

# SJI NEWSLETTER

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## Called to Action: 5 Years of Improving Language Access in the State Courts

### 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.

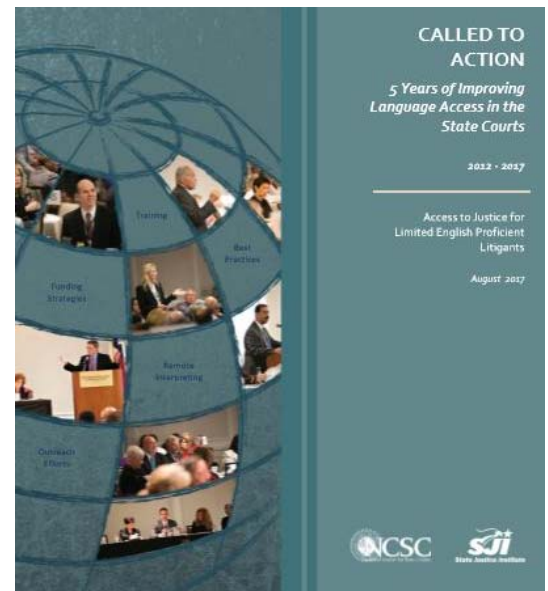
If your organization's work complements ours, let us know and we will share



Five years ago, state court leaders from across the country convened at the 2012 *National Summit on Language Access in the Courts*, where representatives from 49 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia were present. The 2013 release of the publication *A National Call to Action: Access to Justice for Limited English Proficient Litigants* outlined a set of nine action steps developed during the Summit.

The *Summit* and the *Call to Action* resulted in a new level of collaboration and focus that assisted the language access community to effectively and efficiently create solutions to language barriers in the state courts. A new website and report, titled *Called to Action: 5 Years of Improving Language Access in the State Courts, 2012 – 2017*, details the incredible progress state courts have made in improving language access. The report is divided into six sections, including an assessment of needs and challenges, as well as a look at the future of language access in the state courts.

The [website](#) assembles in one place the key elements of work accomplished, including the collective charge to ensure language access, evaluation of project components, results from surveys of state courts and their



partners, programming highlights, and relevant publications.

SJI remains committed to improving language access in the state courts. Language Access is a Priority Investment Area for SJI funding in FY 2017. In addition, since FY 2016, SJI has awarded over \$2.7 million in grants to support language access projects at the local, state, and national levels.

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## NACM-IACA Joint Conference



In July, the [National Association for Court Management \(NACM\)](#) and the [International Association for Court Administration \(IACA\)](#) held a joint conference outside of Washington, D.C. With funding from SJI, NACM [live-streamed conference sessions](#) and archived its [2017 annual conference content](#).

The joint IACA-NACM conference was an incredible success, with over 900 attendees, faculty, and exhibitors attending.

## Education Support Program Changes for FY 2018

Beginning in the upcoming fiscal year (starting on October 1, 2017) the [National Judicial College \(NJC\)](#) and the [National Center for State Courts/Institute for Court Management \(ICM\)](#) will administer SJI's [Education Support Program \(ESP\)](#) program separately, in partnership and with funding from SJI.

Here are some helpful tips:

- ESPs only cover the cost of tuition up to a maximum of \$1,000 per award;
- The ESP award recipient is responsible for all costs including travel, transportation, meals, materials, and transportation to and from airports (including rental cars) at the site of the education program;
- Only full-time judges of state or local trial and appellate courts; full-time professional state or local court personnel with management responsibilities or on a professional career track; and supervisory and management probation officials in judicial branch probation offices are eligible for the program;

- Applicants are limited to one ESP award every other fiscal year (i.e. if awarded an ESP in FY 2018, the applicant will remain ineligible until FY 2020), unless the course specifically assumes multi-year participation as part of a certificate program; and,
- The NJC and ICM reserve the right to apply additional selection criteria.



Applicants interested in courses offered by the NJC should contact NJC Scholarship Coordinator, [Rebecca Bluemer](#), by email or phone: (800) 255-8343.

Applicants interested in courses offered through the NCSC ICM should contact ICM Director of National Programs [Margaret Allen](#), by e-mail or phone: (757) 259-1581.

## Language of Justice Institute Launches in Mid-Atlantic Region

A new [Language of Justice Institute](#) is now available. The Institute is a joint project of [Widener University's Delaware Law School](#), the [First Judicial District of Pennsylvania \(FJD-Philadelphia County Courts\)](#), and the [Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts \(AOPC\)](#), and was funded in part by SJI.

The purpose of the Institute is to provide a structured academic approach to preparing candidates for the oral exams, and help improve passing rates. It is also an excellent resource for continuing education opportunities for already-credentialed interpreters. Located in Wilmington, Delaware, this program will have regional appeal and will attract prospective candidates from throughout Mid-Atlantic region, including Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

Prospective candidates, interpreters, and others who might be interested can find more information on the [resource page](#). A small number of scholarships are available. The application deadline is December 15, 2017.



# New Juvenile Bench Cards Focus on Adolescent Development

The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges \(NCJFCJ\)](#) and the [National Juvenile Defender Center \(NJDC\)](#), have released two new bench cards: [Applying Principles of Adolescent Development in Delinquency Proceedings](#); and, [Access to Juvenile Justice Irrespective of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression \(SOGIE\)](#).

"The State Justice Institute commends the NCJFCJ and the National Juvenile Defender Center for their continuous effort to provide outstanding educational tools to better inform juvenile and family court judges about the best practices and latest science available on adolescent development," said Jonathan Mattiello, SJI Executive Director.

The NCJFCJ Board of Directors voted to support and endorse the policies and practices outlined in these two bench cards during their July 2017 annual meeting.

"These resources are part of a line of important informational and policy statements from the NCJFCJ," said Judge Anthony (Tony) Capizzi, NCJFCJ president. "Judges and judicial leadership play a critical role in both ensuring that courts and justice professionals recognize the developmental differences, supported by the research on



adolescent development, between youth and adults and to treat LGBTQ-GNC individuals with fairness, dignity, and respect."

Each link to the printable bench cards includes a brief primer for the intended audience regarding the collaboration, the content of the card, and the context in which it will be most helpful. Details regarding the partnership are available via the NCJFCJ press release announcing the availability of the bench cards: <http://bit.ly/2xomobf>

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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.

