



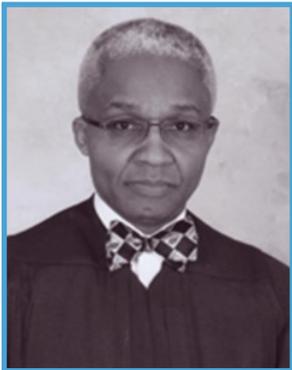
# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 29, Number 3

March 2018

## JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION MEMBER NATHANIEL C. NICHOLS NAMED CHILD ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR



The Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Children's Rights Committee has named Delaware County Court of Common Pleas Judge Nathaniel C. Nichols of Media as its Child Advocate of the Year.

Nichols will receive the award at a luncheon ceremony during the committee's spring training program, "Current Issues for Child Advocates 2018," taking place April 20, 2018, at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute in Mechanicsburg.

The award recognizes the accomplishments of lawyers and judges who are advocates for children within the commonwealth or who are involved with child advocacy.

Nichols was appointed to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in 2016 and has been serving as the primary judge for both Juvenile Dependency Court and Juvenile Delinquency Court in Delaware County since his election in 2011. Prior to that, he was associate dean of students and a professor at Widener University School of Law, an attorney in private practice and managing attorney at Delaware County Legal Assistance Association.

Throughout his time on the bench, Nichols has been dedicated to understanding the issues impacting the families and children he serves.

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# SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US IN NOVEMBER FOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS, TWO AWARDS DINNERS, EXHIBITORS, AND NETWORKING WITH OVER 900 ATTENDEES.

## 2018 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 7-9, 2018

Sponsored by:  
The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission  
The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers  
The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency  
The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges

Harrisburg Hilton & Towers

## COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

### JON GERARDE RETIRES AS CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER WARREN COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION



On March 31, 2018, Jon Gerarde will retire as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer following 31 years of dedicated service. Mr. Gerarde began his juvenile justice career with Warren County Juvenile Probation in January of 1987 working as an intensive juvenile probation officer. In 1996 he was promoted to the position of intensive supervisor followed by appointment to Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in 2002. Mr. Gerarde was a member of the Awards Committee for six years.

Mr. Gerarde graduated from Mercyhurst College with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice including a minor in Juvenile Justice.

Mr. Gerarde shared some of his outdoor hobbies commenting he plans to spend much of his time hunting, fishing, hiking, and gardening. He has a passion for trout and steelhead fishing and is in the process of developing a video. Mr. Gerarde is looking forward to completing his video and plans to write a book.

Mr. Michael Grubbs has been appointed as the new Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. Michael can be contacted at [mgrubbs@warren-county.net](mailto:mgrubbs@warren-county.net).

### SPEP™ INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS SCHEDULED

In the approaching months, the EPISCenter and participating SPEP™ counties are hosting regional education and informational opportunities to probation departments that have not formally adopted the SPEP™ process. These informational sessions have been developed to provide details regarding the SPEP™ including an overview of SPEP™, the SPEP™ process, and the partnership between juvenile probation departments and providers. Additionally, SPEP™ trained probation officers will be participating in a panel discussion to share their specific experiences including the challenges and successes they have experienced.

**The following informational sessions are scheduled:**

#### Northwest

**Thursday, April 19, 2018**

**10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Community Center of Crawford County  
1034 Park Avenue  
Meadville, PA 16335

Please register with the EPISCenter for this event at the link below:

[https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8krEivj5wn69Nlj](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8krEivj5wn69Nlj)

#### Southwest

**Tuesday, April 24, 2018**

**10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Four Seasons Activity Center at Boyce Park  
675 Old Frankstown Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15239

Please register with the EPISCenter for this event at the link below:

[https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aXo0XcaNC5sc5Ap](https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aXo0XcaNC5sc5Ap)

Sessions are projected to last about three hours to allow sufficient time for presentation and questions and answers. Future meetings are in the planning phase and details will be distributed once finalized. If you have questions, please reach out to Stephanie Bradley, EPISCenter Director, at [sbradley@episcenter.org](mailto:sbradley@episcenter.org).

# 2018 JCJC AWARD PROGRAM NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2018 JCJC Awards Program are now open and include eight professional categories, as well as the youth awards contest. The awards will be presented at the 2018 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice on November 7 and 8, 2018 at the Harrisburg Hilton.

Nomination packets have been sent to juvenile court judges, chief juvenile probation officers, and agencies currently serving delinquent youth in the juvenile justice system. The Awards Committee requests that all juvenile justice professionals encourage youth under their jurisdiction to participate in the contest. Both Professional and Youth Awards materials must be postmarked by **April 30, 2018**.

