

SJI NEWSLETTER

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Task Force on Fines, Fees, & Bail Practices: New Resources Available

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



A little over one year from the date of its formation, the [National Task Force on Fines, Fees and Bail Practices](#), comprised of stakeholders representing the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), recently released multiple resources for state courts.

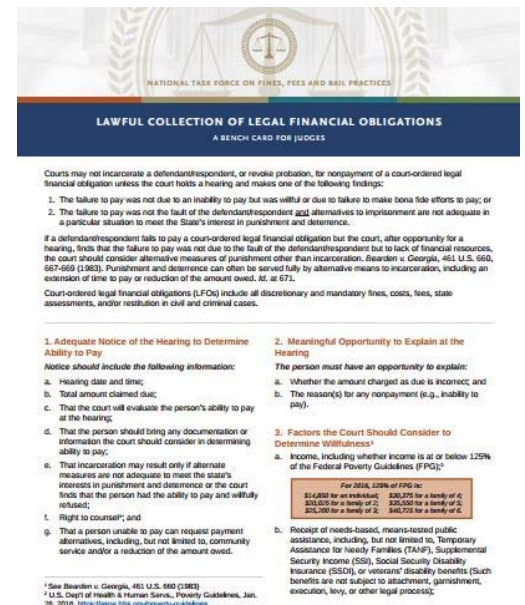
Supported in part by SJI and DOJ/Bureau of Justice Assistance, with technical assistance from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), these new aids can assist state courts in the fair and efficient enforcement of the law, and help ensure that no citizen is denied access to the justice system.

The resources include:

- [Guide to the Work of the Task Force](#)
- [Lawful Obligations Bench Card](#)
- [Model Political Subdivision Court Registration Act and Form](#)
- [Sample Model Uniform Citation](#)
- [Sample Court Rule](#)

The new bench card is intended to assist judges in real time with the lawful collection of legal financial obligations. At its February 2017 general business meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, CCJ adopted a resolution in support of the adoption of the Bench Card. The resolution “encourages inclusion of the Bench Card into the judicial education curricula created by each State for new judges and for experienced judges.”

“No one in America should be sent to jail—or threatened with jail—solely because they are poor. In too



many instances, judges are ignoring fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, while local politicians treat the court system as an ATM for their spending priorities. This must change, and this task force is committed to taking steps to ensure justice for all,” said co-chair Maureen O’Connor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio. The task force is also co-chaired by Laurie K. Dudgeon, Director of the Administrative Office of the Kentucky Courts.

The National Task Force on Fines, Fees and Bail Practices will continue to create various tools to assist states. Page two of the Bench Card refers to a document, *Best Practices for Determining the Right to Counsel in Legal Financial Obligation Cases*, which is currently in development and is expected to be released later this Spring.

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NextGen Court Technology Standards: Phase I

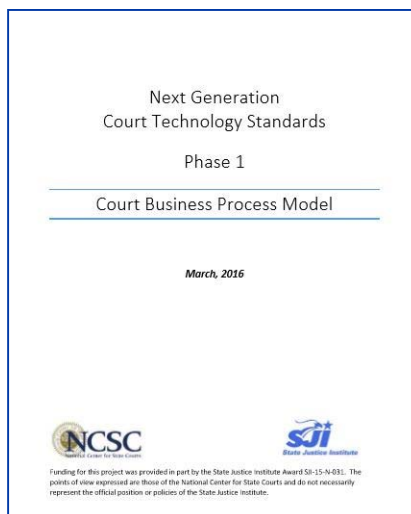
With support from SJI, a working group of court practitioners and other subject matter experts established by the Joint Technology Committee (JTC) of the [Conference of State Court Administrators \(COSCA\)](#), the [National Association for Court Management \(NACM\)](#) and the [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\)](#) assembled a NextGen Court Business Process Model. Other participating organizations included the Court Information Technology Officers Consortium (CITOC) and the IJIS Institute (IJIS).

This [report](#) outlines the Court Business Process (CBP) Model that was developed and approved by the NextGen Court Technology Standards Working Group. Its work updates and further informs information originally examined in 2003. Developed in the first phase of the project and released in 2016, the CBP defined the case type layer of the model and initiated a secondary level of definition - business process categories. As the project team commenced, it became apparent that the work could not be performed without also addressing a third layer of the model, the business process groups. The original project proposed to complete the second and third layers of the model during phase two, but a substantial

part of this work already has been completed.

The NextGen approach to a CBP Model is designed to be unique and offers the capacity of understanding the work of the judicial branch in an entirely new way. Some key elements are:

- Better modeling of the business processes can lead to more effective automation and improved court productivity.
- Within the context of reused elementary business processes, case management system modules that support those processes can be integrated and reused in a manner that precisely meets the needs of each particular court system.
- Provision of a clear and concise understanding of specific business processes in a format that is both comprehensive and economical will lead to greater intersection with Business Process Groups (claims, hearings, trials, etc.) and Business Process Categories (case type).



Second phase work includes NextGen Court Technology Standards that will address implementation of concepts. Later this Spring, the JTC plans to release a follow-up report culminating all of this work.

2017 NACM Midyear Meeting Content Available Online

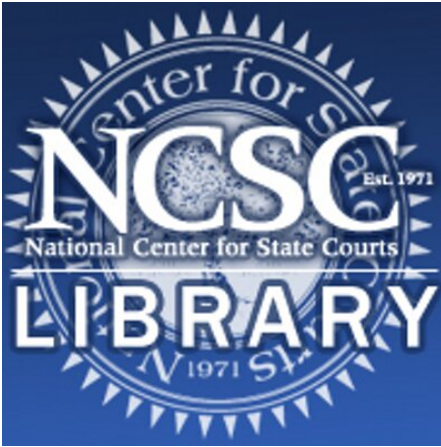
The 2017 National Association for Court Management (NACM) Midyear Meeting held in Portland, Oregon, earlier this month saw hundreds of court administrative professionals and partners come together to enhance their skill sets, discuss the state of state courts, and engage in structured and informal professional development opportunities.

For nearly a decade, SJI has been pleased to support both the annual and midyear meeting educational sessions offered by NACM through grants that promote content development, engage presenters, and more recently, record, live stream, and archive workshops and plenary sessions. These grants were initiated when state courts drastically reduced, at both local and state levels, the funds available for professional development. In an effort to keep court administrators and staff immersed in the latest trends, court technology, and evidence-based practices, NACM partnered with SJI to make content both live and archived, available to members and the larger state court community.



Live streaming and post-meeting access to materials, slides, and media continues to be popular with NACM members and court personnel across the United States. The 2017 NACM Midyear Meeting [materials](#) and [videos](#) are available online.

SJI Grant Product Repository at the NCSC Library



Since 2009, SJI has partnered with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) [Library](#) as the official repository for all SJI grant-funded final reports and products.

The Library features both a hard copy and digital collection, and is home to more than 50,000 items in multiple formats (print, video, CD-ROM

and microfiche) and over 200 professional journals. A substantial part of the [catalog has been digitized](#) and is searchable.

SJI grant recipients are required to submit both hard and electronic copies of their final project reports and/or grant products to SJI for inclusion in the NCSC Library. Exceptions to this policy are granted in advance by SJI where information contained within the report contains confidential materials or could pose a safety risk if released.

All new SJI grant applicants are required to conduct a search of the NCSC Library on the topic areas they are addressing to determine if there is prior work on their topic area. This search should include SJI-funded grants and projects not supported by SJI. Applicants must discuss the results of their research, how they plan to incorporate the previous work into their proposed project, and if the project will differentiate from prior work in their grant applications.



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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.

