in" to receive treatment.
- Plea Structure – Once a defendant opts into a mental health court, one of two things happens: either prosecution is "frozen" and charges are dismissed or dropped after the

defendant successfully completes treatment, or a plea is taken and later vacated after treatment is completed. All of the mental health courts require a longer period of time in treatment than the defendants would have served in jail or prison if they had pled guilty to the crime charged.

- Judicial Monitoring – Mental health courts require participants to return frequently to court to enable the judge to monitor the progress of treatment.
- System Integration – Mental health courts seek to promote reform with partners outside of the courthouse as well as within, bringing together the mental health and criminal justice systems.

Special challenges for mental health courts include the question of a defendant's ability to legally consent to participation, the viability of sanctions and rewards for mentally ill individuals, the appropriateness of the use of jail time, and the danger of stigmatization. Other practical and legal concerns mirror those raised with other problem solving courts.

For information about the **King County Mental Health Court** contact Lois Smith, Mental Health Court Manager, King County District Court, Office of the Presiding Judge, W-1034 King County Courthouse, Seattle, WA 98104; Tel. 206/296-3502; E-mail: Lois.Smith@metrokc.gov; Web site: www.metrokc.gov/kcdc/mhhome.htm.

For information about the **Anchorage Mental Health Court** contact Janet K. Sumeey, Project Coordinator, 825 W. 4th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501-2004; Tel. 907/264-0886; E-mail: ksumey@courts.state.ak.us; Web site: www.state.ak.us/courts/.

For information and to learn about the technical assistance available through the five mental health court learning sites selected by The Bureau of Justice Assistance as part of its **Mental Health Courts Program** (MHCP). Web site: <http://consensusproject.org/mhcp/>.

OTHER PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

Recently efforts have been made to expand the range of issues problem solving courts currently manage. Creative judges, lawyers, and communities are finding more ways to apply the model of problem solving courts to address issues troubling their communities.

DUI/DWI/SOBRIETY COURTS

The growing awareness of what a deadly combination drinking and driving can be has led to the development of DUI (driving under the influence)/DWI (driving while intoxicated)/Sobriety Courts that specifically incorporate alcoholism treatment for drunk driving offenders. Like drug courts, they are built on the premise that the underlying problem must be treated in order to achieve meaningful long-term results. Unlike drug courts, DUI/DWI courts operate within a post-conviction model. They use the power of the court combined with a broad range of available treatment programs, services, and approaches to deal with the core problem of alcohol abuse as it relates to drunk driving. Key to the effectiveness of DWI/DUI courts is the courts power to get offenders into treatment, and keep them in treatment. Studies show that completed treatment is effective, but most alcoholics will not

voluntarily enter. Of those who do voluntarily enter treatment, 80% to 90% drop out within one year and relapse within one year. Relapse among drop outs is a common occurrence.

For more information about DWI courts and DWI/Drug courts, contact **National Drug Court Institute** (NDCI), C. West Huddleston, Director, 4900 Seminary Road, Suite 320, Alexandria, VA 22311; Tel. 703/575-9400; E-mail: whuddleston@ndci.org; Web site: www.ndci.org/dwi_drug_court.htm.

For information about the **Bernalillo County, New Mexico** DWI/Drug court, contact Judge J. Michael Kavanaugh, 401 Roma NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102; Tel. 505/841-8193.

RE-ENTRY COURTS

Nationally more than 650,000 people are released from state or federal prisons each year. Within three years, two-thirds will be rearrested, with nearly half returned to prison for a new crime or a parole violation. This has led officials to address the issue of re-entry and how the justice system can address the root of the problem, thus stopping the cycle by helping individuals successfully transition back into society.

Re-entry Courts strictly monitor parolees to determine whether they are meeting all the criteria set forth in connection with their release. The program may consist of an “in custody” segment, where the incarcerated participant receives significant treatment and/or rehabilitation services monitored by the re-entry judge prior to release. The neighborhood itself is involved in the post-release portion, which links the parolees with community organizations and service providers to provide drug treatment, counseling, job training, and housing.

For information about the **Richland County Ohio Re-entry Court**, contact Melinda O'Donnell, Program Director, 50 Park Avenue East, Mansfield, OH 44902; Tel. 419/774-4767; E-mail: odonnell.m@cpcnet.co.richland.oh.us; Web site: www.richlandcountycourtservices.com/programs/re-entrycourt.htm.

HANDGUN INTERVENTION PROGRAM

A **Handgun Intervention Program**, began in Detroit in 1993, makes use of the time between a felony defendant's initial court appearance and arraignment in the higher court. Participation in the program is a condition of release on bond. The program is held weekly on Saturday mornings in a courtroom, where probation officers, police officers, prior program participants, and the judge present a focused, powerful, and fine-tuned message about the dangers and consequences of gun violence.

For information about the **Detroit Handgun Intervention Program**, contact Terrence Evelyn, Program Coordinator, 36th District Court, Madison Center, 421 Madison Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226; Tel. 313/965-3724.

HOMELESS COURT

The Homeless Court is one of the most recent applications. The homeless often have a large number of outstanding bench warrants in effect for failures to appear in court -- often as a result of transportation and notification problems. Such a court provides a means of getting these cases out of the system while providing a way out for the individual. This model is designed to reduce the recidivism of homeless offenders by presenting repeat offenders involved in misdemeanor quality of life cases (sleeping in public places, panhandling, disturbing the peace, urinating in public) with an opportunity to clear their records in exchange for completing a life skills class. Participants can also be connected with needed services and assistance.

