

# E-SJI NEWS

## SJI Board Awards Third Quarter FY 2012 Grants

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### In this Issue

3rd Quarter Grant Awards	1
Update on Immigration Issues & the Courts	2
Upcoming FY 2012 Grant Application Deadline	2
NASJE Competencies Project Update	3

SJI received 15 grant applications requesting a total of **\$756,684** for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY 2012. The Board met on June 18, 2012, in Seattle, Washington to make decisions on those applications, in addition to attending briefings by



the Washington Judiciary and Center for Public Policy Studies.

Two (2) Project Grants were awarded, including one to the Minnesota State Court Administrator's Office to develop an online conservator reporting system that is based on a pilot system developed in Ramsey County, Minnesota. The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) also received a grant to assess *Colorado Rule 16.1* governing civil procedures and evaluate the existing Civil Access Pilot Project (CAPP) in the Denver, Colorado, metro area, which was developed to help courts expedite business case processing.

Nine (9) Technical Assistance (TA) Grants were approved, including: development of appellate court time standards by National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in close coordination with the Conference of

Chief Justices (CCJ) and Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA); reengineering of the Pierce County District Court in Washington; implementation of a high performance court framework in Ottawa County, Michigan; development of an instructional video for self-represented litigants in family court matters by the Connecticut Judicial Branch; a second phase of the Massachusetts Trial Court/AOC language access project for small claims proceedings; a process improvement project for probate matters Maricopa County, Arizona; and grants to the Arkansas Access to Justice, Minnesota AOC, and Colorado Judicial Department for projects addressing self-represented litigants and the state courts. The TA Grant to the Minnesota AOC is the first phase of a project to create a statewide e-filing system for self-represented litigants.

Two (2) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were approved, including: delivery of motivational interview training to court staff at the 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial District's Court of Common Pleas in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and a second phase of the Pillars of Service Excellence Program for the Connecticut Judicial Branch.



## Update on Immigration Issues and the State Courts

SJI began using the Strategic Initiatives Grants (SIG) program in FY 2008 to address immigration issues and the state courts at a national impact level. As part of this effort, SJI in coordination with the Center for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) began working with the state courts to determine how immigration issues are impacting them. Two overarching themes developed out of this work: 1) state court capacity to provide effective service is challenged by the magnitude and intensity of current and anticipated immigration (equal access to justice); and 2) the intersection of federal immigration law and practice, and state law, can result in unintended consequences for litigants and state court systems.

CPPS has been working over the past four years with state courts to address this issue, and has also produced various products at the national level dealing with state courts and immigration issues. During the June 18, 2012, Board meeting, Dr. John Martin from CPPS briefed the SJI Board on the four activities completed as part of the project, and the two remaining activities which are currently underway, including providing direct technical assistance to the state courts.

The following activities are components of this multi-year initiative: 1) identify the major challenges and opportunities state courts need to address when dealing with immigrants in the courts and establishing a [web-based re-](#)



[source network](#); 2) work with nine diverse court jurisdictions to learn what challenges they face in addressing the needs of immigrant populations that use the courts and how to best address those challenges; 3) prepare separate [electronic, interactive bench guides](#) for assisting judges and court administrators across the nation address the practical implications of state court criminal case processing involving immigrants, and addressing the nexus of federal immigration status and family, juvenile, and dependency case processing; 4) prepare an interactive electronic [Guidebook for Addressing the Impacts of Immigration in the State Courts](#) that can be used in courts across the nation; 5) develop and conduct courses for judges and court personnel for addressing the impacts of immigration in the state courts and establishing and coordinating a nation-wide training network; and 6) establish and facilitate an on-going federal/state dialogue to promote better collaboration between federal agencies and the state courts when addressing

immigration issues that impact the state courts.

In FY 2012, with SJI assistance, CPPS began focusing on human trafficking issues and the state courts. Specifically, helping the state courts determine the knowledge, expertise, processes, and basic infrastructure needed to address human trafficking. In addition, CPPS is working to develop model protocols, tools, and training for judges and court personnel on how to effectively manage cases involving immigrant litigants with mental health issues.

These resources are available for download free of charge from the CPPS website.

Please [contact](#) the Immigration and the State Courts Initiative team at CPPS if there are any questions on the content, or for technical assistance.

## Upcoming Deadline is Final Opportunity for FY 2012 Grant Applications

August 1, 2012 is the last deadline for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Project, Technical Assistance, and Curriculum Adaptation Grant Applications.

SJI will begin its new fiscal year on October 1, 2012, and the SJI Grant Guideline for FY 2013 will be available beginning in late September. Due dates for FY 2013 grant applications are: November 1, 2012 (1st quarter); February 1,

2013 (2nd quarter); May 1, 2013 (3rd quarter); and August 1, 2013 (4th quarter). Potential applicants are encouraged to contact SJI in advance if there are questions about the grant application process.

## NASJE Core Competencies Update

Judicial branch educators, who are responsible for designing and delivering education for judges and court staff, come from a variety of fields, such as the law, court administration, and education. This variety in the profession enriches the field, but it also contributes to the vast array of approaches to the work.

As a result, in 2004, [the National Association of State Judicial Educators \(NASJE\)](#) created core competencies to promote uniform standards for the profession, and identify the basic knowledge, skills, and abilities/attitudes necessary for judicial branch educators to be successful. With SJI assistance in FY 2010, NASJE began developing a comprehensive curriculum based on these competencies. To date, there have been three phases of this project, of which Phases II and III (SJI-10-T-091 and SJI-11-T-092) were supported by SJI, and a conference educational component designed



to familiarize judicial branch educators with the updated curriculum design and core competencies (SJI-12-E-011).

Countless volunteer hours of NASJE's members, to date, have resulted in the following accomplishments:

- Seven of the eleven core competencies developed into curriculum designs;
- Resources, classroom activities, and bibliographies created for faculty use;
- Glossary established to promote a common vocabulary;
- Electronic version of all the above materials now easily accessible;

- Education based on curriculum delivered at NASJE's annual conferences and webinars are being used by several states; and
- Educators involved with the NASJE process launched similar efforts in their own states or organizations.

By 2013, NASJE will complete the fourth phase of the project and finalize the curriculum designs for the remaining four competencies. Additional phases of development will include curriculum writing for possible additional competency areas (i.e., ethics, technology, and access, fairness and diversity) not fully included in the 2004 competencies, educating NASJE planners and faculty on how to use the curriculum, building an interactive website for members to exchange resources, and monitoring the use of the curriculum.

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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.

