

The background of the cover is a close-up photograph of several wheat stalks, rendered in a monochromatic green color. The stalks are in various stages of growth, with some showing developing grain heads.

STAR
Criminal Justice
Bibliography

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Background

Wendy Davis, *No Country for Rural Lawyers: Small-town attorneys find it hard to thrive*, ABA Journal, (Feb. 1, 2020).

This article discusses the challenges rural and small-town lawyers face when practicing law. Even with financial assistance and other resources provided by access to justice programs, rural lawyers who are new to the area may struggle to build a client base, suggesting locally sourced lawyers or lawyers with local advocates maybe the key to successful initiatives.

Judy M. Cornett & Heather H. Bosau, *The Myth of the Country Lawyer*, 83 Alb. L. Rev. 125 (2020).

This article explores the realities of rural legal practice. It suggests that the idea of rural lawyers as “jacks-of-all-trades” is becoming less true in the age of specialized practices and that much of a rural lawyer’s time is spent networking for clients. It warns that the disconnect between what one expects the rural practice to be and what it is in practice, may be a key misconception when addressing legal deserts.

Meghan E. Hollis & Shannon Hankhouse, *The Growth of Rural Criminology: Introduction to the Special Issue*, 21 Crime Prevention & Cmty. Safety 177 (2019).

This article describes the growth of rural criminology in recent years. Shared scholarship now exists between individuals who are more likely to describe themselves as rural criminologists. Despite the growth, rural societies are often still missing in academic publications. The article calls for future scholarship to be devoted to the functions of rural courts and their distinctions from their urban counterparts. It suggests that rural criminologists must move beyond urban criminology traditionsto explore this growing field.

Taier Perlman, *Rural Law Practices in New York State*, (Alb. L. Sch. Gov’t L. Ctr. ed., 2019).

Using survey data of rural practitioners, the Government Law Center determined that most rural legal practices are either solo practices or has five or less attorneys. Consequently, rural attorneys may find themselves overburdened with caseloads and financial stress and may struggle to build a network of attorneys to whomthey can refer cases. Finally, this report indicates that most rural attorneys are at or near retirement age, and many critical practice areas are already experiencing shortages of practitioners.

COSCA Pol’y & Liaison Comm., *Courts Need to Enhance Access to Justice in Rural America*, (Conf. of State Ct. Adm’rs ed., 2018).

This policy paper explores rural justice in the civil and criminal contexts. It offers an excellent overview of how rurality impacts court systems. Materials include proposals to improve rural residents’ access to justice, such as court appearances by video or telephone, online dispute resolution, and court consolidation.

New York State Bar Association, *Rural Justice in New York State: Challenges and Recommendations*, 17 Gov’t, L., & Pol’y J. 1 (2018).

This publication addresses rural justice in New York but is also relevant to rural communities nationwide.

Robin Runge, *Addressing the Access to Justice Crisis in Rural America*, American Bar Association, (Jul. 01, 2014).

This article describes rural America’s access to justice crisis and its intersection with race and poverty. Runge surveys contemporary efforts to improve rural access to justice and offers new solutions to the problem.

Elaine Nugent-Borakove et. al, *Strengthening Rural Courts: Challenges & Progress* (National Center for State Courts ed. 2011).

This publication offers an overview of the challenges facing rural courts. The report identifies several key areas of need, including enhanced technology; increasing access to interpreters; readily available treatment services for substance use disorder and mental illness; improving transportation alternatives; and upgrading public defense services.

Lisa R. Pruitt, *Rural Rhetoric*, 39 Conn. L. Rev. 159 (2006).

This article explores the legal relevance of rurality in a wide range of contexts, including criminal law. The article critiques a nostalgic rhetoric about safe, self-sufficient, and self-contained rural communities. It warns judges against relying on stereotypes and encourages closer attention to rural realities, including differences among rural people and places.

Thomas D. McDonald, *Rural Criminal Justice: Conditions, Constraints, and Challenges* (Sheffield Pub. Co. ed. 1996).

This book supplements criminal justice course materials by providing commentary on the often-neglected topic of criminal justice in rural America.

Criminal Law Deserts

Metzger, P., Meeks, K., & Pishko, J. *Greening the Desert: Strategies and Innovations to Recruit, Train, and Retain Criminal Law Practitioners for STAR Communities*, Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center (Sept. 2020).

The report explores STAR criminal justice communities and describes strategies and initiatives to green these criminal law deserts. Using case studies, the report offers concrete examples of successful innovations. It also includes cautionary notes about risks that may arise with the implementation of strategies to recruit, train, and retain STAR practitioners. A companion [webinar](#) explores the national landscape and chronicles how two STAR criminal lawyers found their way to rural practice.

Lisa R. Pruitt et. al, *Legal Deserts: A Multi-State Perspective on Rural Access to Justice*, 13 Harv. L. & Pol'y Rev. 15 (2018).

This study examines rural legal systems in California, Georgia, Maine, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The article offers a detailed demographic picture of rural lawyering in each state, explores common themes, and encourages continued study of rural areas' legal needs.

Lisa R. Pruitt & Bradely Showman, *Law Stretched Thin: Access to Justice in Rural America*, 59 S. D. L. Rev. 466 (2014).

This data-rich article discusses a wide range of rural legal issues, including access to justice in criminal cases. The article chronicles the ethical and economic challenges that confront rural lawyers. It also covers how paralegal support, technologic innovations, non-profit community support, and collaboration between rural and urban lawyers might help meet the rural communities' legal needs.

Hannah Alsgaard, *Rural Incentive Programs for Legal and Medical Professionals: A Comparative*, 59 S.D. L. Rev. 585 (2014).

Written for a South Dakota Law Review symposium about the rapidly declining number of rural attorneys, this article offers a comparative analysis of the incentive programs designed to recruit medical and legal professionals to practice in rural areas. It includes an in-depth discussion of South Dakota's Project Rural Practice program for lawyers.

Hon. Judith K Meierhenry, *Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest: A Guide for South Dakota Lawyers*, 59 S.D. L. Rev 557 (2014).

Sparsely populated rural communities inherently create conflicts of interest for lawyers who practice in those communities. This article offers practical guidance for South Dakota lawyers who must address those conflicts.

Diane E. Courselle, Symposium: When Clinics Are “Necessities, Not Luxuries”: Special Challenges of Running a Criminal Appeals Clinic in a Rural State, 75 Miss. L. J. 721 (2005).

A shortage of experienced rural criminal defense lawyers can mean that law school clinical programs shoulder a substantial part of the burden of providing Sixth Amendment representation. This article describes the challenges of limiting clinical workloads in the face of political pressure from judges and the state bar. It also discusses the difficulty of providing conflict-free representation in rural areas. Further, it includes suggestions for recruiting new lawyers to rural law practices and developing holistic models for rural representation.

The Spangenberg Group, Executive Summary Status of Indigent Defense in Georgia: A Study for the Chief Justice’s Commission in Indigent Defense (The Spangenberg Group ed. 2003).

