

NCJA Public Policy Summit
May 13, 2025 | Virtual
Draft Agenda
All times listed are Eastern Daylight Time

11:30-12:15 Where are we finding consensus in the states?

Greg Newburn, Director of Criminal Justice, the Niskanen Center

Stephanie Pasternak, Director of State Affairs, National Alliance on Mental Illness

Jennifer Brinkman, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Criminal Justice Programs, and NCJA President (Moderator)

With Congress (still) almost entirely deadlocked, governors and state legislators, law enforcement leaders and mental health advocates are pointing the way to non-partisan, practical change in criminal justice and behavioral health policy to improve outcomes for people at risk of becoming justice-involved, reduce costs and increase efficiency. Our speakers work with legislatures and local officials across the country and will share the trends they are noticing in justice and mental health policy and practice.

12:15-12:45 A View from Capitol Hill

Matt Vigeant, Counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee for Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)

Saurabh Sangvi, Counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee for Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)

Elizabeth Pyke, Director of Government Affairs, National Criminal Justice Association (Moderator)

This annual panel brings together senior staff from both parties on the Senate Judiciary Committee to discuss the issues that may gain traction in this Congress and what may lie ahead for the annual appropriations process.

12:45-1:15 Lunch

1:15-2:15 Issues and policy considerations around the Public Safety applications of AI

Noah Spitzer-Williams, Sr Principal, Product Management, Axon Technologies

Laken Ferreira, Sr. Director of Government Affairs, Axon Technologies

Gary Marchant, Regents and Foundation Professor of Law; Faculty Director, Center for Law, Science and Innovation, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

Chris Asplen, Executive Director, National Criminal Justice Association (Moderator)

Evidence analysis, report writing, license plate scanning and airspace security are just a few of the AI applications increasingly being leveraged by law enforcement to enhance public safety. Representatives from Axon, a major provider of AI-based law enforcement tools, will discuss the range of technologies available and

the policy considerations necessary to ensure the responsible application of AI. As the Director of the Center for Law, Science and Innovation at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Professor Marchant explores the growing applications of artificial intelligence and studies the legal, ethical and policy implications of these applications. He will discuss the policy and ethical implications of the growing use of AI in the public security sector.

2:15-2:30 Break

2:30-3:15 Leveraging AI in the Administration of Justice: A framework for analysis and an example from the courts

Ashwini Jarral, Director, IJIS Institute

Michael Navin, Principal Court Management Consultant, Technology, Architecture Planning and Security Division, National Center for State Courts (NCSC)

Chris Asplen, Executive Director, National Criminal Justice Association (Moderator)

Increasingly, AI technology can be leveraged to assist with the administrative tasks involved in the administration of justice. Examples can be found in both courtrooms and court systems. The IJIS Institute has developed an effective analysis "Playbook" that can be used to analyze AI technologies and assist with policy development. Ashwini Jarral will explain both the Playbook and the IJIS Center of Excellence on Artificial Intelligence for Justice, Public Safety, and Security. Michael Navin will provide insight into the AI issues being addressed in the courts.

3:15-3:30 Break

3:30-4:30 Keynote: An evolution in what works in reducing crime

Jens Ludwig, Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago, Pritzker Director of the University of Chicago's Crime Lab, and codirector of the Education Lab

Chris Asplen, Executive Director, National Criminal Justice Association (Moderator)

In his new book, *Unforgiving Places: the Unexpected Origins of American Gun Violence*, Professor of Economics Jens Ludwig argues that the lack of progress in reducing gun violence ultimately stems from our having misunderstood the nature of the problem, and that behavioral science gives us a new way to understand – and solve – gun violence in America.

4:30-4:45 Break

4:45- 5:30 Refocusing on federal grants to drive change

Charles Lehman, Fellow, the Manhattan Institute and Senior Editor of City Journal

John Maki, fellow in the Litmus Program, NYU Marron Institute of Urban Management and former Executive Director, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Joe Popcun, Executive Deputy Commissioner, New York Division of Criminal Justice Services (Moderator)

Manhattan Institute Fellow Charles Lehman argues the Libertarian perspective for the federal government to improve the quality of state and local justice systems through targeted grant funding. He will join former Illinois SAA John Maki in conversation about how we might begin to build, or rebuild, a conservative consensus around federal funding for policing and corrections.

5:30 Thank you for coming! See you next year!