

E-SJI NEWS

New Guide to Addressing Human Trafficking and the State Courts

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An electronic version of the National Association for Court Management (NACM) [Guide to Addressing Human Trafficking in the State Courts](#) is now available online. The HT Guide was produced by the [Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative](#), an initiative funded by SJI. The release of the downloadable, 11-chapter, electronic version of the

HT Guide follows the mid-July mailing of the hard copy version to the entire NACM membership. A limited number of hard copies of the HT Guide are still available. Please contact [Dr. David Price](#) for information about obtaining a hard copy.

The HT Guide provides state court practitioners a comprehensive resource that:

- clarifies the types and dynamics of sex and labor trafficking involving U.S. citizens and foreign nationals;
- identifies how traffickers and victims may appear in different types of state court cases, including criminal, family, juvenile, child protection, ordinance violation, and civil cases;
- provides tools and guidelines to help courts identify and process cases where trafficking is involved; and,

- links to other resources to assist courts in addressing trafficking-related problems.

Furthermore, the HT Guide has been prepared to support the courts not only in their traditional role as independent adjudicators, but also as justice system and community leaders. Even though state court



A Guide to Human Trafficking for State Courts
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judges and staff are the primary audience for the HT Guide, numerous other groups concerned about human trafficking – such as health and human service organizations, law enforcement agencies, and victim advocates – will find the HT Guide valuable. The HT Guide authors include court practitioners as well as leading experts knowledgeable

about the types, dynamics, and implications of modern day slavery.

The HT Guide was released by the HT Collaborative in partnership with NACM. Its origins date back to early 2013 when SJI provided initial funding to form the Collaborative to address the impact of human trafficking and the state courts. The Collaborative initially included the Center for Public Policy Studies (CPPS), the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) and the National Judicial College (NJC). Since then, the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ),

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Legal Momentum, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) have joined the Collaborative, and all six organizations are now working to address the following strategic priorities:

- increase understanding and awareness about the challenges faced by state courts in dealing with cases involving trafficking victims and their families;

- develop and test state and local approaches for assessing and addressing the impact of human trafficking victims and defendants in the state courts;

- improve court services affected by human trafficking-related case processing demands; and,

- build effective national, state, and local partnerships for addressing the impacts of human trafficking case processing in the state courts.

For the latest updates from the Collaborative, visit their [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Wisconsin Needs Assessment for Remote Interpreting

With SJI support, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) recently completed a statewide assessment for the [Wisconsin Director of State Courts Office](#) (DSCO) to conduct a needs assessment for developing pilot remote interpreting services (SJI-12-P-015). Specifically, the scope of the assessment was to develop a method for choosing pilot counties and an action plan for developing a proposal to pilot remote interpreting services within a number of courtrooms, courthouses, counties, or judicial administrative districts.

The project began by identifying a number of counties willing and able to implement remote interpreting, and developed a series of recommendations for the creation of an initial pilot program, as well as broader recommendations for expanding the use of remote interpretation throughout Wisconsin's courts. The project included three phases:

- 1) pre-assessment to develop a work plan and needs assessment strategy;
- 2) survey information and data gathering from administrative and fiscal sources; and,



- 3) evaluation through site visits and development of the written report.

The NCSC assisted in the development of a survey, which covered types of technology used for remote interpreting, current situations used for remote interpreting, and attitudes towards remote interpreting. The information from the survey assessed the courts' ability to provide remote interpreting services and created an information source, which when combined with other data allowed the remote interpreting working group to understand the following:

- Existing hardware and connectivity within courthouses for remote interpreting through telephonic, computer, and video.
- Frequency of interpretation and the fiscal impacts of interpretation at the court level, across all language types.
- Internal and external challenges that may inhibit the use of remote interpreting services.

By using a range of information sources, the Wisconsin DSCO is better able to develop a pilot and create testable business cases to adjust their model. This project will better inform the Legislature about the impacts of remote interpreting on court operations, use of certified interpreters, and the possible fiscal implications of incorporating technology to better manage costs and increase service quality.

A downloadable copy of the [report](#) is available in the NCSC Library eCollection.

Self-Represented Litigation Network Releases Title IV-D Resource Guide for State Courts



The Self-Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) recently released a [Resource Guide](#) for court-based self-help programs.

Developed through an SJI Grant (SJI-12-P-086), this guide is intended to facilitate and support cooperation and coordination between the state courts and state Title IV-D child support agencies (IV-D agencies) to provide self-help services to parents and others who are navigating the child support process. The guide discusses the provision of federal resources and rulings that facilitate this process, and makes a case for how

self-help models at the state court level can promote access to justice and further the goals of fairness and understanding during court proceedings.

The guide provides details on how state courts may use Title IV-D child support funding to provide self-help services to self-represented



litigants, including those involved in the following types of activities:

- Paternity establishment;
- Child support establishment;

- Child support modification; and,
- Enforcement processes.

The guide offers details regarding five program areas impacted directly by the court's processes that IV-D agencies are responsible for reporting metrics on, and are utilized in the configuration of payment. Furthermore, it delineates impacts and concerns state courts may face when establishing additional self-help services. A roadmap for developing a model cooperative agreement and relationship with IV-D agencies is also provided.

More information on the SRLN and its work can be found on the SRLN [website](#).

SJI Receives FY 2014 Fourth Quarter Grant Applications

SJI received seventeen (17) grant applications requesting a total of \$1,246,000 for the 4th quarter of FY 2014.

The Board will meet on September 5, 2014, to make decisions on grant awards for the 4th quarter.



ter. The next deadline for grant and [Education Support Program \(ESP\)](#) applications is November 1, 2014 (1st quarter, FY 2015).

More information regarding application and reporting deadlines can be found [online](#).

Webinar Provides Information on Unaccompanied Children and the State Courts



On August 14, 2014, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), in partnership with Casey Family Programs held a [webinar](#) on the recent influx of Unaccompanied

Alien Children (UAC) across the U.S./Mexico border. The webinar provided background information for state court judges and practitioners on the UAC issue, and the potential impact on juvenile and family cases. The webinar panel included Judge Patricia Macias (ret.), Casey Family Programs; Dr. John Martin, Center for Public Policy Studies (CPPS); and David Slayton, State Court Administrator of Texas. Panelists presented statistics on this recent trend, explained the state courts' role, shared effective court practices, and provided recommendations for state courts to prepare for this influx of unaccompanied immigrant children.

E-SJI News Submissions

SJI is always accepting submissions from its grantees for the E-SJI News.

Articles of 500 words or less from projects that are either: a) ongoing, with information to share; or, b) have recently completed and could be beneficial to a larger state court audience, are of greatest interest. SJI reserves the right to edit all submissions for any reason.

Submissions, including all article content in Microsoft Word, images or logos, and any links, should be sent to us electronically at kathryn.tuck@sjj.gov by the 15th of each month.

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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.

