



# Criminal Justice System Reform

2016 Legislative Session



## Governor's Working Group Recommendations

In the fall of 2015, the Governor convened a working group made of diverse agencies and organizations. This group has made recommendations that will require all three branches of government to implement. The recommendations are:

- ◇ Increase the racial diversity of Iowa jury pools.
- ◇ Ensure the survival of Drug and Mental Health Courts across the state.
- ◇ Decrease the cost for inmate phone calls from prisons and jails.
- ◇ Reverse the presumption in juvenile delinquency records so that they remain confidential upon adjudication unless a judge deems otherwise.

**Executive Action:** The Governor has already tasked the Department of Corrections to reduce the cost of phone rates in our state prisons. The State Public Defender's Office has created a Wrongful Conviction Division to investigate wrongful convictions of innocent people.

**Judicial Action:** Increase the racial diversity of Iowa jury pool selections to ensure that race is never an issue in a criminal proceeding.

**Legislative Action:** Gov. Branstad proposes to work with the legislature in addressing how we can:

*Protect our children and family members from human trafficking;*

*Combat domestic violence;*

*Examine the funding model for drug and mental health courts;*

*Address juvenile delinquency record confidentiality.*