



April 2025 | Vol. 35, No. 7

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## Grantee Spotlight: Pennsylvania Statewide Behavioral Health & Recovery Summit – Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts



In October 2024, the [Pennsylvania Courts](#) held a first-ever statewide Behavioral Health Summit that brought together over 500 judges, leaders, and stakeholders to address the growing behavioral health crisis within the judicial system. Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Kevin Dougherty emphasized the increasing severity and frequency of behavioral health challenges and called the summit a “call to action” to improve court responses and support justice-involved individuals with behavioral health needs. The summit, hosted in partnership with the [Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency](#) (PCCD), fostered collaboration among judges, county and state leaders, and... [Read more](#)

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## In the News

### SJI Board Awards FY 2025 Second Quarter Grants

SJI received fourteen (14) grant applications requesting a total of \$1,285,848 for the 2nd quarter of FY 2025. The Board awarded four (4) Strategic Initiative Grants to: the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) to further develop the Court Recruitment System – a state court clerkship application portal; the [Institute for Intergovernmental Research](#) for ongoing support to the Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions initiative; the NCSC, in partnership with the [Conference of State Court Administrators/National Association for Court Management Joint Technology Committee](#), Court Information... [Read more](#)

## FY 2025 2nd Quarter SJI Board Meeting

The FY 2025 2nd Quarter SJI Board Meeting was held on Monday, April 7th, 2025, at the Supreme Court of Indiana, in Indianapolis, IN. SJI Executive Director, Jonathan Mattiello, Senior Program Advisor, Michelle White, and members of the SJI Board were joined by Chief Justice Loretta Rush, of the Supreme Court of Indiana... [Read more](#)

## Stakeholders Gather to Map Future of Legal Education

As it gears up to finalize recommendations, the [Conference of Chief Justices](#) and [Conference of State Court Administrators](#) (CCJ/COSCA) Committee on Legal Education and Admissions Reform (CLEAR) held a National Convening on the Future of Legal Education and Admissions last week at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. The convening was in partnership with the [American Bar Association](#) (ABA) Council on Legal Education and Admissions, the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), AccessLex Institute, the Law School Admission Council, the Law School Survey of... [Read more](#)

## Preserving the Future of Juries and Jury Trials

A new report, [Preserving the Future of Juries and Jury Trials](#), offers strategies to combat these critical challenges that threaten the existence and legitimacy of our jury system while also suggesting strategic solutions to preserve its future. “We need to take action, or we risk losing a living component of justice,” warns Paula Hannaford-Agor, director of NCSC’s Center for Jury Studies. “This report is a starting point for continued conversations about where we need to go to strengthen jury trials.” The report identifies four key vulnerabilities and outlines a plan to preserve and improve the jury system... [Read more](#)

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## Announcements



Upcoming Webinar! The [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) will be hosting:

*Deepfakes: Evidentiary Issues for State Courts* on **April 16th, 2025, at 1:00PM EST**. Courts are now exploring options to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance operations and support staff. Join the latest session in the AI and the Courts webinar series, featuring a discussion of real-world applications of AI tools. This webinar will discuss evidentiary issues raised by AI. While fabricated evidence is not a



Upcoming Conference! The [National College of Probate Judges](#) (NCPJ) will be hosting its spring

conference from **May 6th to May 9th, 2025**, in Mystic, Connecticut. Session topics include Artificial Intelligence (AI) the Ingenuity Amplifier, Mental Health and Probate Court, Notice by Fiduciaries to Beneficiaries and much more. Join your colleagues for networking, collegiality, and diverse educational sessions from experts and

new problem in state courts, the accessibility of AI has made it easier to enhance, alter, or create evidence. Register [here](#).

practitioners to support you in your courts. For more information on the conference and to register now, please click [here](#).



Upcoming Webinar!  
The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ)

will be hosting: *Empowering Youth Through Youthful Impact: Innovative Approaches for Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts* on **May 13th, 2025, at 2:00PM EST**. This webinar will focus on how Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts (JDTCs) can leverage Youthful Impact to prepare youth for meaningful careers, reduce substance use, and address the barriers justice-impacted youth face. By integrating mentoring, education, and trauma-informed care, Youthful Impact equips participants to succeed both personally and professionally. Register [here](#).



Upcoming Symposium!  
The *Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium*, hosted by

the [Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice](#) (RFKNRCJJ), on **June 18th-20th, 2025**, in San Diego, CA, will provide unique opportunities to learn, connect and contribute to the nationwide momentum improving outcomes for children, families, and communities through enhanced youth justice system approaches and practices. This engaging 2.5-day event is designed to empower multi-disciplinary professionals and youth-serving stakeholders committed to advancing effective and innovative system change. Register [here](#).



Upcoming Training!  
*Courting Judicial Excellence: A Juvenile Justice Training*

*Institute*. Sponsored by the [Council for State Governments](#) and the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#), with funding from the [State Justice Institute](#), is taking place from **June 23rd-27th, 2025**, in Anaheim, California. This interactive 3½ day training program is designed to provide judicial officers who hear delinquency proceedings with increased knowledge of research, practical



Upcoming Conference!  
The [National Association for Court Management](#) (NACM)

will be hosting its Annual Conference from **July 20th-July 24th, 2025**, in Omaha, Nebraska. The theme of the 2025 Annual Conference is Promoting Public Trust and Confidence through Service and Collaboration. The Annual Conference will deal with the strategies that courts must create winning customer/court user

tools, and an essential foundation of best practices to use in the youth justice cases coming before them. Register [here](#).

experiences and successful collaborations to better service those using our nation's courts. For the registration, conference agenda, and more information, please click [here](#).

If you are interested in sharing court related news or announcements in the SJI newsletter, please send all content to [contact@sjj.gov](mailto:contact@sjj.gov) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Are you a SJI grantee interested in being featured in our monthly newsletter and on our website? Follow the instructions on our [Grantee Spotlight Submission Instructions page](#).



The next deadline to submit a grant application to SJI is **May 1, 2025**.

Learn more about [SJI grants](#) and [apply](#) today!



## State Justice Institute

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