Dr. Nancy La Vigne to Receive 2022 Justice Policy Leadership Award

SEARCH is pleased to announce that Dr. **Nancy La Vigne**, a nationally known and respected criminal justice policy expert and researcher, will receive the organization's *Justice Policy Leadership Award* for 2022.

At its March 17 meeting, the SEARCH Board of Directors unanimously selected Dr. La Vigne for the honor to recognize her exemplary and outstanding leadership in guiding the effective and principled development of justice policy for information and technology management and operations nationally.

"The SEARCH Board is recognizing Dr. La Vigne for her extraordinary contributions to justice research and policy guidance, and her efforts to expand and enhance the fair and effective administration of justice by advocating for evidence-based policy choices that enhance safety and justice for all," said Ms. **Leslie Moore**, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, who is Chair of the SEARCH Board of Directors.

Dr. La Vigne is a Senior Fellow at the Council on Criminal Justice (CCJ). She recently served as Executive Director of CCJ's Task Force on Policing, which identified the policies and practices most likely to reduce violent encounters between officers and the public and to improve the fairness and effectiveness of American policing.

In their selection of Dr. La Vigne, the SEARCH Board specifically noted her knowledge and contributions in addressing policing and correctional reform, prisoner reentry, building police-community trust, justice reinvestment, criminal justice technologies, and evidence-based criminal justice practice. They also cited Dr. La Vigne's admirable and productive career as a policy expert and nonprofit executive:

- In her current work with the CCJ, she is dedicated to advancing understanding of the criminal justice policy choices facing this nation and building consensus for solutions that emphasize public safety and fairness.

- She has led the development of more than two dozen policies and 16 assessment briefs by the Task Force on Policing to help police agencies provide effective, equitable, and respectful services to those they are sworn to protect.

- As Vice President of Justice Policy at the [Urban Institute](#), she led a staff of more than 50 researchers and oversaw a research portfolio of over three dozen projects that spanned a wide array of crime, justice, and public safety topics.

- In 2015, she served as Executive Director for the congressionally mandated bipartisan [Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections Reform](#), which examined challenges in the federal corrections system and developed practical, data-driven solutions. This culminated in a [report](#) to Congress, the Attorney General and the President in January 2016 that provided a blueprint for reforms to the federal corrections system that were sensible, cost-effective strategies to reduce the federal prison population and enhance public safety.

- She was a founding director of the Crime Mapping Research Center at the [National Institute of Justice](#), the research, technology, and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. The center developed training programs to enhance the capability of law enforcement departments and researchers nationwide to use spatial analyses and geocoded data sets.

- Over the course of two decades, her research has focused on criminal justice evaluation, prisoner reentry, policing, crime prevention, the spatial analysis of crime and criminal behavior, and more. She is widely published on a broad range of scholarly journals and practitioner publications, with dozens of research reports, research briefs, policy briefs, journal articles, fact sheets, and testimony.

- She previously held positions as research director for the Texas Sentencing Commission, research fellow at the Police Executive Research Forum, and consultant to the National Council and Crime and Delinquency.

Dr. La Vigne received her bachelor's degree from Smith College, a master's degree in public affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, and a PhD in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University.

The SEARCH Justice Policy Leadership Award is the only national award that recognizes extraordinary leadership in justice information management and technology policy. Past recipients include U.S. Senator **John Cornyn** (R-TX) in 2018; Ms. **Laurie Robinson**, former Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice in 2012; and U.S. Representative **Frank Wolf** (R-VA) in 2011.

SEARCH will formally recognize Dr. La Vigne's contributions and achievements at an awards ceremony Tuesday, July 19, in conjunction with the SEARCH 2022 [Annual Membership Group Meeting](#) at the Grand Hyatt Denver in Denver, CO.