



Arkansas - Arizona - New Mexico - Oklahoma – Texas

Call for Papers, Presentations, and Panels

Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice Annual Conference
"Transforming Criminal Justice: Technology, Data, and Artificial Intelligence"
October 6 – 10, 2026
AC Hotel Fort Worth Downtown
101 West 5th Street, Fort Worth, Texas

The Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ) invites submissions for the 2026 Annual Conference, focusing on the theme "Transforming Criminal Justice: Technology, Data, and Artificial Intelligence." The conference seeks empirical, theoretical, and practice-oriented contributions that critically examine how technological innovation, data analytics, and artificial intelligence are reshaping criminal justice research, policy, and practice. Scholars, practitioners, and students are encouraged to submit proposals that advance evidence-based insights, illuminate ethical and equity considerations, and offer strategies for preparing the next generation of leaders in a rapidly evolving criminal justice landscape.

We welcome submissions in the following areas:

1. Research Presentations

- o Original research addressing empirical, theoretical, or methodological scholarship that examines how technology, data, and artificial intelligence are transforming criminal justice systems and outcomes.
- o Original research addressing any aspect of criminal justice, including but not limited to policing, corrections, law enforcement, courts, juvenile justice, and community engagement.
- o Papers exploring new methodologies, theoretical perspectives, and practical applications in criminal justice research.
- o Undergraduate and graduate student research presentations.

2. Poster Presentations

- o Submissions for poster presentations are invited from students, faculty, and professionals showcasing research, innovative ideas, or best practices in the criminal justice field.
- o This is a great opportunity for visual presentations that allow for direct interaction and feedback from attendees.

3. Panel Discussions

- o Proposals that bring together multiple experts to engage in critical dialogue about the opportunities and challenges posed by technology, data, and artificial intelligence in criminal justice.
 - o Proposals that integrate diverse perspectives (e.g., researchers, practitioners, policymakers, technologists, community representatives) and focus on contemporary debates, policy implications, implementation barriers, and strategies for responsibly integrating innovation into practice and education.
4. **Workshops and Special Sessions**
- o Proposals for interactive, skills-based sessions that provide participants with practical tools for integrating technology, data, or AI into criminal justice research, practice, and pedagogy.
 - o Proposals for training on ethical and legal considerations in data use, or curricular activities that prepare students to lead in a tech-driven criminal justice environment.
 - o Proposals for special sessions highlighting innovative or cross-cutting topics that do not fit traditional formats but advance the conference theme of transforming criminal justice through technology, data, and artificial intelligence. These may include practitioner roundtables, demonstrations of emerging tools, interdisciplinary dialogues, author-meets-critics sessions, community-engaged innovation forums, or other creative formats that foster collaboration, leadership development, and forward-looking visions for the field
5. **Student Competitions**
- o **Student CSI Competition:** Students are invited to participate in a CSI Competition that will challenge their crime scene investigation skills.
 - Teams will work through a simulated crime scene, applying forensic techniques, evidence collection, and investigative analysis.
 - Cash Prizes will be awarded to the winning team(s).
 - o **Student Quiz Bowl:** A fun and educational Quiz Bowl competition where teams of students will face off on criminal justice-related topics.
 - Teams will compete for cash prizes while demonstrating their knowledge and quick thinking in the field of criminal justice.
 - o Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to participate in both competitions.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Deadline for Submissions:** September 14, 2026
- Submissions must be made via the SWACJ website
- Include the following in your submission:
 - o Title of paper, presentation, panel, poster, or competition entry
 - o Abstract (250 words)
 - o Brief biography of each presenter or panelist.
 - o Contact information for the lead author or panel organizer.

Important Dates:

- **Submission Deadline:** September 14, 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** September 22, 2026
- **Conference Dates:** October 6 – 10, 2026

Conference Registration:

Details on conference registration will be provided upon acceptance of paper/presentation/panel proposals. Early bird registration is encouraged for discounted rates.

We look forward to your submissions and to seeing you at the **2026 SWACJ Annual Conference** in Fort Worth, Texas!

For further inquiries, please contact:
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