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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice is awarded \$2.6m by Laura and John Arnold Foundation to conduct a ground-breaking multi-state study examining fines and fees in community corrections.

CINCINNATI, OH (August 16th, 2018)—University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice assistant professor Ebony Ruhland is leading a multi-state, mixed-methods study that examines how fines and fees operate in community corrections (probation and parole) and how fines and fees impact the ability of individuals to succeed on supervision in several U.S. states. Dr. Ruhland leads a team of professors and researchers from Drexel University (Dr. Jordan Hyatt), Indiana University-Bloomington (Dr. Miriam Northcutt Bohmert), the University of Michigan Law School (Dr. Meghan O’Neil), the University of Minnesota Law School (Kelly Lyn Mitchell, Dr. Erin Harbinson and Dr. Julia Laskorunsky, Robina Institute), Northeastern University (Dr. Shytierra Gaston), and, Rutgers University (Dr. Nathan Link). This groundbreaking work is funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, by the end of 2016 there were approximately 4.5 million adults serving sentences on community supervision (probation and parole). The total amount of fines and fees those individuals pay varies by jurisdiction, offense type, court orders, and other conditions. Because fines and fees vary greatly, little is known about the true impact of those fines and fees for the individuals who are required to pay them. Yet, these monetary burdens may influence an individual’s ability to successfully complete their community supervision (fees are typically ordered as conditions of supervision), potentially putting those individuals at risk for revocation back to prison or extended sentences if they are unable to pay. These fines and fees may place additional burdens on their families and communities, and could have greater economic consequences on corrections systems. Jurisdictions and states are aware that fines and fees can have far-reaching implications for individuals as well as the correctional system and seek to understand how they might reduce revocations in order to minimize the growth of prison populations and to help individuals successfully complete their supervision. This study will seek to understand the implications of those monetary requirements have for the individual and on the criminal justice system.

The University of Cincinnati’s nationally ranked School of Criminal Justice holds the number one ranking for research productivity and recognition in *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top three doctoral programs in the nation. With a mission dedicated to research, teaching, and service, the School supports these and related activities through the Center for Criminal Justice Research, which includes the Corrections Institute and the Policing Institute.

cech.uc.edu/criminaljustice.html

About the Laura and John Arnold Foundation

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation’s core objective is to improve the lives of individuals by strengthening our nation’s social, governmental, and economic systems. Its investments are focused on criminal justice, education, health care, and several other key areas. LJAF has offices in Houston, New York City, and Washington, D.C.