

E-SJI NEWS

SJI Receives FY 2013 1st Quarter Grant Applications

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SJI received 19 grant applications requesting a total of \$979,640 for the 1st quarter of FY 2013. The Board will meet on December 10, 2012 to make decisions on grant awards for the 1st quarter.

In October 2012, SJI announced [Human Trafficking and the State Courts](#) as a new [Priority Investment Area](#). In addition, SJI released a call for concept papers for a Strategic Initiatives Grant(s) on this critical issue. In response, SJI received 5 concept papers totaling \$1,373,775.

Grant applicants are encouraged to address one or more Priority Investment Areas with their proposed projects. In addition, grant applicants must delineate specific outcomes, and define how success will be measured. Beginning in FY 2013, applicants must research prior work on the issue they are trying to address using the [SJI website](#) and the [National Center for State Courts Library](#) and [Digital Archive](#), where all SJI products produced after 2010 by grantees are archived. Applicants are also encouraged to research

any other available sources of information not contained on the SJI or NCSC Library websites.

SJI Grant funding remains available on a **first-come, first-served, basis for grant applications that merit funding**. Deadlines for the remainder of FY 2013 are as follows: 2nd quarter – February 1, 2013; 3rd quarter – May 1, 2013; and 4th quarter – August 1, 2013.



CCJSCA White Paper Addresses Intermediate Appellate Courts

A recently released [white paper](#) from the [Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal \(CCJSCA\)](#) titled, *The Role of State Intermediate Appellate Courts: Principles for Adapting to Change*, joins the list of SJI-supported resources available to the state appellate courts (SJI-10-T-152). The paper describes how CCJSCA and the National Center for State

Courts (NCSC) studied the evolution of the role played by intermediate appellate courts (IACs) and their core functions. The study also examined the impact of the fiscal crisis on the IACs, and how they have adapted to those challenges.

The [white paper](#) is available on the SJI website.

Connecticut Judiciary's Pillars of Service Excellence Program Promotes Core Values

With support from SJI (SJI-11-E-012 and SJI-12-E-130), the Connecticut Judicial Branch is implementing its Pillars of Service Excellence (PSE) Program to provide training for staff on embracing and implementing the Branch's core values of integrity, fairness, respect and professionalism.

The core values were articulated by the Judicial Branch in its first, long-term strategic plan, developed by the Public Service and Trust Commission. Chief Justice Chase Rogers established the Commission after her 2007 swearing-in, pledging to enhance the public's trust and confidence in the Branch by improving the delivery of services, accessibility and accountability to all stakeholders.

The Commission worked with Judicial Branch staff to conduct more than 100 focus groups and surveys of court users. In all, more than 1,500 stakeholders offered their opinions; which became the basis for the Judicial Branch's plan, a blueprint that has served to guide operations since 2008.



The plan also firmly articulated the Judicial Branch's core values.

The PSE Program is designed to foster, instill, and maintain among all Judicial Branch staff,



a culture and environment shepherded by the core values, and ensure that those who use the court system are served with the highest level of consideration and accountability.

PSE utilized the well-regarded FranklinCovey program, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*®. In addition, other programs have been developed by a core group of Judicial Branch employees, including *Leading the Way*, a multi-faceted program that stresses both individual and core value-focused performance expectations of Judicial Branch employees.

Recognizing the critical significance of the role that managers play in establishing a workplace guided by core values, PSE deemed it necessary to focus first on management. Covey's *7 Habits* program was used to support the development of the internal characteristics of managers in order to maximize their effectiveness. *Leading the Way*, a lively, multi-media presentation, was designed to promote an understanding of the Judicial Branch's four core values in order to raise accountability among management.

The program defines the core values and makes them recognizable within the manager's daily work experience. More than 400 managers have attended the *Leading the Way* program. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Subsequent to the *Leading the Way* program, managers have begun attending a series of workshops that reinforce the individual principles of integrity, fairness, respect and professionalism. Those include: *Managing a Workplace of Respect* (respect); *Promoting a Collaborative Culture* (professionalism); and *Leading with Integrity in the Public Sector* (integrity). A second phase of the *Leading the Way* program and workshops are now being developed for non-managerial employees.

This ongoing and expanding effort will continue the Judicial Branch's dedication to promoting and integrating its core values throughout the workforce, which will enhance the public's trust and confidence in the Judicial Branch.

New Mexico Judiciary and NMCLA: Ensuring Language Access Outside the Courtroom

Ensuring Language Access Outside the Courtroom: Training Judicial Employees, is a new SJI funded project (SJI-12-N-156) of the [New Mexico Judiciary](#). With the support of the Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA), seven state courts have joined the [New Mexico Center for Language Access \(NMCLA\)](#), a project of the University of New Mexico-Los Alamos, to develop and distribute a high-quality, affordable language access training and qualification program for state court employees. The goal of this training is to improve the quality of language access services for limited English proficient (LEP) and non-English speaking individuals.

The final product of this collaborative effort will be the Language Access Basic Training Suite (LABT Suite) for state courts, an online/downloadable and easily accessible package



that includes the following modules:

- 1) **Theory** – an introduction to language access for all court employees;
- 2) **Practice** -- detailed, language-specific training for bilingual employees;
- 3) **Skills Assessment** – optional evaluation of bilingual employees' language skills and vocabulary.

The LABT Suite will focus on language access outside the courtroom, providing language access training for all judicial employees with specialized training for bilingual employees. It is being designed to be both affordable and easily accessible by court personnel, and will provide an option for measuring bilingual employees' language skills and vocabulary. The intent is to develop a strong basic training curriculum, which can be customized and easily updated/revised by NMCLA on behalf of state courts nationwide. Collaborating courts, in addition to New Mexico, include Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, New Jersey, and North Carolina.

For more information about this project, please contact Pam Sánchez, Statewide Program Manager for Language Access Services at aocpjs@nmcourts.gov.

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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.

