U.S. Department of Justice
Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative
Annual Report—2014

Introduction

Never before has America's need for justice information sharing (JIS) been more compelling. The absence of this capability, however, has plagued practitioners for decades. While broadscale exchange has yet to be achieved, claims that the problem has gone unaddressed are unwarranted. The U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) **Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global)**[1] **Advisory Committee** (hereafter, GAC or Committee) exists to make recommendations and support the chief law enforcement officer—the U.S. Attorney General—on promising technical and policy JIS solutions. With the support and guidance of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and DOJ, the GAC has concentrated its diverse expertise on challenges and opportunities for justice and public safety information sharing. Since 1998, members of this Federal Advisory Committee—representing justice and public safety communities at all levels of government—have actively advocated information sharing while safeguarding citizens' constitutional rights. Global is aimed at facilitating the appropriate "availability of information" and is truly a national effort.

Background

> *Global: Leading the way—getting the right information to the right people, in the right place, at the right time.*
>
> —*Vision Statement of the Global Advisory Committee*

Mission and Guiding Principles

Enhanced information sharing is essential for effective justice and public safety business operations on many levels: It facilitates the best possible decision making by arming executives with complete and current facts, and it saves program managers and technologists the increasingly shrinking resources of time and effort, allowing practitioners to do what has become a routine demand—doing more with less. In the justice and public safety arenas, comprehensive and timely access to data—and the ability to analyze and share that information—is often the linchpin between prevention and immediate response or devastation. Consider post-Hurricane Katrina, when the response was significantly hampered by a lack of information on the ground, or, perhaps most vividly, the communication failures of 9/11, when firefighters and police responding to the same crisis, in the same location, were unable to receive and share critical information as tragedy unfolded around them. Add the increasing, evolving complexity of justice-related scenarios—from the imperative of addressing

cyberthreats to responding to pandemics to collaborating with new partners such as the transportation and hospitality industries in the fight against terrorism—and the communication proposition can seem overwhelming.

While these high-profile events underscore the necessity of justice-related information sharing, the effective commission of "routine" justice business processes, such as court adjudication and sentencing or carefully planned prisoner reentry into our neighborhoods and communities, is grounded in the same imperative: getting the right information to the right person in the right place at the right time. As the Federal Advisory Committee to America's chief law enforcement officer, the U.S. Attorney General, on standards-based, justice-related information sharing, the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global)—through its Global Advisory Committee (GAC), with support and guidance from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)—has responded to this charge with a range of valuable solutions at no cost to colleagues in the field.

Chartered in 1998 by former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, the Global Initiative was carefully structured to function as a unique collaboration of justice leaders. Today, Global is respected as the preeminent voice of local, state, and tribal governments helping to shape the nation's information sharing solutions. Through a structured and in-depth collaborative process, which is a unique Global hallmark and includes private industry, the members of the GAC have developed and supported numerous groundbreaking advances that have proven invaluable in overcoming information sharing obstacles.

The guiding principles of the GAC are to:

- Support the goals of the U.S. Attorney General and DOJ by promoting an inclusive environment, bringing together representatives from the entire justice, public safety, and first responder communities to address and make recommendations to overcome the barriers to JIS across agencies, disciplines, and levels of government.

- Facilitate information sharing among local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies—large or small—through the exploration and promulgation of the most promising methods for developing and sharing critical intelligence data.

- Support the development and implementation of standards that facilitate seamless exchange of information among justice, public safety, and first responder communities.

- Provide information that supports sound business decisions for the planning, design, and procurement of cost-effective, interoperable information systems.

- Identify concepts that leverage existing infrastructure, capabilities, and functionality.

- Support constitutional values and individual rights by ensuring the accuracy and security of justice information and the implementation of appropriate privacy safeguards. GAC recommends the adoption of privacy and information quality policies that promote the responsible collection, handling, management, review, and sharing of personally identifiable information.

- Acknowledge that while there is a strong national consensus that improved justice-related information sharing is critically important, there is a commensurate desire to protect individuals' privacy.

The GAC operates in accordance with Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) provisions and convenes up to two times a year in Washington, DC. In 2014, the GAC met on June 23 (see https://it.ojp.gov/gist/166/File/GAC%20Summer%202014%20Summary.pdf for a summary). Meetings are announced in the *Federal Register*, and members of the public are welcome as observers.

