

SJI Newsletter

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SJI Awards FY 2018 Fourth Quarter Grants

The SJI Board of Directors met on December 10, 2018 to make decisions on quarterly [grant applications](#) and awarded a total of 14 new grants.

Four (4) [Strategic Initiatives Grants](#) were awarded: the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) /National Association for Court Management (NACM) Joint Technology Committee (JTC), in partnership with the Court Chief Information Officers (CIOs) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to develop a component-based approach to technology solutions used by courts; The Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and COSCA to support a National Innovation Summit focusing on new approaches to court business practices, such as online dispute resolution, litigant portals, and process simplification; the Nebraska Judiciary, in partnership with CCJ and COSCA for a three-branch summit on pandemic planning; and the NCSC, in coordination with the Self-Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) to develop standardized curricula to train community and religious leaders on identifying potential legal problems, and providing appropriate referrals for legal assistance.

One (1) [Project Grant](#) was awarded to NACM to support educational programming for the mid-year and annual meetings, including distance learning opportunities that focus on [SJI's Priority Investment Areas](#).

Seven (7) [Technical Assistance Grants](#) were awarded: the Supreme Court of Louisiana to improve the capacity of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court in identifying and responding to child victims of human and labor trafficking; American University/Justice Programs Office, in partnership with NACM, the National Association of Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers (NAPCO), and other key court organizations to enhance caseload management to ensure effective assistance of counsel; the Michigan Court Administration Association for statewide Institute for Court Management training; the Council of Chief Judges for the State Courts of Appeal (CCJSCA) to review and assess the impact of technology on communications and collaboration in the immediate appellate courts; the State Court of Fulton County, Georgia, to plan for improvements to the Court Self-Help Center; the Van Buren County, Michigan, Courts for a strategic planning project; and the Oregon Judiciary to launch a collaborative process to develop a two-year campaign agenda for strategic change.

Two (2) [Curriculum Adaptation and Training \(CAT\) Grants](#) were awarded: the American Judges Association (AJA), in partnership with the Illinois Administrative Office of the Courts, to support judicial education programs; and the National Judicial College (NJC) to produce and present 4 online, self-study learning modules for judges across the United States.

The next [deadline for grant applications](#) is February 1, 2019 (FY 2019, 2nd quarter).



Introduction to the Enhanced Juvenile Justice Guidelines

In 2005, the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges \(NCJFCJ\)](#) published the [Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases \(JDG\)](#). Over the years, the Guidelines have been used as a major resource by juvenile courts across the country.

With grant support from SJI, the NCJFCJ has updated this seminal publication. This update will ensure that the Guidelines remain the defining resource for juvenile justice professionals into the next decade.

The NCJFCJ invites you to join them for a webinar, where they will unveil the new *Enhanced Juvenile Justice Guidelines*.

- [illegible]

Only 26 percent of Americans can name all three branches of government, a 2016 survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center found. Only 23 percent of eighth-graders ranked at or above the proficient level on a recent national civics exam.

With all that in mind, NCSC released an "[explainer video](#)" for courts to use as a resource to educate the public about the role of state courts in society.

The brief video (three minutes and 35 seconds long) explains why the founding fathers elevated the judiciary to its status as the government's third and co-equal branch. It then points out that most people think of federal courts, particularly the U.S. Supreme Court, when they think of courts, but that 96 percent of all cases are handled in state courts. The video goes on to explain that state courts are made up of local trial courts, where juries or judges decide cases, as well as appellate and supreme courts.

The video is free and available to view, download, share, and link to at www.ncsc.org/explainer.



Supreme Court of Ohio Develops Interpreter Training Improvement Program

With support from SJI, the Supreme Court of Ohio's [Language Services Program \(LSP\)](#) developed and implemented a new court interpreter training improvement program.

Aimed at court interpreters throughout Ohio, the Supreme Court contemplated several core components:

1. An online training program housed with college/university partner;
2. Delivery of web-based courses to prepare foreign language interpreters entering the field; and,
3. Improve passing rates for the oral examinations.

The [report](#) details how the content was evaluated and redeveloped, as well as how partners were engaged and existing examination results were reviewed to determine areas of improvement. The resulting products include a [six-module, online court interpreter training program](#), and an [e-learning portal](#). Translation of some content in frequently used languages on the main page, which serves those interested in becoming court interpreters, was also included.



SJI Repository and Upcoming Grant Deadlines

The [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\) Library](#) is the official repository for all SJI grant products, including reports, curricula, media, and any documents in their final version created by SJI grant funding. Since FY 2011, the NCSC Library has served as a centralized holding of these items.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to research previously-funded SJI grants by reviewing grant products and presenting this information in their application. A benefit of the collaboration with the NCSC Library is their convenient online [searchable catalog](#) and [digital archive](#). The catalog contains a list of all holdings at the physical location in Williamsburg, Virginia, and the digital archive allows users to access the electronic versions.

All grantees are required to forward one hard copy and one digital copy (preferably in Adobe PDF or Microsoft Word) of their final grant product(s) to SJI.

Upcoming [grant application](#) deadlines for the remainder of FY 2019 are:

- February 1, 2019;
- May 1, 2019; and,
- August 1, 2019

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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.