

SJI Newsletter

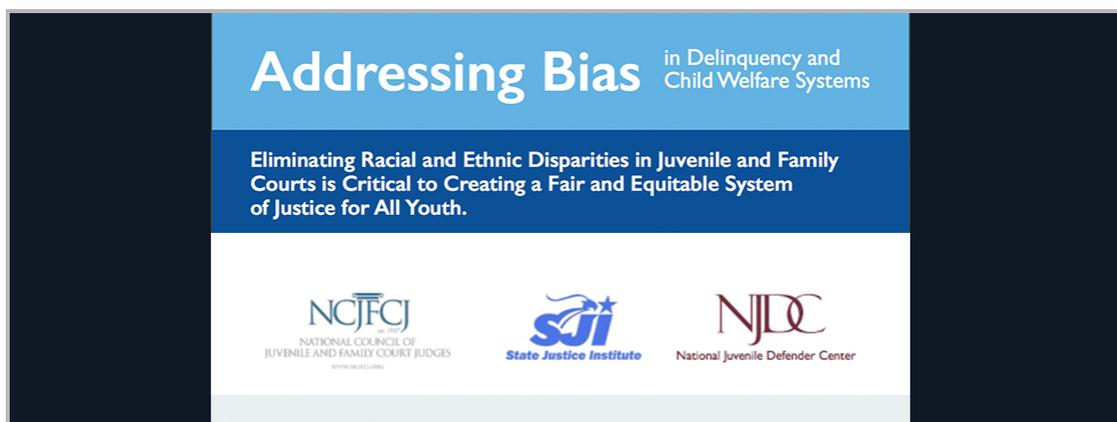
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Members of the Community Engagement in the State Courts Initiative met recently in Washington, D.C. Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, right, chairs the initiative.

Funding Available for Public Engagement Pilot Projects

The [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\)](#) and the SJI-funded Community Engagement in the State Courts Initiative is supporting up [to six pilot projects](#) to learn more about how courts can best engage the public to improve trust and confidence in the judiciary. The selected courts will receive as much as \$30,000 in funding; technical assistance from the NCSC; and an independent evaluation of the program. The NCSC will provide resources and support as indicated in the [Request for Letters of Interest](#).



New Bench Card Addresses Bias in Juvenile and Family Courts

The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges \(NCJFCJ\)](#) and the [National Juvenile Defender Center \(NJDC\)](#), with support from the SJI, released the fifth in a series of bench cards, titled, [Addressing Bias in Delinquency and Child Welfare Systems](#). This bench card emphasizes eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile and family courts as critical to creating a fair and equitable system of justice for all youth.

Youth of color are disproportionately represented at every decision point of the juvenile delinquency court process: they face higher arrest rates for similar conduct, are afforded fewer opportunities for diversion, and are far more likely to be detained and incarcerated. Youth of color and their families face similar disparities in the child welfare system, and when youth are dually-involved in the delinquency and child welfare systems, these disparities are exacerbated.

This new bench card: 1) educates juvenile and family court judges about explicit and implicit bias; 2) provides judges with self-reflection tools to help them recognize and prevent bias in their courtroom; and 3) offers concrete strategies to correct implicit bias.

The full series bench cards are available online:

1. [Honoring Gault: Ensuring Access to Counsel in Delinquency Proceedings](#)
2. [Applying Principles of Adolescent Development in Delinquency Proceedings](#)
3. [Access to Juvenile Justice Irrespective of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression \(SOGIE\)](#)
4. [Ensuring Young People Are Not Criminalized for Poverty: Bail, Fees, Fines, Costs and Restitution in Juvenile Court](#)
5. [Addressing Bias](#)

Civil Justice Reform: Learning from Arizona's Success

Presented By:



Chief Justice Scott Bales
Arizona Supreme Court



Don Bivens
Partner, Snell and Wilmer
Chair, Arizona Committee
on Civil Justice Reform

IAALS and Partners Host Webinar Addressing Civil Justice Reform

The [Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System \(IAALS\)](#) at the University of Denver will host a webinar that highlights the results of Arizona's court system transformation.

The webinar will be offered on Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM PDT and MST (AZ). [Registration](#) is required, and there is no cost to participate.

Arizona has long been a leader in civil justice reform and has taken the lead in today's national civil justice reform movement. In 2015, Arizona established a Committee to make recommendations for transforming Arizona's court system, and Arizona's Committee looked to the Conference of Chief Justices' Call to Action, as well as the 2015 amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The webinar, which is approved for one CLE in Colorado (with other states pending), will include the new civil rule amendments that went into effect July 1, 2018. Presenters will speak to Arizona's efforts, and provide important insight into state reform efforts nationally.



**National Association
for Court Management**

NACM 2018 Annual Meeting and 2019 Meeting Call for Proposals

The [National Association for Court Management \(NACM\)](#) 2018 Annual Meeting, held last month in Atlanta, Georgia, reached a sold-out audience of over 700 court managers, judges, vendors, consultants, and others engaged in professional development. Past meeting educational content, including recorded sessions, is available [online](#).

Whether you're an industry expert or a professional in the field, NACM is interested in your ideas for plenary sessions, workshops, and speakers for future meetings. The 2019 Midyear Meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, February 10 - 12, 2019. [Call for Proposals](#) are currently open now through September 10, 2018. Any questions should be directed to Will Simmons at will@nacmnet.org.

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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.

Products and Resources

Since 2011, SJI has designated the library at the National Center for State Courts as the official repository of published work related to SJI-supported grant projects. You can search the ecollection online by using the term, State Justice Institute.

Share the News

SJI uses [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to promote the work of its grantees and also shares information of interest to the entire state court community. If your organization's work complements ours, let us know and we will share.