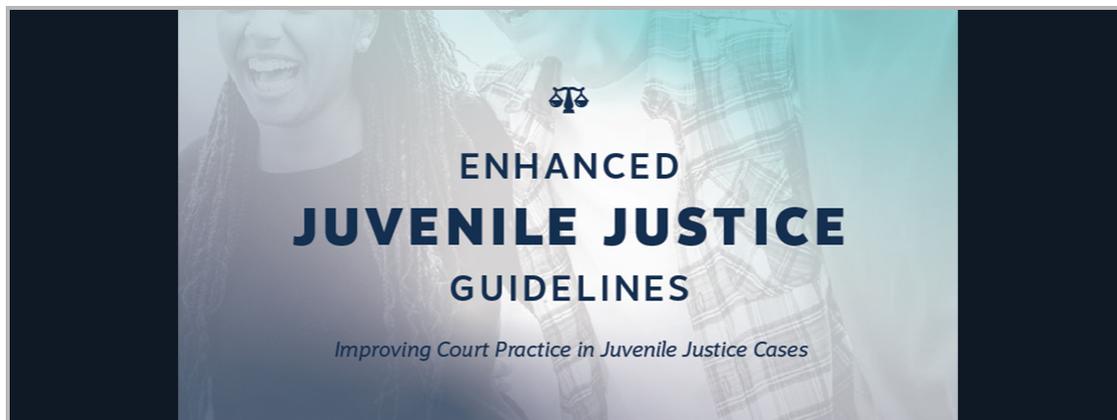


SJI Newsletter

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Enhanced Juvenile Justice Guidelines Now Available

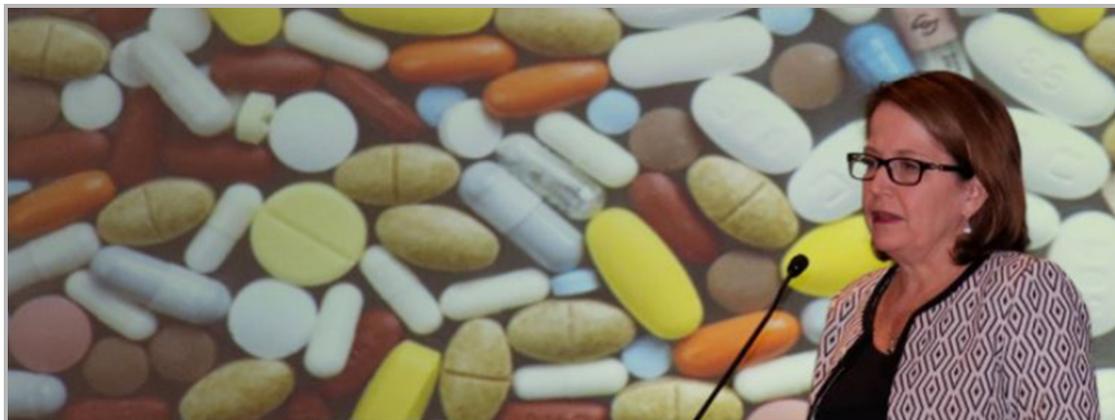
The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ) announced the release of the [Enhanced Juvenile Justice Guidelines](#), the most recent update documenting the improvement of court practices in juvenile justice cases. The *Enhanced* version was supported by SJI.

Since 2005, with the original publication of *Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases* (JDG), the NCJFCJ has worked with juvenile justice courts to promulgate best practices in juvenile delinquency proceedings. The purpose of the *Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines* was to set forth the essential elements of effective practice for the court processes that are involved in the handling of juvenile delinquency cases. It identified recommended practices throughout the juvenile delinquency court system – from the determination of whether a case should enter the formal juvenile delinquency court system, to determination as to whether juvenile delinquency court jurisdiction should be waived and the youth transferred to criminal court, as well as post-disposition review of the reentry process for youth returning to the community from out-of-home placement.

