

SJI Newsletter

August 2021 | Volume 31, No. 11



kiosks none
paper-surveys
comment-boxes
community-surveys employee-surveys website-surveys focus-groups
courttools

Court Voices Project

As courts continue to adapt in response to the pandemic, some court leaders are taking the extra step to ask their most impacted users what *they* think: court staff and court users. Giving voice is an evidence-based component of [improving trust and confidence in the courts](#), not to mention a way to get insights that will improve cooperation and implementation. Unfortunately, most courts have limited mechanisms to get regular input from court users beyond the occasional paper or web-based survey that takes weeks to amass feedback and even longer to analyze the results.

With support from SJI, LaGratta Consulting, partners, and 12 pilot courts nationally have started the [Court Voices Project](#). Pilot courts—rural and urban, limited and general jurisdiction—are collecting real-time, brief feedback from their staff and court users about pandemic responses. What percentage of court users prefer virtual hearings and why? Have court users found new communication channels like phone banks and online chat features to be more convenient and accessible? What ideas do line staff have for improving upon these practices? Pilot courts will collect

feedback through November 2021, after which findings and lessons will be captured in a national toolkit and webinar series. In the meantime, court professionals are invited to join the national conversation by answering [this live poll question](#) about your court's recent user feedback efforts, then bookmark the [project webpage](#) for ongoing updates. You can also learn more about the project at the Court Technology Conference on September 28-29, 2021; [register here](#) to attend in-person or online.



Paths to Justice Summit Series

This month, the [Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System](#) (IAALS), is launching a virtual summit series, *Paths to Justice*. The series is comprised of multiple invite-only virtual convenings, as well as a series of webinars focusing on the paths of the pandemic, the paths to access, and the paths to racial justice that our system must walk in this new normal.

The past year has emphasized that our system often falls short of the promise of equal justice, and there is much work to be done to realize justice for all. It is clear that now, more than ever, we need transformative change on a broad scale.

Registration is now open and free. To register click [here](#).



**National Association
for Court Management**
Strengthening Court Professionals

This message was approved by NACM President, Kathy Griffin

National Cybersecurity Survey Announcement

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) is conducting a cybersecurity survey to get a snapshot of where courts are with their cybersecurity readiness and planning. The results of the survey will help inform future cybersecurity priorities and policy recommendations. With the increase in the number and complexity of cyber-attacks, it is important for courts to measure their cybersecurity posture.

NCSC is requesting a response to the survey by September 1, 2021. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes or less to complete. To access the survey click [here](#).



**Training Increases Judges' Understanding of
Opioid Use Disorder**

Judges who received opioid use disorder (OUD) training are more likely to view OUD as a chronic disease and a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, according to a [recently released report](#).

The training also led more judges to conclude that funding should be increased for those who benefit from court-ordered OUD services.

The NCSC-directed Appalachian/Midwest Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative (RJOI) administered the training through a learning model called the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes, or Project ECHO.

Judge Geno Salomone of the Michigan 23rd District Court praised the training, the first time ECHO was used by the courts. “I can speak for all of the panel members in Michigan...We loved using the ECHO model. Its brief-time limits are strictly adhered to, but informative. It allows a limited group of attendees access to a number of experts on the topic at hand, and it utilizes real cases. Equally as important, because of the strict scheduling, it avoids Zoom fatigue.”

More than 75 judges in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia completed a survey before the opioid training, and 54 did so afterward.

The surveys, conducted by Wayne State University’s [Center for Behavioral Health and Justice](#), show:

- Ninety-two percent of the judges strongly agreed, post-training, that recovery is possible after a substance abuse relapse, compared with 75 percent pre-training.
- Eighty-five percent strongly agreed that addressing OUD should be a goal of the justice system, compared with 76 percent before the training.
- Seventy-five percent strongly agreed after training that funding should be increased for OUD services, compared with 67 percent before the training.
- Sixty-six percent strongly agreed post-training that judges should rely on experts to determine how to use medicine to treat those who abuse opioids, compared with 56 percent pre-training.

- Sixty-four percent of judges strongly agreed, post-training, that OUD is a disability under the American with Disabilities Act, compared with 21 percent before training.
- Seventy percent strongly agreed that OUD is a chronic disease after training, compared with 55 percent pre-training.



International Overdose Awareness Day

August 31st is [#InternationalOverdoseAwarenessDay](https://www.internationaloverdoseawarenessday.com/). The world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, acknowledge the grief felt by family and friends of lost loved ones, raise awareness of overdose deaths and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death.

For more information visit <https://www.overdoseday.com/> or the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) latest article at <https://www.samhsa.gov/blog/overdose-cry-help>.

SJI Board of Directors

Chair

John D. Minton, Jr.
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Kentucky
Frankfort, KY

Vice Chair

Daniel J. Becker
State Court Administrator (ret.)
Utah AOC
Salt Lake City, UT

Secretary

Gayle A. Nachtigal
Senior Circuit Court Judge
Washington County Circuit Court
Hillsboro, OR

Treasurer

David V. Brewer
Justice
Oregon Supreme Court
Salem, OR

Jonathan Lippman

Chief Judge of New York (ret.)
of Counsel
Latham & Watkins, LLP
New York, NY

Chase T. Rogers

Chief Justice (ret.)
Supreme Court of Connecticut
Partner
Pitney Day, LLP
Hartford, CT

Wilfredo Martinez

Senior Judge
State of Florida
Orlando, FL

Marsha J. Rabiteau

Executive Director
Center for Human Trafficking Court
Solutions
Bloomfield, CT

Hernan D. Vera

Judge
Superior Court
Los Angeles, CA

Isabel Framer

President
Language Access Consultants,
LLC
Copley, OH

Jonathan D. Mattiello

Executive Director

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.



Share the News

SJI uses [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) 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.