The first Homeless Court was established in San Diego in 1989. In 2000, when the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty began efforts to replicate Homeless Courts, only three had been established in California. Since ABA replication efforts began, thirteen new Homeless Courts have been established, four in California and nine others across the country.

For information about the **San Diego Homeless Court**, contact Steve Binder, Deputy Public Defender, County of San Diego, 233 A Street, Suite 900, San Diego, CA 92101; Tel. 619/ 338-4708; Web site: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/collab/homeless.htm

For information about the **ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty**, contact Amy Horton-Newell, Staff Director; E-mail: homeless@abanet.org; Web site: www.abanet.org/homeless/homeless_courts.shtml.

UNIFIED FAMILY COURTS AND YOUTH COURTS

Two very important types of problem solving courts that will not be discussed here are Unified Family Courts, which address the needs of children and families and their various legal crises, and Youth Courts, which use young people to determine appropriate sanctions for their peers who have gotten into trouble. For extensive discussions of these two problem solving courts as well as of modern court reforms, citizen involvement in courts, and specialty courts, see other titles in the ABA *Roadmaps* series listed on the back cover, including "Unified Family Courts: Justice Delivered," "Youth Courts: Young People Delivering Justice," "Community Involvement: The Key to Successful Justice Reform," and "User-Friendly Courts: Customer Service in the Courthouse."

CONCLUSION

Problem solving courts have spread rapidly across our nation and have become one of the most innovative methods of justice. The concept of problem solving justice has developed gradually over the past several years. The innovations pioneered by problem solving courts not only improve the way courts do business but raise the potential for professional satisfaction among prosecutors, defenders, and judges. While there is always a need for additional research, the initial results arising from drug courts and community courts are encouraging. Problem solving courts are continuing to multiply and to have a positive impact on the justice system. The future of problem solving courts will bring many new challenges. However, given the substantial results achieved by the initial

introduction of problem solving courts into the justice system, the challenges will be well worth the effort.

American Bar Association Policy

Official ABA policy is reflected in policy statements adopted by the ABA Board of Governors. Below are various policy statements that refer to problem solving courts in general or to specific types of problem solving courts.

"Problem-Solving"/Specialized Courts. Support (1) the use of the term "problem-solving" courts to refer to specialized initiatives such as drug courts, community courts, and mental health courts, as well as programs such as unified family courts; (2) the continued development of problem-solving courts to improve court processes and court outcomes for litigants, victims, and communities; and (3) the consideration of the use of the principles and methods employed by problem-solving courts in the daily administration of justice while preserving the rule of law and traditional due process protections and adherence to the Model Code of Judicial Conduct. Encourage law schools, state, local and territorial bar associations, and other organizations to engage in education and training about the principles and methods employed by problem-solving courts. 8/01

Black Letter of Standard 2.77 Procedures in Drug Treatment Courts. In the growing number of Drug Treatment Courts traditional adversary proceedings have been replaced in varying degrees by a team approach to using the jurisdiction of the Court to encourage and enhance substance abuse treatment for defendants in criminal, juvenile, and family court proceedings. The Court should ensure that such treatment is ordered and implemented on the basis of adequate information, in accordance with applicable law, and with due regard for the rights of the individual and of the public. (The statement continues with Procedure Requirements, Resource Requirements, and Performance Measures. See full text at www.abanet.org/leadership/2001/101a.pdf) 8/01

Diversionsary Drug Court Programs. Support development of a comprehensive, systemic approach to addressing the needs of defendants with drug and alcohol problems through multidisciplinary strategies that include coordination among the criminal justice, health, social service and education systems, and the community; urge the courts to adopt certain treatment-oriented, diversionsary drug court programs as one component of a comprehensive approach; urge bar associations to facilitate the development of such programs that result in dismissal of drug-related charges upon the completion of drug rehabilitation. 2/94

Homeless Court Programs. Urges state, local, and territorial courts and bar associations to adopt and facilitate the development of Homeless Court Programs as treatment-oriented diversionsary proceedings that result in the dismissal of misdemeanor offenses upon completion of shelter/service agency activities, as a means to foster the movement of people experiencing homelessness from the streets through a shelter program to self-sufficiency. 2/03

Unified Children and Family Courts. Reaffirm 1980 commitment to unified children and family courts and set forth in the Standards Relating to Court Organization and Administration, Standard 1.1; pledge to promote the implementation of unified children and family court systems as described in Standard 1.1 recognizing that the manner of administering these courts may differ among states and

jurisdictions; endorse seven specified clarifications and additions to the components of unified children and family courts. 8/94

Youth Courts. Encourage legislatures, court systems, and bar associations to support and assist in the formation and expansion of diversionary programs, known as Youth Courts, where juvenile participants, under supervision of volunteer attorneys and advisory staff, act as judges, jurors, clerks, bailiffs, and counsel for first-time juvenile offenders who are charged with misdemeanors and consent to the program. 8/95

RESOURCES

ORGANIZATIONS

American Bar Association

Several ABA entities are involved with the issues relevant to problem solving courts. Among them are those listed below.

Commission on Domestic Violence

The Commission works on a variety of issues related to domestic violence, including insurance discrimination, workplace domestic violence, battered immigrant women, domestic violence and sports, credit issues, domestic violence legislation, attorney and judicial training, and community coordinated response to domestic violence.

Contact: Director, ABA Commission on Domestic Violence, 740 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005; 202/662-1737; E-mail: abacdvdv@abanet.org; Web site: www.abanet.org/domviol.

Commission on Homelessness and Poverty

The Commission on Homelessness and Poverty assists in the development of bar association and law school programs that provide legal services to homeless people and educates members of the bar and the public to legal and other problems of homelessness. It initiated the 2003 ABA resolution in support of Homeless Courts.

