



Study examines sexual assault survivor experiences

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Questions of justice

What is justice? Whether posed in the classroom, workplace or community, this question elicits numerous responses. Does justice mean holding an offender accountable for their actions? Does it mean punishing the offender, regardless of accountability? Ensuring a fair trial, where a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt? Is justice procedural, where fair and respectful treatment is an outcome in itself? Is it all, many, or none

of the above? If justice is multifaceted, are certain forms of justice more important, and should they be prioritized over others?

Although these questions make for lively theoretical discussions, they also have practical implications.

Two overlapping functions of state-sanctioned criminal



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justice systems are to deter crime and to acknowledge and reaffirm the legal values of society (Gottfredson & Gottfredson, 1988). However, victimization surveys have consistently found that rates of reporting crimes to the criminal justice system are low, with the 2017 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) finding that only about half of victimization experiences were reported to

police (Morgan & Truman, 2018). When our criminal justice system only has the possibility of meting out justice for half of crimes committed, its ability to deter crime and enforce values is called into question (Gottfredson & Gottfredson, 1988). It is therefore worth asking: What is justice for victims of crime, and

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Editor's note

I'm pleased to share the latest issue of the *Alaska Justice Forum*, and to introduce myself as the publication's new editor. After a year-long hiatus, all of us at the Justice Center are happy to be moving forward with the *Forum* again, and continuing its tradition of research and analysis on Alaska-focused criminal justice issues.

I look forward to guiding the *Forum* as it builds on its strengths and expands in new directions. In this spirit of change, the publication will be transitioning to an all-digital format starting with this issue. You will begin to receive issues of the *Forum* exclusively by email, and you can also read new articles on the [Justice Center website](#) at any time.

Our move to an all-digital format gives us more flexibility to shape the future of the *Forum* — and, ultimately, helps us ensure that it continues to be valuable for practitioners and policymakers in our state. With this in mind, we will be looking at other potential changes to the publication in the near future, which I am excited to share with you.

I also want to acknowledge that this issue comes at a time of change for the University of Alaska Anchorage, which is home to the Justice Center and the *Forum*. Regardless of the potential challenges we face, our intention is to continue adapting this publication so that it best serves its ultimate purpose: helping our readers make informed, evidence-based decisions in justice-related policy and practice. This is what makes the *Forum* such a unique resource in Alaska, and it is why we strongly believe in its enduring value.

I invite you to help us along the way. One of the best ways you can support the *Forum* is by providing your input about what you think of the current issue, which articles you find useful and relevant, and what you would like to see in this publication going forward. Please feel free to contact me at hcrandolph@alaska.edu with your ideas and feedback.

Sincerely,
Henry Randolph
Editor