Hello MCJA members and participants,

We hope you are staying healthy and well during these challenging times. As the health and safety of our organization’s members, participants, and sponsors is always our greatest priority, the board has met and decided to **cancel** our annual meeting scheduled to be held September 24th – 25th, 2020. While it was a difficult decision, we believe it was the best one to make in the uncertainties associated with the virus. Fortunately, the Hilton Garden Inn has been an excellent partner in working out the details of the cancellation, and we look forward to continuing to hold our meetings in this venue through 2023.

Although we are disappointed we will unable to have a physical meeting, we are hopeful to still showcase some of our efforts and priorities of the organization in September. Notably:

* Annual awards will still be distributed (full descriptions can be found here: <https://www.mcja.org/awards.html#/>). We especially encourage undergraduate and graduate students to submit for our paper awards.
* MCJA began a student poster session and award several years ago, and are planning to hold a **virtual** poster gallery so this research and work can continue to be presented.
* We plan to feature a few targeted research panels and roundtables. We are still in the planning stages for this, but hope to showcase a few panels within the theme of bridging research to policy for 2020, in addition to a few other current topics.
* Our featured keynote speaker, Dr. Beth Huebner, has agreed to give a virtual address. Her ongoing national research efforts regarding financial implications of the criminal justice system, bail reform, and overall efforts to effect policy changes and working with practitioners in the criminal justice system will be featured.
* We will hold our annual general business meeting virtually to keep members updated about ongoing business, awards, and membership involvement.

We are in the early stages of planning this, and will keep you updated regarding access and availability of these events.

Finally, despite not having our annual meeting, we would like to still encourage you to please renew your membership this year, if you have not already done so. This ensures your continued access to *Journal of Crime & Justice* in addition to supporting our regional organization. We will also have elections this summer, where secretary Matthew Richie will solicit nominations for 2nd Vice President. Nominations will be due June 26th, 2020, so please feel free to begin thinking about and/or sending in nominations soon!

We thank you in advance for your continued support and involvement in the organization. Planning efforts for our conference at the Hilton Garden Inn Chicago in 2021 will continue, and we look forward to seeing everyone in attendance there!

Best,

Breanne Pleggenkuhle, MCJA President

Matthew Matusiak, 1st Vice President

Dena Carson, 2nd Vice President

Kiesha Warren-Gordon, Immediate Past President

AJ Meyer, Treasurer

Matthew Richie, Secretary