

Scholarship Recipient's Study of Restorative Justice Shows Promising Results

Marin Hoplamazian, J.D., recipient of the VCCJA 2008 research scholarship, completed her work this summer, and the result: *Restorative Justice in Virginia: Past, Present and Future*, is a thorough, state of the literature review of the field. The 80 page paper examines current research on both the restorative justice process of victim-offender mediation and on community corrections, with particular emphasis on the respective impacts of each on offender recidivism rates and on the most recent evidence-based practices (EBP) in each field. The paper also provides case studies of three restorative justice programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia, both thriving and struggling. Also incorporated are insights and advice from both the author and restorative justice practitioners in Virginia with regard to spreading the word about restorative justice so as to increase awareness and support for the alternative model. The paper concludes that while further research on restorative justice's and community corrections' effects on recidivism rates and on EBP is necessary, the current research overwhelmingly indicates that both enterprises reduce recidivism rates as compared with traditional incarceration methods, and that they have the capacity to reduce them even further if implemented in stronger conformity with EBP.

Ms. Hoplamazian is a 2009 graduate of the School of Law at the College of William & Mary, and is currently employed by the Supreme Court of Virginia. For more information on her paper, please see the VCCJA website at <http://www.vccja.org>.