



State Justice Institute

Fiscal Year 2013

Budget Request

February 2012

Table of Contents

Page No.

I. Overview.....2

**II. Appropriations Language and
Analysis of Appropriations Language3**

III. Summary of Program Changes.....4

IV. SJI Grant Programs5

V. Conclusion.....18

VI. Exhibits.....19

 A. Summary of Requirements

 B. Justification for Base Adjustments

 C. Summary of Requirements by Object Class

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 2013, SJI requests \$5,121,000 to enhance its efforts to improve the quality of justice in the state courts. The request is equal to the level provided by the FY 2012 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L. 112-55).

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.), [\$5,121,000] \$5,121,000, of which \$500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2014: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

Analysis of Appropriations Language

- Language includes level funding from the FY 2012 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L 112-55).
- Language is unchanged from previous enacted appropriations, including the availability of two-year funding.

III. Summary of Program Changes

Grant Type	Description	Dollars	Page
Project Grants	The requested enhancement will enable SJI to support additional projects in FY 2013.	\$159,000	9
Technical Assistance Grants	The requested enhancement will enable SJI to keep pace with the increased number of TA Grant requests anticipated in FY 2013.	\$158,000	14
Total, Program Changes		\$317,000	

Note: The requested programmatic increases are offset by decreases in General/Administrative (G/A) costs. These decreases are detailed in Section VI of the budget request.

IV. SJI Grant Programs

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:

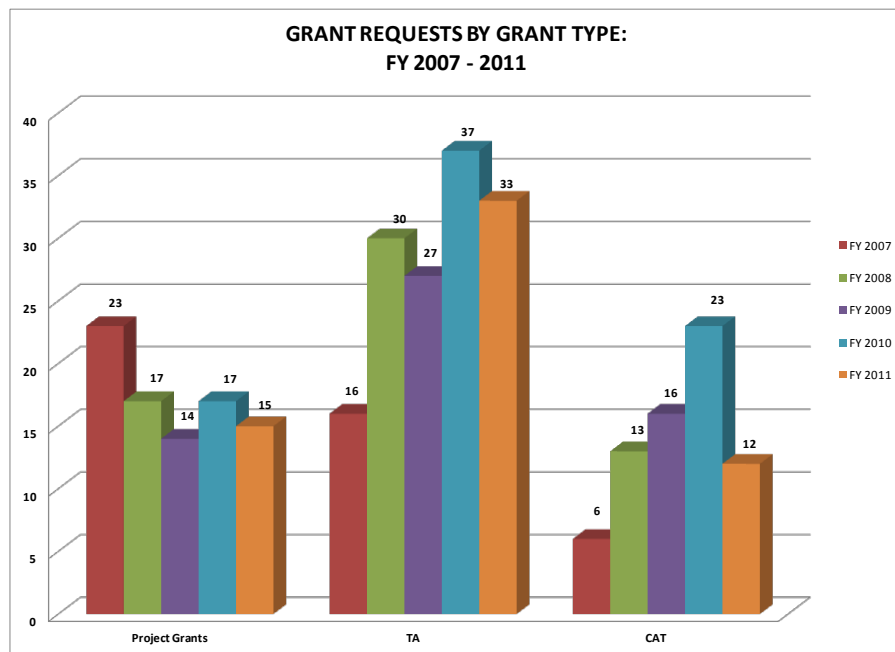
- Project Grants – are the centerpiece of SJI's efforts to improve the administration of justice in state courts nationwide. Project Grants are intended to support innovative technical assistance, education and training, and demonstration projects that can improve the administration of justice in state 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 – This funding provides SJI the flexibility to address national court issues as they occur, and develop solutions to those problems. The grants are awarded at the discretion of the SJI Board of Directors.
- 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.
- Education Support Program (formally the Scholarship Program) – 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.

On November 30, 2011, the SJI Board of Directors announced SJI's new Priority Investment Areas. Starting in FY 2012, SJI will allocate significant financial resources through grant-making for these following Priority Investment Areas (in no ranking order):

- **Self-Represented Litigation** - e.g., self-help centers, online services, increasing use of court-based volunteer attorney programs.
- **Limited English Proficiency (LEP)** - e.g., interpretation service plans, remote interpretation (outside the courtroom), interpreter certification, courtroom services (plain language forms, websites, etc.).
- **Reengineering in Response to Budget Reductions** - e.g., the process of reengineering, regionalization or centralization of services, structural changes, the electronic record.

- **Immigration Issues in the State Courts** - e.g., impact of federal and state immigration law and policies, juvenile and family issues, training.
- **Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Elder Issues** - e.g., visitor programs, electronic reporting, reports, training.

