

# E-SJI NEWS

## SJI Board Awards Grants for the Fourth Quarter of FY 2012

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SJI received 18 grant applications requesting a total of **\$1,349,759** for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY 2012. The Board met on September 17, 2012, to make decisions on those grant applications and awarded 15 grants totaling \$791,537. Because of the high demand, SJI



for jury management using technology in the Fourth Judicial District Court of Minnesota; an evaluation of the organizational structures of the Supreme and Superior Courts in the U.S. Virgin Islands; a planning study for justice center facilities in Barberton, Ohio;

rural court reengineering for Cochise County, Arizona; and court security projects in Orleans Parish, Louisiana, and the State of Hawaii.

Three (3) Curriculum Adaptation and Training (CAT) Grants were awarded, including: development

of a National Judicial College (NJC) course on the legal issues related to fracking along the Marcellus Shale; a curriculum development project on human trafficking for the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ); and training for family law judges on immigration, domestic violence, and sexual assault for the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project at American University.

had to deny some applications due to lack of available funding in the 4th quarter. Three (3) Project Grants were awarded, including: the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts to develop language access training for court employees to provide enhanced language access outside the courtroom; the American Bar Association (ABA) and the National Guardianship Network (NGN) to

promote guardianship networks across the U.S.; and a judicial workload assessment for the Pennsylvania courts.

Seven (9) Technical Assistance (TA) Grants were awarded, including: a language access project for the Rhode Island Judiciary; a readiness assessment of the Superior Court's adult probation department in Imperial County, California; development of a succession plan for the Guam Judiciary; a pilot project



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## Status of FY 2013 Appropriations and Court Security Legislation

On September 13, 2012, the House passed a six-month Continuing Resolution (CR) (HJ Res. 117) for FY 2013. The Senate passed the CR on September 22, 2012. The CR will enable SJI to maintain current operations at the FY 2012 funding level, and award 1st quarter FY 2013 grants.

On September 21, 2012, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a [report](#) detailing the impact of a possible sequestration, as required by the Sequestration Transparency Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-155). Should sequestration happen, SJI will be subject to an 8.2 percent reduction, or \$419,922, from the FY 2012 funding level.

On May 24, 2012, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed the *Local Courthouse Safety Act of 2012* (S.2076). The House passed the bill (H.R. 6185) on August 1, 2012. The bill enables state courts to request excess surplus security equipment from the federal government. In addition, the legislation adds a purpose area to the *SJI Authorization Act* highlighting SJI's authority to award grants to improve court security.



## Promoting Collaboration Between Trial Courts and Clerk of Courts

In approximately half of the state court systems, trial courts maintain the clerk of court as a department of the court, occasionally led by another elected official. Where the trial courts and clerk of courts are separate departments in the county or municipality, tasks associated with daily court management, services to the public, and general operations, specifically record keeping, statistics, case management and processing, are at risk of being divided, duplicated, and rendered ineffective.

Recently, SJI has supported several Technical Assistance Grants to courts and clerk of court offices designed to insure that court services are delivered efficiently and effectively. Through evaluation, strategic planning, assessment, and review of existing policies, procedures, and protocols, consultants familiar with

the state courts have been providing jurisdictions and their partners with critical resources to deal with increased demands for services from the public and a growing diversification of duties.

Some of these SJI-funded projects include:

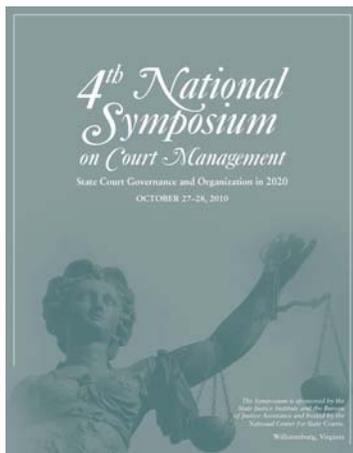
[Performance Evaluation of the Office of the Clerk in the Prince George's County, Maryland Circuit Court](#) (SJI-11-T-161). This project examined automation of services and other strategies designed to address increased demand due to population growth, as well as how best to serve self-represented litigants.

[Assessment of Clerk Functions in the Court, Marion County Indiana](#) (SJI-11-T-159): As the largest trial court system in the state of Indi-

ana, Marion County recently conducted a study of the transfer of courtroom clerks and other functions from the Marion County Clerk's Office to the Superior Court. The project is nearing completion, and the final project report will be made available online.

SJI encourages courts that work with independent clerk of court offices, or are experiencing realignment of services due to growth, reorganization, or an increase in self-represented litigants, to explore Technical Assistance grant opportunities and determine if proposed projects align with any of SJI's [Priority Investment Areas](#).

## New Resource Available on the National Symposium on Court Management



The 4th National Symposium on Court Management, held at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in October 2010, convened a range of state court stakeholders for only the 4th time since 1981.

Participation at this symposium was by invitation only; however, the NCSC has recently made the resources from this event available to the entire state court community through a website titled, [Readings from the 4<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Court Management](#).

The website includes the symposium program, videos, materials, and a summary of the results from a recent survey on the well-being and growth of state courts.

## Council for Court Excellence Hosts Program as Part of Bench-Bar-Media Project

The Council for Court Excellence (CCE), as part of the second series of Bench-Bar-Media Project (SJI-11-E-176) will present a program titled, "Police, Protests, and Press Coverage" on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Georgetown University School of Law's Hart Auditorium from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Panelists will discuss the limits of press coverage of a protest on courthouse grounds; circumstances under which a press photographer's camera and/or memory card may be confiscated by law enforcement; and limits of press coverage or photography when a police officer gives a legitimate order to move. Moderated by Patrick Madden, a reporter for WAMU 88.5, the panelists will include: Chief Judge Royce Lamberth, U.S. District Court for D.C., Mary McCord, U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C., Mickey Osterreicher, National Press Photographers Association, and reporters from both print media and broadcast news organizations.

The program is free and open to the public. RSVPs can be sent to Jeff Capley at [capley@courtexcellence.org](mailto:capley@courtexcellence.org)

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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.

