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## Victim-Offender Mediation in Anchorage

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A pilot victim-offender mediation program, which involves juveniles accused of certain offenses and the victims of these crimes, has recently been established in Anchorage. Mediation is offered as a diversion from the justice system which the offender may accept to avoid more formal adjudication.

Mediation between a victim and offender with the goal of achieving restitution and reconciliation can supplement the formal adjudication process. Under mediation, both victim and offender are active participants in the resolution process. The victim has the opportunity to confront the offender to seek a resolution of the offense, and the offender is provided with the opportunity to make amends for the crime. Such problem-solving intends to restore both parties to more positive social functioning in the larger community and to compensate for some of the perceived inadequacies of the criminal justice system. Mediation programs often are used as an alternative to disposition within the justice system or as a diversion from the system.

The western tradition from which the U.S. system of criminal justice has developed views crime as an offense against the state, even though a victim may also be involved. It is the state that prosecutes and

brings a case to disposition. Neither the victim nor the offender have much to say in the process, with the involvement of both often quite passive. Since, until recently, in ordinary court proceedings victims were seldom more than observers, feelings of frustration, powerlessness, and further victimization could arise.

### Victim-Offender Mediation

Victim-offender mediation programs provide an opportunity for victims to meet the offenders face-to-face in the presence of a trained mediator for the purpose of reaching a reconciliation intended to resolve the injury of the crime in some way. Crime, under the mediation model, is viewed as a conflict between people rather than as an offense against the state. Through mediation the victim has the opportunity for involvement in the process of negotiating restitution, expressing feelings, and seeking answers from the offender. For the offender, mediation also achieves involvement by stressing accountability for the act, personalizing the crime, and providing a corrective intervention. The idea of the offender making restitution to the wronged person has precedent in many cultures, although it has not commonly been used as a criminal sanction under modern western systems.

### Development

An early application of a modern western model providing mediation between a victim and offender occurred in 1974 in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada: the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, or VORP. This was followed in 1979 in the United States by a program with the same name, which was started in Elkhart County, Indiana through the joint efforts of PACT Inc. (Prisoners and Community Together) and the Mennonite Church. The program spread, and by 1981 eight programs had been developed in the United States and Canada. By 1987, 50

program sites had been established, primarily in the Midwest and Canada. By 1994, 25 victim-offender mediation programs were operating in Canada, over 100 in the United States, and 165 in Western Europe.

According to Burt Galaway in a 1988 article in *Social Service Review*, of 14,000 cases referred by the courts to VORP programs, 86 per cent were reported to have resulted in successfully completed restitution contracts. The study indicated that victims, for the most part, were not vindictive in negotiating with the offender and that there was a high level of willingness to meet among victim and offender. While long-term research regarding the effectiveness of the mediation model has been limited, such preliminary findings have been consistent in demonstrating that mediation is an effective way to resolve conflict between some crime victims and their offenders.

### The Development of Victim-Offender Mediation in Anchorage

To date, the criminal justice system in Alaska has used formal mediation primarily with juvenile offenders. In 1991, Janice Lienhart, one of the founders of Victims for Justice, a private, nonprofit agency, which provides services to victims of crimes, sought assistance from staff at the McLaughlin Youth Center for a family whose son had been killed by a juvenile, who at that time was being held at the Center. What resulted was a victim-offender mediation involving the family and the juvenile. As a result of that mediation and several subsequent ones at McLaughlin, a core group of professionals formed an organizational base to explore the idea of implementing a victim-offender mediation program in Anchorage. Four organizations were represented in this effort: Victims for Justice, the McLaughlin Youth Center, the

### HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics describes federal and state prison populations (page 2).
- Cook Inlet Region, Inc. awards \$200,000 gift to the Justice Center (page 6).
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics analyzes the incidence of violent crime victimization in the workplace (page 7).

Please see *Mediation*, page 5

**BJS Report**

**Prisoners, 1993**

The number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal or state correctional authorities at the end of 1993 reached a record high of 948,881. The states and the District of Columbia added 55,898 prisoners; the federal system, 9,327. The increase for 1993 brings total growth in the prison population since 1980 to 619,060, an increase of about 188 per cent in the 13-year period (Table 1).

The 1993 growth rate of 7.4 per cent was

slightly greater than the percentage increase recorded during 1992 (7.0%), and the number of new prisoners added during 1993 was 7,188 more than the number added during the preceding year (58,037). The 1993 increase translates into a nationwide need for approximately 1,254 prison bedspaces per week, compared to the nearly 1,116 prison bedspaces per week needed in 1992.

