



Fiscal Year 2012
Budget Request

January 2011

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I. Overview for the State Justice Institute

The State Justice Institute (SJI) was established by federal law (42 U.S.C. 10701 et seq.) in 1984 to award grants to improve the quality of justice in state courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts. SJI is a non-profit corporation governed by an 11-member Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. By law, the President must appoint six state court judges, one state court administrator, and four members of the public – no more than two of whom may be of the same political party.

SJI is unique in both its mission and how it seeks to fulfill it. Only SJI has the authority to assist all state courts – criminal, civil, juvenile, family, and appellate – and the mandate to share the success of one state's innovations with every state court system.

SJI carries out its mission in a variety of ways that maximize the impact of its funding, including:

- Addressing national court issues as they occur, and developing solutions to those problems;
- Placing practical products in the hands of the judges and court staff who can most benefit from them;
- Making sure that effective approaches in one state court are quickly and economically shared with other courts nationwide;
- Supporting national, regional, and in-state educational programs to speed the transfer of solutions to issues shared by courts across the nation; and,
- Supporting national technical assistance targeted at specific issues in the courts.

SJI has supported numerous grants to state courts and court-support organizations that have improved the administration of justice in the United States. These include projects that have assisted the state courts in reengineering to improve efficiency and effectiveness; addressed the impact of immigration in the state courts; improved court security; promoted fiscally-sound and data-driven policies and practices on sentencing; and provided assistance to improve access to justice. SJI has also supported many worthwhile projects that have enhanced state court performance and accountability.

For FY 2012, SJI requests \$6,337,000 to enhance its efforts to improve the quality of justice in state courts. The request is \$64,000 above the level provided by the House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee on Appropriations markup for FY 2011, and \$37,000 above the level provided by the full Senate Appropriations Committee markup. The request is also \$1,206,000 above the FY 2010 level provided to SJI in the 4th Continuing Resolution for FY 2011 (P.L. 111-322), annualized through March 4, 2011.

II. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

Appropriations Language

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

SALARIES & EXPENSES

For the necessary expenses of the State Justice Institute, as authorized by the State Justice Authorization Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10701 et seq.), [\$5,131,000] ~~\$6,337,000~~, of which \$500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

Analysis of Appropriations Language

- At the time of this budget submission, the House CJS Subcommittee on Appropriations markup provided \$6,273,000 for FY 2011. The Senate CJS Subcommittee version of the CJS Bill provided \$6,300,000, which was also approved by the full Senate Appropriations Committee on July 22, 2010.
- However, the 4th Continuing Resolution (P.L. 111-322) provides SJI with the FY 2010 funding level of \$5,131,000, annualized through March 4, 2011. For the purposes of the FY 2012 budget request, SJI used this funding level as the baseline estimate for FY 2011.

III. Summary of Program Changes

Grant Type	Description	Dollars	Page
Project Grants	The requested enhancement will enable SJI to support one to two additional projects in FY 2012.	\$200,000	8
Partner Grants	The requested enhancement will enable SJI to support one to two additional Partner Grants in FY 2012.	\$200,000	10
Strategic Initiatives Grants	The Strategic Initiatives Grants (SIG) program began in FY 2008 with a focus on immigration issues in the state courts. Since then, SJI has expanded the program to include reengineering in the state courts. The requested enhancement will increase the total availability to \$1,500,000 and enable SJI to address other critical issues.	\$250,000	12
Technical Assistance Grants	The requested enhancement will enable SJI to keep pace with the increased number of TA Grant requests anticipated in FY 2012.	\$359,000	14
Curriculum Adaptation and Training Grants	The requested enhancement will enable SJI to meet additional CAT grant requests anticipated in FY 2012.	\$300,000	15
Total, Program Changes		\$1,309,000	

IV. SJI Grant Program

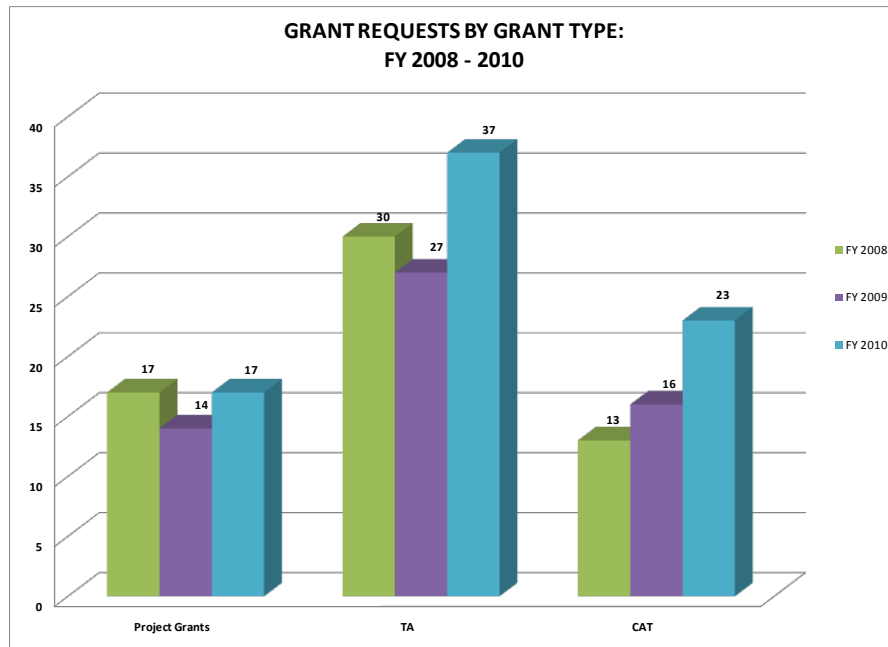
SJI's mission is to improve the quality of justice in state courts and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts. To fulfill this mission, SJI awards grants that benefit the nation's judicial system and the public it serves.

SJI currently awards six types of grants, each of which is specifically targeted:

- Project Grants – are the centerpiece of SJI's efforts to improve the administration of justice in state courts nationwide. Project Grants are intended to support innovative technical assistance, education and training, and demonstration projects that can improve the administration of justice in state courts.
- Partner Grants – allow SJI and federal, state, or local agencies or foundations, trusts, or other private entities to combine financial resources in pursuit of common interests.
- Strategic Initiatives Grants – SJI requested, and Congress approved, the Strategic Initiatives Grants (SIG) program in FY 2008. This funding provides SJI the flexibility to address national court issues as they occur, and develop solutions to those problems.
- Technical Assistance (TA) Grants – are designed to provide state and local courts with funding to obtain expert assistance to diagnose a problem, develop a response to that problem, and initiate implementation of any needed changes.
- Curriculum Adaptation and Training (CAT) Grants – enable courts and regional or national court associations to modify and adapt model curricula or course modules to meet state or local jurisdiction educational needs; train instructors to present portions or all of the curricula; and pilot-test them to determine their appropriateness, quality, and effectiveness.
- Scholarships – enhance the skills, knowledge, and abilities of judges and court managers by supporting attendance at programs sponsored by national and state providers that they could not otherwise attend because of limited state, local, and personal budgets.