This study of Georgia’s public defense system concludes that insufficient funding and a lack of program oversight are two significant obstacles to the delivery of indigent defense services. Although the study looks at public defense in a wide range of contexts, it identifies issues of special concern for Georgia’s rural communities.

Legal Deserts (General)

Kelly V. Baskin & Lisa R. Pruitt, A Survey of Policy Responses to the Rural Attorney Shortage in the United States, (UC Davis Legal Stud. Rsch. Paper Series Working Paper, May 24, 2021).

This policy overview highlights programs combatting the growing legal desert phenomenon and the graying of the bar. It focuses on financial incentives offered to lawyers, rural externship programs and other co-curricular activities in law schools, and succession planning for older lawyers. The article suggests a combination of better technology and more rural lawyers are needed and that each policy initiative’s success should be evaluated on a state-by-state basis.

Lisa R. Pruitt & Andrew Davies, Investigating Access to Justice, the Rural Lawyer Shortage, and Implications for Civil and Criminal Legal Systems, (UC Davis Legal. Stud. Rsch. Paper Series Working Paper No. 526, 2021).

This article examines access to justice (A2J) and the metrics used to determine the availability of equal access to courts and pretrial alternatives to resolving disputes. The growing attorney shortage in rural areas is a crucial factor in the A2J problem. Metrics, surveys, and ethnographic research are used to analyze A2J. The article discusses A2J, specific rural deficits, and indigent defense in rural criminal justice.

Michele Statz & Paula Termuhlen, *Rural Legal Deserts Are a Critical Health Determinant*, 110(10) Am. J. Pub. Health 1519 (2020).

This article details the public health detriments that rural communities encounter when their members are exposed to the criminal legal system, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Without rural attorneys, healthcare professionals cannot refer immigrant patients to civil legal aid, substance abuse treatment is delayed, and rural interprofessional courts lag behind their urban counterparts.

Hillary A. Wandler, *Spreading Justice to Rural Montana: Expanding Local Legal Services in Underserved Rural Communities*, 77 Mont. L. Rev. 235 (2016).

This article explores the substantial barriers that confront new law graduates who want to enter rural practice. It describes the population, isolation, and poverty of Montana's rural communities, and calls for further research into their legal needs. It identifies programs that encourage new lawyers to enter sustainable rural legal practices and urges the development of post-graduate legal incubators to support and mentor them.

Brian L. Lynch, *Access to Legal Services in Rural Areas of the Northern Rockies: A Recommendation for Town Legal Centers*, 90 Ind. L. J. 1683 (2015).

This article proposes the Northern Rockies states (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) create statewide networks of "Town Legal Centers" that can operate as virtual law offices, allowing residents to meet with legal professionals from around the state.

Hon. Judith K Meierhenry, *Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest: A Guide for South Dakota Lawyers*, 59 S.D. L. Rev 557 (2014).

Sparsely populated rural communities inherently create conflicts of interest for lawyers who practice in those communities. This article offers practical guidance for South Dakota lawyers who must address those conflicts.

Nancy Villarreal, *Improving Legal Aid to Rural Communities in California*, 20 Berkeley La Raza L. J. 192 (2010).

This article analyzes the legal needs of California's rural communities and recommends new ways to meet those needs. Recommendations include exposing law students to rural practice; incentivizing rural private practice; and reallocating state and federal funding for rural legal aid.

Donald D. Landon, *Country Lawyers: The Impact of Context on Professional Practice*, (The University of Chicago ed., 1991).

Based on interviews with 201 attorneys from 116 different communities, this book identifies the structural influences that shape small-town and rural practice as well as the rural bar.

Technology

Lisa R. Pruitt & Zach Newman, *The Role of Technology in Enhancing Rural Access to Justice*, (The California Commission on Access to Justice ed., 2020).

This article examines how geographical isolation creates barriers for rural Americans in accessing legal services. It explains that using teleconferencing, mobile apps, and web-based documents increase legal processes' efficiency by reducing travel times. The article was published shortly after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and includes some notes about how technology can be used during crises.

COSCA Pol'y & Liaison Comm., *Courts Need to Enhance Access to Justice in Rural America*, (Conf. of State Ct. Adm'rs ed., 2018).

As part of its broader assessment of ways to improve rural justice, this policy paper proposes that courts consider allowing lawyers and litigants to make appearances by video conference or by telephone. The paper expresses some reservations about whether these technologies should be used in criminal cases.

Alison Shames & Ram Subramanian, *Remote Access: Using Video Technology to Treat Substance Users on Probation and Parole in South Dakota*, Vera Institute of Justice (Oct. 2016).

This policy brief focuses on a South Dakota program that uses video technology to increase access to substance use treatment services for people on probation and parole, especially in rural areas. The brief describes the program's implementation process and includes suggestions for other jurisdictions seeking to launch similar programs.

Jessica Saunders et. al., *The Justice Innovation Center: Identifying the Needs and Challenges of Criminal Justice Agencies in Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border Areas* (RAND Corporation ed., 2016).

This report assists policymakers and practitioners interested in the unmet technological needs of small, rural, tribal, and border criminal justice agencies. The key findings explore general challenges and the advantages of better technology for rural criminal justice systems.

Brian L. Lynch, *Access to Legal Services in Rural Areas of the Northern Rockies: A Recommendation for Town Legal Centers*, 90 Ind. L. J. 1683 (2015).

This article proposes that Northern Rockies states (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) create statewide networks of “Town Legal Centers” that operate as virtual law offices, allowing residents to meet with lawyers from around the state.

James E. Cabral et. al, *Using Technology to Enhance Access to Justice*, 26 Harv. J. of L. & Tech. 241 (2012).

This article comprises of six papers prepared for the Legal Services Corporation’s summit on using technology to expand access to justice. It describes the successful use of technology to deliver information and services related to access to justice and discusses barriers that may prevent poor or technologically unsophisticated people from using these new technologies.

Prosecutors

Office for Victims of Crime, *Rural Victim Assistance: A Victim/Witness Guide for Rural Prosecutors* (last accessed Feb. 25, 2022).

This guide provides an overview of the challenges that rural prosecutors face in providing assistance to crime victims. It also includes tips and strategies for overcoming these challenges based on a survey of rural prosecutors.

Madison McWithey, *Taking a Deeper Dive into Progressive Prosecution: Evaluating the Trend Through the Lens of Geography: Part One: Internal Constraints*, 61 B.C.L. Rev. E.Supp. I.-32 (2020).

The article examines the trend of progressive prosecutors in rural and urban environments through internal constraints such as their motivations and interactions with line prosecutors. It suggests that interactions between rural progressive prosecutors, line prosecutors, and the community create a greater opportunity to implement progressive policies. The unique environment of rural justice systems and the familiarity between would-be adversaries could lead to reformative policies taking hold.

Maybell Romero, *Rural Spaces, Communities of Color, and the Progressive Prosecutor*, 110 J. of Crim. L. & Criminology 803 (2020).

