

## SJI Newsletter

February 2018 | Volume 28, No. 5



### SJI and NCSC Partner to Develop Elements of Judicial Excellence

With grant funding from SJI and technical expertise from the [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\)](#), the [Elements of Judicial Excellence](#) framework was created to support professional development of state trial court judges. This unique resource identifies three specific elements necessary to achieving judicial excellence and professional growth, including:

1. Citizen of the Court Community: Ethics and Integrity; Engagement; and, Well-Being
2. Informed and Impartial Decision Maker: Knowledge of the Law and Justice System; Critical Thinking; and, Self-Knowledge and Self-Control
3. Leader of the Court Process: Managing the Case and Court Process; Building Respect and Understanding; and, Facilitating Resolution

Based on the Illinois state Circuit Court and associate judges model, the following guiding documents are included in this new resource:

- [Elements of Judicial Excellence Framework](#): The framework and how to use it is detailed in this 39-page document that introduces concepts, provides citations and resources for further reading, and practical application by trial court judges.
- [Elements of Judicial Excellence D Final Report](#): The complete project final report provides an overview of the framework and its development, explains how the framework can be appropriately used, identifies key lessons learned from the project experience, and describes several potential research directions. The report includes a technical appendix on data collection (Appendix A) and, importantly, the Elements of Judicial Excellence framework document (Appendix B).

Elements of Judicial Education combines established needs, best practices, and new insights that judges themselves believe are important to judicial excellence, as well as recommended strategies to support professional growth.

## *Consultant's After-Action Report*

### *Addressing the Sex Trafficking of Children in MN Grant SJI-17-021*



## Minnesota Concludes Statewide Multidisciplinary Project to Address Human Trafficking

On May 22-25, 2017, the [Minnesota Judicial Branch](#), with support from SJI, the [Ramsey County Attorneys Office](#), and the [Womens Foundation of Minnesota](#), hosted a statewide training: Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation 102: Engagement Strategies for Working with Sexually Exploited Children.

Judges from each of Minnesota's ten judicial districts and one United States District Court judge each selected a team of systems professionals to represent their district in this training, which focused on building an effective systems response to sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. In all, 21 judges and 71 systems professionals, including Minnesota Safe Harbor Regional Navigators, community-based advocates, law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, child protection, and probation, participated in this two and a half-day training.

Following the program, a report was prepared, containing a summary of major themes from the training and recommendations for next steps in building an effective systems response to sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. These recommendations include:

- Utilizing the influence of judges on the systems response and in the community;
- Developing a comprehensive response;
- Leveraging existing resources;
- Adhering to the Minnesota Safe Harbor Protocol Guidelines;
- Working towards systems change;
- Ensuring a culturally-responsive systems response; and,
- Incorporating the youth/survivor perspective

The [full report](#) is available online. In addition to the elements above, a report-back on the district-specific multidisciplinary team activities is featured.

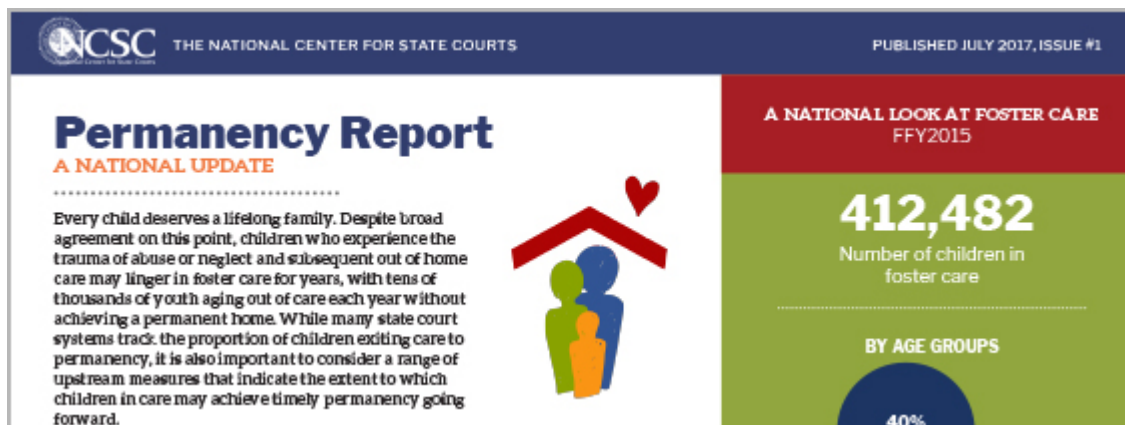


## NACM Midyear Meeting Focuses on Strategic Collaboration

The [National Association for Court Management \(NACM\)](#) recently met in Orange County, California with record attendance for a midyear meeting.

In addition to providing grants for livestreaming portions of the midyear meeting and select workshops, SJI has also helped support the [archival of information, sessions and materials](#). Attendees were encouraged to elevate their meeting experience via the app for iOS and Android, which was downloaded more than 300 times. NACM also hosted a community service initiative that accepted donations (one-time or recurring) for virtual food drive.

The extent to which participants, vendors, hosts, and other partners engaged set the tone for the upcoming 2018 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, from July 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. The conference theme, Mind the Gap: The Power of Active Engagement, encourages mindfulness as a strategy to face challenges and address gaps, which allow court leaders identify ways in which the judicial system can be improved. Registration for the annual conference will open in the spring, with more information to come.



## Reimagining Dependency Courts Issues Permanency Report

An initiative of the [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\)](#), Reimagining Dependence Courts (RDC) launched in 2016 with support from [Casey Family Programs](#) and SJI.

RDC released its inaugural eight page [Permanency Report](#) providing a snapshot of foster care system. The report details state-by-state data on key foster care and permanency measures, as well as examples of strategies being implemented through the project to reduce court delay in achieving permanency.

The project has already realized results by providing judicial leaders with children and family and outcome data, in addition to the court process measures courts. Some of the measures found in the Permanency Report include the percentage of children in foster care who have been in care for more than 24 months and the percentage of foster children in the state who are waiting for adoption.

In addition to this project and the report, the NCSC also hosts an [online resource guide](#) devoted to dependency courts.

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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 organizations work complements ours, let us know and we will share.