

INTRODUCTION

The Editorial Board is pleased to introduce the first issue of the *National Drug Court Institute Review (NDCIR)*. Our mission is to provide scientific research and analysis as well as commentary of importance to the drug court practitioner. We are indebted to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for its financial support for this seminal issue.

Published semi-annually, the *NDCIR*'s goal will be to keep the drug court practitioner abreast of important new developments in the drug court field. Drug courts demand a great deal of time and energy of the practitioner. There is little opportunity to read lengthy evaluations or keep up with important research in the field. Yet, our ability to marshal scientific and research information and "argue the facts" can be critical to a program's success and ultimate survival.

The NDCIR will build a bridge between law, science and clinical communities, providing a common tool to all. A headnote and subject indexing system will allow access to evaluation outcomes, scientific analysis and research on drug court related areas. Scientific jargon and legalese will be interpreted for the practitioner into a common language. A research section in each issue will be devoted to short, to-the-point summations of recent evaluations and research. The practitioner will be able to quickly grasp research outcomes and find them again when the need arises through the Review's cumulative indexing.

Although the *NDCIR*'s emphasis will be on scholarship and scientific research, it will also provide commentary from experts in the drug court and related fields on important issues to drug court practitioners.

In this issue:

Dr. Steven Belenko of Columbia University's National Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), provides the first comprehensive academic review of the research, evaluations and literature in the drug court field.

DR. SALLY SATEL GIVES US THE FIRST EVER ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE OF THE DRUG COURT JUDGE, ANALYZING COURTROOM ENVIRONMENTS OF 15 DRUG COURTS AND DESCRIBING 17 VARIABLES FOUND IN EACH.

THE FIRST TWO EVALUATIONS EVER PUBLISHED ON JUVENILE DRUG COURTS ARE SUMMARIZED FOR THE PRACTITIONER BY MICHELLE SHAW AND DR. KENNETH ROBINSON.

NADCP President, and former Oakland drug court judge, Jeff Tauber provides commentary on the future of drug courts, arguing for their expansion into drug court systems that involve all drug-using offenders.

This is the introductory issue of the *National Drug Court Institute Review*. We hope you will enjoy it, use it as a resource and as a research tool. This is your publication, and we urge you to submit research, evaluations and commentary to the Review for publication and to contact us at the Institute with your comments and suggestions.