



## Federal Funding Increased for State and Local Justice and Public Safety Programs

Two significant events have resulted in a large increase in federal funds available to the justice and public safety community. The Obama Administration included funding for justice and public safety programs in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), also known as the Recovery Act or stimulus funding. In addition, increases have been made to the 2009 Federal Budget for the existing Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant Program.

If you are interested in receiving funding through AARA or the Byrne Program,

contact your State Administrative Agency (SAA) to learn specifically how your state will receive and distribute these funds. If you don't know who your SAA is, go to <http://www.ojp.gov/saa/index.htm>

### Recovery Act Stimulus Funding

The Recovery Act includes \$4 billion in funding for state and local justice assistance programs. The major provisions of this funding include:

- \$2 billion for the Byrne JAG formula grant program
- \$225 million for Byrne competitive grants
- \$225 million for Violence Against

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Women programs, of which \$175 million is for the STOP grants and \$50 million is for the transitional housing assistance grants program

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## President's Message - 2009 NAJIS Conference

### Join Us this September in Music City USA

Many justice practitioners are facing tough times. As the NAJIS Board prepares for our next conference, we are sensitive to the state of the economy and the potential impact on conference attendance. After much discussion and practitioner feedback, we are planning to go ahead with the 2009 Conference scheduled for September 15-17, 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Traditionally, NAJIS conferences have focused on new technologies and practical applications for technology in the criminal justice environment. The Board recently polled past conference attendees on the need for this type of event, and many responded that it is more important than ever to hear from other criminal justice practitioners on what works and doesn't work when applying technologies to solving

business problems. We simply *must* better leverage the experiences of our peers during these tight budgets.

The NAJIS Board is committed to making the NAJIS conference the best value for your limited training and travel budget. We have frozen the conference registration at last year's rate, and our conference location, Nashville, is centrally located and easily accessible from most cities. The conference hotel, the Sheraton Downtown, will provide rooms at the prevailing federal per diem rate.

Many of the conference sessions will present a realistic look at how to move forward with viable technology initiatives during these tough economic times. Among the topics that will be addressed during the conference sessions include the viability of open source technologies,

practical applications for Social Networking in the justice community, the availability of federal funds for new justice IT projects, leveraging corporate or other non-traditional resources to fund new projects and keep existing projects afloat. As we are bombarded by acronyms – NIEM, N-DEx, SOA, GJXDM, EDXL - what do we really *need* to be doing? We'll explore these topics and many more at the September conference.

I hope you are able to join us in Nashville and enjoy some southern hospitality while experiencing a terrific conference. Please add [www.najis.org](http://www.najis.org) to your browser's favorites or bookmarks and check out the full conference agenda. I am convinced that these three days in Nashville will be time well spent.

*Laura Radtke*

NAJIS President

# Delaware Automates Traffic Citations

By John Bell, Delaware State Police

**D**ELJIS (Delaware Justice Information Systems) has developed a new automated traffic summons to replace the old hand-written summons used by police officers for the last 40 years. Starting in the Delaware State Police Training Academy troopers were taught, "To press hard - you're making multiple copies". Copies of the old manual tickets were distributed for courts, justice agencies, the violator and the issuing officer. Notes concerning the stop were often hand written on the back of the officer's copy.

The tickets were "sworn to" by the arresting officer after making a special trip to the court to drop off the tickets. If a ticket was contested, the officer had to search through his or her files to locate the notes. In many cases, the hand written notes on the officer's copy were difficult to read. Additionally, each officer recorded details like the original speed on the ticket in different places, and additional notes articulating the operator's conduct were written on other papers.

The old paper ticket process were labor intensive and caused a great deal work for officers, the courts, and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). When first introduced, the officer sent the original ticket to the DMV for data entry of the violation. This process was improved in the mid-1980s when the courts automated internal procedures. When this occurred, the officer could forward the ticket the court for data entry and the data was electronically transferred to the DMV. This still created problems when fines were recorded incorrectly or the court entered an improper statute from the citation.

In the fall of 2006, DELJIS implemented a new system that eliminated the need for paper handling. The E-Ticket program eliminated all of the old citation stumbling blocks. With the new program, the officer stops a violator, loads

the driver's license number into the system and the fields pertaining to the person automatically populate on the ticket. All of the information on the driver's license automatically read from the license, and at the same time, the system checks the local wanted persons file and automatically informs the officer when the person is wanted so he or she can take appropriate action.

The E-ticket process validates the status of the driver's license if it has expired or has been revoked. The violator's vehicle registration information is also populated when the officer enters the vehicle registration number. Officers no longer have to write in the VIN and vehicle information as it is retrieved automatically by the E-ticket program. Fines are automatically calculated on the ticket, and seat-belt infraction assessments are also calculated automatically at the click of a button.

The electronic tickets can handle 999 violations per ticket, eliminating the need to issue multiple tickets for a single incident that involves multiple charges.

The old paper ticket only allowed the entry of two charges.

Officers can record notes on the traffic stop and reprint the ticket at any time. Since fine amounts are calculated automatically, the officer doesn't need to maintain "cheat sheets" for speeds and fines. In addition, the system provides the officer with standard appearance dates for all courts, which makes saves time and reduces appearance errors.

The violator can pay the ticket immediately after the issuance of the citation, because the data is immediately available in DELJIS. Troopers can print their end-of-shift log that reflects all daily traffic contacts.

E-tickets also improve officer safety: officers no longer have to carry a clipboard when approaching a vehicle since the violator doesn't have to sign the citation. This significantly reduces the risks to officers during the encounter. For this and many other reasons, officers are overwhelmingly supportive of the E-Ticket program.

