

## JUSTICE CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

-- APPROVED ON 02/08/08 --

Established by the state legislature in 1975, the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage has a mandate to provide justice-related teaching, research and service to the state, thus inspiring learning and enriching the entire Alaska community.

The Justice Center is an interdisciplinary academic unit that conducts both basic and applied research in the areas of crime, law and justice, and directly serves government units, justice agencies and community organizations throughout urban and rural Alaska.

In furtherance of its academic mission, the Center offers:

- A Bachelor of Arts in Justice, with an interdisciplinary approach that prepares students for engaged citizenship; scholarship; justice careers in private and public organizations; and advanced studies in criminology, law, criminal justice, social research, and public administration;
- A certificate program in Paralegal Studies, approved by the American Bar Association (ABA), preparing students for law-related careers working under the direct supervision of attorneys in the private or public sector and for advanced studies in law;
- Opportunities for undergraduate and graduate research through Justice Center research projects.

The research and service mission of the Center is furthered through:

- Research conducted in partnership with justice agencies, other Alaska entities, and students at all levels to identify problems and recommend innovative solutions for justice issues in both rural and urban Alaska;
- Research reflecting the cultural diversity of the state and the challenges posed by Alaska's geography and climate for the administration of justice;
- The publication of research advancing scientific knowledge and informing justice policy;
- The work of the Statistical Analysis Center, a subdivision of the Center that serves as a repository for Alaska justice data and participates in the development and management of statewide justice information;
- The Crime Mapping Center, which analyzes spatial and temporal patterns of crime to inform policy and practice;
- The publication of a quarterly journal, the *Alaska Justice Forum*, that covers justice issues as they emerge in Alaska and presents the results of research done by the Center and other research entities;
- The publication of reports and studies; the presentation of seminars and conferences; the production of educational videos to enhance information dissemination and public education;
- Participating on advisory boards, committees, and commissions.