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Grantee Spotlight: National Document Assembly Hosting and E-filing Initiative: The Document Assembly Line



The [Document Assembly Line](#), created by the [Legal Innovation and Technology Lab \(LIT Lab\)](#) at [Suffolk University Law School](#), helps individuals build open-source access-to-justice tools and resources for court forms, online guided interviews, and e-filing. It provides affordable Document Assembly hosting and e-filing tools for courts and legal aid organizations. The LIT Lab has also created free and open-source software for building and e-filing court forms, supported by an active community of courts, legal aid organizations, and... [Read more](#)

In the News

Rising Threats Prompt Nationwide Push to Strengthen Court Security

A major national initiative is now underway to help state courts respond to escalating risks. Through the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC)'s Safer Courts project, courts will gain access to strengthened security practices, expert guidance, and training designed to help judges, staff, and the public stay safe. Supported by a [State Justice Institute](#) grant, **Safer Courts** will create standardized incident reporting and threat evaluation tools; update court security best practices and minimum standards; and publish training materials, assessment templates, and personal safety guides. A national convening in the fall will set the foundation for future phases of the project. The initiative focuses on three critical priorities: strengthening courts' ability to identify and respond to... [Read more](#)

The Fairness Challenge Pilot National Report

The [Judicial and Litigant Experiences: The Fairness Challenge Pilot National Report](#) has officially been released. Developed by [LaGratta Consulting](#), and funded by the [State Justice Institute](#), this report highlights key insights from The Fairness Challenge Pilot Project, which launched through a national solicitation of pilot sites and judicial officers. During the Fairness Challenge Pilot Project, four pilot site jurisdictions were selected, spanning six counties in four states: the Westminster Municipal Court, the King County Superior Court, the Boone County & Winnebago County Circuit Courts, and the La Crosse & Monroe County Courts. Chosen via a national solicitation process, the pilot sites hosted one pre pilot site visit and helped facilitate remote and court observations and planning. During the pilot, all judicial officers from each site participated in monthly... [Read more](#)

NCSC's National Leadership on AI in the Courts Draws Major Media Attention

As artificial intelligence rapidly reshapes industries, its implications for the administration of justice have moved from niche legal discussions into the national spotlight. Courts, policymakers, and the public are among those regularly turning to the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) as the leading authority on how to responsibly evaluate, adopt, and govern AI in judicial settings. “There are a lot of incredible benefits to AI, but at the same time we know the public is skeptical,” said NCSC President, Elizabeth Clement, during opening remarks to the 2026 NACM midyear meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. “So how do we balance that? We have to be very thoughtful about it.” That list includes major national media outlets, who are regularly turning to NCSC experts for analysis and insights. In recent months, The Washington Post and NBC News have... [Read more](#)

Announcements



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

Stronger Traffic Data: From CSP, NODS & State Implementation Perspectives on **April 16th, 2026, at 1:00PM EST**. High-quality traffic case data is essential for understanding court operations, identifying trends, and supporting data-informed decision-making — particularly for complex case types such as Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) matters, where data may intersect with multiple agencies and systems. Attendees will hear an overview of the [Court Statistics](#)



Upcoming Webinar! The [National Judicial College](#) (NJC) is hosting: *Courts Using*

Artificial Intelligence: The Fundamentals on **April 17th, 2026, at 3:00PM EST**. This session provides a practical, plain-language introduction to artificial intelligence designed specifically for judges. Using real judicial examples and a live demonstration, faculty will show how AI can assist with everyday judicial tasks — drafting orders, summarizing filings, and managing high-volume dockets — while explaining why careful verification is essential before relying on any AI-

[Project](#) (CSP) and learn about its long-standing role in producing nationally comparable court data, including how... [Read more](#)

generated content. The program will focus on building confidence and practical skill rather than technical expertise. Register [here](#).



Upcoming Webinar! The [National Judicial College](#) (NJC) will be hosting: *A Judges' Primer on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the Criminal Justice System* on **May 6th, 2026, at 12:00PM EST**. This webinar draws from existing research to equip judges with knowledge and tools surrounding cases and interactions involving individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Specifically, it will discuss how judges can better identify defendants with ASD in court by recognizing and understanding distinctive characteristics of offending and courtroom behavior that may be exhibited in cases involving defendants with ASD. For more information and to register today, click [here](#).

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Upcoming Conference! The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ) is excited to host their 89th Annual Conference, from **July 19th – 22nd, 2026**, in Nashville, Tennessee at the Grand Hyatt Nashville. The conference will feature educational presentations on topic-specific training tracks including domestic relations, juvenile justice, child welfare, family violence, and emerging issues, as well as general sessions led by thought leaders. This conference is designed for a wide range of disciplines and is open to all those who strive to improve the systems and change the lives of children, families and survivors in the court system and our communities. Register [here](#).

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If you are interested in sharing court related news or announcements in the SJI newsletter, please send all content to contact@sjj.gov by the 10th 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, 2026**.

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



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