Thank you for your interest and support of the 2018 Awards Program. Please contact Keith A. Graybill at (717) 705-9006 or [kgraybill@pa.gov](mailto:kgraybill@pa.gov) if you have any questions or desire additional information.

## 2018 Professional Awards Program

The 2018 Professional Awards Program includes the below categories:

**Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year** - any individual who supervises other employees, but who is not a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, as of the date of the nomination letter's postmark. This category includes all Deputy Chiefs, Assistant Directors, Supervisors, and others functioning in a similar capacity.

**Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year** - any individual who is employed as a Juvenile Probation Officer, but who is not a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer or Juvenile Probation Supervisor, as of the date of the nomination letter's postmark.

**Residential Program of the Year** - any public or private sector program serving alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth in a residential setting. This includes foster homes, group homes, residential treatment programs, general child care facilities, shelter care facilities, detention centers, independent living programs, and other programs providing out-of-home, overnight care to children. Award winners prior to 2015 are eligible for nomination.

**Community-Based Program of the Year** - any public or private sector program, not operated by the Court, which provides community-based, non-residential care to alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth, including but not limited to, day treatment programs, in-home services, Boys and Girls Clubs, and outpatient services.

**Court Operated Program of the Year** - any program operated by court employees which serves alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

**Meritorious Service Award** - any individual not receiving remuneration for working with at risk, alleged and/or delinquent children. This individual is a volunteer committed to furthering the development of youth in the juvenile justice system.

**Juvenile Court Support Service Award** - any individual who provides clerical, secretarial, management, information technology or other support services to the Juvenile Court. This includes receptionists, secretaries, clerk/typists, information technology specialists, fiscal specialists, office managers, and others functioning in a similar support capacity.

**Victim Advocate Award** - any individual who works on behalf of crime victims as a Victim Advocate in a district attorney's office, juvenile probation department, or in a community-based agency. This individual does not need to be in a position that is entirely dedicated to victims of juvenile crime, but it should be a significant part of their position.

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**2018 YOUTH AWARDS PROGRAM** — additionally, the JCJC will again sponsor a Youth Awards Program to honor youth selected as winners in the Creative Expression and Outstanding Achievement contests. The 2018 theme is "Using My Strengths to Overcome My Challenges."

**[Creative Expression Contest Entry Form](#)**  
**[Outstanding Achievement Contest Entry Form](#)**

## DAWN LEHMAN RECEIVES M.V.P. AWARD

Ms. Dawn Lehman, restorative justice consultant, facilitator and trainer, will be presented with the 2018 Most Valuable Peacemaker (MVP) Award at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Council of Mediators on April 13, 2018. Ms. Lehman will be recognized for her contributions to the field of Restorative Justice and Conflict Transformation for over 15 years.



Ms. Lehman developed and piloted a restorative justice program through the Pittsburgh Mediation Center in three area schools and from 2012-2017 she served as the Restorative Justice Coordinator at the Center for Victims, overseeing a victim-sensitive dialogue program which diverted young people from Allegheny County Juvenile Court.

Dawn has had a wide impact in the field through her training of over 75 individuals to facilitate restorative dialogues and providing many trainees with ongoing mentorship and support. She has conducted over 100 restorative dialogues ranging from minor school infractions to violent felonies.

In November 2016, Dawn Lehman was the recipient of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Outstanding Service Award for the Victim Advocate of the Year, presented at the annual James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.

More recently, she has been working as a consultant with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission's Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research to modify and advance a restorative justice training curriculum which will be entitled "Facilitating Restorative Group Conferences for the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System."

As remarkable as her professional career has been, and continues to be, Dawn truly practices restorative principles in her daily life. When you talk with her, you quickly come to realize she has internalized these values into her day-to-day living and belief system.

### TECHNOLOGY CORNER

The Juvenile Information Inquiry (JII) System is an automated system, hosted by JNET for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), as part of an ongoing effort to improve the delivery of juvenile justice information to authorized JNET users (for the purposes defined in the Juvenile Act §6307).