Prisoners with sentences of more than one year (referred to as "sentenced prisoners") accounted for 96 per cent of the total prison population at the end of 1993, growing by 7.5 per cent during the year. The remaining prisoners had sentences of a year or less or were unsentenced (for example, those awaiting trial in states with combined prison-jail systems).

The number of sentenced federal prisoners increased more than that of sentenced state prisoners during 1993 (13.2% versus 7.0%). The rate of increase slowed somewhat from the year before. In 1992 the federal system had increased 15.9 per cent and the state population had grown 6.6 per cent.

Prison populations decreased in eight states and the District of Columbia through the end of 1993. This decrease amounted to a combined total of 716 inmates. Six of the eight states had decreases of at least one per cent—Kansas, Nebraska, Maine, Montana, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

During 1993 five states and the federal system reported increases of at least ten per cent. Connecticut experienced the greatest increase (20.1%), followed by Texas (16.2%), Minnesota (15.5%), Mississippi (15.2%), the federal system (11.6%), and

**Table 1. Change in the State and Federal Prison Populations, 1980-1993**

Year	Number of inmates	Annual per cent change	Total per cent change since 1980
1980	329,821	—	—
1981	369,930	+ 12.2%	+ 12.2%
1982	413,806	11.9	25.5
1983	436,855	5.6	32.5
1984	462,002	5.8	40.1
1985	502,507	8.8	52.4
1986	544,972	8.5	65.2
1987	585,084	7.4	77.4
1988	627,600	7.3	90.3
1989	712,364	13.5	116.0
1990	773,919	8.6	134.6
1991	825,619	6.7	150.3
1992	883,656	7.0	167.9
1993	948,881	7.4	187.7

**Note:** All counts are for December 31 of each year and may reflect revisions of previously reported numbers.

**Source:** Bureau of Justice Statistics

Oklahoma (10.7%). Alaska's system increased by 7.1 per cent in 1993, less than the percentage increase for the nation as a whole.

During 1993, the nation's prison population increased by 65,225 prisoners. Increases in prison populations in California (10,455), Texas (9,925), the federal system (9,327), and Florida (4,746) accounted for over half of the total increase (52.8%).

Please see *BJS*, page 4

**Recent BJS Reports**

In addition to the report summarized in the accompanying article, the following recent studies and reports from the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available from the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Unit:

*"Women in Prison," results of a survey of women confined in state prisons, NCJ-145321.*

*"Prosecutors in State Courts, 1992," results of the second national BJS survey of local prosecutors' offices, NCJ-145319.*

*"Murder in Families," results of a representative sample survey of state and county prosecutors' records of murder cases disposed in 1988, NCJ-143498.*

**Table 2. The Prison Situation Among the States, Yearend 1993**

Ten states with the largest 1993 prison population		Ten states with the highest incarceration rates, 1993		Ten states with the largest per cent increases in prison population			
Number of inmates		Prisoners <sup>a</sup> per 100,000 inmates		1992-1993		1988-1993	
				Per cent increase		Per cent increase	
California	119,951	Texas <sup>b</sup>	553	Connecticut	+ 20.1%	Washington	+ 79.1%
Texas	71,103	Oklahoma	506	Texas	16.2	Texas	75.8
New York	64,569	Louisiana	499	Minnesota	15.5	New Hampshire	74.2
Florida	53,048	South Carolina	489	Mississippi	15.2	Connecticut	71.0
Ohio	40,641	Nevada	438	Oklahoma	10.7	Tennessee	65.9
Michigan	39,529	Alabama	431	Georgia	9.9	Illinois	63.6
Illinois	34,495	Arizona	430	Florida	9.8	Iowa	61.4
Georgia	27,783	Michigan	416	California	9.5	Virginia	61.1
Pennsylvania	26,050	Delaware	397	Illinois	9.0	Minnesota	57.7
New Jersey	23,831	Georgia	387	Iowa	8.4	California	57.5

**Note:** District of Columbia, as a wholly urban jurisdiction, is excluded.

a. Prisoners with sentences of more than one year.

b. Includes 29,546 state prisoners backed up in local jails.

