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## INTRODUCTION

The Editorial Board is pleased to present the first issue of volume six of the *Drug Court Review* (Volume VI, 1). This issue of Volume VI takes a look at three issues of pertinence to the drug court field: *sanctioning practices, outcomes for differing court populations and approaches*, and *family dependency treatment courts*. Though they address divergent issues, each article helps deepen the literature available to the drug court field.

In this issue:

- ◆ Patricia L. Arabia, M.S., Gloria Fox, M.S., Jill Caughie, B.A., Douglas B. Marlowe, J.D., Ph.D., and David S. Festinger, Ph.D., explore the issue of sanctions in adult drug court. The authors examine the specific sanctioning practices of a court in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in terms of established literature on behavior modification.
- ◆ Deborah K. Shaffer, Ph.D., Shelley J. Listwan, Ph.D., Edward J. Latessa, Ph.D., and Christopher T. Lowenkamp, Ph.D., examine the results of an evaluation of drug courts in Ohio in terms of differing outcomes for felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile populations.
- ◆ Judge Nicolette M. Pach (ret.) establishes an agenda for a national conversation about family dependency treatment court best practices and circumstantial permutations.



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## **THE DRUG COURT REVIEW**

Published semi-annually, the *Review*'s goal is to keep the drug court practitioner abreast of important new developments in the drug court field. Drug courts demand a great deal of time and energy of the practitioner. There is little opportunity to read lengthy evaluations or keep up with important research in the field. Yet, the ability to marshal scientific and research information and "argue the facts" can be critical to a program's success and ultimate survival.

The *Review* builds a bridge between law, science, and clinical communities, providing a common tool to all. A headnote and subject indexing system allows access to evaluation outcomes, scientific analysis, and research on drug court related areas. Scientific jargon and legalese are interpreted for the practitioner into common language.

Although the *Review*'s emphasis is on scholarship and scientific research, it also provides commentary from experts in the drug court and related fields on important issues to drug court practitioners.

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## **THE NATIONAL DRUG COURT INSTITUTE**

The *Drug Court Review* is a project of the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI). NDCI was established under the auspices of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals with support from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice.

NDCI's mission is to promote education, research, and scholarship to the drug court field and other court-based intervention programs.

Historically, education and training in the drug court field have only been available at regional workshops and the annual national conference; analysis and scholarship were largely limited to anecdotes and personal accounts.

That situation has changed. Evaluations exist on dozens of drug court programs. Scholars and researchers continue to apply the rigors of scientific review and analysis to the drug court model. The level of experience and expertise necessary to support such an institution now exist.

Since its creation in December 1997, NDCI has launched a comprehensive practitioner training series for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, court coordinators, treatment providers, and community supervision officers; developed a research division responsible for developing a scientific research agenda and publication dissemination strategy for the field, and developed a series of evaluation workshops; and published a monograph series on relevant issues to drug court institutionalization and expansion.

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