E-SJI NEWS

Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative Releases New Website

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The SJI-funded Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative recently released a new website that will serve as a portal for all the TA work, education/training, and resources associated with this project. Each member of the Collaborative will provide updates on their activities using the website, providing a centralized location for all the information available on this critical issue.

The Collaborative will result in a variety of products benefiting the state courts, including:

➢ A comprehensive resource inventory of background information about the demographics, scope, dynamics, and implications for the courts and justice system of various forms of human trafficking;

➢ Measurement framework that includes measures and tools for monitoring the impacts of human trafficking case processing in the state courts;

In this Issue

Beginning in FY 2013, SJI supported a Strategic Initiatives Grant (SIG) to the Center for Public Policy Studies/The National Judicial College/Center for Court Innovation (CPPS/NJC/CCI) to form a Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative focused on 4 strategic priorities: 1) increasing understanding and awareness about the challenges faced by state courts in dealing with cases involving trafficking victims and their families, and traffickers; 2) developing and testing state and local approaches for assessing and addressing the impact of human trafficking victims and defendants in the state courts; 3) enhancing state and local court capacity to improve court services affected by human trafficking-related case processing demands; and 4) building effective national, state, and local partnerships for addressing the impacts of human trafficking case processing in the state courts.

➢ Summary of changes in federal and state trafficking law, policy, and practice that might better serve the interests of the state courts;

➢ A human trafficking and the state courts web-based resource network and clearinghouse for judges and court personnel;

➢ A best practices toolkit for jurisdictions interested in establishing a specialized prostitution/trafficking court;

➢ A series of bench cards targeting human trafficking-related issues;

➢ Best practice guidelines;

➢ Model planning and technical assistance process and supporting materials;

➢ Training on human trafficking via 12 courses for judges;

➢ Intensive technical assistance in six jurisdictions, and proven nationally applicable technical assistance approaches; and

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➢ Published articles in various court periodicals about the project and the issue in general.

In April 2013, theNational Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and Legal Momentum/National Judicial Education Program (NJEP) officially joined the Collaborative. NAWJ has made human trafficking a priority over the past 2 years, and with SJI support, has been able to offer educational
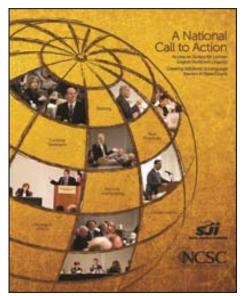
programming to their membership on this critical issue. With a recent SJI grant (SJI-13-E-090), NJEP will add a module on human trafficking to it popular course, Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Adjudicating This Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence Cases. This web course has proved to be highly successful, and is available free of charge at www.njep-ipsacourse.org.

National Call to Action Addresses Limited English Proficiency in the State Courts

During the Annual Meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA), the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) released *National Call to Action, Access to Justice for Limited English Proficient Litigants: Creating Solutions to Language Barriers in State Courts*.

The Call to Action represents the culmination of a multi-year SJI-funded project aimed at addressing limited English proficiency in the state courts, which included a National Summit on Language Access in the Courts held in 2012. The Call to Action presents an overview of important data the NCSC collected during the assessment of the courts, which was conducted prior to the convening of the Summit. It also provides a summary of the Summit, in addition to action steps that state courts can use to implement or improve language access programs.

In addition to the Call to Action, SJI has provided support to the NCSC's newly established Language Access Services Section to provide direct technical assistance to the state courts on this critical issue.   Specifically, NCSC will:

1. Assist states through COSCA, CCJ, and the Language Access Advisory Committee (LAAC) in developing consistent national standards for increased ability to share resources, including the ability to share interpreters, tests, and training opportunities;

2. Assist in the creation of regional and/or national databases of interpreter resources, and increase capacity through remote interpreting;

3. Conduct state and local courts needs assessments;

4. Assist state and local courts with developing LEP plans, including assistance in determining when interpreter resources are required, and the necessary resources, as a part of case management;

5. Develop model training for judges and court staff on cultural and interpreter use issues;

6. Develop instructions and bench cards for judges to explain to courtroom participants how interpreters are best used in the courtroom;

7. Evaluate gaps with meeting DOJ guidelines, and establish a plan of action to address those gaps; and,

8. Similar to what courts have done with Americans with Disabilities (ADA) issues and security threats, establish a clearinghouse to collect data on LEP complaints in order to assist courts in addressing these issues.

Dan Becker Receives Kenneth Palmer Distinguished Service Award

During the Annual Meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA), SJI Vice Chairman Dan Becker was presented with the 2013 Kenneth R. Palmer Distinguished Service Award.

The award is given bi-annually to a current or former member of COSCA that has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and excellence in judicial administration. In their nomination letter, Mr. Becker's COSCA colleagues called him "a perfect fit for this award," citing his extensive work both statewide and nationally to promote access to justice and fairness in the state courts.

Deadlines for FY 2014 Grant and Education Support Program (ESP) Applications

1st Quarter - November 1, 2013
2nd Quarter - February 1, 2014
3rd Quarter - May 1, 2014
4th Quarter - August 1, 2014

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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.