The JII System application is available to the following groups:

- Adult and Juvenile Probation Staff
- Judges, Officers, and Professional Court Staff
- Department of Corrections Officials
- District Attorney's Office Staff

The JII System provides authorized criminal justice users juvenile information, which includes juvenile demographic details, such as:

- Juvenile Address History
- Insurance
- Relations
- Schools Attended
- Warrants

It provides users with written allegation information, which includes written allegation details, such as:

- Alleged Charges
- Detention Hearings
- Intake
- Involved Persons

It provides users with disposition details, such as:

- Hearing and Disposition Details
- Community Service
- Disposed Charges
- Probation

The JII application does require training through the Learning Management System (LMS) before the final approval is given for access by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

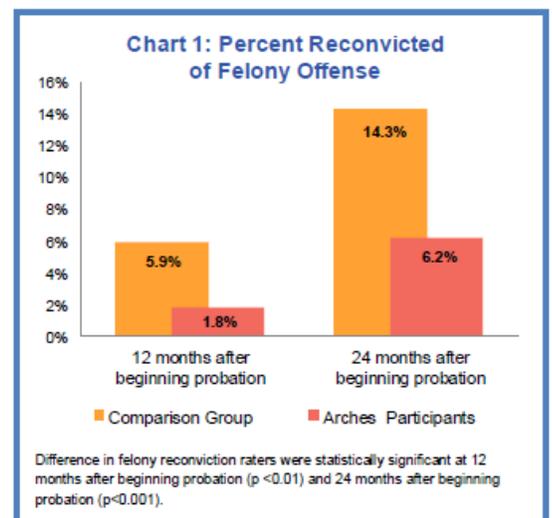
# RESEARCH BRIEF

## NEW YORK CITY'S ARCHES PROGRAM OFFERS PROMISING OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG ADULTS ON PROBATION

In February 2018, the Urban Institute released its [findings](#) from an impact and implementation evaluation of the Arches Transformative Mentoring Program, or Arches. Arches is a group mentoring program which serves young adult probation clients aged 16 to 24 years. The program is delivered by “credible messengers,” or mentors with backgrounds similar to those of the probationers, and incorporates an evidence-based interactive journaling curriculum centered on cognitive behavioral principles. Arches incorporates work readiness services, community engagement and recreational activities, and one-on-one mentorship opportunities through the credible messengers, while case management services are provided by probation officers.

The Urban Institute’s evaluation was conducted to identify, among other things, the impact of Arches on participant outcomes, including recidivism. The following are some of the major findings from this evaluation:

- Relative to the matched comparison group, participants in the Arches program had a 69% lower felony reconviction rate 12 months after beginning probation, and a 57% lower felony reconviction rate 24 months after beginning probation (see Chart 1).
- In addition to reducing recidivism, participation in the Arches program led to an increased connection to school and work, ultimately setting the probationers on a pathway to thrive outside of the justice system.
- Participants in the Arches program experienced improvement in self-perception and relationships with others.
- Participants in the Arches program reported very close and supportive relationships with their mentors. In fact, the credible messengers created a family-like atmosphere in the groups that carried over outside of the sessions, leading young people to support each other through the transformative process.
- Group mentoring, in which participants engage with multiple mentors rather than being matched to a single mentor, is credited with enhancing relationship development by allowing more organic mentor-mentee matching.



In short, the Arches program has shown great promise as an impactful program with demonstrated ability to reduce participant recidivism and to produce sustainable attitudinal and behaviors change for justice system-involved young adults. To learn more about the Arches program, visit <http://cmjcenter.org/archesimpact>.



### Key Program Features:

- Nationally recognized program, taught by highly qualified and experienced faculty.
- Free tuition and lodging provided by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.
- A hybrid 33-credit program.
- Summer coursework fully online and 3 face-to-face weekend sessions during the fall and spring semesters.
- A cohort-based program designed to enhance professional networking across the Commonwealth.
- Practical courses designed for juvenile justice professionals with an emphasis on evidence-based practices.

Program Contact: Sonya Stokes, 717-477-1294 [systokes@ship.edu](mailto:systokes@ship.edu)



For program information, visit:  
[www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/Graduate-Education](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov/Program-Areas/Graduate-Education)

## Dr. Thomas L. Austin Undergraduate Scholarship Fund

We invite you to participate in supporting the Dr. Thomas L. Austin Undergraduate Scholarship Fund. Since 1986, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to an undergraduate student at Shippensburg University majoring in Criminal Justice. This scholarship is named in honor of Dr. Thomas L. Austin, who taught in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University from its inception in 1982 until his retirement in 2011. The criteria for this scholarship are academic excellence and an interest in juvenile justice.

