

# E-SJI News

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## 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR FY 2011

SJI received 21 grant applications requesting a total of **\$1,279,262** for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY 2011. The Board will meet on December 10, 2011, to make decisions on grant awards for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. The results of this Board meeting will be available the following week. Approved grant applications will not be awarded until SJI has its final appropriation from Congress for FY 2011.

The high numbers of grant applications are attributed to a variety of reasons, including: 1) ongoing state court budget constraints and declining revenues from state, county, and municipal governments; 2) greater visibility of SJI via national outreach and the support of educational programming at court and judicial conferences; and 3) alignment of SJI's Special Interest Program Categories with the emerging needs of the state courts.

Because of the significant demand for SJI grants, potential applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their grant applications as soon as possible, since SJI is on a **first-come, first-served, basis for grant applications that merit funding**. Deadlines for the remainder of FY 2011 are as follows: 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter – February 1, 2011; 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter – May 1, 2011; and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – August 1, 2011.

## SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE APPROVES THREE NEW BOARD NOMINEES

On November 18, 2010, the Senate Judiciary approved three new nominees for the SJI Board of Directors: 1) Chief Justice Chase Rogers; 2) Judge Wilfredo Martinez; and 3) Ms. Isabel Frammer. All three are pending a final confirmation vote by the Senate.

Chase Rogers has been the Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court since 2007. Prior to that, she served as a judge in the Connecticut Appellate Court from 2006 to 2007, and as a judge in Connecticut Superior Court from 1998 to 2006. (continued on page 2)

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Wilfredo Martinez is currently a County Court Judge in the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. He was initially appointed to the Court in 1998. Previously, Judge Martinez was a sole practitioner in Orlando, focusing on real estate and business law.

Ms. Frammer is the founder and principal partner of Language Access Consultants, LLC. Since 1998, Ms. Frammer has worked as a consultant to defense attorneys, prosecutors, law enforcement, state and federal government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, and advocacy firms on language access for limited English proficient communities in the court system.

The Senate previously confirmed six new Board members on June 22, 2010. By law, SJI is supervised by a Board of Directors consisting of 11 members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10703, the President appoints 6 judges and 1 state court administrator from a list of candidates submitted to the President by the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ). In addition, the President also appoints 4 public member positions, no more than 2 of whom can be from the same political party.

## ARIZONA TRAINING ADDRESSES IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION IN THE STATE COURTS



As the impact of *Padilla v. Kentucky* and the role that state court judges assume with respect to immigration becomes clearer, additional training continues to be a priority for the state courts. Recently, 40 Arizona trial court judges, court managers, and staff from the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) participated in a training seminar presented by the Center for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) on the connections between state court case processing and the federal immigration system. The seminar was conducted as part of the ongoing SJI-supported Strategic Initiatives Grants (SIG) program focusing on Immigration and the State Courts.

The morning session served as a primer on how the federal immigration system works and established the key connections shared between the federal system and the state courts. Three separate afternoon tracks focused on the specific needs of: 1) criminal court judges; 2) family, juvenile, and dependency court judges; and 3) court administrators. Presentations during these sessions targeted a range of topics within each track, and explored the inherent complexities and potential consequences of state court cases involving immigrants.

The sessions offered participants the opportunity to learn from distinguished faculty, including a federal immigration judge, immigration lawyers, and university professors, as well as state court practitioners and staff from the CPPS immigration project team. **(continued on page 3)**

## Board of Directors

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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 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.



More information about training and a variety of publications related to emerging immigration issues faced by state courts are available at <http://www.centerforpublicpolicy.org/>. SJI remains committed to supporting innovation and the special needs of state courts in this area.

## NEW VIDEOCONFERENCING SURVEY RESULTS NOW AVAILABLE

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) recently released the results from a 2010 Videoconferencing Survey (SJI-10-N-002), which was supported by SJI. Responses from state courts across the United States, including the District of Columbia were received, and NCSC staff reviewed over 700 state court statutes and rules related to videoconferencing.

Videoconferencing gradually emerged as a staple of courtroom technology since its first use nearly 30 years ago. However, there is a lack of consensus on how the state courts should incorporate this rapidly evolving technology in their operations and budgets. Analysis from the survey is designed to assist judges and court managers with technology planning and budgeting, as well as improve the understanding of varied uses of videoconferencing in criminal proceedings on a state-by-state basis.

Full results of the [NCSC Videoconferencing Survey](#), including interactive graphics, responses by state, and a Resource Guide are available online.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- For Project Grants, grantees are required to send three (3) hard copies of the grant product and final report to SJI for library/reference purposes. One electronic copy in PDF of the final grant report should also be sent to SJI.
- Next Grant and Scholarship application deadline for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2011: **February 1, 2011.**