

E-SJI NEWS

SJI Awards FY 2015 First Quarter Grants

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The Board met on December 8, 2014, at the Judicial Council of California, to make decisions on quarterly grant applications and awarded a total of 16 grants.

One (1) Strategic Initiatives Grant was awarded to the New York Unified Court System (UCS) to host a National Summit on Human Trafficking and the State Courts. The UCS, in partnership with the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), the SJI-funded Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative, and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) will hold a one-and-a-half day summit to examine the issue of human trafficking (both labor and sex) and identify best practices from existing court programs and the work of the Collaborative. Collaborative members will be present to assist state participants in developing action plans, or im-



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SJI Board Chairman Receives National Honors

FY 2014 proved to be an eventful year for Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice James Hannah, who serves as the SJI Board Chairman. He became President of the [Conference of Chief Justices](#) (CCJ) and Chair of



the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) Board, and was recently inducted into the Warren E. Burger Society.

As CCJ President and NCSC Chair, Hannah will work with colleagues to identify and develop both judicial and practitioner responses to challenges facing the state court community. He will also represent both groups at national events throughout the 2014-15 year.

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proving existing plans. The Summit will be designed based on the same model used for the very successful National Summit on Language Access and the Courts (SJI-12-P-015). Four participants from each state, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories will be invited, including the chief justice, state court administrator, a judge designated by the chief justice with knowledge or interest in human trafficking, and a fourth person designated by the chief justice who has taken a leadership role in responding to human trafficking (e.g., attorney general, advocate/service provider, prosecutor, or defense attorney). It is antici-

pated that approximately 250 attendees will participate in the summit. The summit will include keynote speakers, panels, and breakout session for the state teams. The Collaborative will facilitate summit activities, as well as provide onsite guidance and technical assistance for teams as they begin establishing the framework for their action plans.

Three (3) Project Grants were approved: support to the National Association for Court Management (NACM) for educational programming focused on all of SJI's Priority Investment Areas; the NCSC for a next generation case management systems standards pro-

ject; and the NCSC to support CCJ in national pandemic planning and emergency response. Eight (8) Technical Assistance (TA) Grants were approved, including: a human trafficking project for the Guam Judiciary; strategic planning projects for the Coconino County, Arizona, Courts, 43rd Judicial District Court of Common Pleas, Pennsylvania, and the King County, Washington, Superior Court; the Montana Supreme Court for a juvenile probation workload study; the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court for a jury management project; caseflow and calendaring improvement for the 2nd Judicial District of Minnesota; and a probation statistical data collection project for the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

Four (4) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were approved, including: online ethics training for the Illinois AOC; assistance to the Connecticut Judiciary for a training program on serving citizens with hidden disabilities; judicial faculty development for the Minnesota Judicial Branch; and a records management training program for the Judicial Council of Georgia. The next grant application deadline is February 1, 2015.

Continuing Education for Judges and Court Professionals

Earlier this month, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) announced the creation of the Joan K. Cochet Institute for Court Management (ICM) Scholarship, which provides assistance to court professionals seeking to become ICM Fellows. Cochet served as the NCSC's librarian and spearheaded efforts to enhance the [NCSC Library eCollection](#), which serves as the repository for all SJI-funded grant final project reports and materials.

Over the past decade, SJI has supported the development of six distance learning adaptations of various ICM courses and the delivery of ICM programming in state courts across the U.S. Many of these courses are completed by

court professionals prior to applying to the [ICM Fellows Program](#). All courses are tied closely to the [NACM Core](#) and reflect what court managers need to know to address current challenges in the state courts. The incoming 2016 Class will begin their fellowships next month.

The National Judicial College (NJC) established the Honorable [William F. Dressel Scholarship Endowment](#) in 2013 after Judge Dressel retired from the NJC. The fund will support judges from around the country as they pursue education essential to the administration of justice through the NJC's array of [courses and programs](#). Many of the NJC's

most popular programs, including *Dividing the Waters*, *Essential Skills for Appellate Judges*, *Fourth Amendment*, and *Best Practices in Handling Cases with Self-Represented Litigants*, have been developed, supported, or adapted with assistance provided by SJI.

In addition to supporting Curriculum Adaptation and Training (CAT) Grants to state courts, SJI also supports a number of individual educational awards to court leadership through the Education Support Program. For more information and to obtain an application from SJI to advance professional development, please refer to the [ESP Application](#), due February 1st.

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Membership in the [Warren E. Burger Society](#) is granted to “volunteers who have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to improving the administration of justice through extraordinary contributions of service or support to the National Center for State Courts.”

Hannah was presented with this honor in November, along with former SJI Board member Judge Sophia Hall. He joins fellow SJI Board Secretary, Senior Circuit Court Judge Gayle Nachtigal who was admitted in 2009.

E-SJI News Submissions

SJI is always accepting submissions from its grantees for the E-SJI News. Articles of 500 words or less from projects that are either: a) ongoing, with information to share; or, b) have recently completed and could be beneficial to a larger state court audience, are of greatest interest. SJI reserves the right to edit all submissions for any reason.

Submissions, including all article content in Microsoft Word, images or logos, and any links, should be sent to us electronically at kathryn.tuck@sjj.gov by the 15th of each month.

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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.