For FY 2010, SJI received \$4,540,281 in grant applications¹; an increase of 78 percent above the \$2,545,184 received in FY 2009. However, there have been significant changes in the types of grant requests SJI received during that same time period. For example, between FY 2008 and 2010, the total number of Project Grant requests remained the same; whereas the total number of TA Grant requests increased by 23 percent and the number of CAT Grant requests increased by 77 percent. Furthermore, the total dollar amount requested for TA and CAT requests increased by 127 percent (from \$1,024,108 in FY 2008, to \$2,328,679 in FY 2010). Therefore, the demand for SJI grants has been increasing dramatically each fiscal year.

¹ Only includes Project, Technical Assistance, and Curriculum Adaptation & Training Grant applications. Strategic Initiative Grants and Partner Grants are considered outside of the normal grant application process. In addition, Scholarships are also considered under a separate process.



SJI received 30 grant applications requesting a total of \$1,720,544 for the 1st quarter of FY 2010; a 100 percent increase over the amount normally requested during a given quarter. Historically, SJI receives the least amount of grant applications in the 1st quarter of the fiscal year. There may be several reasons why grant applications have increased: 1) the state courts are dealing with severe budget constraints, and need financial assistance in order to conduct critical projects; 2) SJI increased the maximum amount available for TA and CAT grants in FY 2010. TA Grants were increased from \$30,000 to \$50,000, and CAT Grants were increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000. This has provided more flexibility to the state courts to conduct larger projects; and 3) SJI has increased its visibility with the state courts through outreach, which combined with limited federal funds for the state courts in general, has led to an increase in applications.

While SJI is excited about the sharp increase in grant applications, we anticipate an appropriation of approximately \$5,131,000 for FY 2011; which means that there will be limited grant funding available. SJI reviews all grant applications on a competitive basis and does not allocate grant funding by quarter. Therefore, SJI has encouraged potential applicants to submit their grant applications as soon as possible, since SJI is now on a first-come, first-served basis for grant applications that merit funding.

The state courts are unlikely to experience any budget relief in the near future. Therefore, SJI expects that the requests for TAs and CATs will continue to increase in the future. These smaller grants are critical to state and local courts, and this budget request will support these projects while continuing to use the other larger grant programs to address national court issues.

FY 2008

Grant Type	Requested			Awarded		
	Number	\$	Cash Match	Number	\$	Cash Match
Project	17	\$ 1,630,178	\$ 1,942,788	9	\$ 760,321	\$ 1,008,478
Partner	5	\$ 937,000	\$ 937,000	5	\$ 937,000	\$ 937,000
SIG	3	\$ 448,168	\$ -	3	\$ 448,168	\$ -
TA	30	\$ 806,656	\$ 365,459	22	\$ 608,184	\$ 278,931
CAT	13	\$ 217,452	\$ 61,982	8	\$ 117,452	\$ 27,982
Scholarships	202	\$ 399,974	\$ -	134	\$ 183,508	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL	270	\$ 4,439,428	\$ 3,307,229	181	\$ 3,054,633	\$ 2,252,391

FY 2009

Grant Type	Requested			Awarded		
	Number	\$	Cash Match	Number	\$	Cash Match
Project	14	\$ 1,530,828	\$ 2,202,964	7	\$ 618,113	\$ 630,004
Partner	5	\$ 939,850	\$ 889,850	5	\$ 939,850	\$ 889,850
SIG	3	\$ 500,000	\$ -	3	\$ 500,000	\$ -
TA	27	\$ 720,941	\$ 216,984	22	\$ 583,809	\$ 170,732
CAT	16	\$ 293,215	\$ 162,704	9	\$ 161,250	\$ 90,664
Scholarships	141	\$ 249,260	\$ -	119	\$ 178,500	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL	206	\$ 4,234,094	\$ 3,472,502	165	\$ 2,981,522	\$ 1,781,250

FY 2010

Grant Type	Requested			Awarded		
	Number	\$	Cash Match	Number	\$	Cash Match
Project	17	\$ 2,211,602	\$ 2,226,336	11	\$ 804,629	\$ 1,015,559
Partner	4	\$ 337,636	\$ 502,637	4	\$ 337,636	\$ 502,637
SIG	2	\$ 850,000	\$ 500,000	2	\$ 850,000	\$ 500,000
TA	37	\$ 1,722,739	\$ 265,910	30	\$ 1,418,039	\$ 250,910
CAT	23	\$ 605,940	\$ 243,592	18	\$ 463,326	\$ 215,132
Scholarships	141	\$ 273,599	\$ -	117	\$ 175,500	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL	224	\$ 6,001,516	\$ 3,738,475	182	\$ 4,049,130	\$ 2,484,238

Project Grants

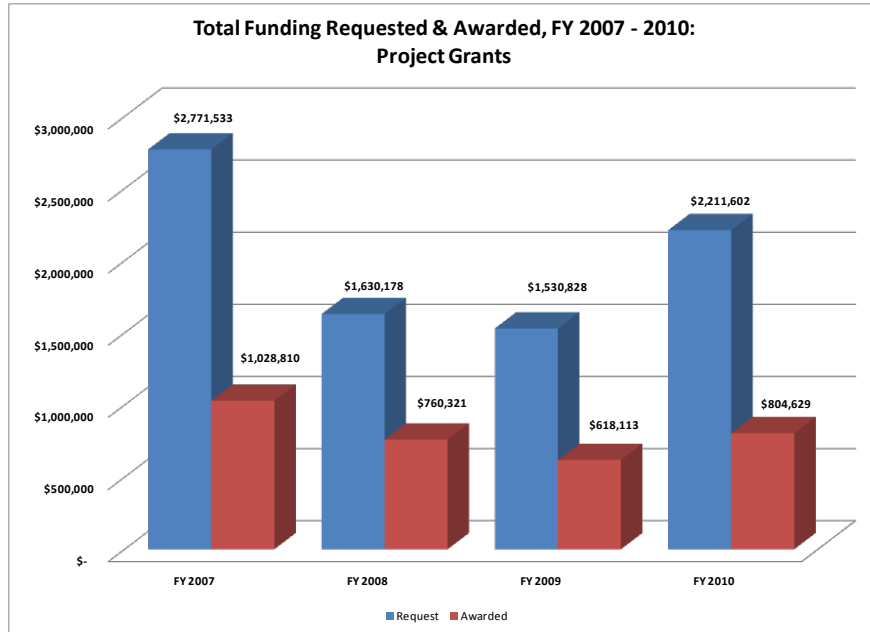
Project Grants are intended to: 1) formulate new court procedures and techniques, or creatively enhance existing procedures and techniques; 2) address aspects of state judicial systems that are in special need of attention; 3) develop products, services, and techniques of national significance that may be used in other states; and/or 4) create and disseminate products that

transfer information and ideas developed for relevant audiences, or provide technical assistance to facilitate the adaptation of effective programs in other court jurisdictions. Each fiscal year, SJI identifies Special Interest Program Categories that have been designated by the Board of Directors as critical to the courts and are investment priorities. For FY 2011, the Special Interest Program Categories are (no order of priority):