This article addresses the issues associated with the emerging trend of progressive prosecutors, such as the dissonance of their work in rural communities, the malleable definition of “progressive,” and the demography of prosecutors themselves. The article dispels common misconceptions about rural areas, explaining that they exist in every state and are more diverse than they tend to be portrayed. It also contends that it is impossible to be truly progressive while participating in the criminal legal system.

Maybell Romero, *Viewing Access to Justice for Rural Mainers of Color Through a Prosecution Lens*, 71 Me. L. Rev. 2 (2019).

This article considers how Maine prosecutors can help ensure access to justice for rural Mainers of color. It urges prosecutors to collect data about their offices’ racial composition and discretionary choices and standardize their training on racism, bias, and cultural competence.

John F. Pfaff, *Criminal Punishment and the Politics of Place*, 45 Fordham Urb. L.J. 571 (2018).

This article explores how geography shapes the politics of punishment and advocates for the election of prosecutors at a local—rather than county—level.

Joseph B. Sanborn Jr., *Guardian of the Public and/or The Child: Policy Questions and Conflicts for the Juvenile Court Prosecutor*, 18 Just. Sys. J. 141 (2014).

In this study, 100 juvenile court workers (judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers) from three juvenile courts (urban, suburban, rural) were interviewed to determine how prosecutors were operating in juvenile court and what these workers perceived to be the proper role for prosecutors.

Stephen J. Ziegler & Nicholas P. Lovrich Jr., *Pain Relief, Prescription Drugs, and Prosecution: A Four-State Survey of Chief Prosecutors*, 31 J. of L., Med. & Ethics 75 (2003).

This article highlights the discretionary power of prosecutors to pursue action against those using prescription drugs for pain relief through four interviews of rural prosecutors.

Public Defense and the Right to Counsel

Maybell Romero, *Low-Ball Rural Defense*, Wash. U. L. Rev. (forthcoming Jul. 2022).

This article examines the different methods of public defense created post-Gideon and how they fail to meet the needs of rural communities. It includes many examples of the bidding process for public defense work in rural jurisdictions. It analyzes how the language of those requests for proposals forces lawyers to compete in the devaluation of their services. The article also details how “noble cause corruption” can result from public defenders’ desires to benefit their clients under a restrictive system.

Donald F. Fontaine, *Fee Shifting: A Proposal to Solve Maine’s Intractable Access to Justice Problem*, 72 Me. L. Rev. 47 (2020).

The article proposes a fee shifting program to increase the number of attorneys taking on indigent clients in Maine’s legal deserts. It would give already busy rural attorneys the time to fully represent a client, rather than advise-only or take on portions of their cases, providing more equal justice for all.

Hannah Haksgaard, *Court-Appointment Compensation and Rural Access to Justice*, 14 Univ. of St. Thomas J. of L. & Pub. Pol’y 88 (2020).

This article provides an analysis of the systems used to pay rural attorneys in court-appointed cases, an examination of how low hourly rates contribute to legal deserts, and potential solutions for the lack of legal access in rural areas. It recommends increasing the number of attorneys in rural areas, providing local salaried legal aid or public defender positions, and student loan debt forgiveness.

Alissa Pollitz Worden et. al, *The Impact of Counsel at First Appearance on Pretrial Release in Felony Arraignments*, 31 Crim. Just. Pol’y Rev. 833 (2019).

This article examines the effects of counsel at first appearance (CAFA) on release and bail decisions by judges. Focusing specifically on two rural counties in upstate New York, the researchers found mixed results. They hypothesized that CAFA would coincide with a greater likelihood of the client being released with supervision, less restrictive bail amounts, and overall, less time detained. The article notes that further research regarding CAFA is needed and must include rural jurisdictions in their studies.

Andrew Davies & Alyssa Clark, *Access to Counsel in Local Courts in Rural New York State*, 17 Gov. L. & Pol’y J. 15 (2018).

Rural courts in New York are under-resourced and geographically dispersed. This article discusses two challenges in providing criminal defendants in rural court with the assistance of appointed defense counsel—establishing the defendant’s financial eligibility for services and securing defense counsel’s physical presence at first appearances.

Patrick Wood, *Tribal Courts and Access to Counsel: The Breaking of Gideon’s Promise in Indian Country*, 17 Gov. L. & Pol’y J. 26 (2018).

This article explores the benefits, feasibility, and drawbacks of guaranteeing the right to counsel across all Indian country by providing indigent Indian defendants with defense attorneys at federal or state government expense in criminal cases conducted in tribal court.

Lisa R. Pruitt et. al, *Access to Justice in Rural Arkansas*, UC Davis Legal Stud. Rsch. Paper No. 426 (2015).

A report on the access-to-justice crisis in rural Arkansas.

Lisa R. Pruitt & Beth A. Colgan, *Justice Deserts: Spatial Inequality and Local Funding of Indigent Defense*, 52 Arizona L. Rev. 219 (2010).

This article explores inequality in the delivery of rural public defense services. Through an in-depth assessment of five Arizona counties, the article exposes how county-funded public defenses systems disadvantage rural defendants. It advocates centralized state funding of the Sixth Amendment right to counsel. Litigation strategies invoking the Sixth Amendment right to counsel and the Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection Clause are also proposed.

Diane E. Courselle, *Symposium: When Clinics Are “Necessities, Not Luxuries”: Special Challenges of Running a Criminal Appeals Clinic in a Rural State*, 75 Miss. L. J. 721 (2005).

In rural states, law school clinical programs shoulder a substantial part of the burden of meeting poor people’s legal needs. This article describes the challenges of setting, and maintaining, reasonable limits on clinical workloads in the face of political pressure from judges and the state bar. The article also discusses the challenge of providing conflict-free representation in areas where there are very few experienced criminal defense attorneys.

The Spangenberg Group, *Executive Summary Status of Indigent Defense in Georgia: A Study for the Chief Justice's Commission in Indigent Defense* (The Spangenberg Group ed. 2003).

This study of Georgia's public defense system concludes that a lack of program oversight and insufficient funding are two significant problems in the delivery of indigent defense services. Although the study looks at public defense in a wide range of contexts, it identifies issues of special concern for rural communities.

Court Systems and Court Personnel

COSCA Pol'y & Liaison Comm., *Courts Need to Enhance Access to Justice in Rural America* (Conf. of State Ct. Adm'rs ed., 2018).

This policy paper describes how rurality impacts criminal and civil courts. It explores strategies to improve rural residents' access to justice. Those strategies include video (or telephone) court appearances; online dispute resolution; and court consolidation.

Hans Jessup et al, *Rural District court Judicial Travel in Nevada, Fiscal Years 2011-16* (Supreme Court of Nevada ed., 2017).

This rural judicial travel report (the third published by the Nevada Supreme Court) demonstrates that rural judges who "ride circuit" have notably less time available for their judicial obligations than their urban counterparts. On average, these judges spend 6.1 hours per week on the road and out of the courtroom.

