CENTER FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE
RESEARCH
POLICY
AND PRACTICE

Promoting fair, informed, effective, and ethical approaches to criminal justice policy and practice
We believe there is need for a new kind of university committed to going beyond its walls to include those needing assistance and those seeking justice.

2015–20 Loyola University Chicago Strategic Plan
OUR VALUES: DEDICATED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Center for Criminal Justice (CCJ) is a part of Loyola University Chicago, a Jesuit, Catholic institution of higher learning dedicated to using its reputation, resources, and talented students and faculty to advance the goals of social justice and nonviolence.

FORGING NEW APPROACHES TO CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Amid calls for the wholesale reexamination of the nation’s criminal and juvenile justice systems, the CCJ was established in 2015. Policymakers and the public are asking for new approaches to crime and public safety that are fair, effective, and cost efficient. The CCJ is contributing to these efforts by generating research, supporting student learning, enhancing the knowledge base of practitioners and policymakers in the field, and supporting durable solutions to crime.

CONDUCTING PATHBREAKING RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

The CCJ, its faculty, and its students engage in practice-informed research and analysis designed to enhance knowledge and foster system improvement. Faculty and student fellowships and externally supported research projects are often conducted in collaboration with government agencies or private organizations. Examples include:

- Research that supports justice agency and jurisdictional strategic planning efforts
- Evaluations of policies and programs designed to prevent and reduce crime and recidivism
TRANSFORMING EDUCATION
Loyola University Chicago is committed to providing its students with an education that encourages intellectual growth and builds students’ capacity to envision how newly acquired knowledge can improve the lives of others. The CCJ engages students actively in their own education through research projects, capstone courses, skill-building exercises, and service initiatives that introduce them to a range of philosophical, methodological, and practical issues confronting society.

DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING LEADERS
In addition to preparing a new generation of criminal justice leaders, the CCJ provides opportunities for those already working in the field to enhance their knowledge, network with peers, and receive technical assistance:
• “What Works” series for criminal justice stakeholders
• Learning collaboratives around specific issues
• Online and campus-based certificate programs
• Collaboration with national experts and system reform organizations
REFORMING THE SYSTEM
The CCJ engages with government partners and private-sector representatives including nonprofit organizations, advocacy organizations, and service providers to better understand the dynamics of crime and to improve the performance and effectiveness of the criminal justice system. Areas of focus include:
• Justice system responses to 18–24-year-old “emerging adults”
• Probation policy and practices which can reduce recidivism and improve outcomes
• Evidence-based, research-informed juvenile justice policies and practices

INTERDISCIPLINARY FACULTY AND STUDENTS
Faculty and students who participate in the work of the CCJ strengthen the center’s expertise through their interdisciplinary backgrounds and training in criminal justice and criminology, law, psychology, political science, public health, social work, sociology, anthropology, communications, medicine, forensic science, nursing, business, and other academic disciplines.

DIVERSE SUPPORTERS
The CCJ enjoys the support of Loyola University Chicago, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, government agencies, and private contributors.

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