

SJI NEWSLETTER

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Daniel Becker Inducted Into Burger Society

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 collection online by using the keywords, *State Justice Institute*.



Earlier this month, SJI Vice Chair Daniel Becker was among five state court professionals inducted into the Warren E. Burger Society. Burger Society membership is reserved for individuals who have volunteered their time, talent, and support to the [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\)](#) in exceptional ways.

Mr. Becker worked for the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts serving in the positions of: Deputy Director (1993-1995); Court Services Administrator (1986-1993); and Assistant to the Director

(1984-1986). He also held the position of Trial Court Administrator for the Fourteenth Judicial District of North Carolina, and Assistant Director of Operations for the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts.

From 2004 to 2005, he served as President of the Conference of State Court Administrators and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts. Mr. Becker was the recipient of the 2006 Warren E. Burger Award for Excellence in Judicial Administration. He was initially appointed to the [State Justice Institute \(SJI\)](#) Board of Directors in 2010, and currently serves as Vice Chair. He is the newly retired Utah state court adminis-

trator, a position he held since 1995. [Conference of Chief Justices \(CCJ\)](#) President, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor (OH) and NCSC President Mary McQueen presided over the ceremony.

Joining Mr. Becker in the celebration were SJI Board of Directors Chief Justice John Minton (KY), Chief Justice and SJI Board Chair Chase Rogers (CT), Ms. Marsha Rabiteau, President of the Center for Human Trafficking Court Solutions, and SJI Executive Director Jonathan Mattiello.

The Burger Society is named for the former Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, who, with the Conference of Chief Justices, helped found NCSC in 1971.

A press release with full details of the other recipients and the award presentation can be found [online](#).



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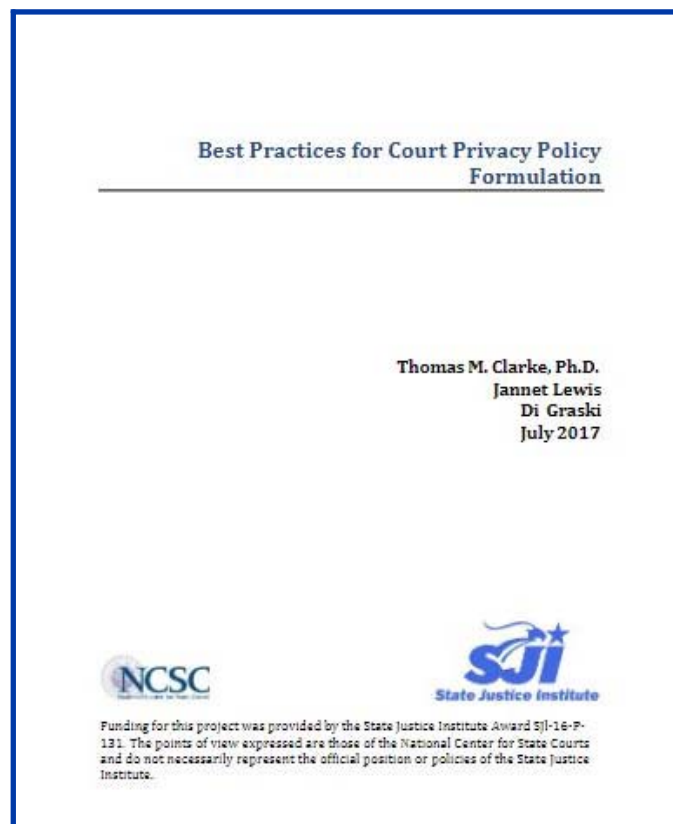
Best Practices for Court Privacy Policy Formulation

Earlier this year, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) conducted two focus groups, one specifically focused on privacy policies and the other on automated redaction. The product of these focus groups is a white paper titled, “[Best Practices for Court Privacy Policy Formulation](#).” Prepared with support from SJI, the document outlines how privacy policies and redaction capabilities should be considered in concert with each other as state courts refine this business practice.

Court privacy policy was an area last addressed in 2002 by the [Conference of State Court Administrators \(COSCA\)](#) in the report titled, “[Developing CCJ/COSCA Guidelines for Public Access to Court Records: A National Project to Assist State Courts](#).” An update review was necessary given that technology and transparency has both improved over the past 15 years.

The report includes a broad examination of the issues surrounding privacy, including public attitudes towards openness, accountability, and the value of data gleaned. It also addresses specific cost/benefits of court technology used in automated redaction and risk averse strategy to accomplish the challenges associated with a comprehensive privacy policy. Limited examples of courts in other counties utilizing automated redaction technology with greater efficiency are highlighted.

The report features four appendices that update, expand, or define for the first time, work from the seminal 2002 white paper.



High-Profile Cases Website Updated



Through a collaborative effort between the [Conference of Court Public Information Officers \(CCPIO\)](#), [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\)](#), [The National Judicial College \(NJC\)](#), and the [State Justice Institute \(SJI\)](#), the [Managing High-Profile Cases for the 21st Century Initiative](#) has recently updated its website.

Updated content includes the [Recent Cases](#) section, and checklists under the [Litigation Stage](#) section. Please contact Greg Hurley at ghurley@ncsc.org with any questions regarding the website or resources featured.

Family Justice Initiative Addresses Domestic Relations Cases

Many Americans will be or are involved in state courts via domestic relations cases (e.g. divorce, separation, child custody, child support, etc.). Many states are reporting increases in these types of cases, along with increases in litigants who are representing themselves. While the state courts, Access to Justice Commissions, and other key stakeholders are beginning to examine and implement best practices and programs to address these cases, there is limited information available about what works.

The SJI-funded Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) [Civil Justice Initiative](#) purposefully excluded domestic relations cases from its work, recognizing that these case types are sufficiently different from general civil cases to warrant independent analysis and recommendations. What has become clear is that recommendations are needed to address domestic relations cases and guide state courts towards managing resources and improving outcomes.

With SJI support, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS), and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), in partnership with the CCJ/COSCA Courts, Children, and Families Subcommittee, will assess the current landscape of domestic relations cases, and promulgate recommendations to improve proceedings, rules, and practices. The [Family Justice Initiative](#) will consist of three phases: 1) Assess the Landscape and Best Practices; 2) Engineer Pathways and Development of Recommendations; and 3) Implementation and Evaluation. The Family Justice Initiative will focus primarily on cases involving divorce/dissolution, property distribution and spousal support, and the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities. Cases that originated in criminal, probate or juvenile courts will be excluded from FJI.

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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.