**Source:** Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Table 3. Prisoners Under the Jurisdiction of State or Federal Correctional Authorities, by Region and Jurisdiction, Yearend 1992 and 1993**

	Total			Sentenced to more than one year			
	Final 1992	Advance 1993	Per cent change 1992-1993	Final 1992	Advance 1993	Per cent change 1992-1993	Incarceration rate, 1993*
<b>U.S. total</b>	<b>883,656</b>	<b>948,881</b>	<b>+ 7.4%</b>	<b>847,271</b>	<b>910,462</b>	<b>+ 7.5%</b>	<b>351</b>
Federal	80,259	89,586	+ 11.6	65,706	74,398	+ 13.2	29
State	803,397	859,295	+ 7.0	781,565	836,064	+ 7.0	322
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>138,144</b>	<b>145,445</b>	<b>+ 5.3%</b>	<b>133,658</b>	<b>139,956</b>	<b>+ 4.7%</b>	<b>272</b>
Connecticut	11,403	13,691	+ 20.1	8,794	10,508	+ 19.5	321
Maine	1,519	1,469	- 3.3	1,492	1,446	- 3.1	117
Massachusetts	10,053	10,055	+ 0.0	9,665	9,315	- 3.6	155
New Hampshire	1,777	1,775	- 0.1	1,777	1,775	- 0.1	157
New Jersey	22,653	23,831	+ 5.2	22,653	23,689	+ 4.6	299
New York	61,736	64,569	+ 4.6	61,736	64,569	+ 4.6	354
Pennsylvania	24,974	26,050	+ 4.3	24,966	26,045	+ 4.3	216
Rhode Island	2,775	2,782	+ 0.3	1,710	1,716	+ 0.4	172
Vermont	1,254	1,223	- 2.5	865	893	+ 3.2	154
<b>Midwest</b>	<b>167,023</b>	<b>173,595</b>	<b>+ 3.9%</b>	<b>166,658</b>	<b>173,363</b>	<b>+ 4.0%</b>	<b>283</b>
Illinois	31,640	34,495	+ 9.0	31,640	34,495	+ 9.0	294
Indiana	13,945	14,470	+ 3.8	13,791	14,364	+ 4.2	250
Iowa	4,518	4,898	+ 8.4	4,518	4,898	+ 8.4	174
Kansas	6,028	5,727	- 5.0	6,028	5,727	- 5.0	226
Michigan	39,113	39,529	+ 1.1	39,113	39,529	+ 1.1	416
Minnesota	3,822	4,415	+ 15.5	3,822	4,415	+ 15.5	97
Missouri	16,189	16,178	—	16,181	16,178	—	308
Nebraska	2,514	2,408	- 4.2	2,435	2,360	- 3.1	146
North Dakota	477	498	+ 4.4	428	446	+ 4.2	70
Ohio	38,378	40,641	+ 5.9	38,378	40,641	+ 5.9	365
South Dakota	1,487	1,553	+ 4.4	1,487	1,553	+ 4.4	216
Wisconsin	8,912	8,783	- 1.4	8,837	8,757	- 0.9	173
<b>South</b>	<b>324,091</b>	<b>352,104</b>	<b>+ 8.6%</b>	<b>315,167</b>	<b>343,451</b>	<b>+ 9.0%</b>	<b>381</b>
Alabama	17,453	18,624	+ 6.7	16,938	18,169	+ 7.3	431
Arkansas	8,285	8,628	+ 4.1	8,195	8,567	+ 4.5	351
Delaware	4,051	4,237	+ 4.6	2,708	2,796	+ 3.2	397
District of Columbia	10,875	10,845	- 0.3	7,528	8,908	+ 18.3	1,549
Florida	48,302	53,048	+ 9.8	48,285	53,041	+ 9.8	385
Georgia	25,290	27,783	+ 9.9	24,848	27,079	+ 9.0	387
Kentucky	10,364	10,440	+ 0.7	10,364	10,440	+ 0.7	274
Louisiana	20,896	22,532	+ 7.8	20,812	21,499	+ 3.3	499
Maryland	19,977	20,264	+ 1.4	18,808	19,121	+ 1.7	383
Mississippi	8,780	10,116	+ 15.2	8,593	9,798	+ 14.0	369
North Carolina	20,454	21,889	+ 7.0	19,965	21,358	+ 7.0	305
Oklahoma	14,821	16,409	+ 10.7	14,821	16,409	+ 10.7	506
South Carolina	18,643	18,704	+ 0.3	17,612	17,896	+ 1.6	489
Tennessee	11,849	12,827	+ 8.3	11,849	12,827	+ 8.3	250
Texas	61,178	71,103	+ 16.2	61,178	71,103	+ 16.2	—
Virginia	21,199	22,850	+ 7.8	20,989	22,635	+ 7.8	346
West Virginia	1,674	1,805	+ 7.8	1,674	1,805	+ 7.8	99
<b>West</b>	<b>174,139</b>	<b>188,151</b>	<b>+ 8.0%</b>	<b>166,082</b>	<b>179,294</b>	<b>+ 8.0%</b>	<b>317</b>
Alaska	2,865	3,068	+ 7.1	1,944	1,954	+ 0.5	323
Arizona	16,477	17,811	+ 8.1	15,850	17,160	+ 8.3	430
California	109,496	119,951	+ 9.5	105,467	115,573	+ 9.6	368
Colorado	8,997	9,462	+ 5.2	8,997	9,462	+ 5.2	262
Hawaii	2,926	3,155	+ 7.8	1,922	2,026	+ 5.4	172
Idaho	2,256	2,606	—	2,256	2,606	—	234
Montana	1,498	1,454	- 2.9	1,498	1,454	- 2.9	171
Nevada	6,049	6,198	+ 2.5	6,049	6,198	+ 2.5	438
New Mexico	3,271	3,498	+ 6.9	3,154	3,373	+ 6.9	206
Oregon	6,583	6,560	- 0.3	5,236	5,118	- 2.3	167
Utah	2,699	2,888	+ 7.0	2,687	2,871	+ 6.8	152
Washington	9,959	10,419	+ 4.6	9,959	10,419	+ 4.6	196
Wyoming	1,063	1,081	+ 1.7	1,063	1,080	+ 1.6	228