Elaine Nugent-Borakove et. al, *Strengthening Rural Courts: Challenges & Progress* (National Center for State Courts ed. 2011).

This publication offers an overview of the challenges facing rural courts. The report identifies several key areas of need, including enhanced technology; increasing access to interpreters; readily available treatment services for substance use disorder and mental illness; improving transportation alternatives; and upgrading public defense services.

Gordon M. Griller et al., *Reengineering Rural Justice in Minnesota's Eighth Judicial District : A Case Study: Improving Efficiencies, Reducing Costs, and Enhancing Operations in Rural Courts* (National Center for State Courts eds. 2010).

This detailed report analyzes the issues facing Minnesota's Eighth Judicial District and other similarly rural courts. Those issues include declining population and workload; diffusion of resources over several counties and court facilities; special problems of access; and challenges in providing clerical and administrative services.

The report makes recommendations for how to reengineer court processes in the District.

Hon. John C. McKeon & Hon. David G. Rice, *Administering Justice in Montana's Rural Courts*, 70 Mont. L. Rev. 201 (2009).

Two Montana judges describe the day-to-day rewards and risks that confront rural courts handling civil and criminal matters. Topics include transportation, access to treatment substance use and mental health treatment, court staffing, court infrastructure, technology, and conflicts of interest.

Crime and Policing

Ashley Lockwood & April Terry, *Community stakeholders' perceptions of crime and victimization: A mixed-methods approach to understanding collective efficacy and social cohesion in the rural heartland*, 6 Int'l J. of Rural Criminology 97 (2021).

This study expands collective efficacy, a criminological perspective on crime and victimization, to rural communities. It notes that rural spaces are often characterized as close-knit communities with perceived differences in handling crime. While the quantitative results do not demonstrate differences in how urban and rural communities handle crime, surveys indicate that rural communities intervene with crime and victimization only in extreme scenarios.

***The Rural Texas Sheriff*, Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center (April 2021).**

The *Rural Texas Sheriff* reports on a focus group conducted in conjunction with the Center's 2019 Rural Criminal Justice Summit. The report places rural Texas sheriffs and their agencies in a national context. It also offers insight into the focus group's perceptions of rural law enforcement and jail management.

Jacob Whiton, *In Too Many American Communities, Mass Incarceration Has Become a Jobs Program*, Brookings (Jun. 18, 2020).

This article highlights the increasing reliance on incarceration to provide local jobs for the rural labor pool. It considers the renewed calls for reallocation of resources away from criminal justice entities while balancing the significant economic implications for these labor markets.

Lauren Weisner et al., *Issues in Policing Rural Areas: A Review of the Literature*, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Mar. 18, 2020).

This article discusses the lack of research on rural policing issues. It notes that this research is critical as most police departments are in rural areas. Many rural departments are underfunded, understaffed, and equipped with inferior technology compared to their urban counterparts. The article calls for more research concerning the differences between rural and urban policing so rural officers may find unique solutions for their departments' needs.

Lauren Weisner et al., *Criminal Justice System Utilization in Rural Areas*, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (Mar. 18, 2020).

This article compares data on criminal justice system in Illinois' rural and urban counties. It highlights the lack of resources addressing the root causes of criminality in rural communities and notes that shifting criminal justice reforms to be rural-specific may help create widespread change.

Meghan E. Hollis & Shannon Hankhouse, *The Growth of Rural Criminology: Introduction to the Special Issue*, 21 Crime Prevention & Cmty. Safety 177 (2019).

This article describes the growth of rural criminology in recent years. Despite the growth of shared scholarships, rural societies are often still missing in academic publications. The article calls for future scholarship to be devoted to the functions of rural courts and their distinctions from their urban counterparts. It suggests that rural criminologists must move beyond urban criminology traditions to explore this growing field.

Callie Marie Rennison & Walter S. DeKeseredy, *Violent Girls in the United States: Urban, Suburban, and Rural Differences*, (Rennison & DeKeseredy eds., 2018).

This article examines the evolution of rural criminology, notes the dearth of research about violence among rural girls, and proposes a research agenda.

Jessica Saunders et. al., *The Justice Innovation Center: Identifying the Needs and Challenges of Criminal Justice Agencies in Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border Areas* (RAND Corporation ed., 2016).

This report assesses the unmet technological needs of STAR and border criminal justice agencies. The report focuses primarily on law enforcement and corrections agencies, but its findings may be relevant to other rural stakeholders.

Joseph F. Donnermeyer, *The Social Organisation of the Rural and Crime in the United States: Conceptual Considerations*, 39 J. of Rural Stud. 160 (2015).

Existing models of criminology fail to account for rural crime. The author argues that the robust development of rural criminology will pave the way for new policies that address crime in the rural U.S.

Kerry Carrington et al., *Intersectionality, Rural Criminology, and Re-imagining the Boundaries of Critical Criminology*, 22 Critical Criminology 463 (2014).

This article exposes the urban-centric bias of modern criminology. It challenges the myth that rural communities are relatively crime free places and urges a new “criminology of crime and place,” that is grounded in the disciplines of sociology and criminology.

Dr. L. Edward Wells & Dr. Ralph A. Weisheit, *Explaining Crime in Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Communities*, 1 Int’l J. of Rural Criminology 153 (2012).

This article argues that urban theories of crime are insufficient to explain rural crime patterns. The authors propose alternative research strategies that might be well-suited to rural areas.

John M Eason, *Extending the Hyperghetto: Toward a Theory of Punishment, Race, and Rural Disadvantage*, 16 J. of Poverty 274 (2012).

The author extends the concept of the hyperghetto (defined by the dual stigmas of class and racial segregation) to rural regions. He offers a new understanding of the confluence of race, punishment, and rural disadvantages in the prison-building boom.

Ralph A. Weisheit et al., *Crime and Policing in Rural and Small-Town America*, (Waveland Press, Inc. eds, 3d ed., 2006).

This book evaluates the distinctive features of crime and policing in rural communities. It presents practical information for those interested in the day-to-day operations of rural police agencies. It also highlights the dearth of research about rural crime and policing and emphasizes the importance of closing this research gap.

Mark T. Berg & Matt DeLisi, *Do Career Criminals Exist in Rural America?*, 33 J. of Crim. Just. 317 (2005).

This study concludes that rural career criminals exist, and that their criminal careers are characterized by relatively few arrests, short-lived criminal justice system

involvements, and a paucity of violent crime. The study notes that most chronic rural career offenders suffer from problems such as alcoholism, substance abuse, mental health difficulties, early onset of antisocial behavior, and low educational attainment.

William H. Romesburg, *Law Enforcement Tech Guide for Small and Rural Police Agencies*, (U.S. Dept. of Justice eds., 2005).

This report focuses on the best practices for successfully implementing technological changes in rural law enforcement agencies.

Juvenile Justice

Katherine R. Marks et al., *Geographic Differences in Substance Use Screening for Justice-Involved Youth*, 102 *J. of Substance Abuse Treatment* 40 (2019).