GAC Structure: Membership, Leadership, and Working Groups

GAC members represent key organizations from local, state, tribal, federal, and international justice and public safety and include agency executives and policymakers, automation planners and managers, information practitioners and, most important, end users. This last group distinguishes the GAC: Its members remain actively dedicated to information sharing precisely because they continue to be producers, consumers, and administrators of crucial justice-related data.

Membership

Committee membership reflects the fundamental tenet that the entire justice-interested community must be involved in information exchange. Member agencies are as follows:

- Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
- American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators
- American Correctional Association
- American Probation and Parole Association
- Association of State Correctional Administrators
- Conference of State Court Administrators
- Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council
- Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board
- Executive Office for United States Attorneys
- Federal Bureau of Investigation—Criminal Justice Information Services Division

- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Association of Chiefs of Police—Division of State and Provincial Police
- International Association of Chiefs of Police—Indian Country Law Enforcement Section
- INTERPOL—Washington
- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- Major County Sheriffs' Association
- National Association for Court Management
- National Association of Attorneys General
- National Association of Counties
- National Association of State Chief Information Officers
- National Center for State Courts
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- National Criminal Justice Association
- National District Attorneys Association
- National Governors Association
- National Legal Aid & Defender Association
- National Sheriffs' Association
- Nlets—The International Justice and Public Safety Network
- SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Department of Justice

Leadership

In 2014, the GAC chair and vice chair, respectively, elected biennially (most recently, fall 2012) by fellow committee members, were Mr. Robert Boehmer, Director, Institute for Public Safety Partnerships, University of Illinois at Chicago, representing the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), and Mr. Carl Wicklund, Executive Director, American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), representing APPA on the Committee.

Elections for the succeeding GAC leadership term are slated for late January 2015.

The GAC Executive Steering Committee (GESC) consists of the GAC chair and vice chair, leaders from the various focus areas (e.g., intelligence, standards), and at-large GAC representatives. The at-large representatives are nominated and elected by the GESC.

The GESC has the responsibility to:

- Provide advice to the Designated Federal Official (DFO) regarding areas of priority and recommended research and prepare advisory recommendations for the approval of GAC. Upon approval of advisory recommendations, GESC forwards them to the U.S. Attorney General (and/or designated appointees).

- Schedule meetings and develop GAC meeting agendas with the approval of the GAC chair and the DFO.

- Solicit suggestions for additional technical, professional, and administrative assistance to effectively and adequately address areas of need to support DOJ activities.

The GESC meets immediately before biannual GAC meetings to prepare for the larger gatherings, consult with federal officials, and conduct executive business in support of the Initiative. In 2014, this pre-GAC event was held on June 22. GESC members convene at additional times during the year, as necessary, specifically to strategize ongoing GAC activities and future courses of action. In 2014, Global leaders held a beginning-of-year planning session on February 12–13 in Washington, DC. The GESC also conducts business via conference calls and e-mail, as necessary.

Global Working Group and Councils

GAC working groups, councils, and task teams are composed of committee members and other subject-matter experts, expanding GAC's knowledge and experience. These groups are formed around timely issues affecting JIS and meet as often as necessary. During 2014, the GAC groups engaged in the following targeted areas.

Global Standards Council

The Global Standards Council (GSC) supports broadscale electronic sharing of pertinent justice- and public safety-related information by recommending to BJA, through the GAC, associated information sharing standards and guidelines.

The GSC employs an enterprise architecture approach for developing and maintaining the cohesive body of Global standards as one Global Standards Package (GSP). That architecture and its associated GSP artifacts consist of:

1. Guidance on the design, specification, and implementation of services (and related infrastructure) as part of a justice Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA). This justice SOA-based architecture is more commonly known as the Global Reference Architecture—an approach to information sharing and an information exchange solution designed to cut 80 percent of implementation time and costs for state and local justice agencies through reuse of established promising practices in IT architecture and design. To learn more about the GRA and affiliated standards, please visit **www.it.ojp.gov/gra**.