For FY 2011, SJI received \$4,731,223 in grant applications¹; an increase of 4 percent above the \$4,540,281 received in FY 2010. Between FY 2009 and 2010, grant applications increased 78 percent – one of the largest increases in grant applications over the past 10 years. There are 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 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; and 3) 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.



While SJI is excited about the sharp increase in grant applications, there is 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

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, Education Support Program (ESP) applications are also considered under a separate process.

applications as soon as possible, since SJI funding is on a first-come, first-served basis for grant applications that merit funding. SJI receives a significant number of grant applications in the 4th quarter of the fiscal year. However, many potential applicants hold their grant applications until the following fiscal year because they recognize that SJI has limited funding remaining by the 4th quarter.

The state courts are unlikely to experience any budget relief in the near future. Therefore, SJI expects the demand for TA and CAT grants to increase. These 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 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

FY 2011

Grant Type	Requested			Awarded		
	Number	\$	Cash Match	Number	\$	Cash Match
Project	15	\$ 2,865,577	\$ 1,276,507	6	\$ 817,932	\$ 584,034
Partner	3	\$ 572,961	\$ 686,603	2	\$ 300,000	\$ 500,000
SIG	2	\$ 1,250,000	\$ -	2	\$ 1,473,000	\$ -
TA	33	\$ 1,479,490	\$ 241,723	31	\$ 1,379,490	\$ 229,223
CAT	17	\$ 386,156	\$ 243,480	13	\$ 323,556	\$ 220,779
Scholarships	153	\$ 279,173	\$ -	124	\$ 186,000	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL	223	\$ 6,833,357	\$ 2,448,313	178	\$ 4,479,978	\$ 1,534,036

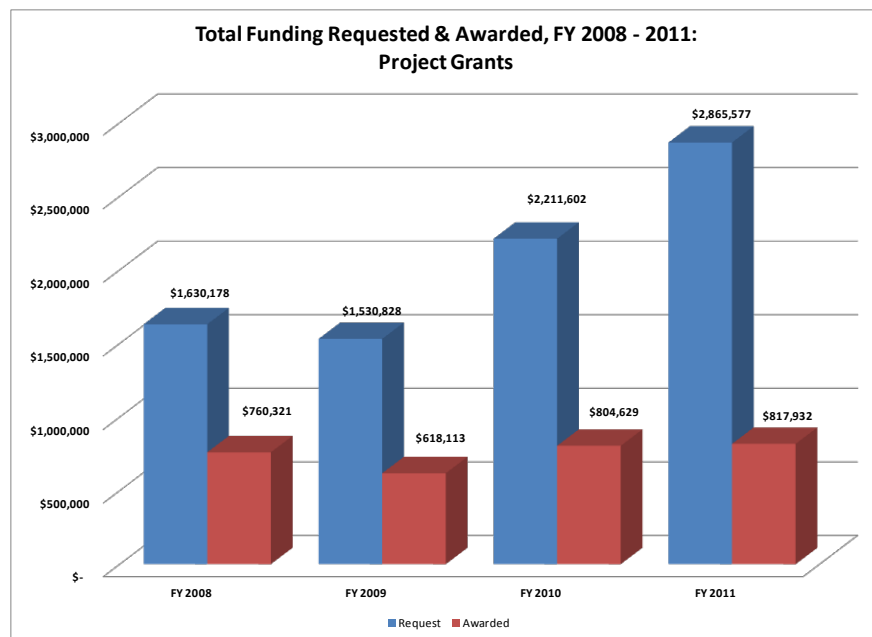
Note: Strategic Initiatives Grants (SIG) and Scholarships (renamed Education Support Program in FY 2012) do not require a cash match.

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.

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 2010 and FY 2011, total funding requested for Project Grants increased by 30 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, SJI is requesting an increase of \$159,000 for additional Project Grants in FY 2013.



Partner Grants

Partner Grants allow SJI and federal, state, or local agencies, and foundations, trusts, or other 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 between SJI and other grant-making agencies such as the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Pew Charitable Trusts. Partner Grants are critical as SJI continues to work with outside agencies to maximize grant funding for the state courts.

In FY 2011, The Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and SJI entered into Partner Grants to support the Executive Session for State Court Leaders: Phase II, and to support updates to the National Association for Court Management (NACM) Core Competencies. Both projects will include significant technical assistance and education on current and future issues impacting the state courts, including reduced court budgets and increased caseloads.