- a. **Immigration Issues** – Recent immigration growth is having an impact on state and local courts, including courts along the Southwest Border and other areas of the United States with large immigrant populations. These jurisdictions are dealing with issues such as how to provide culturally appropriate services; increases in gang-crime cases involving immigrants; and the impact of federal and state immigration policies on court operations. SJI is interested in projects that highlight the issues state and local courts face in addressing the demands of increased immigration, and potential solutions to those issues.
- b. **State Court Budgeting and Reengineering** – SJI continues to recognize state court reengineering and budgeting as emerging needs under the present economic conditions. SJI is interested in projects that include the development of plans, tools, and resources in reengineering that provide guidance in making policy decisions and implementing changes in the state courts. SJI is also interested in projects focusing on the new challenges of maintaining access to justice while controlling or reducing costs, and improving efficiency in measurable ways.
- c. **Courts and the Media** – Public attacks on the courts have gone largely unanswered because courts were unable to respond effectively. However, no one is better prepared than a judge to describe decision-making on the bench within the law and the Constitution. SJI is interested in projects that explore the role of the judge as public commentator and promoting initiatives that improve relations and open dialogue between the judiciary and the media.
- d. **Elder Issues** – This category includes projects designed to improve management of guardianship, probate, fraud, Americans with Disability Act, and other types of elder-related cases.

There have been many successful Project Grants funded by SJI. These include the *Court-Based Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program* (SJI-08-N-073) for the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO). This Project Grant provided court ADR programs in Maryland with a web-based data collection and analysis system to improve services across the state. SJI also awarded a Project Grant (SJI-10-N-146) to the Maryland Judiciary in FY 2010 to conduct a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis of ADR in the state. Recently, SJI awarded Project Grants to the Wisconsin state courts to implement statewide court-related evidence-based strategies that enhance public safety, reduce recidivism, and address criminal and addictive behaviors (SJI-10-N-003); the Minnesota Judicial Branch for a technology enhanced learning project to reduce training costs while meeting training requirements (SJI-10-N-086); and to the Michigan State Court Administrative Office for a judicial workload assessment (SJI-10-N-087).

Between FY 2009 and FY 2010, total funding requested for Project Grants increased by 44 percent. This increase is directly related to the severe budget cuts state courts are currently facing. SJI anticipates that Project Grant applications will continue to increase. Therefore, for FY 2012, SJI is requesting a small increase of \$200,000, which will enable SJI to fund one to two additional projects.



Partner Grants

Partner Grants allow SJI and federal, state, or local agencies or foundations, trusts, or other private organizations to combine financial resources in pursuit of common interests. These grants enable SJI and its partner to fund projects that will have a national impact on the courts. They also increase coordination among SJI and other grant-making agencies such as the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

In FY 2010, The Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and SJI entered into a Partner Grant to support the Alabama Sentencing Training project. This project trained Alabama judges on evidence-based sentencing policy and practice to hold offenders accountable, reduce recidivism, and decrease costs to the justice system in that state. This Partner Grant also complemented SJI's focus on evidence-based practice within the context of state court reengineering. In addition, SJI recently finalized a Partner Grant with BJA on the 4th National Symposium on Court Management, which will provide training on the future issues of the state courts and their workforce in the next 10 years. This training is critical to anticipating the challenges that the state courts will face in the next decade.

In FY 2010, SJI continued to work with the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) to support a component of the USMS Judicial Security Fellowship Program. This program provides an opportunity for state and local law enforcement officers charged with court security to train with the USMS, which includes training on high level executive protection and court security operations. During the program, the Judicial Security Fellow (JSF) is exposed to all aspects of USMS judicial and court security, and travels to sites of ongoing high-threat trials and protective details. JSFs are full-time sworn officers of a duly constituted law enforcement agency, and have at least five years court security experience.

The USMS/SJI Partner Grant directly supported a component of the JSF program that included joint training with court administrators at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). This training included coordination of public and media relations in high visibility trials, coordinated approaches to policy and procedures, and consolidated training for court staff in security awareness and response. Furthermore, the NCSC helped the JSF and his/her court counterpart develop close working relationships for analyzing security needs and formulating action plans to improve security in the state or local jurisdiction they represent. The JSFs also achieved an understanding of court security requirements from a court perspective.

In addition to BJA and the USMS, SJI and the Bureau of Prisons, National Institute of Corrections (NIC) are working together to support the California Risk Assessment Pilot Project (CalRAPP). The CalRAPP program is building on recent and on-going national and state sentencing reform activities to demonstrate one of the most promising developments in state sentencing and corrections reform – the use of risk/needs assessment information. The overall goal of this project is to use information on the risk of recidivism to guide statewide sentencing, probation, and probation violation decisions; thereby controlling costs while holding offenders accountable.

In FY 2006, SJI and the Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) began a Partner Grant to address Foster Care issues facing both the justice system and child welfare service providers. Other participating organizations included the National Conference of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the NCSC. This Partner Grant provided technical assistance to courts to improve the way foster care cases were administered by both the judicial system and child welfare agencies. Closer collaboration between the two was promoted and the reforms developed by the Pew Commission on Children and Foster Care were encouraged and supported. Another Partner Grant between SJI and Pew began in FY 2007 to address sentencing and sentencing alternatives in a collaborative approach between policy-makers, corrections personnel, and judges. This Partner Grant involves the Council of State Governments, Vera Institute, Crime and Justice Institute, the National Judicial College, and NCSC. SJI's involvement in this project assured the inclusion of state court judges in the collaborative.

Partner Grants are critical as SJI continues to work with outside agencies to maximize grant funding for the state courts. For FY 2012, SJI is requesting a \$200,000 increase for Partner Grants. This will enable SJI to fund one to two additional Partner Grants.