Geographic location (i.e., living in an urban versus rural area) is an understudied factor that can be associated with differences in service and resource availability. System-wide improvement is contingent upon implementation strategies that identify and acknowledge geographic differences to address the common and unique needs of the justice-involved youth more adequately.

Amy Marie Warmingham, *Roles and Services of Probation Officers Among Rural Female Juvenile Offenders* (2017) (Ph.D. dissertation, Walden University).

This dissertation on attitudes towards female juvenile offenders considers probation officers' perceptions of success and identifies enhanced service approaches to reduce female juvenile delinquency.

Bret J. Blackmon et al., *Examining the Influence of Risk Factors Across Rural and Urban Communities*, 7 *J. of the Soc'y for Soc. Work & Rsch.* 615 (2016).

The purpose of this study is to examine the differential influence of demographic, behavioral, and school-related factors on juvenile offending in rural and urban settings.

Barry C. Feld, *Justice by Geography: Urban, Suburban, and Rural Variations in Juvenile Justice Administration*, 82 *J. of Crim. L. & Criminology* 156 (1991).

This article explores the implications of "justice by geography" for juvenile justice policy.

Pretrial

Annabelle Frazier & Melissa Dipano, Pre-Trial Detention and Indigent Defense: Exploring Differences Between Appointed and Privately Retained Attorneys in Bail and Pre-Trial Release Outcomes (The Committee for Public Counsel Services ed. 2020).

This article examines how flaws in the existing indigent defense systems led policymakers to misunderstand the value of public defender systems. It presents a study that correlated increasing bail amounts with a decreased likelihood of pretrial release, highlighting the critical role public defenders play. The study also found that indigent defense counsel was not lower quality representation than paid-for defense.

State of Nebraska Judicial Branch, Probation Semi-Annual Report, (Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation ed. 2019).

This semi-annual report on Nebraska's probation system documents differences in rural and urban caseloads and outcomes across a wide range of services provided by the Probation Department. Relevant services include pretrial supervision.

Alissa Pollitz Worden et. al, The Impact of Counsel at First Appearance on Pretrial Release in Felony Arraignments, 31 Crim. Just. Pol'y Rev. 833 (2019).

This article examines how the early provision of counsel impacted judges' pretrial release decisions in two rural New York counties.

Rachael Weiss Riley et al., Exploring the Urban-Rural Incarceration Divide: Drivers of Local Jail Incarceration Rates in the United States, 36 J. of Tech. in Hum. Serv. 76 (2017).

Preliminary analysis conducted by the Vera Institute of Justice uncovered geographical disparities in county jail incarceration rates. Contrary to assumptions that incarceration is an urban phenomenon, Vera discovered that, in recent decades, pretrial jail rates have declined or remained flat in many urban areas, whereas rates have grown in rural counties.

Stephanie J. Vetter & John Clark, The Delivery of Pretrial Justice in Rural Areas (Pretrial Justice Institute ed. 2013).

Drawing on existing pretrial justice programs, recognized best practices, and national pretrial standards, this guide explains how to improve existing rural pretrial practices and develop successful new programs.

Rural Incarceration

Katherine Beckett & Lindsey Beach, *Understanding the Place of Punishment: Disadvantage, Politics, and the Geography of Imprisonment in 21st Century America*, 43 Univ. of Denv. L. & Pol'y 5 (2021).

This study details how the lingering effects of economic downturns, the opioid crisis, and the resistance to progressive policy change contributes to steady or increasing incarceration rates in rural communities. It found that racial fears and conservative attitudes toward punishment are significant predictors of whether a community disproportionately imprisons Black and Hispanic Americans.

National Conference of State Legislatures, *Rural Jail Reform in Big Sky Country* (Jul. 10, 2019).

This website contains a wide range of resource materials from a May 2019 meeting on rural jail reform.

Marc Levin, VP of Criminal Justice Policy, Texas Public Policy Foundation & Right on Crime, *Presentation on Big Changes for Small Towns: Pretrial Justice Reforms to Improve Public Safety and Right-Size Jails in Rural Areas* (May 29, 2019).

This is a presentation on potential reform measures in rural areas. It covers topics such as undesirable jail growth in rural locations and the burden of pretrial incarceration. The presentation offers solutions such as expanding risk assessments and police diversion.

Marc Levin & Michael Haugen, *Open Roads and Overflowing Jails: Addressing High Rates of Rural Pretrial Incarceration* (Right on Crime ed. 2018).

This paper explores the growth in pretrial jail populations, particularly in rural areas and makes recommendations about how to reduce the number of people held in jails.

Rachael Weiss Riley et al., *Exploring the Urban-Rural Incarceration Divide: Drivers of Local Jail Incarceration Rates in the United States*, 36 J. of Tech. in Hum. Serv. 76 (2017).

Preliminary analysis conducted by the Vera Institute of Justice uncovered geographical disparities in county jail incarceration rates. Contrary to assumptions that incarceration is an urban phenomenon, Vera discovered that, in recent decades, pretrial jail rates have declined or remained flat in many urban areas, whereas rates

have grown in rural counties. Factors contributing to this growth were analyzed and reported.

John M. Eason, *Big House on the Prairie* (The Univ. of Chicago Press ed. 2017).

This book explores the causes and consequences of the U.S. prison boom from the perspective of rural southern towns directly affected by prison placement. The author takes a close look at Forrest City, Arkansas, and the social, political, and economic shifts that associated with increased prison construction.

Vera Institute of Justice, *Out of Sight* (Vera Institute of Justice ed. 2017).

This data-rich report examines the growth of rural jail populations and marks two important drivers: an increase in pretrial detainees and the use of rural jails to house detainees for other agencies.

John M. Eason et al., *Mass Imprisonment across the Rural-Urban Interface*, 672 *The ANNALS of the Am. Acad. of Pol. & Soc. Sci.* 202 (2017).

Using a decade of data about Arkansas prisoners, the authors document imprisonment rates and racial disparities in prisons across metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties. The authors conclude that nonmetropolitan rates of imprisonment are higher than local risk factors would suggest.

Ram Subramanian et al., *In Our Own Backyard: Confronting Growth and Disparities in American Jails* (Vera Institute of Justice ed. 2015).

This data-rich report provides a snapshot of jail growth in the United States between 1970 and 2014. The report describes how this jail growth has disproportionately affected women and certain minority groups. The report includes findings about the rapid increase in incarceration rates in small and mid-sized counties.

Rick Ruddell & G. Larry Mays, *Trouble in the Heartland: Challenges Confronting Rural Jails*, 1 *Int'l J. of Rural Criminology* 105 (2011).

This article examines some of the key challenges facing small and rural correctional institutions. The article explores policy options for rural jails, including regionalization; centralization; privatization, and alternatives to incarceration.

Brandon K. Applegate & Alicia H. Sitren, *The Jail and the Community: Comparing Jails in Rural and Urban Contexts*, 88 *The Prison J.* 252 (2008).

