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U.S. Department of Justice  
National Institute of Justice

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# National Institute of Justice

## Research in Action

James K. Stewart, Director

Reprinted from *NIJ Reports* SNI 204 July August 1987

## Closing the gaps in theory and practice: The Institute's Visiting Fellowship Program

By Joe Holt Anderson

Special new people come to the National Institute of Justice every year. They are Visiting Fellows—researchers and practitioners who come to produce special issues of study. For most of the year they devote all their attention to their research and writing.

Throughout the year, Visiting Fellows may attend courses here and in foreign countries, participate in Institute programs, and prepare reports and publications that will be used by a wide audience of criminal justice professionals.

That they will return to their original work in criminal justice practice and research, continuing to use the knowledge they have gained, is one of the program's major goals.

There are just some of the ways that the National Institute's visiting Fellowship Program meets:

for those people who seek to maintain and refresh a dynamic, renew contact with a self-oriented practitioner, and to contribute to the fund of knowledge with which professionals in the field face day-to-day problems; or a chance to test or amend assumptions on which criminal justice operations are based;

for the rising professional in the middle or upper levels of criminal justice operations, an opportunity to renew and practice skills in research, working from existing knowledge and experience from State or local agency procedures and the command and policy structures that give them shape;

for the National Institute of Justice, an annual infusion of fresh ideas and new

insights into the criminal justice system. The program is a unique blend of research and practice, and it is one of the most effective ways to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Programs are designed to provide a wide range of opportunities for research and practice. The program is designed to provide a wide range of opportunities for research and practice.

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### Give us a lifetime

of life-time opportunity. Many are not just producing the research project for which they are appointed, Fellows work with NI staff. They interact with Institute project officers, with national leaders of criminal justice who are usually visited, and with other Visiting Fellows. They also assist in the review and appraisal of proposals, projects, or reports submitted by other researchers to the Institute.

It is a rare time opportunity. Former Visiting Fellows are not permitted to reapply to the Visiting Fellowship program.

To read or make a copy of details the application process...



Photo by Bill Cameron, NI files

Joe Holt Anderson is executive editor with the National Institute of Justice, NCJRS.

Garry Moulder is a Visiting Fellow, and James K. Stewart, Director of the National Institute of Justice, are in the photo to the right. (background crime)

The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, provides staff support to coordinate the activities of the following program Offices and Bureaus: National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Lawmate Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime.

## Closing the gap in theory and practice: The Institute's Visiting Fellows Program

Photo by Annie Ju, NCJRS



Howard Messing is interviewing jail masters and monitors throughout the country as part of his research.

Research topics selected reflect not only the special interests of the Fellows appointed, but also the "hot topic" of any given year in criminal justice. For instance, with crowded prisons and jails creating problems not only in corrections but throughout the criminal justice system, several Fellows are engaged in work pertaining to corrections.

### Exploring the role of jail masters

Howard R. Messing, a professor of law at Nova University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is studying a unique aspect of corrections administration. He is the court-appointed Federal Master for the Broward County Jail. Since arriving at the Institute in January 1987, Messing has been able to meet numerous other jail masters from across the country. He estimates that some 60 jails have masters appointed to assist court oversight.

Jail masters usually are appointed by a court to find facts or to see to it that a corrections facility complies with a consent decree or court order. But Messing's preliminary research reveals that many successful masters view themselves as more than simple overseers. They serve very much like dispute resolution mediators, negotiating settlements among the parties involved.

Like other Visiting Fellows, Messing has been able to expand the range of his project by attracting additional support from outside the National Institute—

from the National Institute of Corrections and the American Jail Association, for instance. He is examining the role and function of masters in jail crowding and conditions of confinement cases and speaking before various professional associations. Meanwhile, he spends a few days at home each month in Fort Lauderdale where he still has a jail to master for the Federal court.

