



Justice Programs Office at American University Announces New Justice Reform Partner

The [Justice Programs Office](#) (JPO), a research center at American University's [School of Public Affairs](#), regularly partners with government agencies, foundations, nonprofit organizations, and companies. JPO has engaged in a partnership to work with [Verizon](#).

As part of these partnerships, JPO examines criminal justice legislation and reform efforts across the U.S. with a special focus on issues such as pretrial practices, right to counsel and public defense, community supervision, and expungement and record sealing. Working collectively, JPO analyzes pending legislation to assess potential impacts on criminal justice policies and practices and ultimately on communities.

"The signing of the [First Step Act](#) created important momentum to further much needed reforms," says research professor and JPO director Kim Ball. "Tracking and understanding how legislation along the continuum of the criminal justice system will impact communities is key to achieving transformational change. This partnership has the potential to make change possible and ensure the fair administration of justice across the U.S."

Verizon is committed to helping build better communities. Verizon knows firsthand the inherent value of collaboration and partnering with those who are directly impacted by societal problems.

Verizon's Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Strategic Alliances, Donna Epps, says, "We are a national company with 140,000 employees. The criminal justice system impacts the communities we serve and the lives of our employees. We believe it is important for us to push for positive reforms and demonstrate that the business community is willing to engage and is supportive of correcting the problems plaguing our criminal justice system."

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