

# E-SJI News

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## NEW SJI BOARD MEMBERS SWORN IN



**From left to right: Mr. John Nalbandian; Mr. Daniel Becker; Judge Gayle Nachtigal; Ms. Marsha Rabiteau; Chief Justice Jim Hannah; and Mr. Hernan Vera.**

On October 18, 2010, SJI Board Chairman Robert Miller (Chief Justice (Ret.), South Dakota) administered the oath of office to six new Board members. (continued on page 2)

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**Hon. James R. Hannah** – Chief Justice, Arkansas Supreme Court.

**Daniel J. Becker** – State Court Administrator, Utah Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Hon. Gayle A. Nachtigal** – Judge, Circuit Court of Washington County, Oregon.

**John B. Nalbandian** – Partner, Litigation Department of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP.

**Marsha J. Rabiteau** – Policy Consultant, Rabiteau Consulting, where she works on a number of policy, legislative, and court rules issues.

**Hernan D. Vera** – President & Chief Executive Officer of Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono, public interest law firm.

By law, SJI is supervised by a Board of Directors consisting of 11 members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10703, the President appoints 6 judges and 1 state court administrator from a list of candidates submitted by the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ). In addition, the President also appoints 4 public member positions, no more than 2 of whom can be from the same political party.

## NEW PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE FOR THE SJI BOARD

On September 29, 2010, the President nominated Isabel Frammer to serve as a public member on the SJI Board. She is currently pending consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee and full Senate confirmation.

Ms. Frammer is the founder and principal partner of Language Access Consultants, LLC. Since 1998, Ms. Frammer has worked as a consultant to defense attorneys, prosecutors, law enforcement, state and federal government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, and advocacy firms on language access for Limited English Proficient communities in the court system. She is a state court-certified judiciary interpreter and has been qualified as an expert witness in court proceedings regarding language access and interpreter standards. Ms. Frammer is also a lead consultant for the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, helping to train attorneys and advocates on interpretation for domestic violence victims. She has served on several boards and advisory committees, including the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Interpreter Services, the Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel, the Ohio Commission on Latino Affairs, and the Racial Fairness Project in Cleveland. Ms. Frammer was also a board member of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators from 2003 to 2009, serving as chair from 2007 to 2009.

The Senate previously confirmed six new Board members on June 22, 2010. Since then, the President has announced four additional nominees: Chief Justice Chase Rogers (Connecticut); Chief Justice Marsha Ternus (Iowa); Judge Wilfredo Martinez (Florida); and most recently, Ms. Isabel Frammer (Ohio).

# MINNESOTA LAUNCHES AND EXPANDS INNOVATIVE CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR FAMILY COURTS



In an effort to find an alternative to expensive, time-consuming traditional custody evaluations in family court cases, Hennepin County, Minnesota (Minneapolis), piloted a program called Early Case Management/Early Neutral Evaluation (ECM/ENE) in 2001. Based on the early success of the program and interest by other judicial officers in counties across the state, the Minnesota Judicial Council requested and received SJI support to expand the pilot program (SJI-07-N-012). The Minnesota State Court Administrator's Office: expanded from one pilot site in the originating county to seven additional Judicial Districts; developed and utilized a Steering Committee for addressing oversight of ECM/ENE efforts as a statewide ADR solution; and supported training, data collection, and experiential practice dissemination across pilot sites.

ECM is a five-prong model used in family courts that requires intensive judicial involvement early in the case to tailor a case management plan and, in many cases, facilitate an expedited settlement. The five prongs are: 1) Initial Case Management Conference (ICMC), 2) Preliminary Data Sheets, 3) Judicial Presentation, 4) Stipulated, Tailored Case Management Plans, and 5) Ensuring Continued Case Management. At the conclusion of the ICMC, the next court contact is scheduled, usually within 45 to 60 days after the ICMC; the judge is available to triage case plan implementation disputes that may arise during the first 30 to 120 days following the ICMC. ENE is a voluntary, confidential, high quality, affordable, prompt, evaluative alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process focused on generating durable settlements.

The ECM/ENE program was developed to serve divorcing or never-married parents who are disputing custody, visitation access, or parenting plans for their minor children. Only parties who agree to participate in the program with their attorneys' consent are referred to the process. The pilot sites in nearly every county experienced a reduction in need for full custody evaluations and trials, and a reduction in overall time from filing to judgment. In addition, the program emphasized the parent's responsibility in resolving family disputes, which translated to earlier resolution, stability and security for children involved, and fewer appeals or post judgment motions.

This project is one example of a non-traditional strategy state courts are implementing to improve the timely resolution of divisive family court matters with limited financial resources; by relying on programming, partnerships, and a locally adaptable statewide vision. For more information on the project, a website is available at: <http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=4145>. The final [report](#) is also available on the SJI website.

## FY 2011 GRANT GUIDELINE NOW AVAILABLE

The FY 2011 SJI Grant Guideline was published in the Federal Register on September 29, 2010. The Guideline sets forth the administrative, programmatic, and financial requirements for FY 2011 grants and scholarships.

A PDF version of the Guideline is available for download on the SJI website: [http://www.sji.gov/PDF/Grant\\_Guideline\\_FY\\_2011.pdf](http://www.sji.gov/PDF/Grant_Guideline_FY_2011.pdf).

## Board of Directors

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The State Justice Institute is a private, non-profit corporation established by federal law in 1984 to improve the quality of justice in state courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts. SJI is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.



The new SJI Grant Guideline for FY 2011 provides applicants and grantees comprehensive guidance on the pre and post-award process. The most significant update to the Guideline was the Special Interest Program Categories for Project Grants.

Section III. A.1.(a-d) of the Grant Guideline (describing Project Grants) provides detailed criteria on the SJI Board-approved Special Interest Program Categories. These categories include: Immigration Issues in the State Courts, Courts and the Media, Elder Issues, and Court Budgeting and Reengineering. The amendment to these categories from previous years reflects the emerging trends from applications SJI received over the past year, and the observed needs of the state courts. Applicants may continue to submit Project Grants for consideration that fall outside of these categories; however those applications will not receive the additional points during the review process that are awarded to applications covering a special interest category.

Potential grant applicants are strongly encouraged to contact SJI prior to submitting applications if there are questions about the Grant Guideline.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- For Project Grants, grantees are required to send three (3) hard copies of the grant product and final report to SJI for library/reference purposes. One electronic copy in PDF of the final grant report should also be sent to SJI.
- Next Grant and Scholarship application deadline for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2011: **February 1, 2011.**