Contact: Amy Horton-Newell, Staff Director, ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, 740 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005; 202/662-1693, E-mail: homeless@abanet.org; Web site: www.abanet.org/homeless/home.html.

Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law

One of the most important concerns of the Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law is the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Commission's mission is to

promote the ABA's commitment to justice and the rule of law for persons with mental, physical, and sensory disabilities and to promote their full and equal participation in the legal profession.

Contact: Amy Allbright, ABA Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law, 740 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005; 202/662-1578; E-mail: allbriga@staff.abanet.org; Web site: www.abanet.org/disability/.

Coalition for Justice

The ABA Coalition for Justice unites the public with the courts and bar associations to fulfill the promise of justice for all. It helps the public, bench, and bar collaborate to improve, preserve, and protect the justice system, thereby improving public trust and confidence.

Contact: Gilda Fairley, Diversity & Outreach Manager, ABA Coalition for Justice, 321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654; 312/988-5689; E-mail: fairleyg@staff.abanet.org; www.abanet.org/justice.

Judicial Division

The Judicial Division, formerly the Judicial Administration Division, was created to improve the administration of justice. The impetus for its establishment was to facilitate maximum judicial representation consistent with the best interests of both bench and bar.

Contact: Aimee Skrzekut, Director, ABA Judicial Division, 321 N. Clark Street, Mail Stop 19.1, Chicago, IL 60654; 312/988-5687; E-mail: torresa@staff.abanet.org; www.abanet.org/jd/home.html

Section of Family Law

The section is dedicated to serving the field of marital and family law in areas such as divorce, custody, military law, alternative families, elder law and children's law.

Contact: Paula Nessel, Director, ABA Section of Family Law, 321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654; 312/988-5169; E-mail: paulanessel@staff.abanet.org; www.abanet.org/family/home.html.

Standing Committee on Substance Abuse

The Standing Committee on Substance Abuse collaborates with national groups, state and local bar associations, and other ABA entities to address issues of substance abuse. The Committee has focused over the last few years on providing family courts with technical assistance and guidance on models that allow family courts to intervene in the lives of families with substance abuse problems and at-risk children. These models facilitate the integration of drug treatment into the way in which family courts do business.

Contact: Valerie A. Adelson, Staff Director, ABA Standing Committee on Substance Abuse, 740 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005; 202/662-1784; E-mail: adelsonv@staff.abanet.org; Web site: www.abanet.org/subabuse/home.html.

Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children

The Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children's primary role is to encourage, facilitate, and coordinate activities on behalf of children by ABA entities, state and local bar associations and their members, while promoting outreach by the organized bar to government

officials and policy makers at all levels in order to address the ongoing problems that face our nation's most fragile group. The Committee also assists lawyers and judges to address children's specific legal needs through 'how to' publications, judicial benchcards, and trainings.

Contact: Moreen Murphy, Director, ABA Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children, 740 15th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005; 202/662-1675; E-mail: murphym@staff.abanet.org; Web site: www.abanet.org/unmet/.

Other Organizations

This is a sample of some of the major sources of programs and other assistance available in the topical areas listed.

COURT AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185-4147; Tel. 800/616-6164; Fax: 757/564-2022; www.ncsconline.org; Community-Focused Courts Development Initiative

NCSC is a nonprofit organization that promotes justice through leadership and service to the state courts. The Court Research division of the NCSC promotes public confidence in the courts by helping state courts respond to policy issues of concern, anticipate societal problems that will affect courts, and develop the leadership necessary to provide fair and equitable administration of justice. Research topics include court administration and performance, state court caseload trends and resources, tort litigation, jury procedures and innovations, court interpretation, community-focused courts, alternative dispute resolution, and domestic relations. The Community-Focused Courts Development Initiative has a specific URL at www.ncsconline.org/WC/Publications/Res_CtComm_CFCPub.pdf and a ListServ available c/o Lynn Grimes (e-mail: lgrimes@ncsc.dni.us).

DRUG COURTS

Drug Courts Clearinghouse, Justice Programs Office, School of Public Affairs, American University, Brandywine Building, Suite 100, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016-8159; Tel. 202/885-2875; www.american.edu/justice.

For extensive information about drug courts, including funding and legislation.

National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and the **National Drug Court Institute (NDCI)**, 4900 Seminary Road, Suite 320, Alexandria, VA 22311; Toll-free: 877/507-3229; Tel. 703/575-9400; Fax: 703/575-9402; www.nadcp.org and www.ndci.org/aboutndci.htm

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) seeks to reduce substance abuse, crime, and recidivism by promoting and advocating for the establishment and funding of Drug

Courts and providing for collection and dissemination of information, technical assistance, and mutual support to association members.

NDCI, a division of NADCP, was created by the Office of National Drug Control Policy of the Executive Office of the President to promote the institutionalization, structure, and credibility of drug courts. It supports those ends through education, research, and scholarship. It has a wide variety of publications online at www.ndci.org/publications.html

NDCI publishes a semi-annual *Drug Court Review* with the goal of keeping drug court practitioners abreast of new developments, and is available online at www.ndci.org/ndcirpub.html

DUI/DWI/SOBRIETY COURTS

National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and the **National Drug Court Institute (NDCI)**, 4900 Seminary Road, Suite 320, Alexandria, VA 22311; Toll-free: 877/507-3229; Tel. 703/575-9400; Fax: 703/575-9402; www.nadcp.org and www.ndci.org/aboutndci.htm

Maintains a description, history, examples, statistics and link to NDCI National DWI Courts Database, available online at www.ndci.org/dwi_drug_court.htm

American Council on Alcoholism, 1000E. Indian School Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85014; Tel. 703/248-9005; Toll free HelpLine 800/527-5344; Fax: 602/264-7403; www.aca-usa.org; e-mail: info@aca-usa.org.