Strategic Initiatives Grants

SJI requested, and Congress approved, the Strategic Initiatives Grants (SIG) program in FY 2008. This funding provides SJI the flexibility to address national court issues as they occur, and develop solutions to those problems. This is an innovative approach to doing business where SJI is no longer waiting for a grant application to be submitted that covers a major issue facing the courts; rather, SJI is actively addressing those issues. In this way, SJI uses its expertise and the expertise and knowledge of its grantees to address key issues facing courts across the United States.

SJI began using the SIG program in FY 2008 to address immigration issues in the state courts at a national impact level. As part of this effort, SJI began a dialogue with the state courts to determine how immigration issues are impacting them. Two overarching themes came out of this dialogue: 1) State court capacity to provide effective service is challenged by the magnitude and intensity of current and anticipated immigration (equal access to justice); and 2) the intersection of federal immigration law and practice, and state law, can result in unintended consequences for litigants and state court systems (equal justice for all).

Two grants were awarded to support these three Program Areas; one to the Center for Public Policy Studies (CPPS); and another to support a collaborative effort between the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and the National Judicial College (NJC).

CPPS has worked in three pilot learning sites: the Maricopa County (Phoenix, Arizona) Superior Court; the 11th Judicial Circuit Courts in Florida (Miami-Dade); and the Courts of the 8th Judicial Circuit in rural, western Minnesota, to learn what challenges they face in meeting the needs of immigrant populations that use the courts; and how best to address those challenges. A guidebook was developed for assessing the impacts of immigration in the state courts that can be used in courts across the United States. The guidebook builds on the work of this project by incorporating the practical lessons learned from the three pilot sites, and provides useful information and tools which other courts can adapt to meet their own needs. CPPS also prepared a bench guide for assisting judges across the United States in addressing the practical implications of immigration in the state courts for a variety of topics including pretrial release decisions, eligibility for and conditions of probation, the effects of guilty pleas on immigration status, and the intersection of federal and state laws – to include the impact of foreign law/treaty agreements, and federal notifications.

In FY 2010, CPPS continued these efforts by working in additional sites, and producing a bench guide on juvenile and family immigration issues for state court trial judges. The *Juvenile and Family Immigration Bench Guide* is intended to provide judges with an overview of areas of federal immigration law that might intersect with a juvenile or family case. Like its predecessor, the *Bench Guide for State Trial Court Judges on Immigration Issues*, it is designed to provide judges with a quick summary of key immigration law that they can access electronically from the bench. It also contains two types of analyses: 1) topical discussions that examine how immigration law can affect the issues that may arise in a juvenile or family case; and 2) summaries of select areas of federal immigration law regarding legal entry or exposure to removal.

In addition to struggling with immigration issues, the state courts are also facing severe budget reductions as a direct result of the current economic situation in the United States. In fact, at least 45 state courts are facing shortfalls in FY 2010 that range from 2 to 16 percent; a trend that is likely to continue into the future.² This has had a direct impact on state court budgets. For example, the state courts in New Hampshire halted all jury trials for a month because of the current budget crisis in that state. The Vermont judiciary has closed its district and family courts a half day per week for the remainder of the fiscal year.³ A recent NCSC survey of State Court Administrators found that 46 percent said the federal stimulus dollars were having no impact on their courts systems, and that they were still making cuts.⁴ Given that 90 percent of state court budgets are personnel costs, it is not surprising that courts are reducing staff; as evidenced in Florida where the court system recently laid off 9 percent of its workforce.

The budget crisis in the state courts is an emerging and national issue that is being addressed by the SIG program. The short-term cost reductions taken by the state courts (hiring freezes, furloughs, and layoffs) will have long-term effects, but are not enough to meet the current economic demands for reduction in costs. SJI awarded a Strategic Initiatives Grant (SIG) to the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in FY 2009 to focus on reengineering in the state courts in response to severe budget cutbacks. NCSC began Phase I of these efforts by establishing the Budget Resource Center (BRC) – a website to track the latest budget issues and cost saving measures in the state courts, listed by state. NCSC also provided direct technical assistance to several sites, including: 1) Vermont Judiciary – A workload study for judges and court staff was completed. Using the information from the workload study, various recommendations with potential savings were developed. A final report was provided to a commission charged with overseeing the project. The project began with the state legislature directing the judiciary to look at the court system and find efficiencies. Major legislation was recently passed that unified the courts in Vermont, which was a direct result of the final report's recommendations; 2) 6th Judicial District of Minnesota – NCSC assisted the Court in adjusting to reduced staff by instituting a change management process; 3) Salem, Oregon, Municipal Court – The goal of this project was to help the Court improve its collections processes. A final report was developed with recommendations, and the Court is currently implementing the recommendations; and 4) Taylorsville, Utah, Municipal Justice Court – NCSC assisted in documenting and recommending operational efficiencies.

SJI recently awarded a new SIG to NCSC to continue these activities. Phase II will include new technical assistance sites in Alabama, New Hampshire, and Nebraska. In addition, it includes the continuation of the BRC and budget monitoring nationwide, and the development of a Toolkit for reengineering that will provide guidance in making policy decisions and implementing changes in areas such as centralized traffic tickets and payables; centralized jury operations; video conferencing; and utilizing technology.

² National Center for State Courts. 2010. *Future Trends in State Courts*.

³ Goodnough, Abby. 2008. *Jury Trials to be Halted in One State Feeling the Pinch*. The New York Times.

⁴ Conference of State Court Administrators Budget Survey, 2009.

For FY 2009, SJI awarded a SIG grant to NCSC that focused on court security and continuity of operations. The project built on NCSC's work in developing best practices, and steps to achieving those best practices, for court security. Specifically, the project developed a companion piece on funding strategies for state courts to enable them to increase court security resources using sound performance data. An instructional DVD was also developed for state courts so that they can better understand the threat level and ramifications of the H1N1 flu virus.

SJI requested that, of the appropriated for FY 2011, \$1,250,000 be available to support the SIG program. For FY 2012, SJI is requesting an enhancement of \$250,000 to bring the total funding available to \$1,500,000. The enhancement will allow SJI to continue expanding the SIG program. The funding will be used for grants or contractual services, and any remaining balance not used will become available for SJI's existing grant program. The grants are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Directors and SJI staff outside the normal application process (i.e. SJI initiates the project), and there is no cash match requirement.

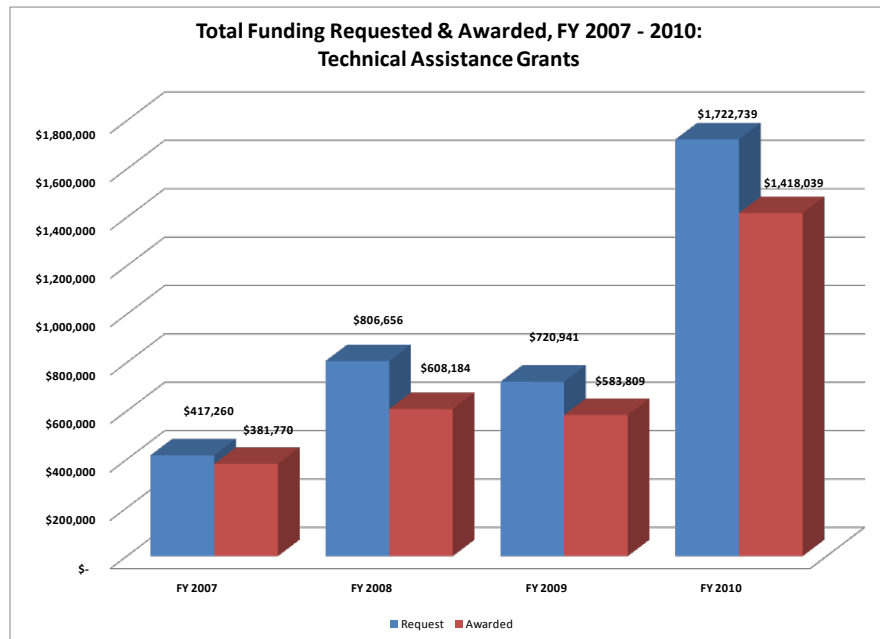
Technical Assistance Grants

Technical Assistance (TA) Grants are designed to provide state and local courts with funding to obtain expert assistance to diagnose a problem, develop a response to that problem, and initiate implementation of any needed changes. Only state or local courts may apply for TA grants. While much smaller in size, scope, and awarded amount than Project or Partner Grants, TA Grants are still valuable to state courts because they help them address significant issues such as caseload, strategic planning, and court procedures.

SJI awards numerous TA Grants each year that have a positive impact on the state courts. The SJI-funded *Vermont Re-Engineering Court Systems* project (SJI-09-T-005) helped the courts in that state develop strategies for reengineering business practices within serious resource limitations. This project was the catalyst for SJI's nationwide SIG program on reengineering in the state courts. In addition, SJI supported the *Action Plan for Strengthening the Court Interpreter Program* (SJI-10-T-008), which helped the Vermont Supreme Court develop and manage court interpreters, and assisted the state in improving access to justice for limited English proficient individuals. A similar TA Grant (SJI-08-T-001) was awarded to the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts to support an interpreter and language services initiative. SJI recently awarded TA Grants to the Orleans Parish, Louisiana, Criminal District Court for a technical assessment in preparation for a new case management system (SJI-10-T-150); the Fulton County, Georgia, Juvenile Court for an operational assessment (SJI-10-T-151); and the Hawaii Judiciary for a courthouse security assessment, to include the Supreme Court (SJI-10-156). In addition to supporting TA grants in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, SJI has also supported the judiciaries in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In FY 2009, total funding requested for TA Grants was \$720,941. In FY 2010, total funding requested was \$1,722,739; an increase in requests of 139 percent. Demand for TA Grants has increased because of the severe budget constraints in the state courts. TA Grants are smaller in scope and dollars, therefore the state courts are able to put together the resources to meet SJI's

cash match requirements; compared to the larger Project Grants. In FY 2010, SJI increased the maximum amount available for a TA Grant from \$30,000 to \$50,000, to provide more funding to the state courts in this critical area. SJI anticipates that the demand for TA Grants will continue to increase, and the requested enhancement of \$359,000 will enable SJI to meet this demand.

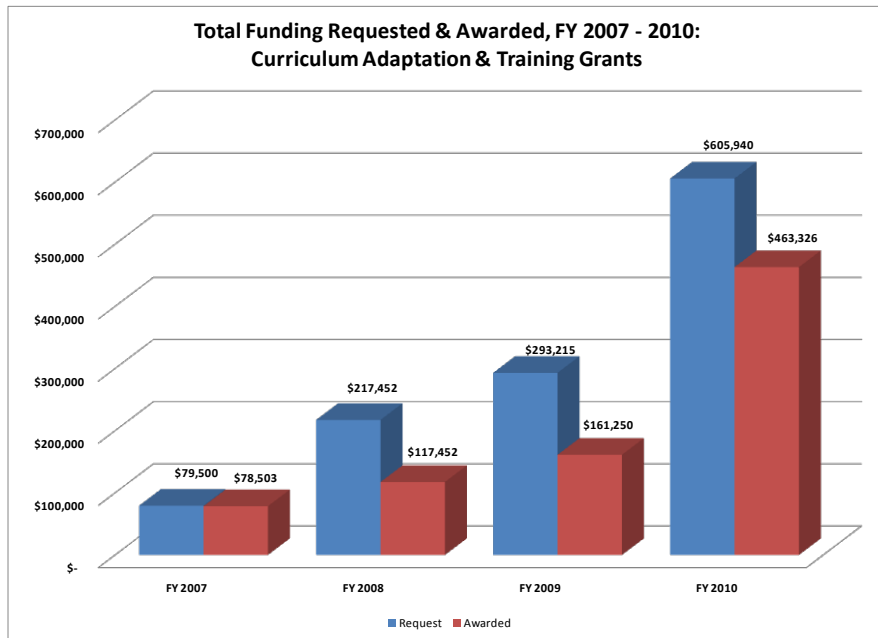


Curriculum Adaptation & Training Grants

Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants are intended to: 1) enable courts and regional or national court associations to modify and adapt model curricula or course modules to meet States' or local jurisdictions' educational needs; train instructors to present portions or all of the curricula; and pilot-test them to determine their appropriateness, quality, and effectiveness; or 2) conduct judicial branch education and training programs led by either expert or in-house personnel, designed to prepare judges and court personnel for innovations, reforms, and/or new technologies recently adopted by grantee courts.

Recent CAT Grants include support to the Alabama Administrative Office of the Courts for faculty development for judges and court managers in Alabama (SJI-10-E-017); the Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator for new judge training (SJI-10-E-018); the Michigan Judicial Institute for an immigration in the state courts training program (SJI-10-E-093); judicial training for the Virginia Courts (SJI-08-E-150); and the National Judicial College to develop and present judicial training for new appellate judges (SJI-10-E-019).

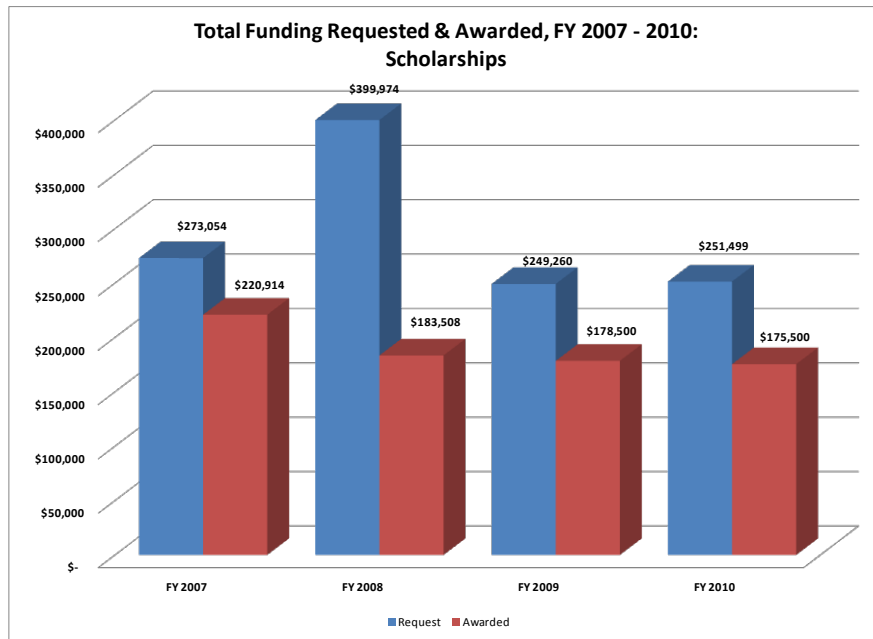
In FY 2009, total funding requested for CAT Grants was \$293,215. In FY 2010, total funding requested was \$605,940; an increase of 107 percent. This increase in both the dollar amount and number of CAT Grant requests is due to the decreased budgets in the state courts, especially court education funding, which has been significantly reduced. In FY 2010, SJI increased the maximum amount available for a CAT Grant from \$20,000 to \$30,000, to provide more funding for education projects. SJI anticipates that the demand for CAT Grants will continue to increase in FY 2012; therefore, the requested enhancement of \$300,000 will enable SJI to help meet this demand.



Scholarships

SJI's Scholarship Program enhances the skills, knowledge, and abilities of judges and court managers by supporting attendance at programs sponsored by national and state providers that they could not otherwise attend because of limited state, local, and personal budgets; and provides state courts, judicial educators, and court staff with evaluative information on a range of judicial and court-related education programs.

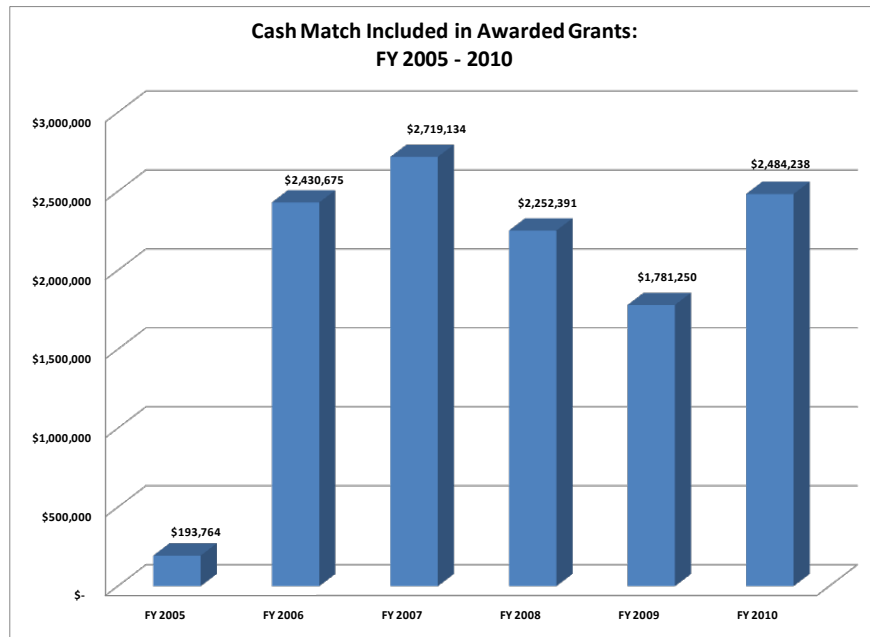
SJI scholarships are awarded to individuals to attend out-of-state, court-related educational programs within the United States or online court-related educational programs. Between FY 2007 and 2010, SJI awarded 730 scholarships totaling \$758,422. SJI anticipates that it will be able to support the scholarship awards made in FY 2012 with existing funding levels.



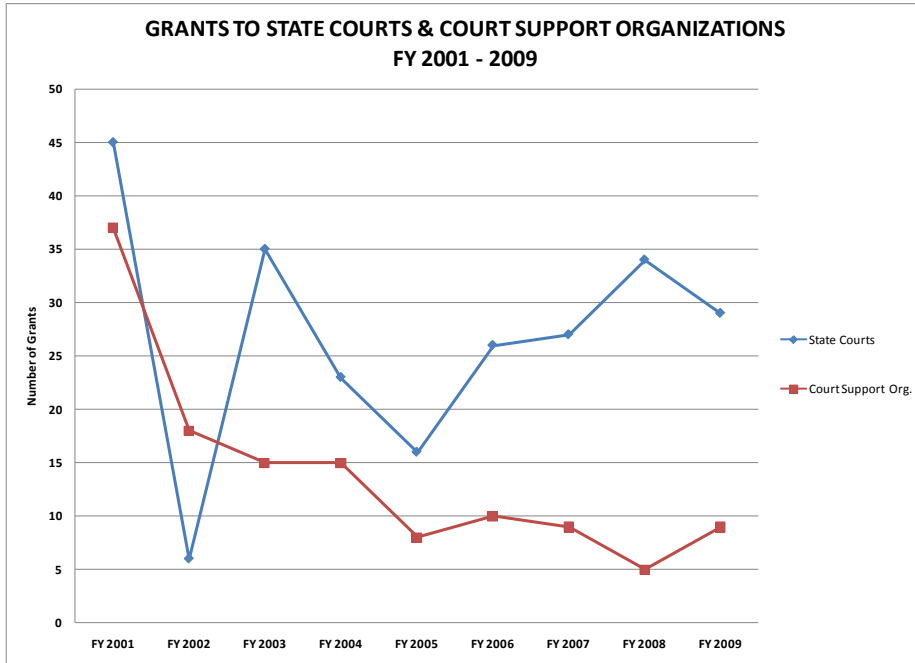
Cash Match

The Conference Report (H.R. 109-272) accompanying the FY 2006 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-108) directed that successful applicants for new SJI grants provide a cash match. The impact of the dollar-for-dollar match has been profound; in FY 2006, cash match for awarded grants totaled \$2,430,675. In FY 2007, cash match included in awarded grants totaled \$2,719,134; a 12 percent increase. In FY 2008 and 2009, there were decreases in cash match because of a reduced level of Project Grant requests. However, the amount of cash match has increased by 39 percent between FY 2009 and 2010. The following chart illustrates the success of the cash match requirement.⁵

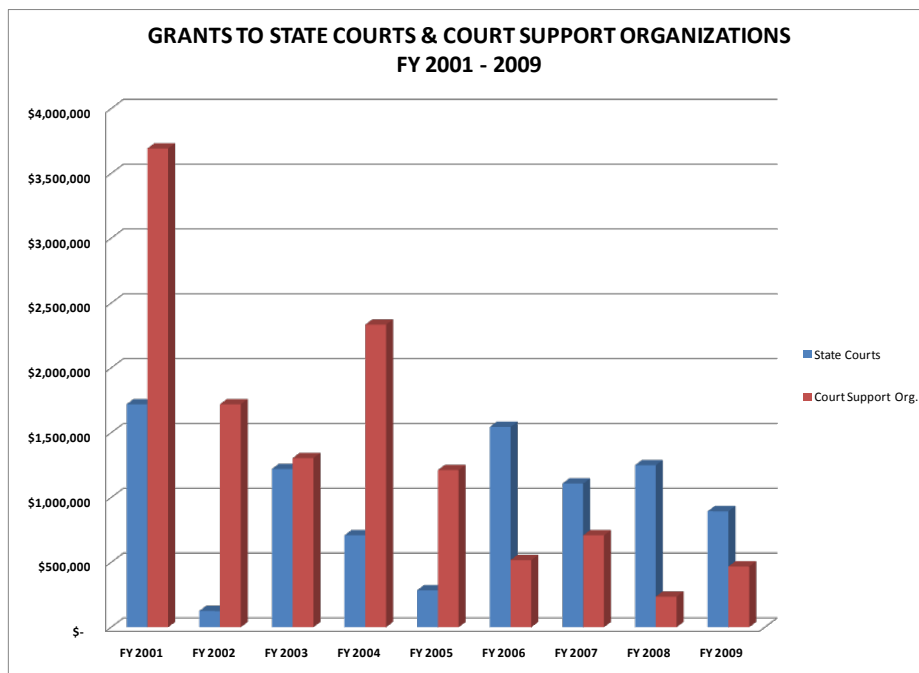
⁵ In response to anticipated Congressional action on a cash match requirement, SJI began requiring some levels of cash match for several new grants in FY 2005. The total amount of cash match included in new grant awards for FY 2005 was \$193,764. It should be noted that cash match contained in awarded Continuation and Supplemental grants were not included when comparing figures across fiscal years because SJI no longer supports those grants.



This has had a significant impact on the state courts and court support organizations. Since FY 2006, the state courts have received the majority of SJI grants and grant dollars, compared to previous years. Before the cash match requirement, court-support organizations and universities received a significant portion of SJI grants. The state courts were not able to compete for grants because they had neither the time nor the personnel available who could apply for and execute grant projects. After the cash match requirement was established a new dynamic emerged where the state courts and court support organizations combined their efforts to compete for SJI grants. The state courts had the funding available for the cash match requirement, whereas the court organizations did not.



Conversely, the court-support organizations had the expertise to apply for and execute grant projects. SJI now receives numerous grant applications where a state court has identified a critical issue to be addressed and a court-support organization to provide the technical assistance for the project. The result of the cash match requirement has been a far greater convergence of court needs and court-support organization capabilities; both of which have benefited judicial systems across the United States.



V. Conclusion

SJI remains the only source of federal or private funding dedicated exclusively to improving the quality of justice in the state courts. There is a strong national interest in continuing to support the state courts, as there is with federal funding for state and local law enforcement, corrections, prosecution, and defense. The state courts handle over 97 percent of all the cases in the United States. This includes over 99 percent of all criminal and over 98 percent of all civil cases.⁶ Furthermore, the incoming caseload into the state courts has increased 10 percent between 1997 and 2006, with incoming criminal cases increasing 12 percent, and incoming civil cases increasing 13 percent.⁷

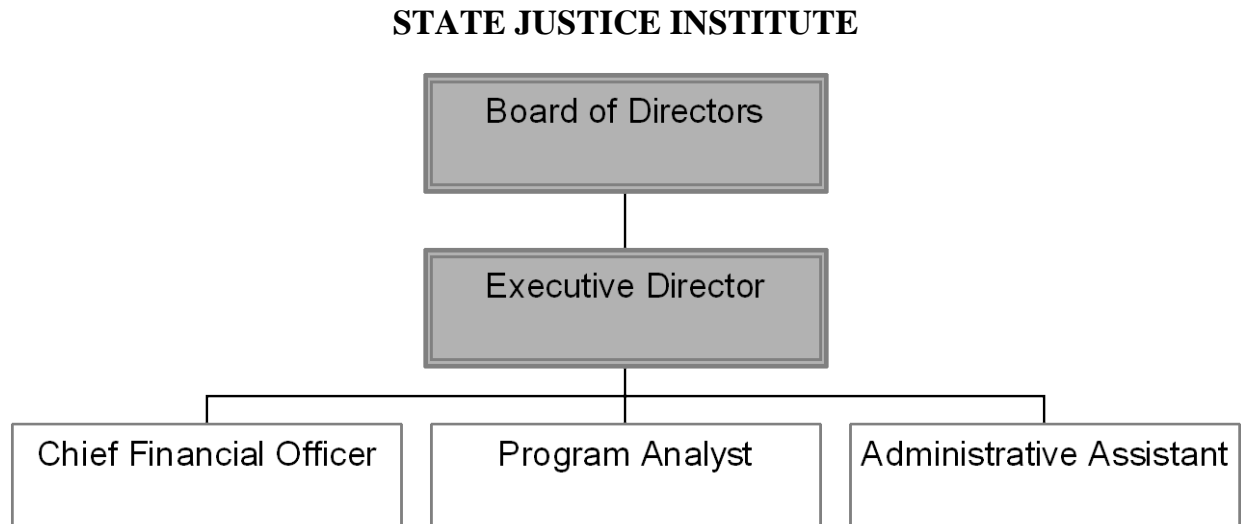
It is likely that the state courts will continue to experience significant budget cuts. This necessitates a strong SJI grant program to address state court needs to better serve the public, and administer justice fairly and effectively. SJI will continue leveraging funding whenever possible to help the state courts address the most critical issues in FY 2012. The effectiveness of state courts is critical to ensuring that the public experiences the justice guaranteed by the Constitution. The funding requested for FY 2012 will enable SJI to continue indentifying issues that impact all courts, fostering innovative solutions, and sharing information on successful approaches nationwide.

