

FOREWARD

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Welcome to the Veterans Treatment Court Edition of our inaugural issue of the *Drug Court Review*. It is my privilege to release this edition on the 10th anniversary of the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court, which first opened its doors in 2008.

Since our founding nearly a century ago, the School of Public Affairs at American University has cultivated and enhanced careers in public service while producing transformational research that drives progress in policy, politics, and public administration. Our school has tackled complex issues with thoughtful research that educates, informs, and promotes change across a multitude of fields while seeking to bridge academic thought and policy planning.

This issue of *Drug Court Review* provides the treatment court field with insight into and research on veterans treatment courts and was created to address a knowledge gap in the field—a paucity of research on veterans treatment courts. The goal of this edition of the *Review* is to foster a wider understanding of veterans treatment courts, including the issues, challenges, and successes they have experienced. Through this journal, the treatment court field will have access to a variety of research, policy, and practice articles, compiled especially to bridge academic research and practice.

As the dean of the School of Public Affairs (SPA) at American University, I am often faced with the challenges experienced by students who have served and are serving in our uniformed services. SPA is proud to support veterans and service members through our Key Executive Leadership programs, which directly align with my personal goal of supporting our nation's military personnel. Through the Justice Programs Office (JPO), SPA's center on criminal justice research, policy, and practice that publishes the *Drug Court Review*, I am honored to support the furtherance of the treatment court movement that developed veterans treatment courts. These court programs provide assistance to offenders with a history of military service struggling with substance use and mental health disorders, helping them access treatment and the programs, benefits, and services they have earned while providing them with an alternative to jail.

JPO's inaugural issue highlights the importance of and need for future research about veterans treatment courts, as well as innovations in practice and policy to their benefit. I would like to thank the *Drug Court Review* Advisory Committee for their guidance and input on this issue. I would also like to express my gratitude to this issue's Editorial Team and JPO Director Kim Ball for creating a publication on such a timely and important topic.

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Veterans can be motivated by encouragement from other veterans, veterans can be a support for each other, . . . incorporating military culture can be of value in a treatment court setting.