SJI also partnered with BJA in FY 2010 on 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 and BJA partnered on the 4th National Symposium on Court Management, which provided training on the future issues of the state courts and their workforce in the next 10 years. This training was 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.

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 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 address immigration issues in the state courts; 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 continuing to build on previous efforts between FY 2008 and 2011, in FY 2012 CPPS will focus on specific key topic areas within the immigration and the state courts arena; specifically, human trafficking, mental health issues, guardianships, elder issues, and international social service access for the state courts.

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

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.

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.

Phases II and III of this program will include new technical assistance sites in Alabama, New Hampshire, Nebraska, and other states that will be identified as the project continues. 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. BJA has also been committed to supporting state court reengineering over the past two fiscal years, and has provided SJI direct funding for additional technical assistance sites.

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.

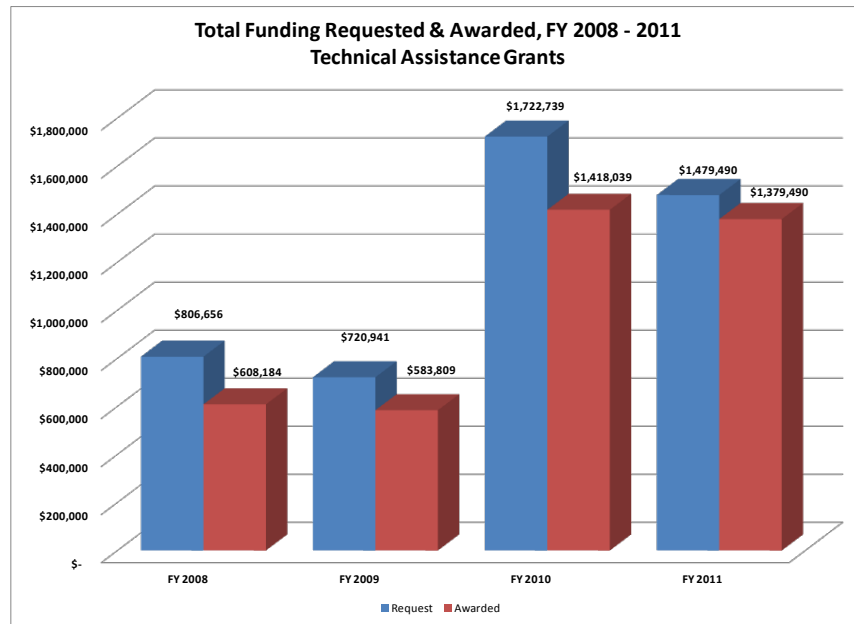
SJI requested that, of the amount appropriated for FY 2011, \$1,250,000 be available to support the SIG program. For FY 2012, SJI requested an enhancement of \$250,000 to bring the total funding available to \$1,500,000, enabling SJI to continue expanding the SIG program. The funding is used for grants 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 and SJI-11-T-006), 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 Prince George's County, Maryland, Circuit Court for a performance evaluation of the Office of the Clerk of Court (SJI-11-T-161); the Colorado Judicial Department for increased use of juvenile risk assessments (SJI-11-T-011); the Alaska Court System for court security assessments and improvements; 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 better able to obtain the resources needed 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 remain high. For FY 2013, SJI requests an enhancement of \$158,000 to help 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. CAT Grants are extremely important because of the significant budget reductions to the state courts, especially for judicial training. Most CAT Grants support in-state training and certification programs, thereby minimizing travel costs and taking advantage of training resources that are still available.

Recent CAT Grants include support to the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) for judge training on issues related to immigrant women and their families (SJI-11-E-086); the Nebraska Judicial Branch for an elder abuse training course for judges and court managers (SJI-11-E-152); 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).