*For further information about the DELJIS E-Ticket program contact John Bell at [john.bell@state.de.us](mailto:john.bell@state.de.us) or (302)739-4856*



Delaware State Trooper demonstrates new E-Ticket equipment

# Pinal County Completes Integrated System

By Pat Nelson, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

The Pinal County Justice Integrated Systems project is a win for criminal justice information sharing in Arizona. The successful project to exchange information between the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, Pinal County Attorney's Office, and the Pinal County courts has resulted in improved timeliness, accuracy, and completeness of criminal justice information among agencies in Pinal County and the central repository at the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS).

The system architecture enables information transfer from the sheriff's office to the county attorney's office. An integrated document management system allows documents to be scanned, and the images transferred electronically among participating agencies. The participating agencies effectively built upon an application that

was already in use thereby leveraging resources and providing broad-based benefits. Data exchange structures are based upon the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM). The system includes features such as automatic email notification and failed transfer alerts.

Project officials credit a combination of a strong governance and sound project management as the keys to project success. National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) funding was used to accomplish the project. Positive feedback has been received from many project participants:

## Sheriff's Office Records Department

Previously, we were required to reorganize staff duties to allow for staff members to process, retrieve, and deliver packets twice daily, which amounted to as much as two or more hours each day. We no longer have the time management issue of finding coverage to meet critical deadlines.

## County Attorney's Office

In addition to the improvement in efficiencies, the systems are user friendly, processing time is significantly reduced, and communication and cooperation have been greatly improved between the Sheriff's Office and the County Attorney's Office.

## Information Technology Department

Recently implemented data validation processes now reduce errors and provide immediate error alerts to users. Law enforcement can now track case progress, which was not possible in the past. Documents entered through the OnBase document management system are now shareable among all agencies.

*For more information about this project, contact Pat Nelson, at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.*

*[pnelson@azcjc.gov](mailto:pnelson@azcjc.gov) or (602)364-1152.*

*InfoSys* is a publication of the National Association for Justice Information Systems.

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## What Is NAJIS?

The National Association for Justice Information Systems (NAJIS) is an organization of individuals responsible for the acquisition, operation and management of local, state, tribal and federal criminal justice information systems.

All practitioners in prosecutor's offices, the courts, law enforcement, probation, corrections and allied agencies who design, improve, implement or supervise automated information systems can benefit from participating in NAJIS. Individuals who are investigating, evaluating and purchasing automated systems—both hardware and software—for criminal justice purposes are encouraged to join and participate in NAJIS activities.

NAJIS began in 1981 as the PROMIS (Prosecutors Management Information System) User Group and has grown to encompass the needs of all criminal justice agencies. The promotion of integrated criminal justice and new technologies is the focus of NAJIS.

NAJIS conducts an annual educational conference, publishes a newsletter and website with the goal of improving the criminal justice system through the practical application of technology.



## Federal Funding

(Continued from page 1)

\$1 billion for the COPS Office for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers and civilian public safety personnel. The bill waives the 25% local match and the \$75,000 per officer cap

\$40 million for competitive grants to provide assistance and equipment to local law enforcement along the Southern border and in High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas.

\$225 million for Indian Country grants

\$100 million to be distributed by the Office for Victims of Crime

\$125 million for assistance to law enforcement in rural areas

\$50 million for Internet Crimes Against Children initiatives

To learn more about the specifics of the ARRA, go to [www.Recovery.gov](http://www.Recovery.gov). For more information about how this affects the criminal justice and public safety

communities, go to the Office of Justice Programs website [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov) or the National Criminal Justice Association website, [www.ncja.org](http://www.ncja.org).

### 2009 Federal Funding

Congress passed the 2009 federal budget, which includes significant increases in certain federal programs that provide assistance to the justice and public safety communities through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. Traditionally, the JAG program was the primary vehicle for funding innovative efforts at the state and local level. This year, funding was increased from \$15 million in 2008 to \$225 million in 2009. Other program areas have been increased as well. For more information about how your state will distribute these funds, contact your State Administrative Agency (SAA). Your SAA contact information can be found at <http://www.ojp.gov/saa/index.htm>.

### Other Funding Sources

In addition to the formula grants, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of

Justice Programs, may award funds directly to state and local governments through their discretionary grant program. These funds are awarded through a competitive process that may not involve your SAA. To learn more about current solicitations, go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

Justice and Public Safety programs may also be eligible for funding under the Department of Homeland Security. For Homeland Security grant opportunities, contact your state's homeland security advisor. Contact information can be found at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/contact\\_state.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/contact_state.htm).

If you are interested in applying for any of these funds, act now. These funds are in the process of being distributed and awarded. Your SAA is the best place to start, but you should also make frequent visits to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), for the latest information on available funding.

*Thanks to the National Criminal Justice Association for providing much of this information. For further information visit [www.ncja.org](http://www.ncja.org) or [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).*

## Plan now to attend the 2009 NAJIS Conference September 15-17 in Nashville - Music City USA!

Register now for the 28th annual NAJIS Conference and Exhibition, September 15-17, 2009, which will be held at the Downtown Sheraton Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee — Music City USA!

Designed by justice practitioners, This conference is targeted at law and justice technology professionals. The conference content will address issues related to the acquisition and use of technology in criminal justice, courts and public safety.

### Registration:

Before August 1, 2009 (Early Registration): \$395.00 per person.

On or After August 1, 2009 (Regular Registration): \$495.00 per person.

Register now at [www.najis.org](http://www.najis.org).



Photograph courtesy of the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau