

E-SJI NEWS

SJI Awards FY 2014 Fourth Quarter Grants

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The Board met on September 5, 2014, to make decisions on quarterly grant applications and awarded a total of 15 grants.

Two (2) Strategic Initiatives Grants (SIG) were approved: 1) support for the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to establish a national call center that will assist state courts in providing Virtual Remote Interpreting (VRI) services. The project will result in a national VRI capability available to all state courts that will expand access and reduce costs; and 2) assistance for a partnership between the Center for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) and the NCSC to address the impact of unaccompanied immigrant children in the state courts. CPPS and NCSC will develop a step-by-step action guide, training, and webinar on this critical issue.

Two (2) Project Grants were approved: support to the National Guardianship Network's (NGN) efforts to continue reforming adult guardianship practice in the state courts through its Working Interdisciplinary of Guardian Stakeholders (WINGS) initiative; and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

(NCJFCJ) to hold a national courts and the military summit that will convene key stakeholders at the intersection of military justice and juvenile and family courts to develop a national agenda to improve the coordination of services for service members, veterans, and their families.

Eight (8) Technical Assistance (TA) Grants were approved, including: strategic planning projects for the

10th Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan and the 4th Judicial District Court of Louisiana; a municipal and traffic court consolidation project for the Orleans Parish, Louisiana Municipal Court; case management system planning and assessment projects for the Missouri Office of the State Courts Administrator and the Superior Court of the U.S. Virgin Islands; a caseload and calendaring management review of the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County, California; personnel and procedures review for the 4th Judicial District Court of Nebraska; and a courthouse security review and assessment for the Vermont Judiciary.

Three (3) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were approved, including: support for the 2015 Nebraska Children's Summit; assistance to American University for a project to improve access to justice for immigrant crime victims through judicial education; and judicial education on human trafficking issues, including a focus on gangs, for the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ).

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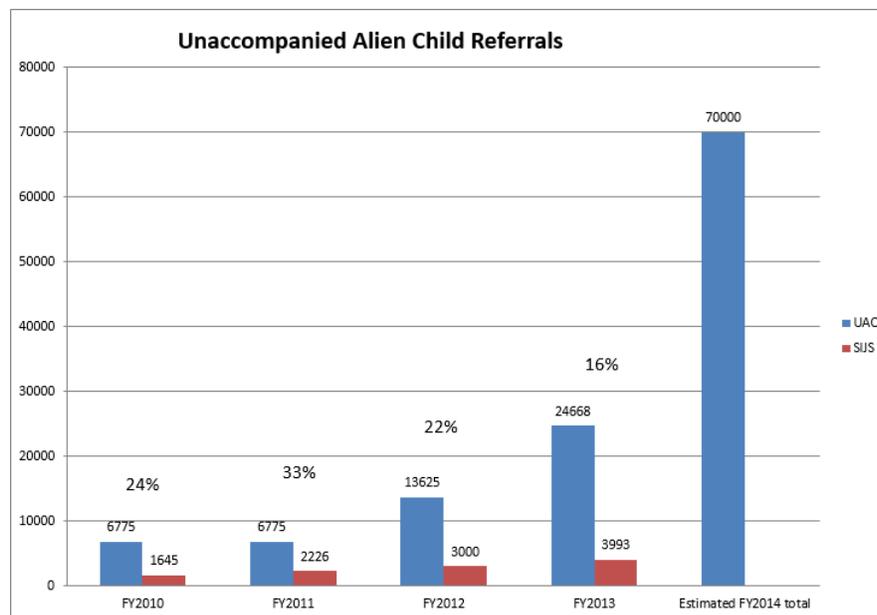
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Trends Article on Unaccompanied Immigrant Children Now Available

An article in the recent [2014 Trends in State Courts](#) publication, from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), focuses on the influx of Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC) in the state courts.

The article, authored by David Slayton, Administrative Director of the Courts at the Texas Office of Court Administration, examines three critical areas: 1) the growth of unaccompanied minors traveling to the United States; 2) defining Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) and how it is conferred, as well as its implications; and, 3) the overall impact of the unaccompanied minor case influx on state courts.

Although brief, the feature gives specificity to the process, case types involving SIJS, and an array of demographic and referral data compiled from a network of federal sources and impacted areas. The article addresses how these cases quickly extend beyond border states, and the responsibilities of parties and agencies involved in these cases. The article,



titled, [How the Unaccompanied Minor Crisis Is Affecting the State Courts](#), is available online as a webpage designated for this issue.

Additional information is contained on the webpage, including a [webinar](#), offered by the

NCSC's Institute for Court Management (ICM), which had over 200 participants during the live session, and continues to be viewed as a recording.

Model Time Standards for Appellate Courts

The NCSC *Model Time Standards for Appellate Courts* are now available online. The project to revise time to disposition standards for appellate court cases, was funded by SJI, and was an initiative of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA).

Steered by a project committee of ten, including both current and former judges from different states, attorneys, and participants from the Conference of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal (CCJSCA), the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

(NCACC), and the American Bar Association (ABA), this 28-page report details history, need, structure, and application of model time standards for courts of last resort that are consistent with applicable laws, best practices, and guidelines regarding access to justice. The standards include in-depth analysis of data and surveying of appellate court judges across the U.S.

The project specifically focused on:

- case initiating events;
- explanation of discrete interim stages;

- publishing the results of time standards;
- benchmarking; and,
- standards for interim stages of an appeal.

In addition to the provision of a time standards model, the final report also emphasized the importance of measuring established time standards and resources that will aid in implementation. A full [copy of the time standards](#) can be downloaded from the NCSC Library's e-collection (Digital Archive).

NACM Debuts New Ethics Modules



The National Association for Court Management (NACM) has spent the past year overhauling its distance learning platforms and updating, or creating, new content for court management professionals. With SJI support, NACM recently released [ethics modules](#) (SJI-14-N-010).

These modules provide valuable instruction using PowerPoint slides, videos, and

facilitator notes. The self-paced modules allow learners to use the ethics-related scenarios individually, or as part of a group learning event.

Modules included are:

- [The Big Bounce: Customer Service and Giving Legal Advice](#)
- [Gifts, Gifts, Gifts: Court Employees Accepting Gratitude](#)
- [Defriending Mr. King: Court Management and the Social Network](#)
- [I Found It On Facebook: Recruitment, Selection, and the Social Network](#)



In addition to the modules, NACM serves as a key resource connecting court professionals of all levels to the practice of ethics in the court-employment setting. For more information about NACM and its resources for court managers, please visit the [NACM website](#).

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The State Justice Institute is a federally-funded, non-profit corporation established by federal law in 1984 to improve the quality of justice in the state courts.

