

E-SJI NEWS

Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative

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During the 1st quarter meeting, the Board approved a \$700,000 [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 cases processing demands; and 4) building effective national, state, and local partnerships for addressing the impacts of human trafficking case processing in the state courts.

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

The three members of the Collaborative each bring specific expertise to these efforts, and will work together to accomplish these goals. CPPS has already developed expertise in delivering statewide technical assistance through its work on the SJI-funded [Immigration and the State Courts Initiative](#). NJC has previously developed training for judges on human trafficking. CCI has experience helping jurisdictions set up specialized prostitution/trafficking courts. In addition to eliminating the “stove-pipe” effect of separate organizations conducting projects with little to no coordination, the Collaborative will also establish what may become a permanent network of courts and court associations and organizations committed to this issue.

The SJI Board established Human Trafficking and the State Courts as a [Priority Investment Area](#) on October 1, 2012.

SJI Addresses Limited English Proficiency and the State Courts

During the December 10, 2012 meeting, the Board approved a \$500,000 [Strategic Initiatives Grant](#) (SIG) to the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to address limited English proficiency (LEP) issues. The NCSC's newly established Language Access Services Section is uniquely positioned to provide direct technical assistance to state courts on this critical issue. Most recently, the NCSC has worked with courts across New England, assessing their language access services and helping them find ways to share interpreters on a regional level. The NCSC also assisted the Tennessee Judiciary in conducting a summit of stakeholders to plan for providing language access services at no cost in civil cases throughout the state. Under a grant from CISCO, the NCSC is developing standards and best practices for remote video interpreting.

As part of these efforts, the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) created the Language Access Advisory Committee (LAAC) to increase the visibility of this work, and provide a better means of addressing pol-

icy issues impacting each state. LAAC is composed of COSCA members, with several state level language access coordinators as technical advisors. LAAC will provide direction to the work of the NCSC Language Access Services Section that will coordinate all LEP work and policy.

For this SJI-funded project, the NCSC will:

- Assist states through CCJ, COSCA, and the LAAC in developing consistent national standards for increased ability to share resources, including the ability to share interpreters, tests, and training opportunities;
- Assist in the creation of regional and/or national databases of interpreter resources, and increase capacity through remote interpreting;
- Conduct state and local court needs assessments, including leveraging technology to improve business processes and performance measurement;
- 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;

- Develop model training for judges and court staff on cultural and interpreter use issues;
- Develop instructions and bench cards for judges to explain to courtroom participants how interpreters are best used in the courtroom;
- Disseminate information about the effective ways to respond to, and manage, the many facets of LEP individuals and their impact on the state courts;
- Evaluate gaps with meeting DOJ guidelines, and establish a plan of action to address those gaps; and,
- Similar to what courts have done with Americans with Disabilities (ADA) issues and security threats, establish a clearinghouse to collect data on LEP complaint in order to assist courts in addressing these issues

SJI Awards FY 2013 1st Quarter Grants

The Board met on December 10, 2012 to make decisions on quarterly grant applications and awarded a total of 15 grants.

Four (4) Project Grants were awarded, including: the Maryland Judiciary to determine the cost/benefits of various forms of ADR in the state; the Supreme Court of West Virginia to conduct a workload assessment.; the National Association for Court Management (NACM) to deliver educational content addressing all six SJI Priority Investment Areas. The 19th Judicial District of York County, Pennsylvania also received support to establish a Self-Represented Litigation Center.

Six (6) Technical Assistance (TA) Grants were approved, including: a resource center for the Delaware Justice of the Peace Court; development of core competencies for courts by the Texas Office of Court Administration; establishment of a Louisiana court interpreter program; an integrated justice information strategic plan in Calaveras county, California; and, strategic plans in the 21st Judicial Circuit of Missouri and the Mohave County Superior Court in Arizona.

Six (6) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were approved, including: support for the Essential Skills for Appellate

Judges program provided by the National Judicial College (NJC); customization of a new judge self-study online curriculum in Utah; statewide training for teams of judges and court administrators in Illinois; essential skills training to San Mateo Superior Court in California; and, delivery of the Institute for Court Management Certified Court Manager (CCM) curricula to Orange County Superior Court in California, and the Virginia Supreme Court.

The next deadline for grant applications is February 1, 2013 (2nd quarter).

National Association of Women Judges Provides Training on Immigration and Human Trafficking

Through an SJI grant, the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) has developed materials and provided training for hundreds of judges across the nation on a variety of topics surrounding the complicated nexus of immigration status and state court case processing (SJI-11-E-086). Additional national and regional training focused on human trafficking will continue to be provided in the coming year.

Training sessions held at 2011 and 2012 annual and mid-year NAWJ meetings in California, New Jersey, Florida, Massachusetts, and 2011 and 2012 annual Congressional caucuses (as well as at a District meeting in Connecticut), have addressed a range of topics including:

- immigration consequences of state court criminal convictions;
- implications of *Padilla v. Kentucky* on the role of defense attorneys, prosecutors, and state trial court judges;
- potential tools for state courts available in federal immigration law – such as trafficking and crime victim visas, and special immigrant juvenile status – that can help state courts process cases involving immigrants;
- implications of immigration status on family, juvenile, and child protection case processing;
- language issues impacting access to justice for persons who are not native English speakers; and,
- implications on the state courts of international treaty agreements in cases involving non-U.S. citizens.

In the coming year, training sessions will be provided on human trafficking issues through



John Martin addresses NAWJ members at the 2011 Annual Conference in Newark New Jersey on the conference topic, "Immigration Considerations in Your Courtroom." Other panelists included: Professor Lori Nessel, Seton Hall Law School; Hon. Annie Garcy, U.S. Department Of Justice, Newark, NJ; Amy Gottlieb, Esq., American Friends Service Committee; and, Professor Margaret Martin, Seton Hall Law School.

a recently awarded SJI grant (SJI-12-E-168). These topics include:

- why human trafficking is an important issue for the state courts;
- the various forms and dynamics of human trafficking and the impact on both U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens;
- how human trafficking can be identified in various types of state court cases; and
- the nexus of federal and state immigration and human trafficking law, policy, and practice and its impact on state court operations generally, and the work of judges on the bench in particular.

Key partners working with NAWJ on these efforts have included John Martin and Steve Weller from the SJI-supported [Immigration and](#)

[The State Courts Initiative](#) of the Center For Public Policy Studies, Dawn Seibert of the Immigrant Defense Project, and Leslye Orloff of the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project at American University, as well many state court judges, and immigration judges and lawyers from across the United States.

For additional information about NAWJ's immigration and human trafficking efforts, contact Marie Komisar, NAWJ Executive Director, 202-393-0222 or mkomisar@nawj.org

State Supreme Court Initiative Releases Best Practices Guide

The [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) has developed the online version of the “Best Practices” resource for State Supreme Court Websites (SJI-12-N-004).

The resource contains practical information on how a court can achieve an accessible online presence, and contains the following:

- Access to Case Materials New Media;
- Audio and Video;
- Blogging;
- Web feeds;
- Case Summaries/High-Profile Cases;
- Integrated Calendaring; and
- Navigation and Design Resources.

The NCSC also is preparing a print version of the best practices guide. It will include the same content as the online version. Access to the e-portal is available [online](#).



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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.