### Probing victim decisionmaking

Dr. R. Barry Ruback is also a lawyer—a member of both the Georgia and Texas bars—but after finishing law school, he took graduate degrees in social psychology and is now an associate professor at Georgia State University. In a 3-year experimental research study at the University of Pittsburgh, he and Martin Greenberg concentrated on decision-making by crime victims.

He continued such work when he went to Georgia and is currently analyzing information gathered by the Atlanta Rape Crisis Center from 2,526 adult victims. At the Institute, he is exploring the influence of bystanders, family, and friends on victim decisionmaking, particularly on whether the victim calls police and on how far the victim pursues the case within the criminal justice system.

Ruback believes his findings (and eventual book) will be useful to ordinary citizens who at some time in their lives may be in contact with a victim at a

Photo by Annie Ju, NCJRS



Barry Ruback's work involves analyzing the way victims make decisions about their victimization.

crucial decisionmaking point. "Because crime victims are often in a state of arousal and uncertainty," Ruback says, "they are susceptible to the influence of others."

Immediately before coming to the Institute last year, Ruback spent a year as a Fulbright Fellow at Andhra University in Andhra Pradesh, India. He expects to return to Georgia State University in August but says his year with the National Institute has been particularly stimulating because of his exposure to practitioners and academicians from other disciplines.

### Investigating privately operated prisons

Dr. Charles H. Logan is an associate professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut. In years past, he has done research on the deterrent effects of legal sanctions. Recently, his research interests have centered on the operation of correctional facilities by private contractors—the philosophical, legal, and political issues of privatization, including cost, security, liability, accountability, corruption, and dependency.

Logan started work at the Institute this year, especially seeking to share the experiences of those who know firsthand what privatization has accomplished in the limited number of places where it has occurred. He plans to talk with local officials, corrections officers, and inmates. In addition, he has aided in the review of current Institute publications on privatization and is expanding what was the first definitive bibliography on privatization in corrections, initially published in 1985. The bibliography is available in microfiche through NCJRS (NCJ 102511) or from Logan—he hopes that readers of *NIJ Reports* will share new or recent references with him.

Logan's wife, Sharla Rausch, co-authored with him "Punish and Profit: The Emergence of Private Enterprise Prisons," which was published in the September 1985 *Justice Quarterly*. Rausch works at the Federal Bureau of Prisons several blocks from NIJ.



Chuck Logan (left) and Chuck DeWitt review blueprints of an innovative jail design.

### **New methods for building prisons and jails**

Charles B. DeWitt came to the Institute as a county official from Santa Clara County, California. His initial work involved writing a report on building faster, more economical prison and jail facilities to relieve crowding. Interest within both the corrections community and the Department of Justice stimulated expansion of the project. It now encompasses the NIJ Construction Initiative, with a Construction Information Exchange and data base, a *National Directory of Corrections Construction* now headed into its second edition, and a series of *Construction Bulletins*. The *Bulletins* present case studies of noteworthy construction projects and critical corrections issues.

### **Fighting neighborhood crime**

Garry Mendez, who holds a doctorate in higher education, is on leave from the National Urban League where he is director of criminal justice. His specialty is curbing neighborhood crime—par-

ticularly the black-on-black crime that blights many urban ghettos. The Institute has commissioned him to start neighborhood crime prevention programs in Tampa, San Francisco, and the District of Columbia, expanding on his earlier successful efforts in New Haven, Oklahoma City, Columbia (South Carolina), and six Florida cities.

In Washington, D.C., he has already formed block clubs and either resurrected or created tenant associations to reduce burglaries, robberies, and drug dealing. He works closely both with Washington's 14th Street Economic Development Project and with the city's Fourth District Metropolitan Police.

Police serve as advisers to community residents, showing them how to deploy surveillance cameras and organize Neighborhood Watch patrols. "The community has to come to grips with how they want to be policed," a volunteer leader says, "and they have to tell the police so that the two can work in concert."

