

E-SJI NEWS

SJI Awards FY 2014 1st Quarter Grants

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The Board met on December 9, 2013, to make decisions on quarterly grant applications and awarded a total of 14 grants.

Four (4) Project Grants were approved, including: educational programming for the National Association for Court Management (NACM); a court clerk workload assessment for the King County, Washington, District Court; a pretrial and probation services assessment for the Missouri courts; and an adult guardianship special assistant project for the Maryland Judiciary. Seven (7) Technical Assistance (TA) Grants were approved, including: user-friendly electronic guardianship forms, manuals, and guidance for the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Orphans' Court; judicial operations restructure project for the Douglas County, Nevada, courts; a calendaring and docket management assessment for the Washington County, Oregon, Circuit Court; judicial workload study update for the Montana Supreme Court; New Jersey Judiciary build-a-brief application for self-



represented litigants and attorneys; jury instructional online videos for the Connecticut Judiciary; and an assessment of the impact of Hurricane Sandy by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

Three (3) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were approved, including: human trafficking training by the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ); Arkansas AOC online training programs for court security officers; and leadership education and training for the Virginia courts.

In this Issue

First Quarter Grant Awards	1
National Standards for Jury Technology	2
SJI Titles Available in NCSC eCollection	3

On the Road to National Standards for Jury Automation Technology

On December 5, 2013, the Conference of Chief Justices/National Association for Court Management (COSCA/NACM) Joint Technology Committee (JTC) received the first report of a Working Group appointed to develop national technology standards for jury automation. The JTC Jury Standards Working Group is comprised of representatives from JTC, the Court Information Technology Officers Consortium (CITOC), the Forum on the Advancement of Court Technology (FACT), and national experts on jury system technology. By beginning with a set of jury automation technology requirements that were developed earlier this year for the Fourth Judicial District Court in Minnesota, the Working Group had a considerable head start on this project. The Minnesota standards were developed by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) with a grant from the State Justice Institute. Minnesota intends to use the technology standards to develop an RFP to procure a statewide jury automation system.

For the Minnesota project, the NCSC assembled an advisory committee composed of Minnesota stakeholders and national experts on jury system technology. The project was one

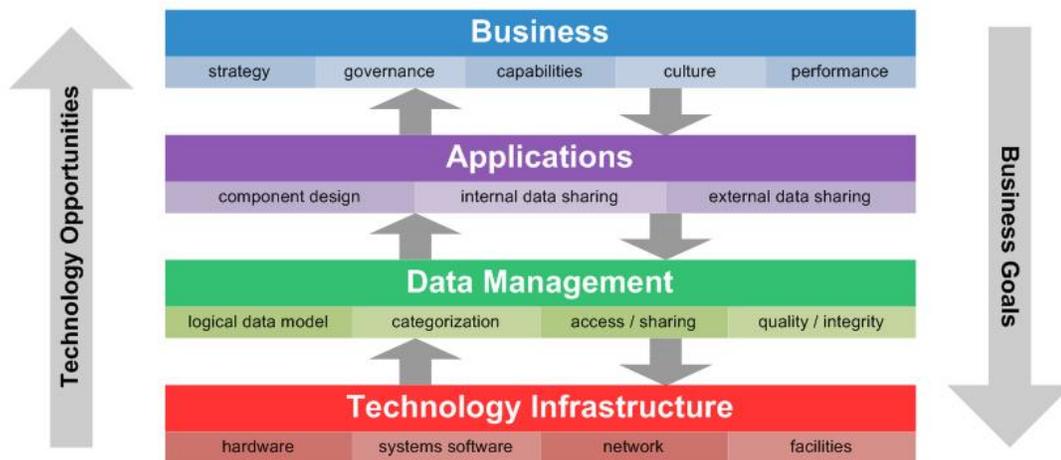


of the first opportunities that NCSC technology experts had to employ the Court Technology Framework (CTF). The CTF is a tool developed by the JTC and designed to provide context for existing, and identification of possible new, technology standards initiatives for the court community. The goals and objectives of the CTF include: 1) providing an organized view of the increasingly complex landscape of court technology solutions; 2) promoting alignment of IT initiatives with business goals; 3) defining a standard set of components and interfaces that make up a

comprehensive court IT environment; and 4) helping courts more readily identify opportunities for improved efficiency and/or cost savings through the use of technologies. For the Minnesota jury technology standards, project staff and Advisory Committee members first identified the business capabilities necessary to operate a jury system effectively, then specified the technology applications, data management, and technology infrastructure required to support those capabilities.

Both the Minnesota technology standards and the JTC Working Group standards emphasize the need for improved technology solutions to incorporate effective practices in jury operations; to exchange information more effectively with executive agencies, court case management systems, courtrooms, and court finance divisions; and to generate management reports that conform to standard jury performance measures such as jury yield and juror utilization. The Working Group expects to submit its recommendations for national jury automation standards to the JTC in Spring, 2014.

For more information on the resources mentioned in this article, including a cadre of



publications, memorandums, and working documents, please visit the Joint Technology Committee website (<http://www.ncsc.org/About-us/Committees/Joint-Technology-Committee.aspx>) and the Court Technology Framework website (<http://www.ncsc.org/ctfwiki>).

SJI Titles Available Online through NCSC eCollection

With over 700 titles available electronically, the [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\) Library eCollection](#) has always been a repository for the products, final project reports, and other cumulative narratives from SJI-funded grants. The SJI Grant Guideline requires that all grantees coordinate with SJI and the NCSC Library to ensure electronic versions of final products and reports are delivered to the NCSC Library for inclusion in the eCollection.

Dating reliably back to the early 1990s, the NCSC Library eCollection has worked diligently over the past two years to digitize even more SJI titles that were previously only available in hard copy, as well as acquire new titles when available. During 2013, NCSC librarians and the resource management team added 159 digitized SJI titles to the eCollection, including 115 SJI titles that were professionally



scanned and 44 SJI titles that were available online through individual court websites.

For the NCSC, this is a mission-related project as it furthers the NCSC Library's commitment to promoting easy access to state court and

court administration resources. For SJI, this ensures that true resource sharing can occur between jurisdictions with minimal demand placed on a grant recipient post-project, and that grant products continue to be available for reference and research by future SJI grant applicants. Even today, many of the titles from the 1990s and earlier are in demand. For more information about the NCSC Library, its eCollection, and e-Newsletters, please visit their Publications & Library Portal: <http://www.ncsc.org/Publications-and-Library.aspx>.

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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.