**Note:** The advance count of prisoners is conducted immediately after the calendar year ends. Prisoner counts for 1992 may differ from those reported in previous publications. Counts for 1993 are subject to revision as updated figures become available.

\* Incarceration rate is the number of prisoners with sentences of more than one year per 100,000 residents.

**Source:** Bureau of Justice Statistics.

**BJS**  
(continued from page 3)

These jurisdictions incarcerate just over a third of the nation's prison population.

**Rates of Incarceration Increase**

On December 31, 1993, the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents was 351, a new record. Eleven of the 17 states with rates equal to or greater than the rate for the nation were located in the south, three were in the west, two were in the midwest, and one was in the northeast. Alaska's rate of 323 sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents was below the national average.

Since 1980 the number of sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents has risen from 139 to 351. During this period, per capita incarceration rates rose the most in the west (from 105 to 317) and the south (from 188 to 381). The rate in the northeast rose from 87 to 272 and the rate in the midwest from 109 to 283. The number of sentenced federal prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents increased from 9 to 29 over the same period.

**Rise in Population Linked to Changes in Prison Admissions**

Underlying the dramatic growth in the

**Table 4. Estimated Number of Adults Arrests for Selected Serious and Drug Offenses, 1980-1992**

	Selected serious offenses					Total selected serious offenses	Drug offenses
	Murder*	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Burglary		
1980	18,200	26,700	102,200	236,600	282,800	666,500	471,200
1981	19,600	27,000	109,800	243,700	297,700	697,800	468,100
1982	19,900	28,700	116,000	271,800	318,300	754,700	584,900
1983	18,800	29,100	107,800	260,300	293,600	709,600	583,500
1984	16,500	31,000	103,200	260,400	268,000	679,100	623,700
1985	16,800	31,900	102,600	263,300	274,700	689,300	718,600
1986	17,500	31,400	113,000	306,800	288,800	757,500	742,700
1987	17,400	30,600	107,200	307,300	287,100	749,600	849,600
1988	19,500	33,000	116,500	363,600	308,000	840,600	1,050,500
1989	19,600	33,100	127,100	398,200	319,400	897,400	1,247,700
1990	19,800	33,300	127,300	410,800	290,100	881,300	1,008,300
1991	20,700	33,800	129,300	412,200	290,500	886,500	931,900
1992	19,200	32,800	127,600	432,900	279,500	892,000	980,700

