



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

*Bureau of Justice Assistance*

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Washington, D.C. 20531

January 9, 2018

Dear Colleague,

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), at the Office of Justice Programs, is pleased to offer a new training and technical assistance (TTA) program to help state and local governments assess, secure, and protect Sixth Amendment rights within their jurisdictions. In fiscal year 2017, BJA awarded three TTA partners a total of \$3 million to directly assist 10–12 jurisdictions with intensive TTA as well as offer services, resources, and more widely accessible TTA. The three providers are the Center for Court Innovation (the Center), the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association (NLADA), and The Sixth Amendment Center (6AC). Each provider will be offering unique assistance, but all three providers, along with BJA, will collaboratively approach selecting jurisdictions and deciding what type of assistance will best address those jurisdictions' issues.

This new TTA program will address two different areas. First, the Center will provide strategic, needs-based technical assistance to state and local governments, including their agents such as court leaders and administrators and defender systems, to address Sixth Amendment issues within their jurisdictions. The Center will work with sites that vary across several domains, including region, size, funding type, and delivery systems. The TTA approach marries research and practice at the planning, day-to-day site coordination, and strategic implementation levels. The second area will be supported by NLADA and 6AC. 6AC will offer objective evaluations to state and local governments to assess existing right to counsel services against Sixth Amendment case law. NLADA will offer management and training opportunities to improve those state and local services. NLADA will also develop a web-based platform to make nationally accessible resources, trainings, best practices, and peer-to-peer interactions.

BJA anticipates offering these services in early 2018 through an application process to be outlined at [www.bja.gov/sixthamendment](http://www.bja.gov/sixthamendment). Please visit the website for the most up-to-date information on BJA's Sixth Amendment initiatives.

If you have any additional questions or are interested in being notified when the application process begins, please contact me at [Priya.sarathy-jones@usdoj.gov](mailto:Priya.sarathy-jones@usdoj.gov).

Thank you and I look forward to our work together.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Priya Sarathy Jones", is located below the text "Regards,".

Priya Sarathy Jones, Esq.