ACA is a national non-profit health organization dedicated to educating the public about the effects of alcohol, alcoholism and alcohol abuse, and the need for prompt, effective, available, and affordable treatment. Their Web site includes a section on DUI Treatment Courts at www.aca-usa.org/dui.htm

PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

Center for Court Innovation, 520 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018; Tel. 212/397-3050; Fax: 212/397-0985; E-mail: info@courtinnovation.org; Web site: www.courtinnovation.org/. The Center's goals are to reduce crime, aid victims, strengthen communities, and promote public trust in justice. The Center functions as the New York State Unified Court System's independent research and development arm, investigating chronic problems and field-testing new programs in response. The Center nationally disseminates the lessons learned from its experiments in New York.

PRODUCTS AND WEB SITES

FROM THE ABA

[NOTE: ABA publications can be ordered by calling 800/285-2221, or E-mail at orders@abanet.org unless otherwise noted.]

Lawyers Working to End Homelessness, ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty (2006), Cost \$17.95 plus s/h.

This book is a compilation of essays and articles intended to inspire and guide readers to use their legal expertise to address homelessness in their communities. Written by a wide range of law professionals, the guide is a valuable source of thoughts, ideas, and suggestions for virtually any attorney who is interested in using his or her talents to benefit the most vulnerable population. Articles cover a broad spectrum of advocacy, from the most basic act of taking on a pro bono case, to the more complex act of creating a bar committee or service program from scratch. Order a copy from the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, 740 15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005; 202/662-1694, E-mail: homeless@abanet.org. Or from the ABA Web Store at: <http://www.abanet.org/abastore/index.cfm?section=main&fm=Product.AddToCart&pid=4180012>.

“Community Involvement: The Key to Successful Justice Reform” *Roadmap*, ABA Coalition for Justice.

A description of why community involvement is important to justice reform and examples of the kinds of projects that have benefited from community involvement, such as futures commissions and citizens conferences.

Taking the Court to the Streets: A Roundtable on Homeless Courts, held in Alameda, CA on October 26, 2006. Available online from ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty; www.abanet.org/homeless/directory_of_homeless_courts.pdf

A guide that contains information about sixteen Homeless Courts in California plus eight Homeless Courts across the nation, and also includes ABA's policies related to Homeless Courts.

The Judges' Journal. Winter 2002, Vol. 41, No. 1, ABA Judicial Division, Cost: \$6.50 plus s/h.

This issue focuses on problem-solving courts and includes the following articles—

- Berman, Greg and John Feinblatt. "Beyond Process and Precedent: The Rise of Problem Solving Courts"
- Butts, Jeffrey A. and Janeen Buck. "The Sudden Popularity of Teen Courts"
- Calabrese, Alex. "Neighborhood Justice: The Red Hook Community Justice Center"
- Fox, Aubrey. "Drug Courts and the Mentally Ill Addict: Is there a Fit?"
- Saunders, Terry. "Staying Home: Effective Reintegration Strategies for Parolees"
- Schrunk, Michael D. and Judith N. Phelan. "Problem Solving Courts: Impact at the Local Level"
- Stuart, John. "A Public Defender's Perspective on Problem Solving Courts"
- Wolf, Robert Victor. "Judith S. Kaye: Profile of a Problem Solving Jurist"

"Judicial Innovation at the Crossroads: The Future of Problem-Solving Courts," John Feinblatt, Greg Berman, and Derek Denckla, *The Improvement of the Administration of Justice*. 7th Edition, Chapter 36, pp. 435-449, ABA Judicial Division (2001) PC# 523-0007, Cost: \$49.95 plus s/h.

A description of the common elements of problem solving courts, a review of issues raised about them, and suggestions for the future of such courts. The chapter is part of a handbook on the state of the art in court improvement. Each chapter, written by an authority in that field, is followed by an annotated bibliography to facilitate further research.

Standard 2.77 Procedures in Drug Treatment Courts:

www.abanet.org/jd/ncstj/pdf/drugctstandfinal.pdf. Drafted by experienced drug court practitioners with the assistance of the Justice Management Institute under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, the Standard was approved by the ABA House of Delegates on August 7, 2001. The Standard adopts the existing benchmarks outlined in *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components* published by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and the U.S. Department of Justice.

"Unified Family Courts: Justice Delivered" ABA Coalition for Justice.

An overview of courts that treat families holistically, generally following the principle of "one family, one judge" and employing social and medical services as part of their functioning. Includes descriptions of various models plus an extensive list of resources.

"User-Friendly Courts: Customer Service in the Courthouse" *Roadmap*, ABA Coalition for Justice.

Reviews the reasons for seeking improvement in the customer service in the courts and the various difficulties that users encounter leading to frustration and dissatisfaction with the justice system. Suggestions regarding how to address issues of customer service, *pro se* assistance, the courthouse environment, and the use of technology are outlined. Particular experiences in various courts are discussed.

"You Can Teach Old Defenders New Tricks: Sentencing lessons from Specialty Courts", by Tamar M. Meekins. Published in *Criminal Justice Magazine*, Summer 2006 Volume 21, Number 2. Available for Free in PDF format at: www.abanet.org/crimjust/cjmag/21-2/youcanteacholddefenders.pdf.