Although Mendez believes the tactics used to prevent crime—the block clubs, youth programs, and tenants associations—make a difference in how much crime occurs, he says the primary emphasis of his work is building a community's self-image and self-reliance. His theme focuses on culture, heritage, history, and values. As he points out, "Crime is not part of our black heritage."

"If you check the crime statistics, it's only been in the last 20 years that we (blacks) have had this involvement in crime," Mendez says. "If you look back into our real history, which is our African history, you'll find that we don't have a history of being violent."

In one formerly crime-plagued apartment building, Mendez' group has held numerous seminars on how to go about fighting crime without being the victim of retaliation. The group also has served as an intermediary in tenant-management negotiations for improved building security, and has encouraged neighborhoods to strengthen their sense of community by sponsoring raffles and dinners.

Mendez has helped organize several "no-crime Sundays"—in Oklahoma City, San Francisco, and six in Florida. The purpose of the "no-crime Sunday" march is to bring attention to the issue of neighborhood crime, to make the community aware that neighborhood action can be effective, and to increase a community's self-esteem.

### **Help for child sexual abuse cases**

Kenneth R. Freeman, who began his Fellowship in mid-April, is a deputy district attorney in Los Angeles County. In 1982, he and four other Los Angeles prosecutors were selected to be part of a new child abuse section, dedicated to prosecuting and investigating cases involving substantial sexual and physical abuse of children.

Since then, Freeman has worked exclusively in this area of prosecution, handling more than 100 cases. With his wide experience, he has become known as a specialist in this field.

## More publications from the National Institute of Justice/NCJRS

The National Institute of Justice assists criminal justice policymakers and practitioners with their day-to-day decisions by sharing important research results. The *Research in Action* and *Research in Brief* series are two ways of getting research into the hands of those who can use it.

### *Research in Action*

The *Research in Action* series presents reprints of feature articles that appeared in the National Institute of Justice's bimonthly publication *NIJ Reports*, which is devoted to disseminating criminal justice research and information. Titles available include:

- 61. Block Watches Help Crime Victims in Philadelphia NCJ 103955
- 62. Closing the Gaps in Theory and Practice: The Institute's Visiting Fellowship Program NCJ 106274
- 63. Controlling Drug Abuse and Crime: A Research Update NCJ 104865
- 64. Crime Victims: Learning How To Help Them NCJ 106275
- 65. Drugs and Crime: Controlling Use and Reducing Risk Through Testing NCJ 102668
- 66. Electronically Monitored Home Confinement NCJ 099832
- 67. INTERPOL: Global Help in Fight Against Drugs, Terrorists, and Counterfeiters NCJ 098902
- 68. Jailing Drunk Drivers: Impact on the Criminal Justice System NCJ 099831
- 69. Newport News Tests Problem-Oriented Policing NCJ 104314
- 70. Project DARE: Teaching Kids To Say "No" to Drugs and Alcohol NCJ 100756
- 71. Prosecuting Child Sexual Abuse—New Approaches NCJ 102994
- 72. Toward the Multi-Door Courthouse—Dispute Resolution Intake and Referral NCJ 102993
- 73. Volunteer Lawyer-Judges Bolster Court Resources NCJ 100755

### *Research in Brief*

The *Research in Brief* series provides criminal justice experts with immediate access to research results and policy implications in an easy-to-read format. Recently published titles include:

- 07. AIDS in Prisons and Jails: Issues and Options NCJ 100221
- 01. Armed Criminal in America NCJ 102827

- 02. Confronting Domestic Violence: The Role of Criminal Court Judges NCJ 102833
- 36. Contracting for the Operation of Prisons and Jails NCJ 104917
- 03. Crime Stoppers—A National Evaluation NCJ 102292
- 25. Danger to Police in Domestic Disturbances—A New Look NCJ 102634
- 04. Employee Drug Testing Policies in Police Departments NCJ 102632
- 05. Field Training for Police Officers: State of the Art NCJ 102633
- 31. Line-of-Duty Deaths: Survivor and Departmental Responses NCJ 103238
- 37. Making Confinement Decisions NCJ 105834
- 26. New Dimensions in Probation: Georgia's Experience With Intensive Probation Supervision NCJ 102848
- 33. Predictions of Dangerousness in the Criminal Law NCJ 104599
- 06. Problem-Oriented Policing NCJ 102371
- 32. Systemwide Strategies To Alleviate Jail Crowding NCJ 103202