This article addresses the operational differences between rural and urban jails and notes the paucity of research about rural jails.

U.S. Dept. of Justice, *Community Justice in Rural America: Four Examples and Four Futures* (Walter J. Dickey & Peggy McGarry eds., 2001).

This report describes how four rural counties implemented community justice initiatives such as customized juvenile diversion programs, community mediation, and citizen oversight committees.

Probation, Parole, and Reentry

Kathryne M. Young, *Legal Ruralism and California Parole Hearings: Space, Place, and the Carceral Landscape*, 86 *Rural Socio.* 938 (2020).

This article discusses the important relationship between rurality and criminal justice processes, drawing on field observations and in-depth interviews with parole commissioners to argue that California's physical carceral landscape profoundly shapes lifer parole hearings. Location and perceived rurality of prisons shape commissioners' perception of the inmates at various institutions, creating implicitly different standards for inmates housed at different prisons.

State of Nebraska Judicial Branch, *Probation Semi-Annual Report*, (Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation ed. 2019).

This semi-annual report on Nebraska's probation system documents differences in rural and urban caseloads and outcomes across a wide range of services provided by the Probation Department. Relevant services include pretrial supervision.

Tonya B. Van Deirse et al., *Probation Officers' Perceptions of Supervising Probationers with Mental Illness in Rural and Urban Settings*, 43 *Am. J. of Crim. Just.* 267 (2018).

This article reports on a survey of probation officers who supervise people with mental illness, emphasizing differences between probationers in rural and urban settings.

Kyle C. Ward, *Rural Jail Reentry: Offender Needs and Challenges*. (Routledge ed., 1st ed. 2017).

This book assesses earlier studies on rural jail reentry and explores rural reentry challenges through the lens of different stakeholders in the criminal justice system.

Amy Marie Warmingham, *Roles and Services of Probation Officers Among Rural Female Juvenile Offenders* (2017) (Ph.D. dissertation, Walden University).

This dissertation on attitudes towards female juvenile offenders considers probation officers' perceptions of success and identifies enhanced service approaches to reduce female juvenile delinquency.

Alison Shames & Ram Subramanian, *Remote Access: Using Video Technology to Treat Substance Users on Probation and Parole in South Dakota*, Vera Institute of Justice (Oct. 2016).

This policy brief from the Vera Institute focuses on a South Dakota program that uses video technology to increase access to substance use treatment services for people on probation and parole, especially in rural areas. The brief describes the program's implementation process and includes suggestions for other jurisdictions seeking to launch similar programs.

Gary Zajac, Ph.D., et al., *An Examination of Rural Prisoner Reentry Challenges*, (Pennsylvania State University ed. 2014).

A study of reentry in rural Pennsylvania, this report reviews existing programs and their success rates. Data come from Pennsylvania's Department of Corrections and Board of Probations and Parole, as well as from interviews and surveys. Gaps in rural reentry services are also discussed.

Eric J. Wodahl, *The Challenges of Prisoner Reentry from a Rural Perspective*, 7 *Western Criminology Rev.* 32 (2006).

This study focuses on the challenges of rural reentry. The author identifies how barriers to rural reentry harm ex-offenders and their communities. The study compares rural reentry data with data from urban and suburban communities and highlights successful rural reentry strategies.

RISE Program.

This program in rural Nebraska tries to reduce recidivism through improved employment and educational opportunities. The skills-based curriculum includes inter-viewing, resume building, and financial aid applications.

Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders

Meredith Drew, *Warren County Prosecutor-Led Mental Health Diversion Program*, 54 J. of the Nat'l Dist. Att'y Ass'n. 1 (2020).

This study explores the effect of a diversion program on defendants with serious mental illness. Focusing on services for rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, and strengthening community ties, the program found that defendants often struggled due to a lack of transportation, hampering their ability to attend therapy and supervision sessions. It proposes that more contact with program members led to greater participant success.

Lisa M. Shannon, *Examining Contextual Differences in Participant Characteristics and During-Program Occurrences With Drug Court Program Completion*, 50 J. of Drug Issues 191 (2020).

This study of Kentucky drug courts found statistically significant differences between the urban and rural participants. These findings suggest that contextual differences, specific characteristics, and availability of during-program occurrences were “ultimately influential on drug court completion.”

The Pew Charitable Trusts, *Opioid Use Disorder: Challenges and Opportunities in Rural Communities* (Feb. 7, 2019).

This Pew Trusts fact sheet describes some of the challenges rural communities face in accessing evidence-based treatment and strategies to combat the opioid epidemic. It includes a case study of how one rural community responded to the opioid epidemic by addressing the specific needs of its residents.

Andrea K. Finlay et al., *Justice Involvement and Treatment Use Among Rural Veterans*, 42 Rural Mental Health 46 (2019).

This study examines the effect of rural residency and justice involvement on veterans who need mental health and substance use disorder treatment. For justice-involved veterans, rural residency was associated with lower access to mental health or substance use disorder treatment. The article proposes using telehealth, outreach services, and integrated treatment approaches to improve access to treatment for rural veterans.

Nastassia Walsh, *The Stepping Up Initiative: Reducing Mental Illness in Rural Jails*, (The National Association of Counties ed. 2016).

Stepping Up is a national initiative that seeks to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. This publication offers strategies for county leaders to reduce the population of mentally ill people in their jails. Case studies are drawn

from counties in California, Iowa, Minnesota, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Ohio, South Dakota, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Alison Shames & Ram Subramanian, *Remote Access: Using Video Technology to Treat Substance Users on Probation and Parole in South Dakota*, Vera Institute of Justice (Oct. 2016).

This report examines a South Dakota program that provides accessible treatment services to those on probation and parole in rural areas. It also highlights ideas for implementing new programs in rural regions.

Melanie M. Race et al., *Mental Health Services in Rural Jails*, (Maine Rural Health Research Center Working Paper No. 42, 2010).

This study explores the how rural jails manage mental health and substance use problems among inmates. It identifies barriers to providing inmates with mental health and substance treatment and makes recommendations about how rural communities can better serve this population.

Allison Mateyoke-Scrivner et al., *Treatment Retention Predictors of Drug Court Participants in a Rural State*, 30 *The Am. J. of Drug & Alcohol Abuse* 605 (2009).

This study focuses on examining mental health, drug use, criminal activity, and education and employment as factors they are associated with treatment retention, which is measured by graduation from a rural and urban drug court.

Stephen S. Goss, *Mental Health Court Programs in Rural and Nonaffluent Jurisdictions*, 33 *Crim. Just. Rev.* 405 (2008).

This article argues that our jails have become de facto mental health treatment centers for cases that crowd court dockets, filling the jails and state hospitals at taxpayers' expense. Goss reports on mental health court programs that are responding to these issues. Success is measured by decreased arrests and mental hospital stays, and the overall well-being of such patients.

