



SJI Newsletter

April 2019 | Volume 29, No. 7



SJI Awards FY 2019 Second Quarter Grants

The SJI Board of Directors met on April 1, 2019 to make decisions on quarterly [grant applications](#) and awarded a total of 13 new grants.

Nine (9) [Technical Assistance Grants](#) were awarded: the [Kansas Judicial Branch](#) to improve and expand services for self-represented litigants; the [Judiciary of Guam](#) for an assessment of Superior Court case assignments; the Franklin County, Ohio, Municipal Court for strategic planning; the [National Association of Women Judges \(NAWJ\)](#) for a digital redesign project; the Montgomery County, Ohio, Court of Common Pleas for behavioral screening of youth in court schools; the [National Juvenile Defender Center \(NJDC\)](#) for webinars and training on the judicial role in ensuring due process rights for youth; the Summit County, Ohio, Court of Common Pleas for an adult probation improvements project; the [Oregon Judicial Department](#) for a reengineering assessment in Washington County; and the [Colorado Bar Association](#) for an online triage initiative for aging adults.

Four (4) [Curriculum Adaptation and Training \(CAT\) Grants](#) were awarded: [NAWJ](#) for educational sessions on elder issues; the [National Judicial College \(NJC\)](#) for educational programs on water rights law in times of shortage; NJC for digitization of the course titled, *Presiding over a Capital Case*; and the [Nebraska Supreme Court](#) for statewide education and collaboration on juvenile justice.

The next [deadline for grant applications](#) is May 1, 2019 (FY 2019, 3rd quarter).



Public Engagement Pilot Initiative Selects Projects

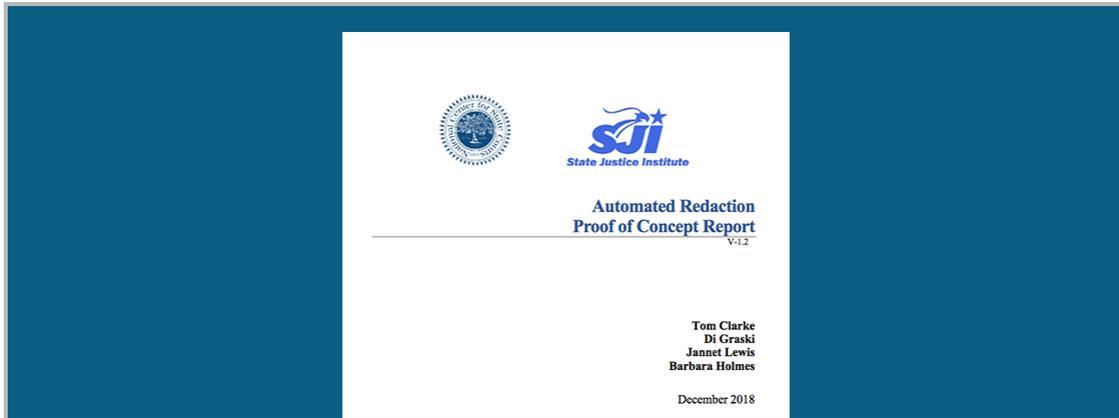
The Public Engagement Pilot Initiative is a joint collaboration of the [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\)](#) and the [University of Nebraska Public Policy Center](#), with grant support from the [State Justice Institute \(SJI\)](#).

After a nationwide call for proposals, six public engagement pilot projects have been selected from an exciting and diverse group of proposals. Over approximately 18 months, the pilot projects will receive resources and support from the NCSC in partnership with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. The sites will work both individually and collaboratively to engage their communities, with the goal of building trust.

Included in this effort are the following sites:

- Administrative Office of the Massachusetts Trial Court;
- Franklin County, Ohio Municipal Court;
- Kansas City, Missouri Municipal Court;
- Nebraska Supreme Court Office of the State Court Administrator;
- Puerto Rico Judicial Branch; and,
- Texas Office of Court Administration

To benefit all state courts, the Initiative will be developing a toolkit for courts to use in their own public engagement efforts. Already developed as working documents are: 1) [Visioning Public Engagement](#); and, 2) Appendices [A](#) and [B](#), that detail issues identified and examples of public engagement. More resources are expected to be added as the pilots move forward in their work.



