

SJI NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, No. 8

High Performance Court Framework Key for Triaging Divorce Cases

SJI Grantees

When Tweeting or posting to Facebook about your SJI Grant, be sure to use the hashtag #SJIGrant so the state court community can learn more about your project!

You can access our latest posts via the [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) icons below.



With support from SJI, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has published a report providing information on how to apply the [High Performance Court Framework](#) (HPCF) to triage domestic relations cases and improve case processing for separating families. The development of these techniques and findings were presented after technical assistance was provided by the NCSC to the [Miami-Dade Family Court Division](#), in partnership with the Circuit and County Courts of Florida.

The 16-page report, titled, *The High Performance Court and Divorce Case Triage*, is available for review and download from the [NCSC Library's eCollection](#). Consultants from the NCSC began the project by outlining the current process used in divorce cases in the Court, and identifying a step-by-step instrument to screen these cases. Triaging is cited for its potential to expedite uncontested divorce cases while marshalling the necessary resources for participants who most need them in an efficient and more cost effective manner. The report concludes by presenting the screening model in the context of the HPCF as a quality cycle, whereby any court can discuss and adapt the model to their circumstances.

For this project, Colorado, Ohio, and Utah, were selected to receive SJI support to develop a screening model that would be applicable to the divorce caseload needs of the participants and the administrative law guiding each state. In addition to the NCSC, an advisory committee of domestic relations experts was formed for each state.

The High Performance Court and Divorce Case Triage
Final Report

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National Center for State Courts
December 2014



The model was adapted for, and used in, Miami-Dade County, who share their experience and data in the report.

Highlights of the report include:

- Issues a court should consider in determining if divorce case triage is appropriate;
- How to develop a case screening model, inclusive of domestic relations partners; and,
- Implementing and assessing the model relative to the quality cycle described in the HPCF.

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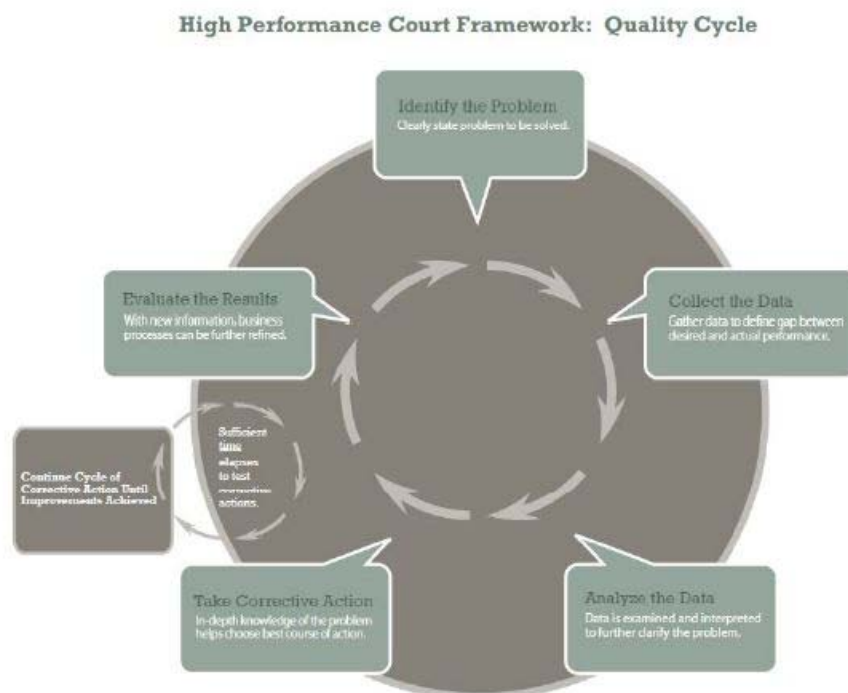
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The HPCF was formally introduced in 2013 as a process involving a series of flexible steps that could be customized by state courts to integrate performance improvement into ongoing operations.

Since 2012, SJI has supported 11 state courts to explore, adopt, or fully implement the HPCF. State courts using the HPCF recognize it as vital system for improving the administration of justice.



NACM to Include State Courts in 30th Anniversary Video - Submissions Needed

Formed in July 1985 through the merger of the National Association for Court Administration (NACA) and the National Association of Trial Court Administrators (NATCA), the National Association for Court Management (NACM) will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year. The anniversary will kick-off at the [annual conference](#) in Louisville, Kentucky, from July 12 –16, 2015. Several educational components of this event are already supported by SJI.

As part of NACM's anniversary celebration, a video will be compiled from submissions of clips provided by state courts, court leadership, key national partners, and national court support organizations.



To contribute a short congratulatory video celebrating NACM's 30th anniversary, please follow the suggested guidelines regarding video format and submission provided below:

- MP4 format is preferred.
- Take the video in a well-lit location.
- Get close to the camera – within five feet.
- Keep the video under a minute long.
- NACM will trim, edit as needed.
- Send file via email to lgomez@nscs.org

SJI congratulates NACM on its 30th anniversary.

Please submit your video clip no later than the close of business Friday, May 29th. Inclusion of video clips is at the sole discretion of NACM.

SJI Board Member Receives National Honor for Leadership in Racial and Ethnic Fairness

The [National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts](#) (NCREFC) will hold its [annual conference](#) June 10-13, 2015, in Buffalo, New York. This year, SJI Board member and Chief Judge of the State of New York, Jonathan Lippman, will receive one of their highest honors.

Recognized for his long career and a lasting commitment to leading efforts that work to identify and eliminate racial and ethnic bias in the courts of New York, Chief Judge Lippman will accept the award for his ongoing work with the [Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission](#). The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission was established in June 1991 to educate and advise decision makers in the New York Court System on issues impacting both litigants and employees of color; and to



Hon. Rose Sconiers, Chair of the Franklin H. Williams Commission and Hon. Jonathan Lippman, celebrate 20 years of the Commission's service to the New York Court System.

implement recommendations developed to address these issues.

Presentation of the award will take place Friday, June 12th, by retired Associate Judge Samuel Green, of the New York Appellate Division, Fourth Department. Throughout their time on the bench and before, both became well-acquainted with each other and share a mutual respect. Also honored at the event will be Gail Prudenti, Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York.

The NCREFC is committed to encouraging examination, sharing the collective knowledge, and providing technical assistance to the courts, to ensure racial and ethnic fairness.

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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.