The author explores why sentencing has benefited from enhanced advocacy, the influence of *Booker*, along with specialty court theory and models—all as a prelude to advising defense lawyers on how to best use such courts to the advantage of their clients without endangering their constitutional rights.

FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WEB RESOURCE CENTERS

Bazon Center for Mental Health Law: www.bazon.org

The Center is one of the nations leading legal advocates for people with mental disabilities advocating in the courts and in Congress. The site contains a variety of information about mental health as well as resources about mental health courts.

Center for Court Innovation: www.courtinnovation.org/

An extensive site with areas devoted to various types of problem solving courts and an extensive publications collection (most in PDF format).

- **Bronx Juvenile Accountability Court:**
A description of a New York City court that works with young people under 16 who have committed delinquent acts and are placed on intensive probation supervision.
- **Brooklyn Domestic Violence Court:**
A description of the Brooklyn Felony Domestic Violence Court program established in New York City in 1996.
- **Brooklyn Mental Health Court:**
A description of a court that offers judicially-monitored mental-health treatment as an alternative to incarceration in both misdemeanor and low-level felony cases.
- **Harlem Community Justice Center:**
A description of an official branch of the New York City Civil Court that addresses the problems that brings landlords and tenants to court, including non-payment issues, nuisance complaints, and disputes over housing repairs.
- **Brooklyn Treatment Court:**
A description of New York City's first drug treatment court. The Brooklyn Treatment Court links nonviolent, substance-abusing defendants to drug treatment as an alternative to incarceration.
- **Midtown Community Court:**
A description of Midtown Community Court, which was launched in 1993 in New York City.
- **Problem-Solving Courts:**
An extensive site containing a description of the common elements that distinguish problem solving courts from conventional courts, the results of independent evaluations of problem solving courts, the evolution of problem solving courts over time, an extensive library of downloadable publications
- **Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC):** www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/
The CFCC is dedicated to improving the quality of justice and serves to meet the diverse needs of children, youth, families, and self-represented litigants in the California courts.

- **Drug Courts: In the Spotlight:** www.ncjrs.gov/spotlight/drug_courts/Summary.html
The National Criminal Justice Reference Service site that includes information on drug court legislation, publications, programs, training & technical assistance, grants & funding, and much more. The extensive library of publications is at:
www.ncjrs.gov/spotlight/drug_courts/publications.html.
- **DUI Courts:** www.aca-usa.org/dui.htm
The American Council on Alcoholism's site courts that includes several topical articles, including one comparing DUI Courts (also often referred to as DWI) to Drug Courts, and links to 9 DUI courts.
- **Justice Programs Office:** www.american.edu/justice/index.html
Located at the School of Public Affairs of American University, this site contains extensive information on drug courts, including federal funding and a variety of publications (topics include **juvenile drug courts** and **tribal juvenile and adult drug courts**).
- **National Center for State Courts, Problem Solving Courts: Resource Guide:** www.ncsconline.org/WC/CourTopics/ResourceGuide.asp?topic=ProSol
The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) knowledge and information services contains links to documents, research, and other data bases on a variety of topics affecting courts nationwide.
- **Mental Health Courts Program:** www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/mentalhealth.html
Created by the Bureau of Justice Assistance as part of the Office of Justice Programs, the website provides general mental health court information as well as information about creating and funding mental health courts with links to additional resources.
- **National Drug Court Institute:** www.ndci.org/publications.html
NDCI, a division of National Association of Drug Court Professionals, has a wide variety of publications online on topics including Drug Court research, Re-entry Drug Courts, and DUI/Drug Courts.
- **Serious and Violent Offender Re-entry Initiative:** www.re-entry.gov
The Initiative, developed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), provides funding to develop, implement, enhance, and evaluate re-entry strategies that will ensure the safety of the community and the reduction of serious, violent crime. The site contains a variety of resources and a description of the Richland County (Ohio) Re-entry Court at: www.re-entry.gov/sar/oh.html.

DOCUMENTS

(This list provides a sampler of resources for court/community collaboration as well as different variations of problem solving courts, by topic. See also the Web Resource Centers listed above for many additional documents.)

Community and Court Collaboration

Courts and Community Collaboration, National Center for State Courts (2003).
www.ncsconline.org/WC/Publications/Res_CtComm_CFCPub.pdf

Including a link to NCSC Community-Focused Courts Development Initiative site, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Issues and problems addressed include: delinquency prevention, public input, family violence, sentencing juvenile offenders, diversity, and handgun violence. Links to related documents are included.

Community-Focused Courts: A Development Initiative: Research Site Program Descriptions, National Center for State Courts (2002).
www.ncsconline.org/wc/publications/Res_CtComm_ResearchSiteDescripPub.pdf

Concise overviews of the structure and objectives of six programs that participated as field research sites for the Initiative and brief summaries of other collaborative efforts nationwide. Site 6, **Neighborhood Environmental Courts** in Wichita, Kansas, includes a drug court component.

Guide to Court and Community Collaboration David Rottman, Hillery S. Efke, and Pamela Casey, National Center for State Courts (1998)
www.ncsconline.org/WC/Publications/Res_CtComm_CFGuidePub.pdf

An examination of the lessons that have been learned by localities that have established court and community collaborations. The focus is on eight such collaborations, including Midtown Community Court, that were studied in some detail.

Community Courts

Working Together: How a Neighborhood Justice Center in Harlem is Building Bridges and Improving Safety, Carolyn Turgeon (2006) www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/working_together.pdf

A description of the Harlem Community Justice Center, a unique multi-jurisdictional community court that hears a mix of family and housing court cases. The center also offers an array of unconventional programs, including mediation, community service and re-entry initiatives, that extend the justice center's reach well beyond the courtroom.