⁶ National Center for State Courts. 2003. *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2002: A National Perspective from the Court Statistics Project.*

⁷ National Center for State Courts. 2008. *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2007: A National Perspective from the Court Statistics Project.*

VI. Exhibits

A: Organizational Chart



9/1/2010

B: Summary of Requirements

Summary of Requirements
 State Justice Institute
 Salaries and Expenses
 (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2012 Request		
	Perm. Pos.	FTE	Amount
FY 2010 Enacted	6	6	5,131
FY 2011 (Estimated)*	6	6	5,131
Adjustments to Base			
Personnel Compensation			9
Travel & Transportation of Persons			5
Rent, Communications & Utilities			(95)
Printing & Reproduction			2
Other Services			7
Staff Development, Supplies, & Materials			0
Taxes & Fees			0
Equipment			(31)
Total Adjustments to Base	0	0	(103)
FY 2012 Current Services	6	6	5,028
Program Changes			
Project Grants			200
Partner Grants			200
Strategic Initiatives Grants			250
Technical Assistance Grants			359
Curriculum Adaptation & Training Grants			300
Total, Program Changes	0	0	1,309
FY 2012 Total Request	6	6	\$6,337

Note:

*At the time of this budget submission, the House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee on Appropriations markup provided \$6,273,000 for FY 2011. The Senate CJS Subcommittee version of the CJS Bill provided the same amount, which was also approved by the full Senate Appropriations Committee on July 22, 2010. However, the 4th Continuing Resolution (P.L. 111-322) provides SJ1 with the FY 2010 funding level of \$5,131,000, annualized through March 4, 2011. For the purposes of the FY 2012 budget request, SJ1 used this funding level as the baseline estimate for FY 2011.

Summary of Requirements
State Justice Institute
Salaries and Expenses
(Dollars in Thousands)

Estimates by Budget Activity	FY 2010 Actual			FY 2011 Appropriation (Estimated)*			FY 2012 Adjustments to Base			FY 2012 Current Services			FY 2012 Increases			FY 2012 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
General Administration	6	6	1,010	6	6	1,265	0	0	(103)	6	6	1,162	0	0	0	6	6	1,162
Grants																		
Project Grants			854			800					800			200				1,000
Partner Grants			338			600					600			200				800
Strategic Initiatives Grants			872			1,250					1,250			250				1,500
Technical Assistance Grants			1,418			741					741			359				1,100
Curriculum Adaptation & Training Grants			463			300					300			300				600
Scholarships			176			175					175			0				175
Subtotal, Grants			4,121			3,866			0		3,866			1,309				5,175
Grand Total	6	6	\$5,131	6	6	\$5,131	0	0	(\$103)	6	6	\$5,028	0	0	\$1,309	6	6	\$6,337

Note:

*At the time of this budget submission, the House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee on Appropriations markup provided \$6,273,000 for FY 2011. The Senate CJS Subcommittee version of the CJS Bill provided the same amount, which was also approved by the full Senate Appropriations Committee on July 22, 2010. However, the 4th Continuing Resolution (P.L. 111-322) provides SJI with the FY 2010 funding level of \$5,131,000, annualized through March 4, 2011. For the purposes of the FY 2012 budget request, SJI used this funding level as the baseline estimate for FY 2011.

C. Justification for Base Adjustments

Justification for Base Adjustments State Justice Institute

Increases

Personnel Compensation: For FY 2012, this request includes \$9,392 for an anticipated 2.0 percent pay raise to be effective in January of 2012, and increased costs for employee benefits.

Travel & Transportation of Persons: For FY 2012, this request includes \$4,500 for additional travel associated with grant monitoring and compliance.

Printing: For FY 2012, this request includes \$2,000 for projected increases in printing costs to the Office of the Federal Register.

Other Services: The requested increase of \$7,000 will enable SJI to engage part-time help, expert advisors and consultants, and legal counsel as required. The additional funding will also cover increased General Services Administration (GSA) charges for financial and payroll support.

Staff Development, Supplies, & Materials: For FY 2012, this request includes a \$450 increase for supplies and publications.

Decreases

Rent, Communications, & Utilities: SJI will be relocating in FY 2011, which will reduce the rentable square footage and eliminate parking expenses. It is projected that this will result in a \$95,267 decrease in FY 2012.

Equipment: For FY 2012, this request includes a reduction of \$31,050 for equipment. SJI is planning, and has budgeted for, a new financial accounting system in FY 2011; therefore, a decrease for this object class will be realized in FY 2012.

D: Summary of Requirements by Object Class

Summary of Requirements by Object Class

State Justice Institute
Salaries and Expenses
(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classes	FY 2010 Actual		FY 2011 Enacted (Estimated)*		FY 2012 Request		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
11.1 Salaries	6	441	6	540	6	544	0	4
11.8 Overtime		0						0
Total	6	441	6	540	6	544	0	4
Other Object Classes:								
12.0 Personnel benefits		125		153		158		5
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons		37		54		59		5
23.1 Rent		221		266		180		(86)
(Multiple) Comm., util., & other misc. charges		17		18		9		(9)
24.0 Printing and reproduction		18		26		28		2
25.0 Other services		134		154		161		7
26.0 Staff Development, Supplies, & Materials		5		11		11		0
28.1 Taxes & Fees		0		2		2		0
31.0 Equipment		12		41		10		(31)
Subtotal, General Administration	6	1,010	6	1,265	6	1,162	0	(103)
Subtotal, Grant Funding		4,121		3,866		5,175		1,309
Total Obligations	6	\$5,131	6	\$5,131	6	\$6,337	0	\$1,206

Note:

*At the time of this budget submission, the House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee on Appropriations markup provided \$6,273,000 for FY 2011. The Senate CJS Subcommittee version of the CJS Bill provided the same amount, which was also approved by the full Senate Appropriations Committee on July 22, 2010. However, the 4th Continuing Resolution (P.L. 111-322) provides SJJ with the FY 2010 funding level of \$5,131,000, annualized through March 4, 2011. For the purposes of the FY 2012 budget request, SJJ used this funding level as the baseline estimate for FY 2011.