For a free copy of any of the above titles, simply photocopy the entire order form, fill in the information below, check off the titles you want, and mail to the National Institute of Justice/NCJRS, Dept. AGW, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. To receive a complete listing of titles in the *Research in Brief* series, write to the above address. For more than 10 copies of a document or for more than 10 separate documents, dial toll-free 800-851-3420. Callers in Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Maryland should call 301-251-5500.

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Shortly before coming to the Institute, he was prosecuting a case against a school principal that required 8 months and 141 witnesses.

"When I began in 1982, I was a practitioner with no great volume of child abuse experience to learn from," he says, "but after 5 years, I know many of the things that work and many that don't." He intends to mesh his experience with the experience of others, combining these practical insights with supporting findings from existing research. The result will be a resource handbook on the difficult legal issues involved in prosecuting and investigating child sexual abuse cases.

"We can mark a clearer path to justice," says Freeman, who prosecuted the first case ever in the United States where victims testified by closed-circuit television. His efforts are intended, he says, not only to obtain correct and just results but to prevent further emotional distress to the child victim as a result of prosecution.

### Drug testing and forecasting

With drug abuse a central problem in every aspect of criminal justice today, Dr. Eric Wish has two major projects as a Visiting Fellow: preparing a manual for practitioners on drug testing of offenders and helping set up the Drug Use

Photo by Annie Ju, NCJRS



Ken Freeman (standing) and Garry Mendez use the Institute's word processing system.

## National Institute of Justice Visiting Fellowships—When, where, and how to apply

The National Institute of Justice research solicitations and Fellowships usually are announced in the fall with deadlines early the following calendar year. The most recent announcement, for fiscal year 1987, was published in November 1986 with a February 27, 1987, deadline for applying. The Fellowships begin between July 1, 1987, and June 30, 1988.

With funding estimated at \$250,000, the announcement stated that this would typically support three to five fellowships. Last year the Institute was able to fund six Fellows.

You can be put on the mailing list for the next announcements by writing to Announcements, Visiting Fellowship Program, National Institute of Justice, Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850.

Those who apply submit a completed Standard Form 424 (Federal Assistance); copies are usually printed in the announcement booklet. Other required portions of the application include:

### Budget narrative

The narrative details the salary, materials, and cost assumptions used to estimate project costs. These should include the applicant's normal salary for the project period, including fringe benefits; research or clerical assistance; travel expenses for the Fellow and legal dependents; and any special supplies or equipment required.

### Abstract

In one page or less, the abstract highlights the purposes, goals,

research methods, and area of experimentation.

### Program narrative

This includes a statement of the problem to be addressed and the hypotheses to be explored; a statement of the project's anticipated contribution to criminal justice policy, practice, or theory; a detailed statement of the proposed research design and methodology; and a schedule for the project.

### Vita

The applicant's resume summarizes education, research experience, and life experiences related to the proposed project.

Ten complete copies of the proposal are required, and deadline extensions are not granted. The program announcement gives full details of proposal requirements and the name and telephone number of a National Institute staff member to contact to discuss topic viability or proposal content.

Proposals by researcher-applicants and practitioner-applicants are reviewed separately; ordinarily, Fellows are chosen from both groups.

Awards may be made either directly to the individual Fellow or in the form of an intergovernmental personnel action (IPA). In IPA cases the National Institute agrees to reimburse, for salary, fringes, and other costs, the Fellow's parent facility—a State or local agency or a nonprofit criminal justice organization certified by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

## Closing the gap in theory and practice: The Institute's Visiting Fellows Program

Photo by Annie Ju, NCJRS



Eric Wish is helping the Institute implement the Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) System.

