

SJI NEWSLETTER

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New Website Provides Resources for Managing High Profile Cases

Accepting Submissions

SJI is accepting submissions from its grantees for the summer issues of the SJI Newsletter.

Articles of fewer than 300 words are preferred and should report on the culminating work of single grant year or significant progress of multi-year project.

Please send articles via e-mail to kathryn.tuck@sj.gov

Made possible through an SJI grant, the new [Managing High-Profile Cases for the 21st Century website](#) is a joint project of the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC), the [Conference of Court Public Information Officers](#) (CCPIO), and the [National Judicial College](#) (NJC).



"The vast majority of cases in our state courts are resolved with little or no fanfare," NCSC President Mary McQueen said. "But when public scrutiny focuses on a particular trial – whether it involves a heinous crime, a celebrity, or a societal issue – judges and other court leaders need effective tools to help them manage intense media, security, and

crowd issues, especially in a rapidly evolving technological environment."

Judges and court professionals now have online access to the tools necessary to plan and manage high-profile cases in their courts. The new website offers best practices, techniques, and tools that have proven

useful to courts that have experienced high-profile trials, in addition to checklists to help the trial judge, administrative officer, security personnel, jury managers, and others provide public access while ensuring a fair trial. The website also features the top six considerations for courts confronted with a high-profile trial, and helps provide answers to these issues and questions.

Improving Access to Justice for Native Peoples in State Courts

The [New Mexico Center for Language Access](#) (NMCLA) at the [New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts](#), with support from the New Mexico Judiciary, and in collaboration with the [University of New Mexico School of Law and Judicial Education Center](#) has recently completed their grant to improve access to justice for native peoples in the courts (SJI-14-N-153).



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The report is presented in a 30-minute online video format, which takes the viewer through the design and intent of the project, introduces key partners, and includes perspectives from the Native American community. Courts embarking on work with language access, interpretation, and mediation projects involving the Native American community are encouraged to review the video and contact the NMCLA if they have questions.

The video is available online: <http://bit.ly/2renRIN>

Improving language access in the state courts through remote interpretation (outside the courtroom), interpreter certification, courtroom services (plain language forms, websites, etc.) remains a [Priority Investment Area](#) for SJI in FY 2017.

District of Columbia Court of Appeals and CCE Publish Final Report on Public Access

The [Remote Public Access to Electronic Court Records: A Cross-Jurisdictional Review for the D.C. Courts](#) report, prepared by the Remote Access to Court Electronic Records (RACER) Committee of the [Council for Court Excellence](#), identifies best practices from across the nation on public access to electronic court case files.

Completed at the request of former Chief Judge Eric Washington of the D.C. Court of Appeals, this report outlines practices intended to inform the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, which has recently implemented electronic filing. Additionally, the report will help enhance public access to the D.C. Court of Appeals, which has begun gradually implementing an electronic case filing system on a voluntary basis which will augment the operation of its automated case-flow management system.

Included in the report are:

- Key findings related to the following areas - scope of access; bulk data availability; privacy; governance structures; fees; maintenance; and usability;
- Best practices related to each of the aforementioned areas;
- Evaluation of other state court systems relative to each area, inclusive of policy considerations that the D.C.-based courts may face; and,
- Appendices that delve deeper into the other approaches adopted by states creating a public access legal framework.

State courts were surveyed to acquire the necessary benchmarking information and state court data regarding level of access to the public via online or in-house systems. Overall, results continue to show a marked increase in jurisdictions utilizing technology to “e-file” and adopting a broad movement towards online access to court records.

NCSC 2016 Report Highlights SJI Projects

Released this spring, the [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\) 2016 Annual Report](#) features a wide array of accomplishments related to current court issues, ongoing court education, and milestone events,

This year, several SJI grant-funded projects were featured in the report. They include:

NATIONAL INITIATIVES

- National Task Force on Fines, Fees and Bail Practices: pages 6 – 7;
- Civil Justice Initiative: pages 8 – 9;
- Courts and Community Engagement – Listening Tour: page 14; and,
- The National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness’s Town Hall; page 15.



STATE COURT SPECIFIC PROJECTS

- State courts strengthen guardianship oversight: page 11; and,
- Kentucky courts’ pretrial services program tour: page 11.

The report also includes mention of the posthumous induction of former Arkansas Chief Justice James Hannah to the Burger Society. At the time of his passing, in January 2016 at the age of 71, he served as Chair of the NCSC Board of Directors, President of the Conference of Chief Justices, and Chair of the State Justice Institute (SJI).

NACM/IACA Will Foster Professional Development on a Global Scale

The National Association for Court Management (NACM) has secured support from SJI to curate and stream content online during its annual meeting, July 9 – 13, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington VA (Washington D.C.).

As always, court professionals are encouraged to attend professional development opportunities like these in person, as they are enriched by networking. This year is a joint meeting with the International Association for Court Administration (IACA), with court colleagues from around the world.

The annual meeting is expected to sell out, so early registration is encouraged. Early bird registration (available until June 15) is: \$585 for NACM and IACA Members, and \$710 for non-members. A daily rate is also available if you are unable to make the entire meeting. Special rates for groups of ten or more are available — contact conferences@ncsc.org



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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.

