

## LERN Club Highlights

The 41<sup>st</sup> annual Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences meeting provided an invaluable opportunity for anyone with a vested interest in the betterment of society to form a consortium on pressing issues. This assemblage of professionals included an august mixture of criminal justice scholars and tacticians from varying academic disciplines hailing from all over the world. The National Criminal Justice Honor Society alumni also hosted a career fair and live self defense demonstration.

The panels of interest were divided into five major groupings from which a vast diversity of topics could be selected; these major groups consisted of the Community College, Corrections, International, Juvenile, and Police sections. While it was impossible to catch every panel of personal interest because each of the five sections were concurrently running panels, every time slot offered a chance to pick between over a dozen panels, thus ensuring that anyone could find something of interest at any time.

Some of the many highlights of the conference included a panel covering police-community co-production, entitled "Who, Where, When, and What to Observe", which discussed how police are involved in community actions and how much of a patrol shift should be devoted to problem solving through face to face encounters with residents. Another panel, entitled "Dimensions in Police Use of Force", gave situational responses to crimes from a diversity of agencies of varying sizes and with different assets at their disposal. Real-world events varying from the everyday informational encounters to hot pursuit of an armed perpetrator were presented to agencies around the country to see how they would be handled; these outcomes were reported during the panel with an interesting inconsistency in outcomes. Also discussed was the myth of the overly aggressive, "redneck" southern police officer and how statistics showed that, if anything, they are likely to use less force than police in other areas of the U.S.

Two areas of foremost importance for students soon looking for employment into the criminal justice field were the career fair and the panel about federal internship opportunities. Representatives from a multitude of private, local, state, and federal agencies were on hand to distribute information and answer questions from those who aspire to join such agencies. The federal internship panel discussed not only how to apply for such positions to gain experience, but also how to excel at them and earn permanent employment through them.

This trip provided a once in a lifetime chance for many people to attend a conference covering a personal and pertinent subject matter, with ramifications that could change the life of some and save the lives of others; it would never have been possible without the support of C.L.E.F. and the tireless effort of the leadership of MCC's L.E.R.N.

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