CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY  
& DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Faculty and Graduate Student Research on the Politics of Sentencing and Mandatory Minimums

The Georgia State University Center for Human Rights and Democracy and the Department of Political Science invite requests for funding to support research projects on the politics of criminal sentencing and mandatory minimums. Funding will be allocated to faculty and graduate students working on projects in one or more of the following thematic areas:

1) Rights of vulnerable groups (e.g., youth, minorities, immigrants) under systems that employ mandatory minimums for specified crimes (e.g., sexual offenses, drug trafficking, and others).

2) Public and voter preferences for/against mandatory minimums, with special attention to differences across states and/or countries; impact of public preferences and “community standards” on legislative behavior

3) Use of citizen initiatives and popular referendums to influence laws on sentencing

4) Impact of mandatory minimums on recidivism rates

5) Consequences of political trends toward distrust of and disempowerment of judges

Graduate Student Research Award(s)
It is anticipated that one or more awards in the amount of $2,000 will be given to doctoral students for the Spring 2012 semester. Student applicants should submit a summary of their research (3 pages maximum) and a description of how funding would help produce a measurable research outcome. All student requests must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a faculty advisor.

Faculty Project Leader Award
One award ($5,000) will be granted to a faculty member to coordinate research that will increase the broad understanding of mandatory minimum sentencing. Fundable activities may include travel (airfare, lodging, and conference registration), purchase of research materials, graduate research assistance, or summer stipend. These expenses must directly support the outcome of the project. The outcome of a sponsored project could be a major external grant application, a published journal article or special journal issue, a panel of research papers presented at a professional conference, or a published book manuscript.

Conference/Symposium Support Award
One award ($4,000) to support hosting of an on-campus public conference or symposium for researchers and practitioners, addressing one or more of the topics identified above.
Individual Faculty Professional Development Award(s)
Three awards of up to $1,000 to support individual projects leading to dissemination of findings on mandatory minimum sentencing.

Proposals should be e-mailed to polchrd@gsu.edu by no later than December 1. Project descriptions should be no more than two pages, with a third page detailing an anticipated budget. Faculty applicants should include a CV. Funding decisions will be announced on or about December 15.