Justice in Red Hook, Greg Berman and Aubrey Fox (2005)
www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/Justice.pdf

An overview of the Red Hook Community Justice Center and the lessons learned from the Justice Center's efforts at neighborhood engagement. Published in *The Justice System Journal*, Volume 26, No. 1 (2005).

Dispensing Justice Locally (Part II): The Impacts, Cost and Benefits of the Midtown Community Court, Michele Sviridoff, David Rottman, Rob Weidner, National Center for State Courts (2005)
www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/dispensing%20justice%20locally%20II%202005.pdf

The executive summary of Part II of the original evaluation of the country's first community court--the Midtown Community Court. This evaluation was published in two phases. The first phase includes a comprehensive description of the Court and an analysis on the degree to which the Court met each of its goals. The second phase focused on impacts on recidivism rates for select sub-groups of defendants; examined impacts on jail costs after accounting for "secondary jail sentences";

explored other cost and benefit implications of the Court; and surveyed the opinions of community residents.

Community Courts: Prospects and Limits, David Rottman, National Center for State Courts (2002) www.ncsconline.org/wc/publications/Res_CtComm_Prospects&LimitsPub.pdf

A discussion of the development of community courts and an examination of contrasting models: Navajo Peacemaking, the Midtown Community Court, and the Red Hook Community Justice Center. This article first appeared in the *National Institute of Justice Journal* (August 1996) Issue No. 231 (pp 46-51).

"Community Courts and Family Law" *Journal of the Center for Families, Children & the Courts* (2000) Deborah J. Chase, Hon. Sue Alexander, and Hon. Barbara J. Miller

A description of modern community courts, their historical background, and an example of a prototypic criminal justice community court (the Midtown Manhattan Community Court).

Community Court Principles: A Guide for Planners (also known as *Responding to the Community: Principles for Planning and Creating a Community Court*) John Feinblatt and Greg Berman, Center for Court Innovation (1997) www.courtinnovation.org/pdf/com_court_prncpls.pdf

A discussion of the principles underlying community courts, such as restoring the community, bridging the gap between communities and courts, knitting together a fractured criminal justice system, providing better information to courts, courthouse design, and helping offenders deal with problems that lead to crime. Also includes a review of the obstacles to creating a community court responsive to a community's needs and advice for applying what worked in the Midtown experiment.

Dispensing Justice Locally(Part I): The Implementation and Effects of the Midtown Community Court, Michele Sviridoff, David Rottman, Brian Ostrom, and Richard Curtis, National Center for State Courts (1997) www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/dispensing%20justice%20locallyl.pdf

The executive summary of Part I of the original evaluation of the country's first community court--the Midtown Community Court. This evaluation was published in two phases. The first phase includes a comprehensive description of the Court and an analysis on the degree to which the Court met each of its goals. The second phase focused on impacts on recidivism rates for select sub-groups of defendants; examined impacts on jail costs after accounting for "secondary jail sentences"; explored other cost and benefit implications of the Court; and surveyed the opinions of community residents.

Domestic Violence Courts

The Current State of Domestic Violence Courts in the United States, by Hon. Donald E. Shelton, National Center for State Courts, 2007.

Provides information about domestic violence courts nation wide and links to domestic violence courts by state. Available online through the National Center for State Courts, Family Violence Resource guide, PDF format at:

www.ncsconline.org/WC/CourTopics/pubs.asp?topic=FamVio.

Journal of the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, Volume 6, 2005.

Presents a collection of articles relating to domestic violence involving children, guns, teens and other lessons from problem-solving courts. Published by The Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC), 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3660; Tel. 415/865-7739; E-mail: CFCC@jud.ca.gov; Journal in PDF format at:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/CFCC_Journal6_.pdf

Creating a Domestic Violence Court: Guidelines and Best Practices, Emily Sack, (May 2002), on behalf of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, 383 Rhode Island Street, Suite 304, San Francisco, CA 94103-5133 . Tel. 415/252-8900; E-mail: info@endabuse.org; PDF format at: www.endabuse.org/programs/healthcare/files/FinalCourt_Guidelines.pdf

Guidelines to assist jurisdictions to determine if a domestic violence court structure would be helpful and if so, how best to model this structure to address the needs of their local communities. An examination of the values and principles that should be the foundation of domestic violence courts, the essential components for their operation, the benefits and challenges of the various models, an action plan for the implementation of domestic violence courts, case studies of three courts, and a selected list of relevant literature.

What Makes a Domestic Violence Court Work? Lessons from New York, Liberty Aldrich and Robyn Mazur, Center for Court Innovation (2002)

www.communityjustice.org/pdf/what_makes_dvcourt_work.pdf

A description of the lessons learned from experiences in densely populated urban communities, suburban and rural settings, and from courts dedicated exclusively to handling felonies to high-volume courts that handle up to 3,000 misdemeanors a year. Each of New York's courts had also experimented with different ways of monitoring defendants and providing services to victims.

"Domestic Violence Courts: Components and Considerations" *Journal of the Center for Families, Children & the Courts*, Julia Weber (2000)

An exploration of the issues raised by the Judicial Council of California report released in May 2000 describing the state's domestic violence courts. PDF format at:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/023weber.pdf

Implementing an Integrated Domestic Violence Court: Systemic Change in the District of Columbia, Martha Wade Steketee, Lynn S. Levey, Susan L. Keilitz, National Center for State Courts (2000)

www.ncsconline.org/WC/Publications/Res_FamVio_ImplementIntegratedDVCrtFinalReportPub.pdf

This evaluation sought to address several critical issues about the benefits of an integrated domestic violence court, including whether the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) encourages victims to stay engaged in the system, assists victims to remain out of abusive relationships, and increases compliance of respondents/defendants with the court's orders and sanctions. Staff gathered data for the evaluation from case records and interviews with victims, batterers, and practitioners in the DVU, its related components and other parts of the justice system.