In 2017, the NCJFCJ revisited the Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines to ensure that it reflected the changes in court practice, advances in brain science, the understanding of adolescent development and the juvenile specific rulings from the Supreme Court. The Enhanced version contains up-to-date

information on general court processes, initiating juvenile justice court processes, best practices in detention or initial hearings, waiver and transfer hearings, trial/adjudication hearings, disposition hearings, the appeals process, post-disposition reviews, and probation and parole violations.

"Much has changed within the juvenile justice system, and we are committed to implementing process improvement, measuring results, and sharing experiences with juvenile courts," said Judge John J. Romero, Jr., NCJFCJ president. "The NCJFCJ and our judges are committed to promoting systems change within our jurisdictions across the country."



New Online Resource Available on State Courts and the Opioid Crisis

[The National Judicial Opioid Task Force](#) (NJOTF) has launched [an online resource center](#) to provide judges and court staff one place to go for easy access to opioid-related information and materials. The task force is supported with funding from SJI and is staffed by the [National Center for State Courts](#).

The resource center offers the nation's courts a comprehensive collection of best practices, policy recommendations, research, statistics, podcasts, and other information on opioids and the courts. Among the array of resources:

- Monographs, ranging from best practices on medically assisted treatments to guardianship laws for people with substance abuse to sample transfer agreements between state and tribal courts;
- Webinars on prescription-drug-monitoring programs; and,
- Videos about the science of addiction.

The center also includes information from a variety of experts, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institute for Drug Abuse, the American Academy of Pediatrics, USDA rural opioid initiative, and other federal and state agencies. In addition to creating the resource center, the task force has also worked with federal and state law-enforcement partners to create data sharing, partnerships, and policies; improved access to federal funding for state courts; and presented at numerous national conferences and summits to showcase innovative collaborations that are working across the country.

The task force – established by the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), and co-chaired by Indiana Chief Justice Loretta Rush (pictured above) and Tennessee State Court Administrator Deborah Taylor Tate – was formed in August 2017 to examine current efforts and to find solutions to address the opioid epidemic.



JTC Resource Bulletin

Social Media Marketing for Courts

Latest JTC Bulletin Addresses Social Media Marketing for Courts

The [Joint Technology Committee](#) (JTC), established by the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), the National Association for Court Management (NACM) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), released a [resource bulletin](#) in December 2018. The publication covered several aspects of utilizing social media as a means by which to achieve effective court communication. It also examined how failure to include social media in the court's communication strategy can widen the gap between what the public expects, and what the court delivers.

Included in the 16-page bulletin are some key elements to creating a relevant and cohesive social media presence including:

1. Platforms available and most frequently used (including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, etc.).
2. Internal and external risk review for governance team, body, or administration.
3. Social Listening – which includes more information about appropriate response time, how best to monitor accounts, and what that includes across platforms.

While there are still risks to any communications strategy, the bulletin advises courts to strongly consider and invest in a social media presence to best reach consumers, the public, and their partners where they are – online, using devices and apps that are highly integrated.

Also included is an appendix with basic, intermediate, and advanced-level steps for courts to take action before, during, and while revising social media communication plans.



NACM 2019 Midyear Meeting

Time is running out to register for the [NACM midyear meeting](#), which will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, February 10 – 12, 2019. Registration closes on January 31st and onsite registration is not guaranteed.

NACM's 2019 theme of *"Advancing Today's Courts to Meet the Challenges of Tomorrow"* focuses on current and new solution-based technology, programs, and services in today's courts. Alternatives to incarceration, treatment for mental health challenges and substance abuse addiction, especially opioids, human trafficking, bail reform, immigration and domestic violence are just a few of the critical issues facing courts. As society changes, courts must adjust their delivery methods for dispensing justice fairly and impartially. Meeting tomorrow's challenges requires a trained workforce of court professionals who use innovative solutions, evidence-based and best practices, and community-based programs and partnerships.

SJI is supporting NACM livestreaming of plenaries and select workshops, so that these important sessions are available online and archived, for free access to all. If you are unable to attend, be sure to visit the NACM website for more information on participating in the virtual elements of the meeting.

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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.

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