

## IN THE NEWS

### **Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales**

On February 3, 2005, Alberto R. Gonzales was sworn in as the 80th Attorney General of the United States of America. Attorney General Gonzales is committed to preventing terrorism, ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans, and protecting neighborhoods by combating crime while at all times protecting civil liberties and respecting the Constitution. For more on Attorney General Gonzales, visit: [www.usdoj.gov/ag/aggonzalesbio.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/aggonzalesbio.html).

### **Helping America's At-Risk Youth**

The Department of Justice estimates approximately 750,000 individuals are now members of gangs—one-third of which are under the age of 18. In his 2005 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush spoke of the enduring values that keep America strong—freedom, faith, family—and highlighted the need to encourage communities to focus on their most-at-risk youth. Toward that goal, President Bush's new proposals focus on outreach to young, at-risk Americans to help them make healthy decisions and overcome the danger of gang influence and involvement. The President has selected First Lady Laura Bush to lead this critical initiative. For more information visit the First Lady's website at: [www.whitehouse.gov/firstlady](http://www.whitehouse.gov/firstlady).

## FUNDING

### **Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program**

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is now accepting applications from states and eligible units of local government. Proposed to streamline justice funding, JAG blends the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) programs to provide communities with the flexibility they need to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most. For details see: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/jag.html). All JAG applications are due March 31, 2005.

### **State Criminal Alien Assistance Program**

The Fiscal Year 2005 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) is now accepting applications. BJA administers SCAAP, in conjunction with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security. SCAAP provides federal payments to states and localities that incurred correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions for violations of state or local law, and incarcerated for at least 4 consecutive days during the reporting period. For more information see the SCAAP website at: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/scaap.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/scaap.html). All SCAAP applications are due by March 30, 2005.

## RESOURCES

### **Telemarketing Fraud Educators Toolbox**

BJA is pleased to announce the availability of a new resource on telemarketing fraud. The Telemarketing Fraud Educators Toolbox was developed collaboratively by BJA and the National Consumers League. The [Telemarketing Fraud Educators Toolbox](#) provides tips, presentations, scripts for radio PSAs and speeches, and much more. Materials contained in the toolbox are available in both English and Spanish.

### **FOCUS ON THE FIELD**

The **North Carolina Attorney General's Consumer Protection Unit** uses a public - private partnership to distribute alerts about potential telemarketing fraud artists. The initiative involves an email alert system that notifies other classified advertising outlets of a suspicious ad placement attempt whenever noticed by a classified ad manager. This innovative project recently identified and communicated fraud information to consumers from as far away as Ontario, Canada.

**Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Domingo S. Herraiz, Director**

*Justice Today* is a bi-weekly e-publication of the Bureau of Justice Assistance. For comments or questions regarding this issue, contact Matthew Hanson at: [Matthew.Hanson@usdoj.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hanson@usdoj.gov).