TK Logan et al., *Rural and Urban Women's Perceptions of Barriers to Health, Mental Health, and Criminal Justice Services: Implications for Victim Services*, 19 *Violence & Victims* 36 (2004).

The authors studied eight groups of rural and urban women to examine how they viewed their access to criminal justice and mental health services.

Victims' Services

Office for Victims of Crime, *Rural Victim Assistance: A Victim/Witness Guide for Rural Prosecutors* (last accessed Feb. 25, 2022).

This guide provides an overview of the challenges that rural prosecutors face in providing assistance to crime victims. It also includes tips and strategies for overcoming these challenges based on a survey of rural prosecutors.

Kathryn O. Dubois et al., *Intimate Partner Violence in Small Towns, Dispersed Rural Areas, and Other Locations: Estimates Using a Reconceptualization of Settlement Type*, 84 *Rural Socio.* 826 (2019).

This article challenges the validity of past victimization survey research methodology and questions whether geographic isolation is a factor in intimate partner violence in rural areas.

Gabriela Wasileski & Margarita Poteyeva, *IPV in Rural Pennsylvania and Magisterial Courts: Case Study*, 36 *J. of Interpersonal Violence* NP7440 (2019).

Research on the criminal justice system's response to the problem of intimate partner violence (IPV) largely focuses on police and prosecutorial decision making. Fewer studies are dedicated to exploring how IPV cases are processed by the courts. This study examines the perspectives of judges in the Magisterial Courts in rural counties of Pennsylvania. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 27 magisterial court judges. The findings shed light on magisterial court judges' experiences with IPV cases, the challenges that they face and the factors that influence their determination whether the cases will be prosecuted, dismissed, or proceed to the Court of Common Pleas.

Matthew J. Breiding, *Prevalence of Rural Intimate Partner Violence in 16 US States*, 25 *J. of Rural Health* 240 (2009).

This article reports on a large-scale study of rural Intimate Partner Violence ("IPV") conducted in 2005. The authors conclude that while IPV affects a similar portion of the population in rural and non-rural areas, rural areas are less-well equipped to address IPV. The study identifies many relevant rural resource disparities, including fewer domestic violence shelters, fewer physical and mental health professionals, and fewer law enforcement personnel per capita.

Lisa R. Pruitt, *Place Matters: Domestic Violence and Rural Difference*, 23 *Wis. J. of L., Gender, & Soc'y* 347 (2008).

Pruitt's article explores how rurality influences the reporting, policing, investigation, and prosecution of rural domestic violence.

TK Logan et al., *Rural and Urban Women's Perceptions of Barriers to Health, Mental Health, and Criminal Justice Services: Implications for Victim Services*, 19 *Violence & Victims* 36 (2004).

This article presents the results of a study of eight groups of rural and urban women to examine how they viewed their access to health and criminal justice services.

Practice Guides and Models for Innovation

U.S. Dept. of Justice, *Community Justice in Rural America: Four Examples and Four Futures* (Walter J. Dickey & Peggy McGarry eds., 2001).

This report examines four jurisdictions where rural communities have implemented community justice and discusses both challenges and strategies for implementation.

Patrick G. Goetzinger & Robert L. Morris, *Project Rural Practice: Its People & Its Purpose*, 59 *S.D. L. Rev.* 444 (2014).

This article describes the creation of South Dakota's Project Rural Practice, which recruits attorneys to practice in rural communities through incentives.

American Bar Association, *Rural Pro Bono Project* (last accessed Feb. 25, 2022).

This guide is a resource for legal service providers, bar associations and volunteer lawyer programs in rural areas. It includes an analysis of the barriers to rural legal services delivery and examples of successful service-delivery strategies. There are also descriptions of successful grant projects.

Barbara A. Pierce, *A Toolkit for Legislative Reform: Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Mental Illness in Rural States* (Crime and Justice Institute ed. 2017).

This toolkit is designed for rural lawmakers seeking a new statewide, legislative approach to improve how the criminal justice system responds to mental illness.

Native and Tribal Jurisdictions

Roxanne Daniel, Since you asked: What data exists about Native American people in the criminal justice system?, Prison Policy Initiative (Apr. 22, 2020).

This overview provides basic statistics for incarceration rates of Native people nationwide while explaining how some of the existing numbers may be misrepresentative due to poor data collection. It notes that many barriers exist to accurately collecting data, including not requiring crime data to be reported and not distinguishing tribal affiliation in the data. Further, the classification of Native Americans as “other” in the racial reporting metric makes it difficult to understand the scope of overcriminalization on tribal communities.

Samuel Macomber, Note: Disparate Defense in Tribal Courts: The Unequal Right to Counsel as a Barrier to Expansion of Tribal Court Criminal Jurisdiction, 106 Cornell L. Rev. 275 (2020).

This article contends that increasing the right to counsel would increase the U.S. Congress’s faith in tribal justice systems and extend tribal jurisdiction. It explains how U.S. court decisions led to an enforcement gap – tribes cannot persecute crimes committed by a non-Indian against a tribal member. The article recommends that Congress increase bar regulations, promote Native methods of alternative dispute resolution, and institute a Tribal Licensed Legal Technician to ensure equal access to justice.

Adam Crepelle, Tribal Courts, The Violence Against Women Act, and Supplemental Jurisdiction: Expanding Tribal Court Jurisdiction to Improve Public Safety in Indian Country, 81 Mont. L. Rev. 59 (2020).

The article explores the possibility of tribal courts expanding their jurisdiction to prosecute crimes not included in the Violence Against Women Act of 2013. It suggests that expanding jurisdiction would enhance victims’ rights and empower tribal courts to charge accompanying crimes simultaneously.

Michael Doran, Redefining Tribal Sovereignty for the Era of Fundamental Rights, 95 Ind. L. J. 87 (2020).

The article discusses the tension between how the U.S. Supreme Court treats tribal sovereignty versus other nontribal jurisdictional issues. It argues that the U.S. Supreme Court’s inconsistent reasoning results from expanding and protecting fundamental rights.

Emily Mendoza, *Jurisdictional Transparency and Native American Women*, 11 Calif. L. Rev. Online 141(2020).

The article highlights the jurisdictional maze that Native American women face when attempting to access a criminal justice system. While the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2013 restored some tribal jurisdiction over specific domestic violence crimes, the qualifying conditions limit prosecution. The article notes that judicial transparency is necessary for greater access to justice.

Lauren van Schilfhaarde, *Indigenizing Professional Responsibility*, 59 The Judges' J. 6 (2020).

This article suggests that tribal advocates can use the ethical guidelines of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct or other attorney regulations to create tribal-specific procedures that will help to assure access to justice in their communities. While the guidelines themselves may not be a perfect fit for every tribal jurisdiction, the underlying goals of zealous advocacy, eliminating conflicts of interest, and attorney competence can help tribal courts to reinforce their structures with their cultural roots.

Patrick Wood, *Tribal Courts and Access to Counsel: The Breaking of Gideon's Promise in Indian Country*, 17 Gov. L. & Pol'y J. 26 (2018).

