

Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative Strategic Plan

The Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) Advisory Committee (GAC) is an advisory body to the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and the U.S. Attorney General. The GAC was created to facilitate and support the broadscale exchange of justice information. The GAC consists of key officials from local, state, tribal, and federal justice and public safety-related entities. The inclusiveness of GAC membership reflects the Global tenet that the entire justice community must be involved in information exchange. Effective sharing of justice information remains more essential than ever in ensuring public safety by providing justice practitioners with facts critical for informed decision making.

Problem Statement

Justice and public safety agencies have long been plagued with the inability to share critical information in a timely manner. The need to solve this problem is obvious, considering every agency requires information from other entities to do their job. Furthermore, entities outside of the justice and public safety communities—including schools, child care services, transportation, and licensing agencies—also need this critical information to perform daily business activities, such as hiring new personnel, approving gun purchases, or granting professional licenses.

For example:

- ⇒ At the present time, criminal background checks are often not effective or inclusive. System components have no institutionalized operating methods or electronic standards for sharing information.
- ⇒ The public demands greater access to justice information that is considered confidential in some settings (e.g., state criminal history records in many state repositories and in the Federal Bureau of Investigation), while viewed as public record in others (e.g., criminal history record information in the courts). Increasingly, the public also demands that this access be automated and online.
- ⇒ In the courtroom and beyond, the adjudication and disposition of criminal cases needs to be expedited, improved, and made more efficient. Scheduling proceedings, filing, and sharing documents must be automated to afford prosecutors, public defenders, courts, pretrial services, probation, and parole prompt access to complete information regarding a case. Postdisposition information regarding an offender's status and compliance with court-ordered conditions should be included. Strategically automating these activities will avoid the need

for multiple clerks in multiple agencies to input the same data and will save time and energy in technology procurement processes.

⇒ Annually, tens of thousands of individuals on probation or parole move from one state to another. Tracking and managing this population requires the development of a national clearinghouse of probationers and parolees, as well as a telecommunications capability, so that criminal justice officials have easy access to the most basic information regarding the whereabouts of subjects under supervision.

The persistence of the information sharing problem is a testimony to the difficulty—prior to the formation of the GAC—of building collaboration across justice and public safety disciplines and levels of government. Any approach to information sharing must take into account the complicated and competing values of the public safety and justice processes, including the following:

- The public safety need to share intelligence information competes with the need to secure and control access to this information.
- The need of investigators to have complete access to all information competes with the privacy rights of individuals.
- The threat to public safety that comes from delays in information sharing competes with the delays necessary to ensure that records are complete and accurate.
- The need to expand the breadth and depth of the participating agencies to include all criminal justice and collateral agencies competes with the need to ensure that all agencies' systems are equally secure from attack.

While technological advances offer new hope that broadscale justice information sharing can become a reality, technology does not operate in a vacuum. Technical, programmatic, and policy issues must be addressed concurrently within a community of shared interests. Global's Strategic Plan addresses these issues.

Mission Statement

To improve the administration of justice and protect the nation's public by promoting practices and technologies for the secure sharing of justice information.

Guiding Principles

- The GAC works *collaboratively* and *inclusively*, bringing together representatives from the entire justice, public safety, and first responder communities and related entities—including industry—to

address and overcome the barriers to justice information sharing across agencies, disciplines, and levels of government.

- ❑ The GAC promotes the development and implementation of ***standards*** that facilitate seamless exchange of information among justice, public safety, first responder, and related systems.
- ❑ The GAC provides information that supports sound business decisions for the planning, design, and procurement of cost-effective, interoperable information systems.
- ❑ The GAC promotes constitutional values and individual rights by ensuring the ***accuracy*** and ***security*** of justice information, and the implementation of appropriate ***privacy safeguards***.
- ❑ The GAC recommends concepts that leverage existing infrastructure, capabilities, and ***functionality***.