2. Guidelines and standards for establishing, implementing, and governing federated identity management approaches. Federated identity allows a user's roles, rights, and privileges to be communicated securely in the justice community and, in particular, to those who hold the information required to effectively safeguard our nation. The Global

Federated Identity and Privilege Management (GFIPM) framework provides the justice community and partner organizations with a standards-based approach for implementing federated identity. To learn more about GFIPM and affiliated standards, please visit **www.it.ojp.gov/gfipm**.

3. A framework for automating access control (in particular, privacy) policy as part of information exchange. Converting privacy policy to a form understandable to computers continues to be a significant problem and a high priority for the justice community. *Implementing Privacy Policy in Justice Information Sharing: A Technical Framework* seeks to fill this need by exploring approaches and alternatives to resolve technical and interoperability challenges in supporting privacy policy through automation. The full technical framework is available at https://it.ojp.gov/docdownloader.aspx?ddid=1195.

The aforementioned enterprise architecture and its associated standards collectively form what is known as the Global Standards Package (GSP)—the entire body of normative Global standards work maintained by the GSC. Please access the GSP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guide at https://it.ojp.gov/gist/Document/134/Global-Standards-Package--GSP—Frequently-Asked-Questions—FAQ—Guide and/or access https://it.ojp.gov/gsp for a complete listing and access to published artifacts in the Global Standards Package. All GSP standards can also be discovered through the Global Information Sharing Toolkit (see www.it.ojp.gov/gist).

When GSP normative standards are developed or revised, each is made available for a public review-and-comment period. When Global standards and products are opened for public comment, the deliverables will be posted at the Global Workspace—a collaboration site that serves two purposes. First, the Global Workspace is an efficient and effective means to facilitate collaboration within the Global community when it develops and/or modifies Global standards, policies, guidelines, and other Global-associated deliverables. Second, once these deliverables are ready for public review and comment to practitioners, partners, and other consumers of the Global product line, Global Workspace supports this expanded collaboration in an efficient, yet structured manner, while simultaneously affording public users an easy way to review and comment.

Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council

The effective development and sharing of criminal intelligence is essential to prevent criminal activity, including terrorism-related events. To support this priority area, the Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council (CICC or "Council") was established in 2004. The establishment of the CICC was called for in the 2003 *National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan* (NCISP) and reiterated in the 2013 update to the NCISP. The NCISP serves as the blueprint to assist agencies in establishing criminal intelligence sharing policies, procedures, standards, technologies, and training. The CICC was created to oversee the implementation of the recommendations identified in the NCISP.

The CICC serves as the voice for all levels of law enforcement on the best use of criminal intelligence to keep the country safe. The Council strives to ensure that every chief, sheriff, and law enforcement and homeland security executive has a stake in its effort so that all law enforcement and homeland security agencies understand their role in the development and sharing of criminal intelligence and information. The CICC also collaborates with federal partners—including the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE), and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence—to coordinate national initiatives focused on criminal intelligence and information sharing. The advice and recommendations of the CICC and its membership have been sought by the Secretary of DHS, members of Congress, and representatives of state government.

The coordination that the CICC strives for has far-reaching effects, the most significant being the continued active involvement of state, local, and tribal law enforcement and homeland security agencies in nationwide criminal intelligence sharing efforts. It is only through the institutionalization of coordination and collaboration among all agencies—regardless of size and jurisdiction—that criminal intelligence can be effectively and efficiently developed and shared, resulting in a safer nation.

CICC efforts include the following:

- Assisting BJA in ensuring that every chief, sheriff, and law enforcement and homeland security executive understands his or her agency's role in developing and sharing information and intelligence.

- Providing input to the federal government in its efforts to develop and share criminal intelligence.

- Recommending a framework for implementing and ensuring the longevity of the standards-based intelligence plan, training and technology coordination, outreach and education, and resource coordination.

- Advising the U.S. Attorney General on the best use of criminal intelligence to keep the nation safe.

The CICC routinely collaborates with the nation's premier law enforcement, justice, and homeland security agencies and organizations, which has resulted in the development of valuable products for law enforcement to use in its daily crime-fighting efforts.

Global Strategic Solutions Working Group

In January 2013, BJA and the GAC sanctioned the establishment of the Global Strategic Solutions Working Group (GSSWG), whose mission is to identify high-priority information

sharing business problems that affect justice practitioners and develop effective solutions that increase public safety and advance the administration of justice.