NCSC Develops Report to Quantify Automated Redaction Accuracy

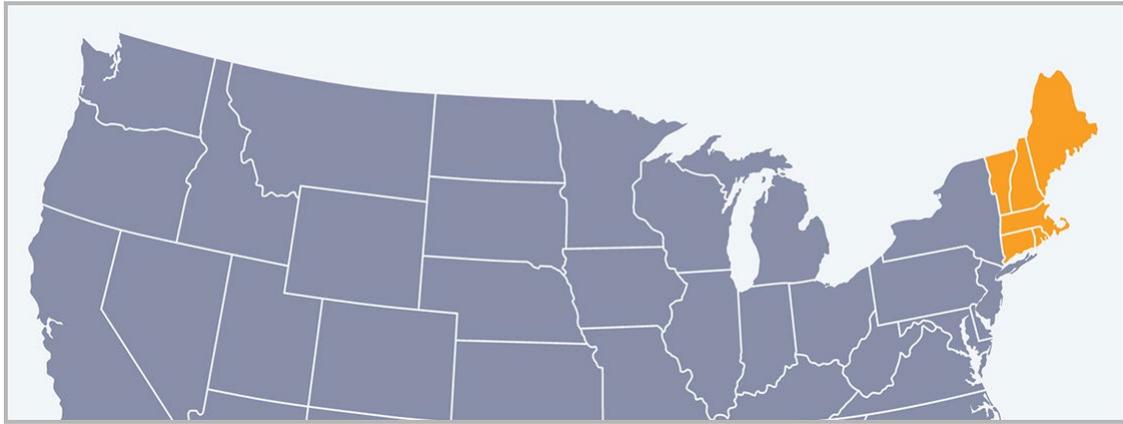
The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) recently released the [Automated Redaction Proof of Concept Report](#), made possible by an SJI grant.

The goal of this 16-page, Proof of Concept (POC) Report, is to quantify the accuracy of automated redaction capabilities and share those results with the court community.

The report focuses on the following areas:

- Developing a comprehensive redaction policy;
- Identifying redaction targets;
- Evaluation and Metrics; and,
- POC Trials in multiple court settings.

The report is intended to provide: 1) background about the principles underlying the Revised Model Policy; and (2) a description of the categories of protected information included within the scope of the POC, the methodology that the NCSC and participating vendors followed during the POC, and, most importantly, the impressive results achieved in automated redaction of the data targets.



New England Creates a Regional Opioid Initiative

The chief justices of the six New England states have launched the [New England Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative \(NE RJOI\)](#), the second regional group of its kind. The establishment of the New England group, which includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, comes at a time when federal, state and local leaders have committed to work together to combat the opioid epidemic and to help others recognize the crucial role that the courts play to fight this crisis.

The first joint effort, the [Appalachia/Midwest Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative](#), included Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia. It was established in 2017 - the same year the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators established the [National Judicial Opioid Task Force](#). The national task force, which NCSC staffs, was created to examine current efforts and find solutions to address the opioid epidemic.

Like the states in the first regional group, the New England states have experienced some of the highest opioid-related overdose death rates ranging from 36 deaths per 100,000 in New Hampshire to 18 deaths per 100,000 in Vermont, according to the most recent figures available. The New England states also have some of the nation's highest rates of opioid prescriptions per 100 people. The rates range from 60 per 100 in Massachusetts to 70 per 100 in Maine.

In support of the NE RJOI, the U.S. Justice Department's [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) has awarded the group \$1.5 million. The initiative intends to develop a multi-state approach to the opioid epidemic with a focus on the courts. The project will allow states to share best practices, coordinate and standardize procedures, and communicate in a more targeted and unified way.

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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.

Products and Resources

Since 2011, SJI has designated the library at the National Center for State Courts as the official repository of published work related to SJI-supported grant projects. You can search the ecollection online by using the term, State Justice Institute.

Share the News

SJI uses [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to promote the work of its grantees and also shares information of interest to the entire state court community. If your organization's work complements ours, let us know and we will share.