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SJI News

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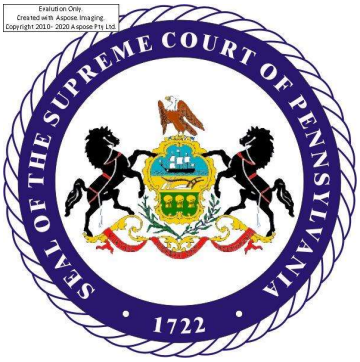
Grantee Spotlight: Leveraging National Open Data Standards (NODS) to Strengthen Civil and Family Court Data



The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) is applying the technical and business definitions of the National Open Data Standards (NODS) to resolve enduring, and common, obstacles to collecting good civil and family court data. Developed by the Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), NODS is intended to facilitate sharing and integration of court data by specifying (1) logical business standards that define the variables... Read more

In the News

SJI Board Awards FY 2024 First Quarter Grants

SJI received 10 grant applications requesting a total of $1,231,514 for the 1st quarter of FY 2024. The Board met on December 4, 2023, at SJI Headquarters to make decisions on those applications. During its meeting, the Board awarded... Read more

Rural Justice Collaborative Announces New Rural Justice Innovation Sites, Funded by SJI

The Rural Justice Collaborative (RJC) Advisory Council, composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, behavioral health, and public health systems, selected six of the country's most innovative rural justice programs to serve as models for other communities. The RJC initiative provides resources to enable rural communities to replicate these Innovation Sites' successes.... Read more

Natural Language Programming

Natural Language Programming (NLP) is a field of computer science that employs predictive analytics and machine learning with a focus on the interaction between computers and both written and spoken language. Over the past decade, courts have successfully employed NLP techniques for routine case management tasks such as redaction, data extraction, document classification, and automated data population into databases. With generous funding from the State Justice Institute, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) explored the feasibility of NLP to support civil case management. The project focused on two stages of civil case management — assigning... Read more

GIS Technology to Assist in Identifying "Legal Deserts"

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has recently started utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping technology to assist state courts in identifying "legal deserts"- areas where people may face challenges accessing legal resources and services. GIS technology can help courts gain deeper insights into the needs of people living in legal deserts by generating legal desert maps that consider access-to-justice risk factors such as the number of attorneys compared to the population, distance to a courthouse, poverty rates, limited English proficiency, and the absence of... Read more

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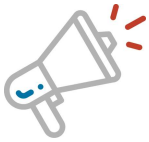
Announcements

Seeking Applicants! *The Reaching Rural Initiative*. The Reaching Rural Initiative is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the State Justice Institute (SJI), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Initiative is designed for rural agency leaders or mid-level professionals working in counties, cities, or tribes as justice, public safety, public health, or behavioral health practitioners. Read more here. **Application Deadline: December 15th, 2023.**



Upcoming Webinar! The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) will be hosting: *What's New with Virtual Child Welfare Hearings* on **December 19th, 2023, at 3:00PM EST.** Virtual hearings were a necessity to move child welfare cases forward during the pandemic; however, some jurisdictions are continuing to find benefits to using them as a tool. In this webinar, hear from court experts about new resources to help you facilitate meaningful and effective child welfare virtual hearings. To register now for this webinar, click here.

Upcoming Course! The National Judicial College (NJC) is holding: *When Science Comes to Court: Self-Study Course on Forensic Evidence* online course **on December 31st, 2023**. The decision about whether forensic evidence is admitted rests squarely on the shoulders of the judge presiding over the case. Judges must be intimately familiar with the rules of evidence and whether evidence is admitted or received for a limited purpose. This self-study course uses an all-too-real, yet hypothetical, criminal case to give judges greater confidence ruling on issues of admitting experts and evidence. Register here.

Upcoming Conference! *2024 NACM Midyear Conference*. Save the date! Register now for the 2024 NACM – National Association for Court Management Midyear Conference, from **February 4th - February 6th, 2024,** in Orange County, CA. The conference will offer the most current information, tools, best practices, and training for court professionals. This upcoming live event features engaging presentations across three (3) educational tracks with insightful opportunities to network with fellow attendees, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors. To register now for this conference, click here.

If you are interested in sharing court related news or announcements in the SJI newsletter, please send all content to contact@sji.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 **Feb 1, 2024**.

Learn more about SJI grants and apply today!

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