Historically, Global working groups have utilized face-to-face meetings to accomplish their work. Given the current economic landscape, the GSSWG accomplishes its work using nontraditional means via flexible and temporary ad hoc task teams made up of subject-matter experts (SMEs) who meet virtually (e.g., through conference calls, Webinars, collaboration sites). Removing the demand for travel ensures that high-level experts—whose busy careers once may not have permitted involvement if travel were required—are now able to actively participate and lend their expertise by incorporating short bursts of task team activity into their routine schedules. Less demand on individuals' time means an increase in available proficiency and expertise, thus expanding the GSSWG's knowledge base and increasing the quality of targeted solutions.

The GSSWG meets only once per year during an annual priority scoping meeting to determine the business needs that will be addressed for the coming year. In addition, the group meets virtually through standing monthly conference calls, held on the first Tuesday of every month.

2014: Year in Review

In 2014, Global supported the following activities:

- Provided expertise and support to Global leadership and the Designated Federal Official (DFO) regarding Global policy issues and future direction.

- Coordinated and facilitated Global Advisory Committee (GAC) and Global Executive Steering Committee (GESC) meetings to address the coordination, needs, resources, and technical requirements for justice information integration and interoperability and to endorse information sharing products that will benefit the justice community.

- Coordinated and provided complete support to Global working group and subcommittee meetings, as needed, to address issues relating to technical requirements for justice information sharing, integration, and interoperability and to research and develop products as directed by BJA and the U.S. Attorney General, to aid the justice community in information sharing.

- Coordinated among working group chairs to provide proper support and ensure consistent direction as provided by BJA and the DFO.

- Researched, developed, edited, and disseminated Global-related documents and products in furtherance of information sharing. Produced and distributed promotional and outreach products to promote and support the goals of the Global

Initiative and to support outreach activities to highlight the goals and objectives of BJA and Global.

- Planned, developed, and supported outreach activities to communicate the goals and objectives of Global.

- Coordinated and supported the attendance of Global members and/or staff at conferences and meetings that promoted justice information sharing via the Global Initiative.

- Provided technical support to research, develop, manage, and provide content for the OJP Justice Information Sharing Web site and its suite of subsites.

- Provided support to and assisted in facilitating workshops, conferences, pilot projects, training, and outreach to help implement information sharing products and initiatives.

- Developed, produced, and distributed informational products and multimedia materials in the furtherance of justice information sharing initiatives.

- Served as liaison between Global and other information sharing projects.

Global recommendations approved by BJA during 2014 included the following:

Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council

National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan, v. 2.0—The NCISP Version 2.0 provides a way forward to continue to support law enforcement's and homeland security's ability to develop and share criminal intelligence through the identification of recommendations and action items. The resource includes both internal agency recommendations and action items, as well as action items of a national scope.

A Call to Action: Enhancing Officer Safety Through the Use of Event Deconfliction Systems— This resource addresses the importance of using an event deconfliction system in agency operations to assist in officer safety. The resource does not identify what system to use but rather encourages all agencies to use one of the three nationally recognized systems. Additional information on event deconfliction, including what systems are available in each state, is available at **https://www.ncirc.gov/Deconfliction/**.

Minimum Standards for Intermediate-Level Analytic Training Courses—This resource provides the minimum training standards for intermediate-level analytic courses. Training partners developing intermediate-level analytic courses (such as comprehensive analytic training) or specialized courses (such as report writing or analytic tradecraft development) should use these standards as they develop courses for state, local, and tribal partners.

CICC's *Five in 5*—The Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council's (CICC) *Five in 5* is a snapshot of law enforcement and criminal intelligence-related articles, resources, and research that may be of interest to CICC members and partners working to improve the nation's ability to develop and share criminal intelligence. It is distributed via e-mail each Friday to a broad audience. Distribution of this brief began on July 25, 2014, and a total of 10 *Five in 5* briefs were distributed in FY 2014.

