

E-SJI NEWS

SJI Awards FY 2014 Third Quarter Grants

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The Board met on June 16, 2014, to make decisions on quarterly grant applications and awarded a total of 11 grants.

Two (2) Project Grants were approved: support to improve language access for Native Americans in state courts for the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts; and a court security and response awareness project for the Minnesota Judicial Branch.

Five (5) Technical Assistance (TA) Grants were approved, including: court security assessments for the Wyoming Supreme Court and Guam Judiciary; probation assessment and evaluation for the Licking County, Ohio, Courts; a judicial workload assess-

ment for the Gwinnett County, Georgia, Superior Court; and revision of a custody and visitation mediation orientation online video for the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts.

Four (4) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were approved, including: support for the Georgia Certified Court Manager Program; court security team building regional trainings in Wyoming; a leadership and governance project for the Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal (CCJSCA); and educational development courses for the Los Angeles, California, Superior Court.



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Status of FY 2015 Appropriations

On April 30, 2014, the House Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee marked up the FY 2015 CJS bill, which included \$5,121,000 for SJI – the same level requested by SJI for FY 2015. The full House Appropriations Committee approved the bill on May 8th, and the bill was passed on the House floor May 30th. On June 3rd, the Senate

CJS Appropriations Subcommittee marked up their version of the bill, which cleared the full Senate Appropriations Committee on June 5th. The Senate version of the bill also included \$5,121,000 for FY 2015. SJI will provide updates as the appropriations process continues to move forward.

SJI Continues Support for the Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative



During its June 16, 2014 meeting, the Board of Directors awarded a FY 2014 Strategic Initiatives Grant to the **Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative**.

SJI established human trafficking as a Priority Investment Area in FY 2013. This led to the creation of the Collaborative to address this critical issue. The Collaborative currently consists of the following organizations: Center for Public Policy Studies (CPPS); Center for Court Innovation (CCI); The National Judicial College (NJC); National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ); Legal Momentum; and as of May 2014, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). The Collaborative is addressing 4 strategic priorities:

- 1) increase understanding and awareness about the challenges faced by state courts in dealing with cases involving trafficking victims and their families;
- 2) develop and test state and local approaches for assessing and addressing the impact of human trafficking victims and defendants in the state courts;
- 3) enhance state and local court capacity to improve court services impacted by human trafficking-related case processing demands; and,
- 4) build effective national, state, and local partnerships for addressing the impacts of human trafficking case processing in the state courts.

Over the past year, the Collaborative has:

- 1) provided extensive, targeted, technical assistance to state court systems, local trial courts, and court support organizations, including courts located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, New York, and Ohio;
- 2) developed educational curricula and conducted numerous educational sessions for state courts and court support organizations;
- 3) established a comprehensive website (www.htcourts.org);
- 4) prepared and distributed resources, including information cards, articles, guides, and a bi-weekly online human trafficking news summary; and,

- 5) established working relationships with key federal, state, and local agencies to address this critical issue.

With additional SIG funding in FY 2014, the Collaborative will expand technical assistance to other state and local courts, increase education and training, and continue strengthening partnerships at the federal, state, and local levels. Demand for technical assistance has exceeded the resources available to the Collaborative; therefore, it is anticipated that additional funding will enable the Collaborative to begin work in new jurisdictions.

In FY 2014, there will be an enhanced focus on the role of state courts in addressing labor trafficking as well as sex trafficking. This includes clarifying the types and dynamics of labor trafficking and how labor-trafficking involved cases might end up in the state courts. In addition, there will also be a focus on helping state courts provide services to trafficking victims, to include trauma-informed approaches towards victims and the special needs of juvenile victims of trafficking.



National Judicial College Archives Recorded Webcasts for Future Reference



In late 2013, SJI, in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), made resources available to the National Judicial College (NJC) to support a series of webcasts addressing

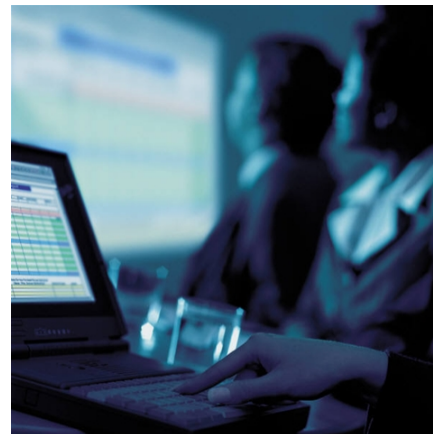
human trafficking, notable decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, and managing self-represented litigants (SJI-12-E-072).

These recorded webcasts are now available online and are accessible for continuing education (CLE-eligible), and expanding general knowledge in each topic area.

They include the following webcasts:

- Confronting Crawford Challenges, Parts 1 and 2;
- Notable Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, 2012-2013 Term;
- Managing Self-Represented Litigants in Your Courtroom; and,
- Human Trafficking: What U.S. Judges Need to Know.

As the U.S. Supreme Court continues to release decisions from its most recent term, now is the time to examine the most notable decisions from the previous term that have lasting implications. The human trafficking webcast provides a primer for judges interested in this critical issue. The two-part webcast addressing the Crawford rule (*Crawford v. Washington*) examines how courts are applying the definition of testimonial



statement, witness availability, and what constitutes a prior opportunity to cross-examine.

Anyone interested in these recorded webcasts can access them online through the [NCJ's website](#), and obtain a CLE viewing form if needed.

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