



Prosecution Community of Practice

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) established the National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) in June 2017 to enhance the capacity of state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutors to investigate, prosecute, and deter violent crime. PSP enables cities to receive customized and coordinated training, technical assistance, and other resources from DOJ in seven core areas: gun violence, federal partnerships, crime analysis, technology, criminal justice collaboration, investigations, and community engagement.

Goal of PCoP

In 2019, PSP established the Prosecution Community of Practice (PCoP). The PCoP serves as a conduit for accessing a multitude of subject-matter experts and prosecutor colleagues to improve performance relating to criminal prosecution.

The goal of the PCoP is to build relationships to encourage communication and shared learning at the practitioner level to support federal resources on the critical needs and challenges facing the field. Through the support of DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the PSP PCoP will encourage outreach and relationship building among all prosecutors through peer-to-peer exchanges, group participation at relevant meetings and conferences, webinars, and other learning opportunities that increase knowledge and share best practices to support PSP's efforts to reduce violent crime and drive evidenced-based prosecution strategies to enhance public safety in some of America's most dangerous cities. The PSP PCoP welcomes prosecutors and district attorneys representing the PSP sites across the nation to participate in this exciting and rewarding program.

“Bringing prosecutors together from across the U.S. has proven to be the fastest way to implement change and deploy new strategies for crime prevention, community engagement, improved discovery mechanisms, and office transparency.”

—District Attorney Hillar Moore
(East Baton Rouge, Louisiana)

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“Successful crime reduction efforts require partnerships that strategically align goals and objectives. One of the most critical partnerships is between law enforcement and prosecutors. The Public Safety Partnership’s “Prosecution Community of Practice” is a unique collaboration that allows peer prosecutors to share ideas, challenges and best practices.”

—PSP Strategic Site Liaison
Dan Oates

“The PSP Prosecution Community of Practice provides an opportunity for local, state, and federal prosecutors to collaborate on best practices and common prosecutorial challenges to build sustainable partnerships and promote effective criminal prosecution to make our communities safer.”

—U.S. Attorney Jay Town
(U.S. Attorney’s Office,
Northern District of Alabama)

Since its inception, PSP has encouraged and supported the belief that law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies benefit tremendously from sharing their knowledge and best practices with each other through the CoP concept. CoPs expand PSP from a primarily leadership focus to a practitioner focus, allowing members within the PSP program to network, build relationships, and collaborate to strengthen analytical, technological, and prosecutorial activities to reduce violent crime.

Through communication and collaboration, CoPs aim to address:

- Problem solving
- Requests for information
- Seeking experienced opinions
- Overcoming implementation challenges
- Coordination and strategy
- Building an argument
- Growing confidence
- Discussing developments
- Documenting projects
- Peer exchanges and site visits
- Mapping knowledge and identifying gaps

PSP CoPs are supported by BJA and are coordinated by the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR). Strategic activities are developed in consultation with BJA and PSP site leadership and the PSP practitioners.

Contact Information

For more information on PCoP, please contact Senior Policy Advisor Tammy Brown at tammy.m.brown@ojp.usdoj.gov or (202) 532-0112.

“Having the opportunity to meet with peers who are struggling with the same issues, and have frank discussions was very helpful.”

—Cyber Crimes Bureau Chief/Assistant District Attorney
JoAnne Musick (Harris County, Texas)

Issued 1/2020