Global Standards Council

Service specifications recommended to the field included the following:

- Subject Contact Notification Service
- Subject Contact Description Service
- Global Reference Architecture Framework
- Global Reference Architecture Execution Context Guidelines
- Aligning Justice to Health Priority Exchanges
- Service Specification Guidelines
- Service Description Document (Template)
- Service Interface Description Document (Template)
- Business Process Description Document (Template)
- Service Interaction Process Modeling Profile

Global Privacy

Finalized and obtained BJA approval on the following two documents:

Establishing a Privacy Officer Function Within a Justice or Public Safety Entity: Recommended Responsibilities and Training—introduces useful guidance for justice and public safety agencies desiring to create a privacy officer function within their entities. It provides informative answers to common questions about establishing this privacy-related role and includes a discussion on whether the agency needs a full- or part-time role, or if the agency might benefit from a shared/team approach or designation within a parent agency. Real-world examples are included to demonstrate the justice community's trend toward adopting this critical function, further emphasizing the field's growing commitment to protecting privacy. Also available are suggested privacy officer qualifications, as well as a comprehensive list of generally accepted responsibilities for the position. In addition, a resource section features a variety of general, educational/awareness, privacy impact assessment, and privacy policy development products, as well as tools for policy, analytic product, information quality, and privacy compliance evaluations. Finally, a training section highlights a variety of privacy training resources, including online videos.

Global Privacy Resources CD—This CD was developed to reflect the format and structure of the *Global Privacy Resources* booklet and online Web site, it.ojp.gov/privacy. The CD is another

medium developed to illustrate privacy-related products according to the Privacy Program Cycle. Viewers are guided electronically to the appropriate resource needed for each stage of an agency's privacy program, whether the entity needs to educate and raise awareness, assess agency privacy risks, develop a privacy policy, perform a policy evaluation, implement the policy and train personnel, or conduct an annual policy review. Users are able to select the appropriate resource to fit their needs and electronically access the most recent version of these resources housed on the OJP Information Sharing Initiatives Web site. A Privacy FAQ section is also included, as well as success stories and links to other related resources.

Global Strategic Solutions Working Group

Completed the following five documents:

Video Evidence: A Law Enforcement Guide to Resources and Best Practices—This resource provides answers to common questions that law enforcement officers, or the agencies they represent, may have regarding properly securing, collecting, storing, and analyzing video evidence by directing them to valuable tools and resources from experts in the field.

Prioritizing Justice to Health Exchanges Task Team Final Report—Information sharing between the criminal justice and health-care communities has the potential to enhance public safety and health outcomes for offenders by reducing redundancies, enhancing continuity of care, and generating efficiencies in both domains. The IJIS Institute's Criminal Justice and Health Collaboration Project identified 34 interdomain information exchanges between community-based health organizations and the criminal justice system. The GSSWG assembled a team of justice and health practitioners and subject-matter experts to review the 34 exchanges and prioritize those exchanges with the greatest potential benefit to the criminal justice community. This report outlines the consensus of the group.

Risk/Needs Assessment Data Element Recommendations for Service Specification Development, Phase 1 Report—Sharing vital information across corrections, justice domains, and domains outside of justice is a primary issue associated with defendant, probationer, or parolee management and reentry of individuals into the corrections system. A particular area of concern is the ability to obtain key information needed to populate individual risk/need assessments, especially those that evaluate potential antisocial behavior, substance problems, antisocial personality, and mental health histories. The GSSWG Corrections Management and Reentry Task Team worked to address this need by identifying data elements that are most common across multiple risk/need assessment and screening instruments.

Risk/Needs Assessment Data Element Recommendations for Service Specification Development, Phase 2 Report—In this report, the GSSWG refined the definitions of "risk factors" and "need factors," reviewed the 34 assessment instruments collected for the Phase 1 report to ensure that "need" factors were adequately represented, and analyzed and

recommended data elements for risk and need factors in the categories of substance use problems, antisocial personality, and mental health.

Call to Action and Issue Brief: Justice System Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs— Addressing the Nation's Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Epidemic—The numbers are staggering. Every day in the United States, more than 100 people die as a result of drug overdose. Strongly contributing to this devastating statistic is the nation's prescription drug abuse epidemic. Responding to this priority from the field, under the guidance of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative partners and subject-matter experts from across the country supported development of a great new resource, *Call to Action and Issue Brief: Justice System Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs— Addressing the Nation's Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Epidemic.* Focusing on states' prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs)—an extremely useful but often underutilized tool—this resource offers justice practitioners and policymakers valuable, practical, hands-on sections such as the PDMP best-practices checklist, a compendium of resources and references (including BJA's Law Enforcement *Naloxone Toolkit and Web site), and* next steps to help them address this critical public safety and public health challenge.