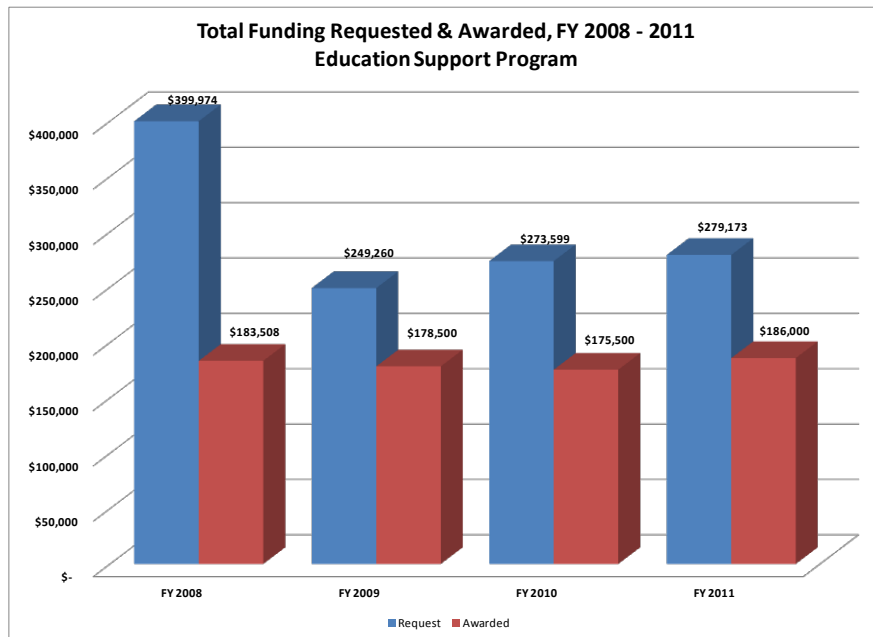
In FY 2009, total funding requested for CAT Grants was \$293,215. In FY 2010, total funding requested was \$605,940; an increase of 107 percent. This increase in both the dollar amount and

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 and training projects.

Education Support Program (formally the Scholarship Program)

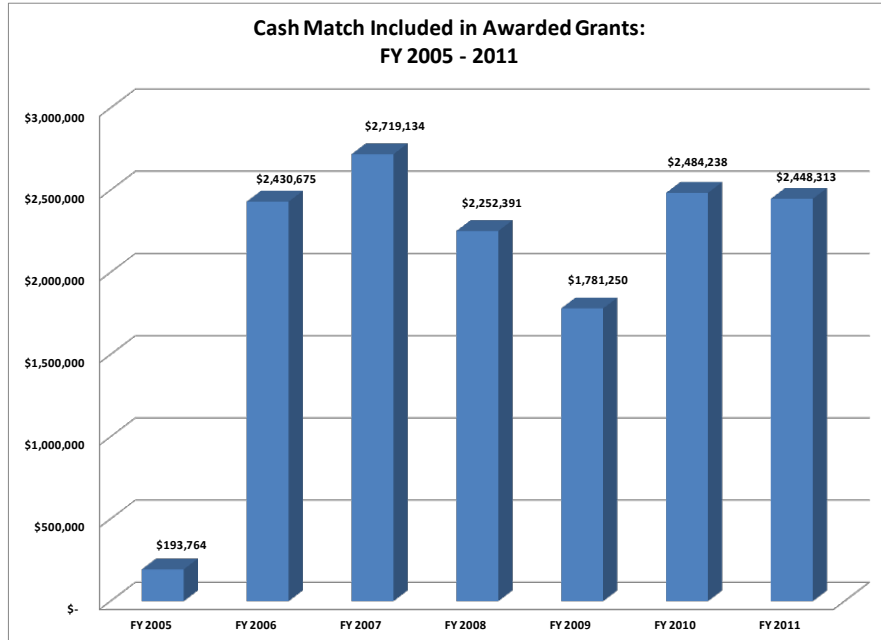
SJI's Education Support Program (ESP) enhances the skills, knowledge, and abilities of judges and court managers by supporting attendance at programs sponsored by national and state providers that they could not otherwise attend because of limited state, local, and personal budgets. The program also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

ESP awards are provided to qualifying judges and court managers to attend out-of-state, court-related educational programs within the United States, or online court-related educational programs. Between FY 2008 and 2011, SJI awarded 494 scholarships totaling \$723,508. SJI anticipates that it will be able to support the scholarship awards made in FY 2013 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 over the past five years. The following chart illustrates the success of the cash match requirement.⁵



This has had a significant impact on the state courts and court support organizations. 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 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.

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.

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

Many state courts are struggling to provide efficient and effective services to the public during these difficult financial times, to include an enhanced focus on civil cases. Since 2008, civil caseloads in the state courts have increased by approximately 7 percent annually, while resources to address these needs are diminishing.⁸ Civil actions – foreclosures, tort, contract, small claims, probate, mental health, and civil appeals cases – constitute a growing area for state courts as the population ages, discovery delays increase, appeals courts are inundated with dissatisfied litigants and substantive legal challenges, and rental markets are saturated with homeowners displaced by foreclosures. SJI has experienced an increase in grant applications seeking assistance to help the state courts become more administratively effective, so that they can address these issues. SJI support provides the state courts with significant opportunities to reorganize, innovate, and improve service delivery to the public.

