



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2015**

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Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Welcomes New Research Director

CHICAGO—June 1, 2015. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Executive Director John Maki has named Dr. Megan Alderden the Research Director for the Authority's Research & Analysis Unit and the Illinois Statistical Analysis Center.

Dr. Alderden comes to the Authority with 16 years of research experience in the field of criminal justice working as an academic and practitioner. Prior to joining the Authority, Dr. Alderden was an associate professor of criminal justice at Saint Xavier University, and preceding her work in academia, Dr. Alderden was a researcher for the Chicago Police Department and the Authority.

“Dr. Alderden is a dynamic researcher with a diverse criminal justice background,” said Executive Director Maki. “She will lead the Authority's research team to pursue justice strategies that are evidence-base, data-driven, and results-oriented, and inform policy decisions that will help improve public safety outcomes, which includes safely reducing the state’s prison population 25 percent by 2025.”

Dr. Alderden's most recent research focuses on sexual victimization and issues in policing. She is currently working as a co-principle investigator on a project examining evidence-based practices in homicide and sexual assault investigation in Illinois and on a federally funded study examining the impact of forensic evidence on prosecutorial decisions and court outcomes in sexual assault cases.

She is also a researcher with the National Police Research Platform, where her work focuses on police diversification, police culture, and the civilianization of police agencies. She has published in several government reports and articles in scholarly journals.

Dr. Alderden received her doctorate of philosophy in criminal justice with a gender and women studies concentration from the University of Illinois at Chicago, her master's of science in criminal justice from Michigan State University and her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Calvin College.

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