This article explores the benefits, feasibility, and drawbacks of guaranteeing the right to counsel across all Indian country by providing indigent Indian defendants with defense attorneys at federal or state government expense in criminal cases conducted in tribal court.

Marcella Sgroi, *Tribal Injustice: The Past, Present, and Future of the Violence Against Women Act*, 17 Gov. L. & Pol'y 35 (2018).

This article addresses the administration of tribal justice, specifically as it relates to the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act ("VAWA"). The article analyzes the effectiveness of VAWA's pilot programs that have authorized VAWA enforcement in tribal justice systems. The article concludes with an assessment of a recent Supreme Court ruling on tribal misdemeanor arrests.

Rachel King, *Bush Justice: The Intersection of Alaska Natives and the Criminal Justice System In Rural Alaska*, 77 Or. L. Rev. 1 (1998).

The author reflects on her experience as an assistant public defender serving native communities in rural Alaska, using it as the chance to explain the challenges facing public defenders and their clients in rural communities.

Civil Access to Justice

Rick Su, *Democracy in Rural America*, 98 N.C. L. Rev. 837 (2020).

This article focuses on the inherent challenges in local rural governments and how their interactions with the state and federal governments impact them. The article suggests increasing civic participation and instilling local confidence in the powers of local governments to increase their democratic capacity.

Ann M. Eisenberg, *Distributive Justice and Rural America*, 61 B.C. L. Rev. 189 (2020).

This article examines the marginalization of rural communities. It explores four different “types” of rural America, including chronically poor rural America and declining resource-dependent rural America. Rural America often shoulders burdens for urban areas, such as the implementation of environmental distributive policies. The article concludes that such inequity must be addressed.

Lisa R. Pruitt, *Rural Access to Justice in the Golden State*, UC Davis Legal Stud. Rsch. Paper Series (2018).

An overview of access to justice issues in rural California. The article provides information about the current shortage of lawyers in rural counties and suggests increased involvement from California’s public law schools.

Canadian Forum on Civil Justice for the Rural and Remote Access to Justice Boldness Project, *Rural and Remote Access to Justice (infographic)* (2015).

An infographic about the access-to-justice issues in rural and remote areas of Canada.

Lisa R. Pruitt et. al, *Access to Justice in Rural Arkansas*, UC Davis Legal Stud. Rsch. Paper No. 426 (2015).

This policy brief, written for the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, reports on two data sets about the shortage of lawyers in rural Arkansas. It also reports on the results of a survey investigates how Arkansas lawyers and law students think about rural practice.

Rebecca L. Sandefur, *Accessing Justice In The Contemporary USA: Findings From the Community Needs and Services Study*, (American Bar Foundation ed. 2104).

This report examines findings of widespread incidence of situations that have civil legal aspects, has raised civil legal issues, and have been shaped by civillaw

(e.g., debt, employment, and insurance issues were among the most common situations reported). Further, the report discusses why rural residents do not seek legal assistance for these situations and what they do instead, as well as their understanding and perceptions of the civil justice system.

The California Commission on Access to Justice, Improving Civil Justice in Rural California (The California Commission on Access to Justice ed. 2010).

This report by State Bar of California offers recommendations about how to increase access to legal services for rural Californians. While the report only addresses civil legal needs, it offers suggestions and insights that may also be relevant to rural criminal practice.

American Bar Association, Rural Pro Bono Delivery: A Guide to Pro Bono Legal Services in Rural Areas (American Bar Association ed. 2003).

This guide is a resource for legal service providers, bar associations and volunteer lawyer programs who are searching for new ways to serve clients in rural areas and support those lawyers already working in rural areas. It includes an analysis of the barriers to rural legal services delivery and examples of successful service-delivery strategies.

Beth M. Henschen, Lessons from the Country: Serving Self-Represented Litigants in Rural Jurisdictions (State Justice Institute et al. eds. 2002).

This publication studies twenty-five pro se assistance programs in rural jurisdictions with a wide range of program models. While these programs focus on civil legal issues, the report highlights a wide range of program models. For each program, the report provides a detailed operational narrative. The report also includes local stakeholders' first-hand assessments of each program. These program models may inspire innovation or inform program development for rural criminal justice initiatives.

Larry R. Spain, The Opportunities and Challenges of Providing Equal Access to Justice in Rural Communities, 28 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 367. (2001).

This article calls for comprehensive approach to increasing access to justice in rural America. The author includes program examples discusses available data about the costs of providing services. The author takes a firm stance against tele-representation, arguing instead for attorneys to be physical present in rural communities.

COVID-19

Jennifer Sherman & Jennifer Schwartz, The Fine Line: Rural Justice, Public Health and Safety, and the Coronavirus Pandemic (SAGE Publications ed. 2021).

This article examines how rural jails in Washington State handled the coronavirus pandemic in the face of conservative public opinion on decarceration. It discusses the decision to put as many people as possible in solitary confinement in some jails, harming inmates' mental health.

Jasmine Heiss et al., The Scale of the COVID-19-Related Jail Population Decline (Vera Institute of Justice ed. 2020).

This article finds that America reduced its jail population by a quarter in the early months of the COVID-19 crisis. Jails that did not release any prisoners saw an increase in potentially preventable coronavirus deaths. The article recommends investing money into community programs to reduce incarceration and overcrowding in prisons.

Aaron Littman, Protecting Rural Jails from Coronavirus (The Justice Collaborative Institute ed. 2020).

This report highlights how the unique challenges present in rural criminal justice may exacerbate the coronavirus pandemic. The lack of diversion programs, medical providers, and other social services in rural communities means more people are sent to jail for minor drug possession or an inability to pay for bail. It suggests a reduction in incarceration and new bookings is imperative to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Vera Institute of Justice, Guidance for Preventative and Responsive Measures to Coronavirus for Rural Justice Systems (Vera Institute of Justice ed. 2020).

This summary of Vera's COVID-19 guidance briefs provides recommendations for rural justice systems to prioritize prevention, contain the possibility of spread, and respond swiftly to active cases while preserving due process.

Read the full Greening the Desert report:



deasoncenter.smu.edu/star-justice/greening-the-desert-publication/

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The Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center takes a Stats and Stories approach to criminal justice reform. The Stats: we collect, analyze, and assess qualitative and quantitative data about our criminal justice system. The Stories: we uncover, recount, and amplify the experiences of people who live and work in that system. Together, these Stats and Stories make a compelling case for compassionate criminal justice reform.

The Deason Center's STAR Criminal Justice Campaign supports criminal justice reform in America's small, tribal, and rural communities. The Center's STAR Justice Network provides STAR practitioners with a virtual practice community and with online STAR criminal justice resources. To connect STAR justice practitioners with policymakers, researchers, and non-profit organizations, the Deason Center convenes webinars, panel discussions, and an annual summit. Together, members of the STAR Campaign community will ensure that small, tribal, and rural communities are equal partners in the national criminal justice reform movement.