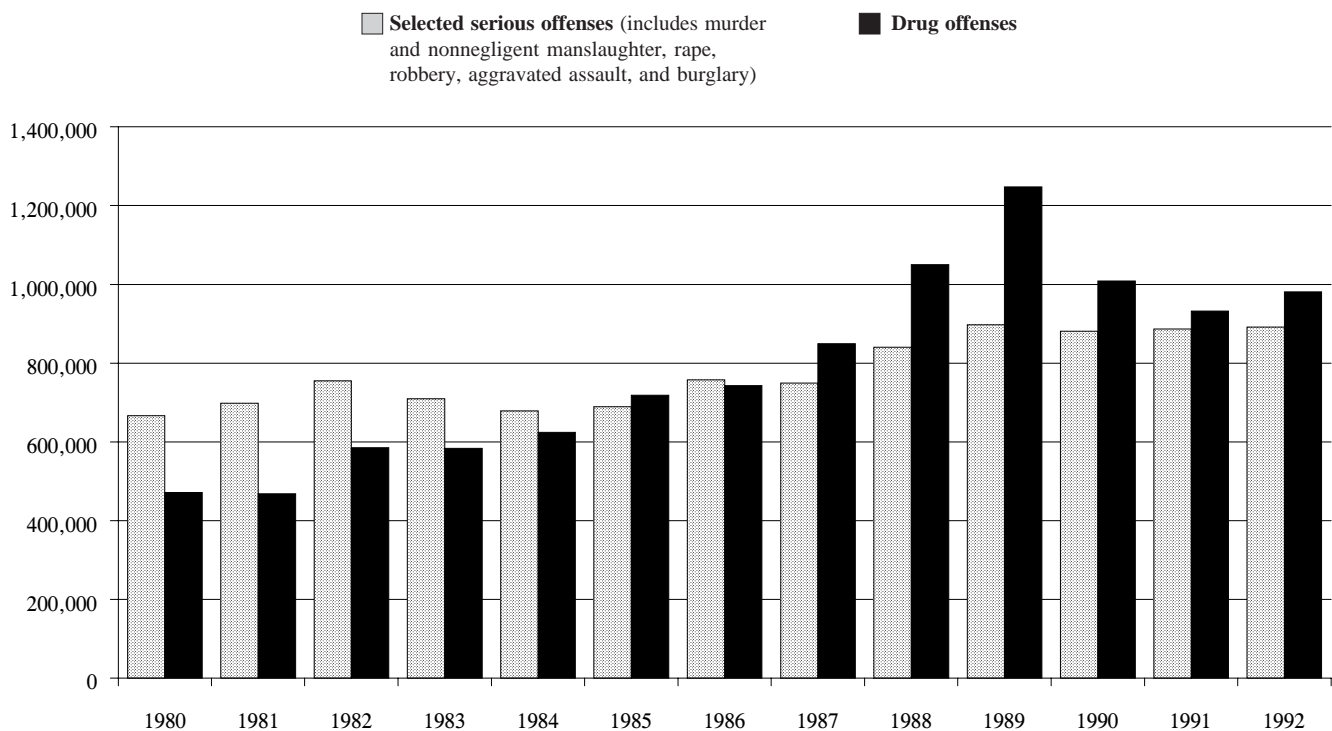
\* Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

state prison population during the 1980s were changes in the composition of prison admissions. Since 1977 the relative sizes of the two principal sources of admissions to prison, court commitments and returned conditional release violators, have changed. Court commitments account for a decreasing share of all prison admissions: 69.5 per cent in 1992, down from 82.4 per cent in 1980. As a percentage of all admissions, those returning to prison after a conditional release increased, from 17.0 per cent to 29.5 per cent. These conditional release violators had

originally left prison as parolees, mandatory releases, and other types of releases involving community supervision.

The absolute number of conditional release violators returned to prison grew five-fold, from 27,177 in 1980 to 141,961 in 1992, while the number of new court commitments more than doubled, from 131,215 to 334,301. Overall, the increase in the number of conditional release violators accounted for more than a third of the growth in the total admissions to state prisons.

**Figure 1. Estimated Arrests for Selected Serious and Drug Offenses, 1980-1992**



Source of data: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

## An Increasing Percentage of Court Commitments Sentenced for Drug Offenses

In 1992, the latest year for which data are available, the number of new court commitments for drug offenses totaled an estimated 102,000. The number of persons admitted for drug offenses was nearly as large as the number admitted for property offenses (104,300) and larger than the number for violent offenses (95,300) and public order offenses (29,400). An estimated 30.5 per cent of all new court commitments in

1992 were drug offenders, up from 6.8 per cent in 1980. In 1992 an estimated 31.2 per cent were property offenders; 28.5 per cent, violent offenders; and 8.8 per cent, public order offenders. The increase in drug offenders admitted to prison accounted for nearly 46 per cent of the total growth in new court commitments since 1980.

Growth in the number of persons arrested for drug law violations and an increase in the rate of incarceration for drug offenses account for the change in the prison offense distribution. Between 1980 and 1992 the

estimated number of adult arrests for drug law violations increased by 108 per cent, from 471,200 to 980,700. Compounding the impact of more drug arrests, the rate of drug offenders sent to state prison rose from 19 per 1,000 arrests for drug violations in 1980 to 104 admissions per 1,000 in 1992.

