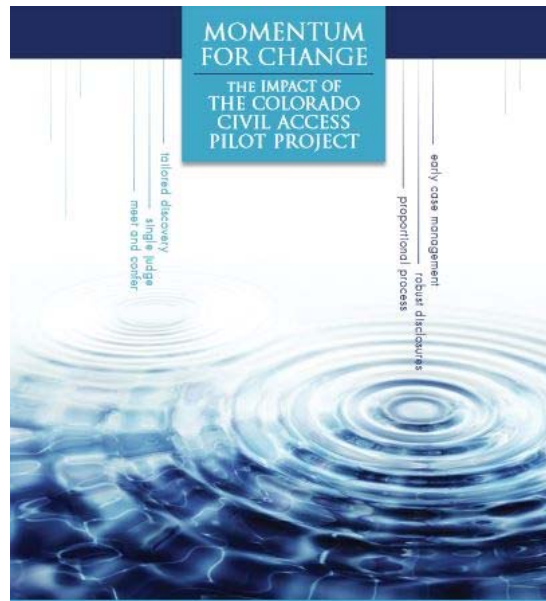# E-SJI NEWS

Colorado Civil Access Pilot Project

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MOMENTUM FOR CHANGE
THE IMPACT OF THE COLORADO CIVIL ACCESS PILOT PROJECT

The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) at the University of Denver, recently announced its findings on Colorado's efforts to reform civil court proceedings with new court procedures. This project was supported by SJI based on the Colorado Supreme Court's request that IAALS evaluate the success of these reforms (SJI-12-N-127).

"The impetus behind the new rules was our growing awareness and concern that the prohibitive costs and delays of civil litigation were foreclosing access to the judicial system," said Judge Ann Frick, a leader on this issue from the beginning of the initiative. The IAALS report, *Momentum for Change: The Impact of the Colorado Civil Access Pilot Project*, outlines the results of Colorado's effort to address those issues, based on two years of data collection and empirical evaluation. "I am grateful for the enthusi-

SJI Releases FY 2015 Grant Guideline

SJI recently released the Grant Guideline for FY 2015. The Grant Guideline appears as part of the National Archives and Records Administration's Federal Register, and sets forth the administrative, programmatic, and financial requirements for applying for and administering SJI grants.

FY 2015 Deadlines for Project, Technical Assistance, and Curriculum Adaptation Grants are as follows: 1st Quarter - November 1, 2014; 2nd Quarter – February 1, 2015; 3rd Quarter – May 1, 2015; and, 4th Quarter – August 1, 2015.

Continued from page 1

astic participation by the bench and bar in the project," said Judge Wick.

The [Colorado Civil Access Pilot Project (CAPP)](#) was developed by a committee of plaintiff and defense lawyers, as well as bar leaders. Beginning in 2012, five state district courts began testing the new pretrial procedures for pleading, disclosure, discovery, and case management in business cases.

As a whole, CAPP has succeeded in achieving many of its objectives, including:

➢ The CAPP rules reduce the time to resolution over both of Colorado's existing procedures (standard and simplified). The rules increase the probability of an earlier resolution over the standard procedure.

➢ Four out of five attorneys in CAPP cases indicated that the time it took to reach

resolution in a case was proportionate, and three out of four agreed that the costs to get there were also proportionate.

➢ CAPP cases benefit from management by a single judge, who handles the case much earlier and twice as often.

➢ The CAPP process is not tilted in favor of either plaintiffs or defendants.

The research also highlights a number of persistent challenges in creating new rules, including determining the appropriate basis for differentiating cases, the logistics of how each part of the process relates to the other aspects, and issues of compliance and enforcement.

IAALS, in partnership with the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has been developing guidelines and best practices for civil litigation
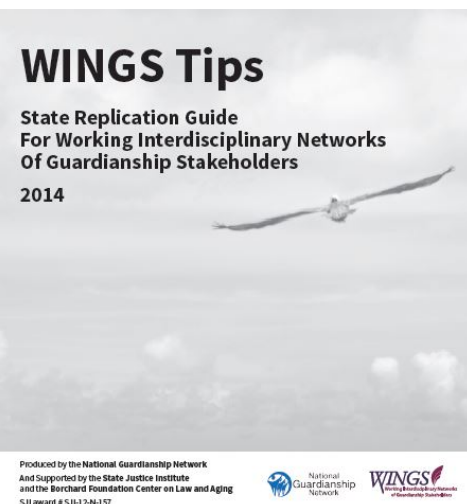
based on the work in Colorado and other states through the ongoing SJI-funded Civil Justice Initiative. Their collaboration will also provide templates for civil rules and operational practices that can be adopted nationwide.

The IAALS' evaluation provides a detailed source of information, and further answers the national call for robust empirical data on proposed civil justice reforms. Pilot projects and rules changes for civil cases are being [implemented all over the country](#) in both state and federal courts. These projects will provide decision-makers with concrete information on how to improve civil justice in their states and across the U.S.

National Guardianship Network Releases Guide for Replicating WINGS

The recently released report, *[WINGS Tips: State Replication Guide for Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders](#)* is now available. Produced by the American Bar Association/Commission on Law and Aging for the National Guardianship Network, this publication provides a "How-To" guide that details initiating, developing, and sustaining successful stakeholder networks, comprised of probate judges, attorneys and counselors, disability rights coalitions, advocacy groups for the aging, and other key stakeholders in elder law cases (SJI-12-N-157).

The report is an answer to the inquiries from many constituents present at the 2011 Third National Guardianship Summit, and addresses the recommendation that coordinated state-court community partnerships be established and implemented. WINGS, currently active in

WINGS Tips

State Replication Guide
For Working Interdisciplinary Networks
Of Guardianship Stakeholders
2014

Produced by the National Guardianship Network
And Supported by the State Justice Institute
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SJI award # SJI-12-N-157

seven states (IN, MO, NY, OH, OR, TX, and UT) work collaboratively to achieve their goals, and include the following characteristics:

➢ are ongoing and sustainable;

➢ are broad-based and interdisciplinary, including non-professionals;

➢ are problem solving in nature;

➢ look primarily to changes in practice, and extend beyond legislative changes;

➢ start with solutions that are short-term to generate momentum;

➢ depend on "mutually reinforcing activities" of stakeholders, and foster trust and communication;

➢ include a focus on rights and person-centered planning;

➢ welcome public input, and are transparent to the public;

➢ make continuous adaptations;

➢ see themselves as part of a national network.

The report goes on to describe ten steps to launch and maintain a WINGS group, and online resources from existing statewide WINGS.

Ensuring Language Access Outside the Courtroom: Training for Judicial Employees

Supported by SJI, the Language Access Basic Training (LABT) Suite is a project developed by the New Mexico Center for Language Access along with the National Center for State Courts, the Council of Language Access Coordinators (CLAC), and the Language Access Advisory Committee (LAAC).

The LABT Suite provides language access training and qualification for state courts in order to improve the quality of language access services outside the courtroom for Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals.

The LABT Suite is a downloadable interactive training module for bilingual court employees who interact with people outside of the courtroom. The purpose of the training is to ensure that all court employees have a basic understanding of their ethical and legal obligations, as well as current best practices

in serving LEP and non-English speaking individuals. SJI encourages all state courts to take advantage of this excellent training opportunity.

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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.