

# E-SJI News

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## 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER GRANT APPLICATIONS

SJI received a total of **\$506,865** in Project, Technical Assistance, and Curriculum Adaptation & Training grant applications for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY 2010. For FY 2010, SJI received \$4,540,281 in grant applications; an increase of 78 percent above the \$2,545,184 received in FY 2009.

The demand for SJI grants has increased dramatically as the state courts continue to seek assistance to deal with the ongoing budget crisis. SJI has responded by maximizing its limited grant funding to support critical technical assistance projects, focusing on how to deal with the budget cuts, and by supporting state court re-engineering at a national impact level through its Strategic Initiatives Grants program. In addition, SJI continues to focus on other key areas such as immigration issues in the state courts and court security.

## PRESIDENT NOMINATES TWO TO SERVE ON SJI BOARD



On August 5, 2010, the President nominated Chief Justice Chase Rogers and Judge Wilfredo Martinez to serve on the SJI Board. Both are currently pending consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee and full Senate confirmation. (continued on page 2)

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Chase Rogers has been the Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court since 2007. Prior to that, she served as a judge in the Connecticut Appellate Court from 2006 to 2007, and as a judge in the Connecticut Superior Court from 1998 to 2006. Prior to becoming a judge, she was a partner at Cummings & Lockwood in Stamford, Connecticut, where she focused on employment law and commercial litigation. Chief Justice Rogers is a member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and of the Connecticut Bar Foundation Nominating Committee. She received her J.D. from Boston University School of Law and received her B.A. from Stanford University.

Wilfredo Martinez is currently a County Court Judge in the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. He was initially appointed to the Court in 1998. Previously, Judge Martinez was a sole practitioner in Orlando, focusing on real estate and business law. Prior to that, he was in-house counsel for a manufacturer, distributor and retailer; worked for an insurance defense firm; and served as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association of Florida. Judge Martinez is the former president of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts and a member of the Florida Conference of County Court Judges. He received his J.D. from the New York University School of Law and his B.A. from Yale University.

The Senate previously confirmed 6 new Board members on June 22, 2010. By law, SJI is supervised by a Board of Directors consisting of 11 members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10703, the President appoints 6 judges and 1 state court administrator from a list of candidates submitted to the President by CCJ. In addition, the President also appoints 4 public member positions, no more than 2 of whom can be from the same political party.

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CORRECTIONS AND SJI CONTINUE TO SUPPORT RISK ASSESSMENTS IN SENTENCING



SJI and the Department of Justice/Federal Bureau of Prisons/National Institute of Corrections (NIC) recently finalized a Partner Grant to support Phase II of the California Risk Assessment Pilot Project (CalRAPP). The purpose of the project is to explore ways in which criminal offender risk assessment information can be successfully used in adult sentencing and violation of probation proceedings to reduce offender recidivism and improve accountability. The Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) will work jointly with the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) to coordinate the operation and evaluation of pilot locations in several counties.

This project builds on recent and on-going national and state sentencing reform activities to demonstrate one of the most promising developments in state sentencing and corrections reform – the use of actuarial risk/needs assessment information. A variety of proprietary and non-proprietary risk/needs assessment tools are now increasingly in use by juvenile and adult probation and parole agencies. (continued on page 3)

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The State Justice Institute is a private, non-profit corporation established by Federal law in 1984 to improve the quality of justice in state courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts. SJI is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.



Unfortunately, while there are over 15,000 state courts in the U.S., only a handful of state judges and courts have significant experience in using risk/needs assessment information in sentencing offenders or responding to violations of probation. However, the use of accurate risk and needs assessment information is critical in making evidence-based judicial determinations of many recurring sentencing issues.

The California AOC has, and will continue to select sites based on obtaining optimal diversity in location, size, region, availability of resources, and urban/rural settings. The project targets male and female offenders between the ages of 18 and 25 who are residents of the selected pilot counties, convicted of a felony offense, and placed on formal probation. Members of the target population remain members of the project until they are discharged from probation, establish a residence outside the pilot county, or until the conclusion of the project; whichever occurs first. The project will facilitate case planning, reduce recidivism, and improve offender accountability.

## CHANGES TO THE SJI LIBRARIES

SJI requires that all Project Grant reports (and other materials) be distributed to the state law libraries. The idea is that these products will be readily available in each state should a court want to review (or even replicate them). However, SJI has learned that this approach, while logical on its face, is not working as intended. We have discovered that many of the law libraries do not know what to do with these products when they receive them. In addition, the law librarian contacts change so often, that it is extremely difficult to keep the list of contacts up-to-date.

Beginning in FY 2011, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) will become the new central repository for all SJI Project Grant products and reports. This change will be formally announced in the FY 2011 Grant Guideline, which will be published in the Federal Register. NCSC often fields requests from the state courts for SJI grant products, given that they are already the repository for a vast amount of documents for the state courts. In fact, NCSC currently maintains all SJI grant products they worked on in an for future consumption by the state courts; and is eager to partner with SJI on this new process that will enable SJI to make its grant products more widely available to the state courts, and free up the burden on the state law libraries in cataloging and maintaining these documents. In addition, it will reduce the burden on grantees in terms of reproduction and mailing costs.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

- Grant and scholarship application deadline for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY 2011: **November 1, 2010.**