*This article was based on the Bureau of Justice Statistics report "Prisoners in 1993," NCJ-147036. Copies of the entire report can be obtained through the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Unit, Justice Center.*

## Mediation

(continued from page 1)

Department of Social Work and the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

In spring 1993, a survey was sent to 29 Anchorage area professionals connected directly or peripherally with the juvenile justice system; responses came from the Division of Family and Youth Services, the offices of the Public Defender, Public Advocacy, the Attorney General, law enforcement, the court system and various social service agencies. The intent of the survey was to determine the feasibility of establishing a victim-offender mediation program targeting juvenile offenders in Anchorage. Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding program concept, the types of crimes, offenders, and victims to be targeted, and the organizational structure, funding, and staffing patterns. The support for establishing a program from those surveyed was highly positive (96%), with many expressing a willingness to participate actively in the development of a program. Many of those surveyed later joined the project planning group.

In fall 1993, an organizational base, the Victim-Offender Mediation Project Planning Group, was formed. The group included the original four organizations, representatives from Juvenile Probation, the Office of Public Advocacy, the Alaska Judicial Council, the Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation, Family and District Court judges, the Attorney General's Office, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, private practice attorneys, and professional mediators. A six-month pilot project began in early 1994.

Plans for the pilot project evolved from committees of the Project Planning Group. The Chief Juvenile Probation Intake Officer and his staff agreed to provide referrals of cases identified as meeting the criterion of first or second-time juvenile offenders accused of property crimes. It was decided

that intake officers would screen cases and determine which ones were appropriate for mediation. The Alaska Judicial Council participated in the development of instruments to evaluate the project, and the Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation, an Anchorage based private nonprofit agency, provided their facilities for training, meetings, and mediation sessions. A part-time coordinator was hired to train volunteers and implement the pilot project.

Ten volunteers, with previous mediation training, participated in a training program specific to victim-offender mediation. A training model developed by VORP in Elkhart, Indiana was drawn upon that included video presentations of mediations and issues in juvenile justice. Trainees participated in role-playing that replicated the entire mediation process, beginning with the initial contact of the participants through mediation and contracting. A second training was completed for additional community volunteers and included a teenage volunteer who had been active with Anchorage Youth Court. Fifteen trained volunteer mediators are now participating in the project. Except for the part-time coordinator, none of the participants is paid. Although evaluation of the project is in the initial stages, the volunteer mediators report success in the cases that have gone to mediation.

By late summer 1994, 61 referrals had been received from Probation Intake, with 16 mediations and contracts being completed, 13 cases in progress and 32 closed without mediation occurring. Of those 32, 22 victims declined mediation and 4 cases were screened as not appropriate for mediation. In 4 cases the offender failed to keep the appointment, and in 2 cases the victim did not keep the mediation appointment.

Each mediation case has its own flow; however, an overall process has been developed. The intake officer interviews the offender following arrest and, if in the judgment of the intake officer, the case

meets the criteria for mediation, it is offered as a possible disposition. (Ordinarily, offenders are first or second-time offenders charged with property crimes, although several assault cases have also been mediated.)

Following the referral from Juvenile Intake, the project coordinator compiles the

*Please see Mediation, page 6*



## Alaska Justice Forum

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## Mediation (continued from page 5)

necessary information and assigns the case to two mediators. They, in turn, contact the offender to determine if he or she wishes to participate in the process. If the offender agrees to participate, an appointment is made with the victim. If all parties determine that mediation is feasible, it is scheduled with a team of two mediators. The main purpose is to reach a reconciliation between the victim and offender. Mediators function as neutral facilitators of the process. Contracts for restitution resulting from the mediation are monitored by the project coordinator, with the intake officer informed of the final outcome. If a contract is not successfully completed, the intake officer makes a decision about further action on the case.

An example of a successful mediation involved a juvenile who had inflicted \$1,000 of damage by breaking into the garage of an elderly couple. Initially the couple were resistant to mediation because of fear that meeting the offender would result in becoming known to the offender. They came to realize the irrationality of this fear because the offender obviously already did know where they lived. With the mediators present, the couple were able to ask questions of the offender and the offender was also able to explain his behavior. The woman negotiated a restitution contract with the offender in which he was to write her a letter of apology. The man presented receipts for repairs to the garage and contracted with the offender to do work at the couple's home at \$5 per hour during the summer until the \$1,000 in damages were

paid. Both the couple and offender expressed satisfaction with the mediation process, and the offender completed his contract. The male victim described his decision to participate in the mediation as akin to jury duty: a civic responsibility to participate in the justice process.