Drug Courts

Cost Benefits/Costs Avoided Reported by Drug Court Programs and Drug Court Program Evaluation Reports. Bureau of Justice Assistance, Drug Court Clearinghouse, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, (2006); <http://spa.american.edu/justice/documents/197.pdf>

Summarizes the range of cost benefit/cost avoidance findings reported in drug court evaluation reports and related research. Provides summaries of the findings of the individual research reports cited, and citations to the underlying research reports for further reference and additional, detailed information.

Local Drug Court Research: Navigating Performance Measures and Process Evaluations, Cary Heck, National Drug Court Institute (2006) www.ndci.org/publications/NRACReport.pdf

A guide for drug courts on how to evaluate their effectiveness in a methodically sound way. This guide lays out the finding of the National Research Advisory Committee which developed a uniform research plan for drug court data collection and analysis.

Painting the Current Picture: A National Report Card on Drug Courts and Other Problem Solving Court Programs in the United States, C. West Huddleston, III, Hon. Karen Freeman-Wilson, Douglas B. Marlowe, Aaron Rousell, National Drug Court Institute (May 2005, Vol. I, No.2) www.ndci.org/publications/10697_PaintPict_fnl4.pdf

Published annually, this report provides an update of drug court and other problem solving court activity in every state, territory, and district in the United States.

Drug Court Publications Resource Guide: Forth Edition, Hon. Karen Freeman-Wilson, Michael P. Wilkosz, National Drug Court Institute (2002) www.ndci.org/publications/ResourceGuide2002Edition.pdf

A guide intended to assist researchers and practitioners in identifying drug court related information that will assist them in planning, implementing, enhancing, and evaluating their drug court programs. This revision updates previous editions and includes many new publications available to the drug court field listed under three main categories; Research, Evaluation & Statistics, and Treatment & Substance Abuse.

Women and Addiction: Challenges for Drug Court Practitioners, Laura D'Angelo, *The Justice System Journal*, (Vol. 23:385 – 2002) The National Center for State Courts

An examination of the special needs of female drug court participants who have, on average, less money and education and are more likely to have family responsibilities, be homeless, mentally or physically ill, unemployed, and abused than men. Special attention is given to the research done by the Brooklyn Treatment Court in New York City.

The Journal of Drug Issues: Drug Courts as an Alternative Treatment Modality, 31:1 (Winter 2001) <http://www2.criminology.fsu.edu/~jdi/31n1.htm>

A special issue devoted to drug courts, including topics such as contingency management, violent offenders, recidivism, graduated sanctions, barriers to recovery, and minority and non-minority perceptions of program severity and effectiveness.

Juvenile Drug Court Programs, Caroline S. Cooper, *JAIBG Bulletin*, U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (May 2001) www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojdp/184744.pdf

Part of the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants Program, this bulletin provides local officials with the perspectives of juvenile justice practitioners and policymakers who have juvenile drug court program experience.

Research on Drug Courts: A Critical Review 2001 Update, S. Belenko, Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (2001)

The analysis by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University of 37 published and unpublished evaluations of drug courts (including 7 juvenile drug courts, 1 DUI court, and 1 family drug court) produced between 1999 and April 2001. (Site URL: www.casacolumbia.org/)

The Duckwater Shoshone Drug Court, 1997-2000: Melding Traditional Dispute Resolution with Due Process, Ronald Eagle Johnny, 26 *American Indian Law Review* 261 (2002), <http://spa.american.edu/justice/documents/103.pdf>

A description of the development of a drug court on an Indian reservation in Nevada.

Juvenile Drug Courts: Where Have We Been? Where Should We Be Going? Caroline S. Cooper, Michael Nerney, Hon. John Parnham, and Betsey Smith, OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project in conjunction with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (2000) <http://spa.american.edu/justice/documents/264.pdf>

Representatives from ten of the older juvenile drug court programs assembled at American University in November 1999 to review their respective experiences, discuss issue and need that had emerged, and identify common issues.

Development and Implementation of Drug Court Systems, Hon. Jeff Tauber and C. West Huddleston, National Drug Court Institute (1999) www.ndci.org/develop.pdf

A guide addressing the need for drug court systems, their benefits and challenges, finding resources, examples from the field, and a national strategy.

DUI/DWI/Sobriety Courts

National Drug Court Institute National DWI Court Database (2006): PDF format at: www.ndci.org/pdf/Alphabetical_DWI_List.pdf

Listing of all DWI Courts and DWI/Hybrid Drug Courts in the United States as of 2006 listed alphabetically by state.

The Ten Guiding Principles of DWI Courts, by national Drug Court Institute; PDF format at: www.ndci.org/pdf/Guiding_Principles_of_DWI_Court.pdf

DUI/Drug Courts: Defining a National Strategy, Hon. Jeff Tauber and C. West Huddleston, National Drug Court Institute (1999) www.ndci.org/dui.pdf

The results of collaboration among practitioners from seven DUI court programs to explore and compare the needs of DUI and drug offenders and assess the applicability of the drug court model to repeat DUI offenders.