**Donate to the Juvenile Justice Scholarship Fund today!**  
<https://tinyurl.com/JJScholarshipFund>



## STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### April

- 10 Human Trafficking  
Mechanicsburg
- 12 Orientation Program for  
New Chief Juvenile  
Probation Officer  
State College
- 18-19 Stimulants  
Mechanicsburg
- 19 PTSD in Special Populations  
Westmoreland County

### April (continued)

- 23-25 EPICS  
State College
- 23-27 Orientation for the New  
Juvenile Probation  
Professional - Blended  
Learning Course  
Mechanicsburg

### May

- 2 Cultural Competence  
State College

### May (continued)

- 16 JCJC Technology User Group  
State College
- 30 Family Workbook Kickoff  
State College

### June

- 19 Mindfulness Practices &  
Emotional Intelligence  
State College

Registration now available at [www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us)



# JCJC Technology User Group

**May 16, 2018**

**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

### Main Session 10:00 AM — Noon

Best Practices for Reporting Data — Professional Development — Outcome Measures  
Victim Enhancements — PaJCMS Supervisor Module — SSRS Reporting — Detention

### Breakout Sessions 1:30 PM — 3:00 PM

Best Practices for Data Reporting  
JEMS Enhancements/Online Training/Blended Learning  
PaJCMS Updates/Enhancements

**Days Inn State College — Group Code CGJUCG**

## NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS RALLY

The planning committee is gathering interest from Victim Service Programs to fill buses to attend the Crime Victims' Rights Rally and Post Rally event being held at the Capitol on Monday, April 9, 2018. The buses would come from the Luzerne, Lehigh, Allegheny, and Philadelphia County Areas. Please respond to [Rebressler@pa.gov](mailto:Rebressler@pa.gov) if you are interested in being a point person to help coordinate the bus in your area.

The post rally event will be held in Room 39 East Wing. Pizza will be provided for all those who attend. The Post Rally event will provide information on Marsy's Law in Pennsylvania. If you and/or your guests plan to attend the Post Rally event, please RSVP to Renee Bressler by April 5<sup>th</sup> at [Rebressler@pa.gov](mailto:Rebressler@pa.gov).



National Crime Victims' Rights Rally | SAVE THE DATE  
April 9, 2018

April 9, 2018 • 11AM  
Capitol Rotunda  
Harrisburg, PA

### Speakers

- Lynn Shiner, crime survivor
- Cat Rojas, crime survivor
- Carla Christopher, Poet & crime survivor

### Agency Resource Table

To reserve a table, contact:  
Monica Iskric  
[msiskr@ship.edu](mailto:msiskr@ship.edu)  
717-477-1709



## Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

invites you to attend our

### Human Trafficking Conference: Hiding in Plain Sight

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

DeSales University, Center Valley, PA

Additional information and how to register will be available soon.

Please check our website [cvclv.org](http://cvclv.org) for updates.

**Who should attend?** Advocates, law enforcement, attorneys, caseworkers, community members



**Conference sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation**

**Spark Grant**



# NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

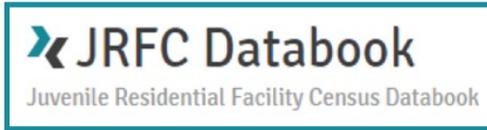
The following announcements are reprinted from JUVJUST, an OJJDP news service:

## OJJDP ADDS DATA ANALYSIS TOOL TO STATISTICAL BRIEFING BOOK

OJJDP has released the [Juvenile Residential Facility Census Databook](#), the latest addition to the [Data Analysis Tools](#) section of its [Statistical Briefing Book](#).

National and state data from 2000 to 2014 describing the characteristics

of residential placement facilities that hold juvenile offenders are now available for analysis. This includes operation, classification, size, and crowding.



OJJDP's [Juvenile Residential Facility Census](#) and its companion collection, the [Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement](#), provide a comprehensive picture of youth in residential placement facilities, how these facilities operate, and the services youth are provided.

## RESOURCES:

Access the [OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book](#).

For more information, the following resources are available:

- [Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on Juveniles in Corrections
- Keep up with the OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book on [Twitter](#).

## OJJDP ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

OJJDP has announced the following fiscal year 2018 funding opportunity:

[Court Appointed Special Advocates Membership, Accreditation, and Sub-grants Program and Training and Technical Assistance](#).

Applications are due by April 23, 2018.

## RESOURCES:

Visit the [funding page](#) for details about this and other OJJDP funding opportunities.



## SAVE THE DATE



**20th Children's Interagency Conference**  
Monday, April 30 through Thursday, May 3, 2018  
Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel  
State College, PA

Sponsored by:

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services  
PA System of Care Partners  
PA Child Welfare Resource Center

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.pasocpartnership.org/20th-interagency-conference>

Logo by Matthew Budd, Delaware Valley High School, Pike County, PA

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS



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[Site Manager](#)



[Administrative Assistant](#)

This publication is produced monthly by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Guest articles are welcome; please submit by e-mail to [ra-oajcnews@pa.gov](mailto:ra-oajcnews@pa.gov).

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