**Intergovernmental Advisory Board to Host Webinar on JRA**

The Intergovernmental Advisory Board will host a Webinar on Thursday, August 14, at 2:00 P.M. EDT. The topic of the Webinar will be Justice Reference Architecture (JRA). The upcoming Webinar will focus on a collaborative effort with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global). This collaborative effort, supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), was created to help address ongoing interoperability challenges between the approximately 100,000 justice agencies at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels by utilizing recent advancements in technology and architectural design. Within these agencies, there is a need to share information across their various information systems and with external partners as well. This creates multiple layers of interoperability challenge because of differences in hardware, software, networks, and business rules.

The Justice Reference Architecture (JRA) initiative was created following the success of the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM) and subsequently, the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), which addresses data standards for information exchange across the justice community. The success of these models led to the need to address other barriers to interoperability beyond data standardization. The JRA offers a service-oriented architecture (SOA) solution that enables interoperable data sharing services, guides implementation, and facilitates collaboration among disparate communities. The goal of the JRA is to enable efficiency and agility, avoid incompatibility of system architectures, and guide the private sector in developing adaptive products by establishing a framework based on consensus national standards such as the OASIS SOA Reference Model. By adhering to JRA guidelines and adopting reusable services, the justice community will be more effectively positioned to address the changing threats and emerging challenges faced by our justice and public safety officials.

This meeting will feature a presentation by Thomas M. Clarke, Vice President of Research and Technology for the National Center for State Courts. Mr. Clarke is the former CIO of the Washington state courts. He participated in the inaugural project to establish an enterprise architecture for Washington state government. Since 2005,   
Mr. Clarke has led the research and technology practice at the National Center for State Courts. As a national court consultant, he speaks frequently on topics relating to service-oriented architecture, enterprise architecture, and national technology standards for government.

Mr. Clarke is the Cochair of the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC), and the Chair of the DOJ-sponsored Global Infrastructure and Standards Working Group, which includes the Justice Reference Architecture (JRA) initiative. He is also the former Cochair of the OASIS Technical Committee on court electronic filing standards.