The project contains a formal evaluation component. The mediators complete separate pre-mediation questionnaires through interviews with both the victim and offender. Another interview is conducted with each participant immediately after the mediation, and telephone interviews with both victim and offender are also conducted 10 to 14 days later. Referred cases which did not result in mediation are evaluated to determine those factors which preclude the process. The major intent of the project evaluation is to gather information for use in developing an effective, ongoing program. The assembly and analysis of the data are monitored by the Alaska Judicial Council.

The evaluation instruments contain questions concerning the nature of the offense, feelings about the crime, perceptions of the effects of the offense, and perceptions about the justice process and the mediation process. In addition, both victims and offenders are given an opportunity to provide additional relevant comments if they desire.

The Victim Offender Mediation Project has received start-up funding through University of Alaska Anchorage Faculty Development Grants and the First National Bank of Anchorage. Project members are now seeking additional funding to continue and further develop an ongoing program.

Long-range plans are to institutionalize a victim-offender mediation program throughout the state in both the juvenile and adult criminal justice system. In a related effort, some members of the project are meeting with the Alaska Department of Corrections to develop an office for victim advocacy which would be housed in the offices of the Commissioner of Corrections but would operate as an entity separate from adult corrections. This may, in the future, lead to victim-offender mediation involving inmates in the Department of Corrections and their victims. Also, legislation may be sought to obtain confidentiality protection for the mediation process and support for statewide program development.

*Patrick Cunningham is an associate professor of social work at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Lawrence C. Trostle is an assistant professor with the Justice Center.*

## New Appointment

Kimberly Martus has accepted a position as assistant professor with the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Under the terms of her appointment Martus will work to ensure that the efforts of the UAA Justice Center and the Alaska Native Justice Center in the areas of Alaska Native justice and legal issues are complementary. Her UAA responsibilities will also include teaching and expanding the academic curriculum in the area of Native justice concerns. The position is being jointly funded by UAA and the Alaska Native Justice Center.

John Monfor, President of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Native Justice Center, states, "While the Alaska Native Justice Center will certainly miss the guidance Ms. Martus has given the Center on a daily basis, we look forward to the expansion of the Alaska Native Justice Center network and this new and exciting link with the UAA Justice Center."

Martus "is looking forward to developing projects between the respective justice centers that will substantially improve the status of Alaska Natives in state and tribal justice systems."

John Angell, Director of the UAA Justice Center, remarks that "Kimberly Martus has great expertise in Native American and justice system relations. Her acceptance of this position will strengthen our instructional programs and increase the university's capacity to fulfill its land-grant obligation to aid in enhancing the quality of life for Alaskans."

## Center Receives Gift from CIRI

Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) is underwriting a major UAA Justice Center initiative to address Alaska Native justice issues and problems associated with crime and administration of justice. CIRI has awarded \$200,000 for applied research, program development, education and training.

The four major goals of the project are:

1. To increase understanding of Native justice issues and enhance greater fairness in justice processes affecting Alaska Natives by developing and implementing an education agenda.

2. To improve the justice system by increasing the number of Native employees and to sensitize policy-making officials and non-Native employees regarding cross-cultural issues.

3. To strengthen institutions, particularly those involving public safety, which affect Alaska Natives and Native communities.

4. To identify Native problems with justice institutions and potential remedies for those problems by establishing information gathering processes, filing systems, and analytical and dissemination routines.

**BJS Crime Data**

# Violence and Theft in the Workplace

**Table 1. Average Annual Number of Violent Victimizations in the Workplace, 1987-1992**

Type of crime	Average annual number of:	
	Victimizations	Injuries
Rape	13,068	3,438
Robbery	79,109	17,904
Aggravated assault	264,174	48,180
Simple assault	615,160	89,572
<b>Total violent crimes</b>	<b>971,517</b>	<b>159,094</b>

*Source:* Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey

Each year nearly one million individuals become victims of violent crime while working or on duty. These victimizations account for 15 per cent of the over 6.5 million acts of violence experienced by Americans age 12 or older. In addition, over 2 million personal thefts and over 200,000 car thefts occur annually while persons are at work. This report analyzes data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for 1987 to 1992 to describe these crimes.

The National Crime Victimization Survey conducts interviews with over 100,000 individuals age 12 or older annually. Respondents who reported a violent victimization and said they were either working or on duty when asked, "What were you doing when the incident happened?" represent the sample for this report. This does not include those victims who said they were on their way to or from work.

