

Listservs and Web Legal Research for Juvenile Defenders

MAKING LISTSERVS WORK FOR YOU

What is a listserv?

A listserv is a way to connect people and make it significantly easier to share information. Through listserv technology, one person can send one e-mail message, and everyone who is a member of the listserv will receive it.

How is a listserv created?

An individual, the listserv owner, initially creates a new listserv either through paid software or a free web service (see below). The listserv owner determines how the listserv will be run, the listserv's topic, and membership requirements (if any).

What different kinds of listservs are there?

Distribution listservs allow only the list owner to post messages. Discussion (or open) listservs allow all members of the listserv to talk with one another. Generally, if you hit the "reply" button on an open listserv, your message will go to all the listserv subscribers.

What can a listserv do for me?

Listservs can be an incredible resource for attorneys. For example, recently a Kentucky juvenile defender wrote about receiving an adverse decision in an IDEA case, other defenders responded with ideas for making arguments on appeal and on local experts.

What juvenile justice listservs already exist for me to join?

JJC – visit <http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/listserv.html>
OJJDP – visit <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/about/juvjust.html>
Building Blocks for Youth – e-mail info.bby@erols.com
Justice Policy Institute – e-mail jpi-subscribe@mailcej.org

How can I find other listservs to join?

The following sites are directories for listservs that individuals have created, most can be searched by topic.

- <http://www.lsoft.com/catalist.html>
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/>
- <http://www.llrx.com/listtool.htm>

How can I start my own listserv?

Several of the sites above provide the software to start a listserv. Sites which provide free listservs are supported by advertising, often as an additional line or two of text attached to each e-mail.

Where can I find more information?

All you ever wanted to know about creating, running, and being on a listserv — manuals, frequently asked questions, technical support, and more — are available at <http://www.lsoft.com>.

Sources for Legal Research

- <http://www.findlaw.com>
- <http://www.counselquest.com>
- <http://www.lawrunner.com/>

Codes, Courts, and Cases on the Web

- <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/glin/us.html>
- <http://www.law.cornell.edu/>
- <http://www.nolo.com/research/index.html>
- <http://www.alllaw.com/law/>

Legal Forms, Rules, and Dockets on the Web

- <http://www.llrx.com/courtrules/>
- <http://www.washlaw.edu/legalforms/legalforms.html>
- <http://www.lawsources.com/also/usa.cgi?us3>

Slip Opinion Notification Services (both free and fee based)

- <http://www.llrx.com/columns/roundup12.htm>

Brief Banks

A number of brief banks (most fee based) have emerged on the web. The following two include juvenile justice items - <http://www.briefreporter.com/index.pl?s=8440090&index=Juvenile+Law> and <http://www.briefsmart.com/> Other sites may not have juvenile justice information right now, but may have relevant information in the future, such as <http://www.juritas.com>.

Sources for juvenile justice / crime statistics

- <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>
- <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/index.html>
- <http://www.crime.org>
- <http://www.fedstats.gov> (stats from all federal agencies)

Legal News and Resources for Lawyers

- <http://www.westpub.com/ec/>
- <http://www.law.com>
- <http://news.findlaw.com/>

Meta Search Engines [search multiple engines at once]

- <http://www.dogpile.com>
- <http://vivisimo.com/>
- <http://www.searchspaniel.com>
- <http://www.askjeeves.com>
- <http://www.mamma.com>
- <http://debriefing.ixquick.com/>

- Prepared by Sadie Rosenthal for the NJDC

ensuring excellence in juvenile
defense and promoting justice
for all children

<http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvsns>

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National Juvenile Defender Center

ensuring excellence in juvenile defense and promoting justice for all children

Statement of Beliefs

All children in the justice system must have ready and timely access to capable, well-resourced, well-trained legal counsel.

All children are entitled to legal representation that is individualized, developmentally and age appropriate, and free of racial, ethnic, gender, social, and economic bias.

All children have strengths and the potential to become productive members of society and each has the right to constitutional and statutory protections.

The juvenile defense bar must build its capacity, develop leadership and demonstrate a commitment to professionalism.

The juvenile defense bar must promote accountability and bring about reform in the juvenile justice system.

The juvenile defense bar's role in the justice system will be advanced through collaboration and partnerships.

The juvenile defense system will be enhanced by greater community involvement.