The state courts will continue to experience significant budget cuts into the future. This will negatively impact their efforts to provide services to those most vulnerable and susceptible to denial of basic needs. Therefore, a strong SJI grant program is required to assist the state courts in better serving the public, and administering justice fairly and effectively. SJI will continue leveraging funding whenever possible to help the state courts address the most critical issues in FY 2013. The effectiveness of the state courts is critical to ensuring that the public experiences the justice guaranteed by the Constitution. The funding requested for FY 2013 will enable SJI to continue identifying 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.*

⁸ National Center for State Courts. 2009. *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2008: An Analysis of 2008 State Court Caseloads.*

VI. Exhibits

A: Summary of Requirements

Summary of Requirements

State Justice Institute
Salaries and Expenses
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2013 Request		
	Perm. Pos.	FTE	Amount
FY 2012 Enacted	6	6	5,121
Adjustments to Base			
Personnel Compensation	(4)	(4)	(451)
Travel & Transportation of Persons			30
Rent, Communications & Utilities			(31)
Printing & Reproduction			(5)
Other Services			146
Staff Development, Supplies, & Materials			(3)
Taxes & Fees			(1)
Equipment			(2)
Total Adjustments to Base	(4)	(4)	(317)
FY 2013 Current Services	2	2	4,804
Program Changes			
Project Grants			159
Partner Grants			0
Strategic Initiatives Grants			0
Technical Assistance Grants			158
Curriculum Adaptation & Training Grants			0
Education Support Program			0
Total, Program Changes	0	0	317
FY 2013 Total Request	2	2	\$5,121

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

Estimates by Budget Activity	FY 2012 Enacted			FY 2013 Adjustments to Base			FY 2013 Current Services			FY 2013 Increases			FY 2013 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
General Administration	6	6	1,162	(4)	(4)	(317)	2	2	845	0	0	0	2	2	845
Grants															
Project Grants			750					750		159					909
Partner Grants			500					500		0					500
Strategic Initiatives Grants			1,500					1,500		0					1,500
Technical Assistance Grants			750					750		158					908
Curriculum Adaptation & Training Grants			284					284		0					284
Education Support Program			175					175		0					175
Subtotal, Grants			3,959					3,959		317					4,276
Grand Total	6	6	\$5,121	(4)	(4)	(\$317)	2	2	\$4,804	0	0	\$317	2	2	\$5,121

B. Justification for Base Adjustments

Justification for Base Adjustments State Justice Institute

Increases

Travel & Transportation of Persons: For FY 2013, this request includes \$30,000 for additional travel associated with Board meetings and a full Board of 11 members.

Other Services: The requested increase of \$146,300 will enable SJI to engage part-time contractors, expert advisors and consultants, and legal counsel as required. Part-time outsourcing is required due to the elimination of 4 positions (4 FTE).

Decreases

Personnel Compensation: For FY 2013, this request includes a decrease of 4 positions (4 FTE) and \$451,076 in salaries and benefits.

Rent, Communications, & Utilities: SJI relocated in FY 2011, which reduced the rentable square footage and other expenses associated with the previous lease. The request includes a decrease of \$30,892 in rent costs for FY 2013.

Printing: For FY 2013, this requests includes a decrease of \$5,200 for printing costs to the Office of the Federal Register.

Staff Development, Supplies, & Materials: For FY 2013, this requests includes decrease of \$2,750 for supplies, staff training, and other materials.

Taxes & Fees: For FY 2013, this requests includes a decrease of \$1,000 for taxes and fees.

Equipment: For FY 2013, this request includes a decrease of \$1,700 for equipment.

C: Summary of Requirements by Object Class

Summary of Requirements by Object Class

State Justice Institute

Salaries and Expenses

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classes	FY 2012 Enacted		FY 2013 Request		Increase/Decrease	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
11.1 Salaries	6	544	2	186	(4)	(358)
11.8 Overtime						0
Total	6	544	2	186	(4)	(358)
Other Object Classes:						
12.0 Personnel benefits		158		65		(93)
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons		59		89		30
23.1 Rent		180		150		(30)
(Multiple) Comm., util., & other misc. charges		9		8		(1)
24.0 Printing and reproduction		28		23		(5)
25.0 Other services		161		307		146
26.0 Staff Development, Supplies, & Materials		11		9		(2)
28.1 Taxes & Fees		2		1		(1)
31.0 Equipment		10		8		(2)
Subtotal, General Administration	6	1,162	2	846	(4)	(316)
Subtotal, Grant Funding		3,959		4,275		316
Total Obligations	6	\$5,121	2	\$5,121	(4)	\$0