

E-SJI News

June 2009



Vol. 19, No. 9

SJI BOARD AWARDS GRANTS FOR THE 3rd QUARTER

On June 26, 2009, the SJI Board of Directors met to award grants for the 3rd quarter of FY 2009. A total of \$328,964 in new grants was awarded, including a new Strategic Initiatives Grants (SIG) project. Awarded grants included a Project Grant to the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to develop a Court Leadership Academy for court executives that will provide intensive education to improve their capacity to provide leadership in their courts. Another awarded Project Grant to NCSC will update the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) time standards; which have not been reviewed or updated since they were adopted in 1982. NCSC will work closely with other organizations on this project, including the National Conference of State Trial Judges (NCSTJ) within the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association, the National Judicial College (NJC), the National Association of Court Management (NACM), and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS).

Six (6) Technical Assistance (TA) applications were awarded, including a judicial resource/mentoring project for the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts; an assessment of the Fulton County, Georgia, Office of Court Administration; the Utah State Courts Self-Help Center Pilot Project; a planning project for the Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator; an assessment of timely disposition of domestic relations cases in Snohomish County, Washington; and a workload study for the Oregon Court of Appeals.

SJI also awarded a \$30,000 SIG grant to NCSC to focus on state court security at a national impact level. Specifically, this SIG project will develop funding strategies for court security by using best practices, and improving continuity of operations planning for pandemic incidents.

Inside

Status of FY 2010 Appropriations **2**

New Judicial Education Curriculum on
Managing Juvenile Sex Offender Cases **2, 3**

Special Announcements **3**

STATUS OF FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS



On June 18, 2009, the House passed the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Bill (H.R. 2847), providing appropriations for FY 2010. SJI received its full request of \$5,131,000, as proposed in the President's Budget. The Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee approved its version of the Bill on June 24th, and the full Senate Appropriations approved the Bill on June 25th. The Senate mark includes \$5,000,000 for SJI. SJI appreciates the continued support from Congress. These funding levels will enable SJI to support more grants to the state courts, in addition to expanding our efforts to address national court issues. SJI will provide updates as the FY 2010 appropriations process continues to move forward.

NEW JUDICIAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM ON MANAGING JUVENILE SEX OFFENSE CASES



The Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) has recently released an innovative curriculum that provides practical information to juvenile and family court judges about youth who engage in sexually abusive behavior. This curriculum is designed to enhance their day-to-day decision-making in these challenging cases. During the past several years, this one day curriculum has been delivered with very positive results at 17 statewide judicial education events (i.e., 16 states and the District of Columbia) to approximately 700 judges. The curriculum, *The Role of Judges in Managing Juvenile Sex Offense Cases: Keys to Informed Decision-Making*, was developed through a SJI grant in FY 2004 (SJI-04-N-160). Sex offenses committed by youth are frequently identified by juvenile and family court judges as among the most challenging cases, though representing only a relatively small proportion of all delinquency petitions. These cases are considered particularly challenging by judges for a host of reasons, including:

- The complex dynamics associated with juvenile sex offending behavior;
 - Questions about differentiating higher from lower risk youth;
 - Concerns about adequately and concurrently addressing the needs of victims;
 - An often limited continuum of treatment resources at their disposal;
 - Dynamics affecting family engagement; and
 - Broader system responses that are based on the assumption that these youth mirror adult sex offenders.
- (continued on page 3)

Board of Directors

Chairman

Robert A. Miller
Chief Justice (Ret.)
Supreme Court of South Dakota
Pierre, SD

Vice Chairman

Joseph F. Baca
Chief Justice (Ret.)
New Mexico Supreme Court
Santa Fe, NM

Secretary

Sandra A. O'Connor
*States Attorney of Baltimore
County (Ret.)*
Towson, MD

Executive Committee Member

Keith McNamara, Esq.
McNamara & McNamara
Columbus, OH

Terrence B. Adamson, Esq.
Executive Vice-President
The National Geographic Society

Robert N. Baldwin
*Executive Vice President and
General Counsel*
National Center for State Courts

Sophia H. Hall
Administrative Presiding Judge
Circuit Court of Cook County
Chicago, IL

Tommy Jewell
*Presiding Children's Court Judge
(Ret.)*
Second Judicial District Court
Albuquerque, NM

Arthur A. McGiverin
Chief Justice (Ret.)
Supreme Court of Iowa
Des Moines, IA

Janice Munsterman
Executive Director

Jonathan Mattiello
Deputy Director

The State Justice Institute is a private, non-profit corporation established by Federal law in 1984 to improve the quality of justice in state courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts. SJI is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.



In most jurisdictions across the nation, juvenile and family court judges are afforded considerable discretion and, as such, they are uniquely positioned to facilitate appropriate and effective intervention strategies, beginning at the early stages of the system and continuing thereafter. Because many advances in research and practice relative to juvenile sex offenders have been made during the past decade, exposure to and understanding of, this contemporary information can prove useful for juvenile and family court judges as they preside over these cases. However, in contrast to the expansion of discipline-specific resources for the professionals responsible for assessment, supervision, institutional programming, and community-based treatment, specialized educational opportunities and materials about juvenile sex offenders that are designed specifically for juvenile judges have remained relatively limited. This curriculum is intended to fill this gap in the judicial education field.

The key topics that are covered in this curriculum include the following:

- Differences between juveniles and adults who commit sex offenses;
- Unique considerations for judges at key decision points throughout the juvenile and family court process;
- Specialized assessment, treatment, and supervision approaches from the perspective of the judiciary;
- Strategies for facilitating family engagement from the bench;
- Local policies and practices that are in place for juvenile sex offenders, the victims of these offenses, and their families; and
- Various roles that the judiciary can assume in promoting effective juvenile sex offender management efforts.

The curriculum agenda is designed to facilitate open exchange and discussion between participants and the faculty members regarding common challenges and creative solutions related to the management of juvenile sex offenders. Paper copies of this curriculum have been distributed to judicial educators, members of the judiciary, and other interested parties across the United States. An electronic version is available on the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) website: http://www.csom.org/pubs/juvenile_sex_cases.pdf.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next grant and scholarship application deadline: **August 1, 2009** (4th Quarter, FY 2009).
- The new SJI Grant Guideline for FY 2010 will be available on the SJI website in October 2009.
- All SJI forms are available on the website under the following tab: <http://www.sji.gov/forms.php>.