Forecasting System (DUF), a national data system for tracking drug-use trends in the offender population. (See *NIJ Reports/SNI* 202, March/April 1987, p. 23 for a discussion of DUF.)

Wish is a senior research scientist with Narcotic and Drug Research, Inc., a nonprofit firm associated with New York State's Division of Substance Abuse Services. He began his Institute Fellowship last December.

DUF, already begun in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Indianapolis, will grow to 10 sites in major cities across the country. Every 3 months, a small sample of arrestees at each site will be asked to volunteer urine specimens that are expected to provide the most objective information available to date on the prevalence of drug use among offenders.

The data will not only document the development of any national trends in drug use but also will provide each participating city with information to detect drug epidemics earlier, to help allocate law enforcement, treatment, and prevention resources, and to measure the impact of efforts to reduce drug abuse and crime.

For the practitioners' manual, Dr. Wish is soliciting information from practitioners about their specific concerns so that he may learn in greater detail what matters should be explored to make the manual more serviceable in the field.

### Distinguished alumni histories

Former Visiting Fellows are not known to hold alumni meetings, but they would make a distinguished gathering if they did. Among them, in a very incomplete list, you can find—

- Wesley G. Skogan, who, as a Visiting Fellow, conducted some of the early reanalysis and manipulation of data gathered by the National Crime Survey for other research purposes.
- Joan Jacoby, who explored the role of the prosecutor in the criminal justice system.
- Nicholas Kittrie, who investigated terrorism and the law enforcement response to it.
- David Farrington, a professor at Cambridge University in England, who analyzed longitudinal data on criminal careers.
- Allen Breed, who studied the Federal coordination of juvenile justice activities.

Robert E. Gaensslen compiled a definitive reference work in forensic serology. His *Sourcebook in Forensic Serology, Immunology, and Biochemistry*—two volumes and almost a thousand pages—was published by the National Institute in 1983 and is still being sold by the Government Printing Office.

Patricia Mayhew of the British Home Office Research and Planning Unit was already a noted researcher and writer on crime statistics and crime prevention topics when she came to the United States to study at the National Institute of Justice. As a Visiting Fellow, she used national crime surveys to compare burglary statistics for the United States, Canada, and England and showed how differences in their designs affected the reported measurements.

Other recent practitioner-Fellows are R. Gil Kerlikowske, now Chief of Police in Port St. Lucie, Florida, who developed materials for implementing a hostage negotiation unit in small to medium size agencies; Lt. Michael

McCampbell of the Arlington County, Virginia, Police Department, who studied law enforcement field training programs and wrote a *Research in Brief* and a full report on the subject; and Barbara O'Brien of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, who studied stress factors for women in policing.

A decade ago, one of the Visiting Fellows was a rising young police officer from Kansas City, Missouri, named Darrel Stephens. After his Fellowship and several years as head of Kansas City's Operations Resource Unit, Stephens rose rapidly through the ranks of several police departments.

He was Chief of Police in Newport News, Virginia, when that department and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) conducted their successful experiments with problem-oriented policing (*NIJ Reports/SNI* 201, January/February 1987). Chief Stephens now has another new job—as Executive Director of PERF.

The Visiting Fellows program is a one-time opportunity for selected practitioners and researchers to devote all of their attention to a particular area of study, to meet policymakers at the National Institute of Justice, and to effect changes in how we view the criminal justice system. In the past, their contributions have been substantial. Future contributions are sure to be just as significant.

Results of the Visiting Fellow experience can take a number of forms, as illustrated by the histories of former Fellows noted above. Visiting Fellows produce valuable information for various segments of the criminal justice community.

Previous *NIJ Reports* issues or titles in the *Research in Brief* series have featured results of other recent Fellowship activity—on drug testing and law enforcement field training.