Specialized and Problem-Solving Courts Trends in 2002: DUI Courts, Ann L. Keith, National Center for State Courts (2002) www.ncsconline.org/WC/Publications/KIS_SpePro_Trends02DUI_Pub.pdf

An overview of sobriety or DUI courts and brief descriptions of eight such courts around the country.

Handgun Intervention Programs

Juvenile Gun Courts: Promoting Accountability and Providing Treatment, David Sheppard & Patricia Kelly (2002) www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/jaibg_2002_5_1/contents.html

Bulletin by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is part of the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants Program (JAIBG) series, and reviews the Jefferson

County (AL) Juvenile Gun Court. The bulletin also includes listing and contact information for other Juvenile Gun Court Programs that follow the basic gun court model.

The Detroit Handgun Intervention Program: A Court-Based Program for Youthful Handgun Offenders, Jeffrey Roth, *National Institute of Justice Research Preview*, Office of Justice Programs (November 1998) <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles/fs000231.pdf>

A summary of the findings of an Urban Institute study to measure the program's effects on the attitudes of the participants.

Homeless Courts

Homeless Courts, California Courts Collaborative Justice Programs, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/collab/homeless.htm

A description of homeless courts in California, including those in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Ventura. Site also includes resource material and other publications about homeless courts.

San Diego Homeless Court Program: A Process and Impact Evaluation, Nancy Kerry & Susan Pennell (2002), San Diego Association of Governments; PDF format at: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/collab/documents/2001SANDAGHomelessCourtEvaluation.pdf

Provides evaluation of San Diego Homeless Court Program as well as research methodology, and analysis of data collected on the operation of the homeless court.

Mental Health Courts

The Brooklyn Mental Health Court Evaluation: Planning, Implementation, Courtroom Dynamics, and Participant Outcomes, Kelly O'Keefe, Center for Court Innovation (2006) www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/BMHCEvaluation.pdf

Provides a comprehensive process and outcome evaluation of the Brooklyn Mental Health Court. The study documents the program's planning, implementation, and structure during the first two years of operation.

A Guide to Mental Health Court Design and Implementation, Council of State Governments prepared by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (2005) www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/Guide-MHC-Design.pdf

This guide attempts to build on the substantial body of existing work on mental health courts by providing a roadmap based largely on the experience of existing mental health courts. This guide is intended for those interested in establishing a mental health court in their jurisdiction.

Criminalization of People with Mental Illnesses: The Role of Mental Health Courts in System Reform, Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law (January 2003) www.bazelon.org/issues/criminalization/publications/mentalhealthcourts/mentalhealthcourts.pdf

This paper examines the use of mental health courts in the United States as a response by communities to the increasingly common arrest and incarceration of people with serious mental illnesses.

Mental Health Courts, California Courts Collaborative Justice Programs, www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/collab/mental.htm

A description of mental health courts in several California cities.

Rethinking the Revolving Door: A Look at Mental Illness in the Courts, Derek Denckla and Greg Berman, Center for Court Innovation (2001) www.courtinnovation.org/pdf/mental_health.pdf

The product of a year-long study performed by the New York State Unified Court System in conjunction with the Center for Court Innovation to provide practitioners with an overview of mental health and the courts.

Problem Solving Courts

Documenting Results: Research on Problem-Solving Justice, by Staff of the Center for Court Innovation (2007).

This collection of research reports, written by Center for Court Innovation staff, analyzes the impact of a broad range of problem-solving initiatives launched in New York State and nationwide over the past decade. The book also includes overviews of the national research literature on drug courts and community courts, an evaluation of a new approach to teen dating violence, and an investigation of how problem-solving principles might be integrated more broadly throughout state court systems. Available from amazon.com for \$9.95: www.amazon.com/Documenting-Results-Research-Problem-Solving-Justice/dp/0975950517/sr=11-1/qid=1171485763/ref=sr_11_1/002-2041942-3400044

Proble-Solving Justice Toolkit, Pamela M. Casey, David B. Rottman, & Chantal G. Bromage, National Center for State Courts (2007) www.ncsconline.org/d_research/Documents/ProbSolvJustTool-v16.pdf

Toolkit offers a blueprint for using the problem-solving approach for cases involving recurring contacts with the justice system due to underlying medical and social problems. Also includes a set of assessment questions to help courts determine the best path to implement a problem-solving approach.

Breaking with Tradition: Introducing Problem Solving in Conventional Courts, Robert V. Wolf, Center for Court Innovation (2007)

www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/Breaking_With_Tradition1.pdf

An overview of why problem solving strategies are desirable and techniques practitioners can use to introduce these strategies in conventional courtrooms.

The Challenges of Going to Scale: Lessons from Other Disciplines for Problem-Solving Courts, Donald Farole, Jr. Center for Court Innovation (2006)

www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/Lessons.pdf

A discussion of the lessons learned in going to scale with innovations in education and other fields, and what these lessons imply for state judiciaries as they seek to go to scale with problem-solving justice.

Problem-Solving Courts: A Brief Primer, Greg Berman and John Feinblatt, *Law and Policy*, Vol. 23, No. 2, (2001) http://www.courtinnovation.org/pdf/prob_solv_courts.pdf

A description of the origins of problem solving courts, the common elements, the current relevance, and the results of evaluations.

Reflections of Problem-Court Justices, Journal (June 2000)

www.courtinnovation.org/pdf/reflections_psc_justices.pdf

A roundtable of problem solving court judges discussing how their courts operate and how they affect the roles that judges play inside and outside the courtroom.

The ABA Coalition for Justice unites the public with the courts and bar associations to fulfill the promise of justice for all. We help the public, bench, and bar collaborate to improve, preserve, and protect the justice system.

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