

Subject: Mailchimp Template Test - "Check out our new Witness Intimidation Resource!"

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FEATURED RESOURCE

[Victim/Witness Intimidation Survey](#)

This survey can help prosecutors, victim advocates, and law enforcement educate victims about the dynamics of witness intimidation, uncover intimidation occurring in their cases, and identify appropriate safety measures. The resource can also be used as an evidence-gathering tool to support bail arguments, additional charges, forfeiture by wrongdoing motions, or conditions of release.



STRATEGIES IN FOCUS

York County District Attorney's Office

The [York County District Attorney's Office](#) (DA's Office) Group Violence Intervention Program (GVI) is a collaborative violence prevention and reduction program focused on identifying at-risk youth and connecting them with community-based services. Through IPS, the DA's Office hired a specialized GVI prosecutor who assesses juvenile offenders for either diversion or traditional prosecution. When the GVI prosecutor determines that



a juvenile is eligible for pre-charge diversion, the County's Human Services Family Engagement Unit works with that juvenile to pursue alternatives to prosecution, including participation in Family Group Decision Making meetings. The program is now in the process of expanding to neighboring cities to reach even more at-risk youth.

CASE HIGHLIGHT

[*Jones v. Mississippi*, 593 U. S. ____ \(2021\)](#)

When Brett Jones was 15 years old, he murdered his grandfather by stabbing him 8 times. Jones was convicted of murder and was given a mandatory sentence of life without the possibility of parole. Jones appealed, relying on the decision in [*Miller v. Alabama*, 567 U. S. 460 \(2012\)](#), which allows for *discretionary* sentences of life without parole for juveniles convicted of murder but prohibits the *mandatory* sentencing of life without parole for these juveniles. The Supreme Court of Mississippi ordered a new sentencing hearing where the sentencing judge could consider Jones' youth and exercise discretion in selecting an appropriate sentence. The judge acknowledged that he had discretion under *Miller* to impose a sentence less than life without parole, but held that life without parole remained the appropriate sentence for Jones. Jones appealed, arguing that the judge incorrectly imposed a life without parole sentence without making a separate factual finding that Jones is permanently incorrigible. The Supreme Court of the United States rejected Jones' argument and held that it was inconsistent with the Court's precedent in *Miller* and in [*Montgomery v. Louisiana*, 577 U. S. 190, 211 \(2016\)](#). *Montgomery* stated, "*Miller* did not impose a formal factfinding requirement" and added that "a finding of fact regarding a child's incorrigibility . . . is not required." Therefore, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed Jones' sentence of life without parole.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

March 10, 2022, 2 PM ET – 4 PM ET: PCE Pop-Up: Bringing in the Community — PCE Pop-Ups feature current topics in prosecution through short presentations and discussion sponsored by the [Prosecutors' Center for Excellence](#) and [AEquitas](#). This pop-up discusses prosecutors' evolving use of community advisory boards and features the following offices: the [Jackson County Prosecutor's Office](#) in Kansas City, MO; [The Commonwealth's Attorney](#) in Alexandria, VA; and the

[Davis County Attorney's Office](#) in Farmington, UT. [Register here.](#)

March 17, 2022, 2 PM ET – 4 PM ET: AEquitas' Office Hours — Join AEquitas on the third Thursday of every month to discuss your questions regarding the prosecution of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and stalking with experienced prosecutors and other participants in the field. This month, we are discussing strategies for determining the predominant aggressor when investigating domestic violence. [Register here.](#)

March 30, 2022 – April 1, 2022: Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG) Virtual Training — Hosted by RTI International, on behalf of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), this [3-day virtual training](#) is open to law enforcement, attorneys, and crime analysts. The training will provide an opportunity for all applicable BJA-funded grantees and non-funded jurisdictions to discuss best practices, identify approaches to common challenges, and collaborate with partners to further the successful implementation of FGG into their investigative workflows. Registration will close on March 18, 2022. [Register here.](#)



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[OVW Fiscal Year 2022 Justice for Families Program](#)

The Grants to Support Families in the Justice System program supports court-based and court-related programs, supervised visitation and safe exchange between parents, training for those who work with families in the court system, civil legal services, and the provision of resources in juvenile court matters. Applications are accepted until March 10, 2022.

[FY 2022 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation \(CTAS\)](#)

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is seeking applications for funding to improve public safety and victim services in tribal communities. The Coordination Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) provides federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia an opportunity to apply for funding to aid in developing a comprehensive

and coordinated approach to public safety and victimization. Applications are accepted until March 15, 2022.

[Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Behavioral Health Care Support](#)

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a multi-year initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD) in high-risk rural communities. The Behavioral Health Care Support will advance RCORP's overall goal by improving access to and quality of SUD and other behavioral health care services in rural communities. Applications are accepted until April 19, 2022.

[OVW Fiscal Year 2022 Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life](#)

The Abuse in Later Life Program supports a comprehensive approach to addressing abuse in later life, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, neglect, and exploitation committed against victims who are 50 years of age or older. Applications are accepted until April 21, 2022.



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