Global Outreach

Updated the following resource:

***Global Briefing Book* (updated)**—The newly updated Global *"Briefing Book"* highlights the impressive range of Global-supported, *for practitioners/by practitioners* information sharing tools.

The following Global and JIS-related events were supported in 2014:

- GESC Planning Session—February 12–13, 2014
- Global Partners and BJA Meeting—March 31, 2014
- GAC Biannual Meeting—June 23, 2014
- BJA Justice Information Sharing Solutions Implementation Pilot Site Meeting—June 23, 2014
- Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council (CICC) Meeting—March 3–4, 2014
- Global Standards Council Meeting—May 1, 2014
- Global Federated Identity and Privilege Management Delivery Team Meeting—June 18–19, 2014
- CICC Training Task Team Meeting—June 26, 2014
- Global Strategic Solutions Working Group Meeting—September 3–4, 2014
- CICC Meeting—September 15–16, 2014
- Monthly GSC virtual meetings
- Monthly GSC/Services Task Team virtual meetings

- Monthly GSSWG virtual meetings
- Numerous virtual meetings of GSSWG task teams

Participation in JIS-related events by Global members and/or partners in 2014 included:

- IJIS Institute National Symposium—January 15–17, 2014
- IALEIA/LEIU Annual Training Event—May 12–16, 2014
- IJIS Institute Mid-Year Briefing—August 6–8, 2014
- NCJA National Forum—August 10–13, 2014
- 2014 International Alcohol Interlock Symposium—August 17–19, 2014
- Harold Rogers PDMP National Meeting—September 22–24, 2014

Partnerships: IT Initiatives

DOJ looks forward to the ongoing support of GAC in integration activities. BJA has contributed greatly to the field by supporting the development of standards processes, privacy policy, information architecture, and outreach vehicles (e.g., the IT.OJP.GOV Web site, Global Information Sharing Toolkit [www.it.ojp.gov/gist]).

Facilitating Full Participation for All Disciplines

To reach the full information sharing capability envisioned by DOJ, all disciplines involved in justice-related efforts—including public safety constituencies—must employ information technology among their members. Historically, some disciplines and communities have had difficulties in obtaining resources to acquire and implement appropriate information systems; for example, probation, parole, public defense, pretrial services, and Indian Country agencies. While not detracting in any way from other efforts, attention should be given to identifying and addressing the technological needs of these disciplines (and others) to enable them to be full participants in broadscale justice information sharing.

To continue capitalizing on the ideals of inclusiveness and strength through diversity, as an ongoing task, Committee members will scan the justice and public safety landscapes for unrepresented or underrepresented constituencies. When necessary, additional organizations will be nominated through BJA for GAC membership.

Conclusion

Using Information to Facilitate Better, More Efficient, More Secure Business Practices for Addressing National Crises and Day-to-Day Operations

Along with the national emphasis on homeland security, citizens are anxious for justice and public safety personnel to quickly share vital information, both across town and across America,

to protect the public. In these endeavors, DOJ, through the GAC, provides a valuable resource, particularly in light of fundamental efforts accomplished well in advance of pivotal national events.

DOJ has long realized that justice information sharing, above and beyond the crisis of the day, is a national imperative. In fact, every agency involved in the apprehension, adjudication, and incarceration of offenders requires information from other justice entities *on a daily basis* to do its job. Further, entities outside the justice community—including schools, child-care services, transportation, and licensing agencies—need this capability to perform routine business activities, such as hiring new personnel, approving gun purchases, or granting professional licenses.

While today's sense of urgency—evidenced by increased public and governmental interest—may be a harbinger of the support necessary to make broadscale justice and public safety information sharing a reality, technical, programmatic, and policy issues still must be addressed within a community of shared interests. DOJ has created that community of shared interests through the GAC.

Looking ahead, the combined expertise of GAC will continue to support the U.S. Attorney General; DOJ; DHS; PM-ISE; local, state, and tribal governments; industry; and practitioners across the nation in pursuing public safety and homeland security through the powerful currency of timely, accurate, complete, and accessible information shared in a secure and trusted environment.