Crime victimizations occurring in the workplace cost about half a million employ-

ees 1,751,100 days of work each year, an average of 3.5 days per crime. This missed work resulted in over \$55 million in lost wages annually, not including days covered by sick and annual leave.

Among people victimized while working, men were more likely than women to experience a violent crime. However, women were just as likely as men to become the victims of theft while working.

Victims who were working were as likely to face armed offenders as those victimized while not working. Over 30 per cent of victims who were working during a violent victimization faced armed offenders. Almost a third of these offenders had a handgun.

Victims of violence at work were less likely to be injured than victims of violence that occurred away from work. Sixteen per cent of violent victimizations which occurred while the victim was working resulted in physical injuries; 10 per cent of these injuries required medical care.

Among only those persons injured by a crime victimization at work, an estimated 876,800 work days were lost annually, costing employees over \$16 million in wages, not including days covered by sick and annual leave.

Six out of 10 incidents of workplace violence occurred in private companies. While government employees make up approximately 18 per cent of the total U.S. workforce, 30 per cent of the victims of violence in this sample were federal, state, or local government employees. Several factors may be responsible for this overrepresentation, including a potentially high risk of victimization for particular gov-

ernment occupations such as public safety personnel.

Although men who were victimized while working were more likely to be attacked by a stranger, women were more likely to be attacked by someone known to them than by a stranger. Five per cent of the women victimized at work were attacked by a husband, ex-husband, boyfriend, or ex-boyfriend.

Over half of all victimizations sustained at work were not reported to the police. When individuals were asked why they did not report, 40 per cent said they believed the incident to be a minor or private matter. An additional 27 per cent did not report to police because they reported the victimization to another official such as a company security guard.

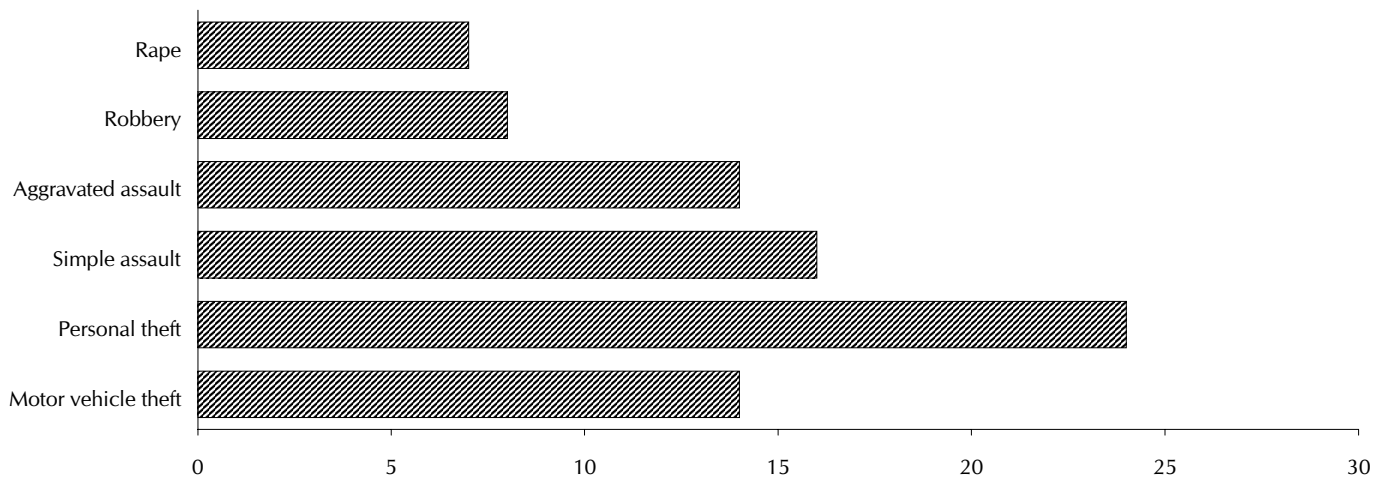
*This article is a summary of a Crime Data Brief released by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.*

**Table 2. Violent Victimizations in the Workplace, by Sex and Victim-Offender Relationship, 1987-1992**

Victim-offender relationship	Per cent of victimizations	
	Female victims	Male victims
Stranger	40%	58%
Casual acquaintance	35	30
Well-known	19	10
Relative	1	1
Intimate	5	1

*Source:* Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey

**Figure 1. Percentage of Total Victimizations Occurring in the Workplace for Selected Crimes, 1987-1992**



*Source of data:* Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey

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