

# SJI NEWSLETTER

Volume 26, No. 7

## SJI Awards FY 2016 Second Quarter Grants

### Promoting Our Work

SJI uses [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to promote the work of its grantees and also shares information of interest to the entire state court community.

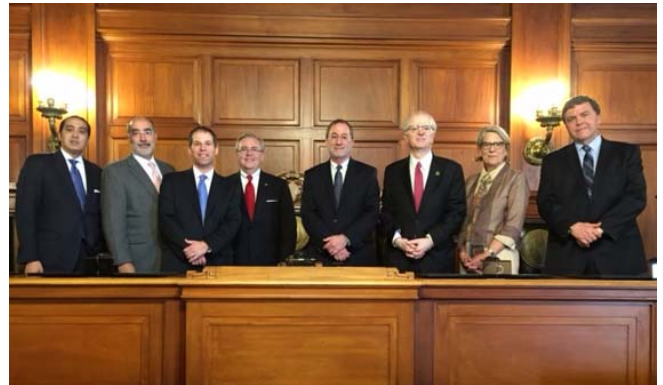
If your organization's work complements ours, let us know and we will share it!



The SJI Board of Directors met on April 18, 2016, at the Supreme Court of Kentucky in Frankfort to make decisions on quarterly grant applications and awarded a total of twenty-one (21) new grants.

Two (2) Strategic Initiatives Grants were awarded: support to the Conference of Chief Justice/Conference of State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA) for the National Task Force on Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices; and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to identify best practices in court privacy policy formulation.

Fourteen (14) Technical Assistance (TA) Grants were approved, including: assistance to the Judiciaries in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Hawaii to address human trafficking; support to the California Commission on Judicial Performance for a judicial mentoring project; strategic planning for the Pierce County, Washington District Court; and support to the Utah Administrative



**The SJI Board of Directors and Chief Justice John Minton (center left) at the Supreme Court of Kentucky**

Office of the Courts for an innovative online dispute resolution program. Five (5) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were approved, including: support to the Oregon Judiciary for language access training and development; the National Judicial College (NJC) for judicial webcasts and online learning modules; and the NCSC for digital evidence training.

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## Council for Court Excellence Reviews Washington, D.C. Jury System

With support from SJI, the [Council for Court Excellence](#) (CCE) released [Jury Service Revisited: Upgrades for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#), a comprehensive review of the jury system in Washington, D.C., at an event hosted by Arnold & Porter (SJI-14-T-086).

The report builds on the Council's 1998 seminal study on jury service. At the event, Professor



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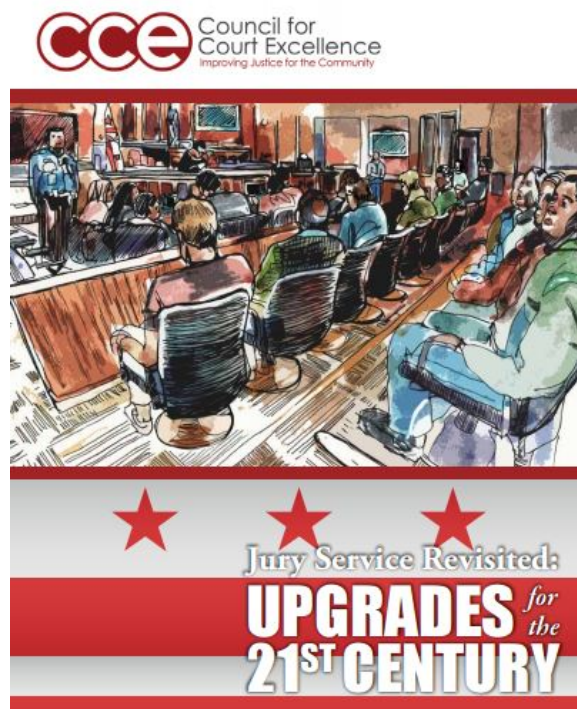
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Andrew G. Ferguson of the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law called the report, “a blueprint of change for jury service today.” *The Washington Post* featured the report in an [editorial](#) published on January 2, 2016, which noted that the report and its recommendations “must not be consigned to the shelves and instead should provide the basis for needed action.”

The report’s twenty-five recommendations address how the Court can: improve juror care; jury pool and summoning; and trial structure in regards to juries. At present, CCE staff is working with its Board and various stakeholders to initiate the process of implementing the report’s recommendations.

To improve the public’s access to justice and increase their understanding of the justice system, CCE has published and distributed over 360,000 copies of plain-language booklets and other materials explaining a wide variety of court and justice system issues.

This [report](#) is available online and through the NCSC Library eCollection.



## Michigan Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 Continues to Offer Resources and Training



### JUVENILE JUSTICE VISION 20/20

With support from SJI and Grand Valley State University (GVSU), the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan formed what is today known as [Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20](#).

This integrated statewide effort has been building momentum for nearly five years. It now offers a dynamic web presence inclusive of the mission, vision, and values shared by partners, as well as a catalog of in-depth publications, links to numerous resources that guide those interested in juvenile justice, and an archive of past conferences and presentations.

The original [Strategic Plan](#), which was supported by SJI, serves as a basis for the work being advanced today through a governance board comprised of individuals from juvenile courts, the State Court Administrative Office, the Department of Human Services, GVSU, and private residential treatment providers.

Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 is hosting both [Spring](#) and [Fall](#) 2016 training events with details regarding registration, agenda, and speaker information to be released in early May 2016. While the events benefit all partners currently engaged in improving outcomes for youth, families, and communities by improving the juvenile justice systems in Michigan, it also has relevant information for interested parties looking to catalyze their own local or state coalitions in a similar way to Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20.

To connect with leadership of Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20, inquiries can be sent to Sandi Metcalf at [jjvision2020@gvsu.edu](mailto:jjvision2020@gvsu.edu).

# Operational Assessment of the D.C. Court of Appeals

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals received an SJI grant to support an operational assessment that would help promote its commitment to fair, efficient, and effective administration of justice.

As the court of last resort within the District of Columbia, the D.C. Court of Appeals has dual responsibility for reviewing individual decisions of lower tribunals for errors, as well as the interpretation and development of the law and its general application in future cases.

Much of this report addresses a changing budget paradigm in the courts with regards to new realities surrounding budgets and non-financial resources; specifically for Court this includes special attention to staffing structure; technological improvements; and adoption of organizational and operational changes designed to maximize judicial resources and assist judges in managing their workloads.

Recommendations include migration towards the National Center for State Court's [Appellate CourTools](#) system, specifically designed for the uniqueness of appellate court work. The report also focuses on alternative strategies that could alleviate docket congestion, such as mediation.

The final [report](#) is available through the NCSC eCollection.



**District of Columbia Court of Appeals**

**Operational Assessment**

**FINAL REPORT**

July 2014

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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.