Objectives

Since inception, the GAC has taken significant steps to join disparate components of the justice community into a cohesive effort. In the best spirit of collaboration, participants have adopted a shared mission. To implement this mission, the GAC will support the OJP Information Technology Initiative through the following objectives.

Intelligence Sharing

The GAC intelligence sharing goal is to provide national leadership in the efforts to promote and recommend policies to ensure effective intelligence sharing, while at the same time safeguarding privacy and constitutional rights. This goal will be supported by developing the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan, which will:

- ❑ Recommend policies to implement standards-based intelligence sharing.
- ❑ Identify barriers to intelligence sharing and recommend policies/practices to overcome these issues.
- ❑ Recommend standards for the collection, collation, storage, analysis, evaluation, and dissemination of classified and unclassified information.
- ❑ Recommend standards for compatibility of current and proposed intelligence sharing systems.
- ❑ Recommend training standards for all levels of the information sharing intelligence enterprise.

- Provide outreach to policymakers and practitioners of the Global Intelligence Working Group's (GIWG) activities and plans.

Infrastructure/Standards

The GAC infrastructure/standards goal is to identify and develop a common understanding of the components of justice information sharing systems. This will assist government entities in their efforts to share justice, public safety, and first responder information within the guiding principles of the GAC.

The GAC's goals will be supported by:

- Maintaining and expanding the Justice Standards Clearinghouse program.
- Developing and recommending a justice-related information sharing data exchange model and registry.
- Developing a definition of the justice enterprise architecture (EA) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's EA's initiative.
- Coordinating with the Global Security Working Group (GSWG) and the GIWG to facilitate a comprehensive approach and to address interdependent information sharing issues.
- Identifying and exploring emerging technologies.

Privacy and Information Quality

The GAC's privacy and information quality goal is to provide national leadership to justice entities on policies and practices needed to ensure the appropriate collection, use, and dissemination of personal information while safeguarding privacy and constitutional values.

The GAC's goal will be supported by:

- Producing a policy-level white paper on protecting privacy *and* ensuring information quality in integrated justice systems, which will:
 - Identify privacy and information quality issues in justice information sharing systems.
 - Direct policymakers and practitioners to the *Justice Information Privacy Guideline*, to use as a handbook in developing privacy policy.

- ❑ Exploring emerging biometrics technologies for accurately and reliably identifying individuals—and addressing the privacy and information quality issues these technologies present.
- ❑ Examining means of improving the reliability of criminal history records in integrated justice information systems.
- ❑ Coordinating with the GIWG and the GSWG to formulate a unified and comprehensive approach to privacy and information quality issues presented in these areas.

Security

The GAC security goal is to identify relevant security practices for justice and related information sharing initiatives. The objective of this goal is to enable the trusted sharing of justice, public safety, and first responder information by recommending best practices for security guidelines, technologies, policies, and procedures. Specific long- and short-range plans include the following key activities:

- ❑ Identifying key domains of security relevant to the communities of interest.
- ❑ Providing security educational materials to reinforce the critical need for security.
- ❑ Releasing a CD and operating a Web site to disseminate a comprehensive set of security best practices in the areas of technologies, guidelines, policies, and procedures, including specific real-world examples and case studies of security implementations for use throughout the communities of interest.
- ❑ Researching Web services security specifications, standards, and other security-related measures necessary in justice and justice-related information sharing applications.

Outreach

The GAC outreach goal is to inform the justice and justice-related communities about the functions, activities, and objectives of Global; encouraging them to create an environment that promotes the sharing of justice information, utilizing efficient and cost-effective technologies and practices by:

- ❑ Maintaining a Web-based resource for Global and other justice data exchange information.
- ❑ Assisting working group members to promote Global initiatives through conferences, meetings, and seminars for their constituent groups.

- Promoting Global activities throughout justice, public safety, first responder, and other related entities, including industry. This includes developing Global presentation products.

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