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Grantee Spotlight: Advancing Pretrial Justice Initiative



Pretrial policies have undergone significant change and advancement over the last decade. In 2013, the [Conference of Chief Justices](#) (CCJ) and the [Conference of State Court Administrators](#) (COSCA) endorsed the [COSCA Policy Paper on Evidence-Based Pretrial Release](#). CCJ and COSCA also hosted five [Pretrial Regional Summits](#) between May 2016 and November 2018 to facilitate the planning of pretrial policy changes, particularly those around pretrial release. In response, and with support from the [State Justice Institute](#) (SJI), the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) launched the Advancing Pretrial Justice Initiative. The goal of this initiative is... [Read more](#)

In the News

COSCA Issues Call to Action for Improved Treatment of Jurors

An estimated 14.4% of Americans are summoned for jury duty, and approximately 11 million individuals report for jury service every year. In their new policy paper, [Citizens on Call: Responding to the Needs of 21st Century Jurors](#), the [Conference of State Court Administrators](#) (COSCA) reinforces the importance of jury service by issuing a call to action and urging courts to improve the treatment of jurors... [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](#)

Innovative New Project Launches to Increase Access to Justice for the Overlooked Middle Class

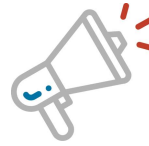
[IAALS](#), the [Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver](#), and [The Chicago Bar Foundation](#) (CBF) are excited to partner on this critically urgent project. An important addition to the national access to justice landscape, the [Above the Line Network \(ATLN\)](#) has just launched to tackle the daunting challenges that middle-class Americans face when seeking legal help that doesn't break the bank. While most organized access to justice efforts rightly focus on low-income and poor people who are especially vulnerable, we can never achieve our nation's ideal of equal justice for all when middle-class people—who make up more than 50% of the nation's population—and small businesses struggle to find quality, affordable legal services. They are... [Read more](#)

Announcements



[SJJ Funding Toolkit:](#)

New Weekly Guide to Federal Grant Programs. Access the weekly guide to [Federal Grant Programs](#) in one concise document, organized by topic area, and that highlights key information to help jurisdictions make decisions about whether to pursue these open funding opportunities. [The SJJ Funding Toolkit](#) is designed to support local courts, state courts, and their justice system partners as they pursue federal and philanthropic funding opportunities. Read more [here](#).



Upcoming Course!
The [National Judicial College](#) (NJC) will be virtually hosting:
Evidence Challenges

for Administrative Law Judges: Web-Based starting February 19th, 2024, through April 5th, 2024. The evidence issues that an Administrative Law Judge confronts can be complex and challenging. This online web course offers a convenient way to explore ways to make evidentiary rulings quickly and confidently without having to leave your docket. To register now for this upcoming course, click [here](#).



Upcoming Webinar!
Landmark SCOTUS Decisions: The Impact of the 21-376 Haaland v. Brackeen SCOTUS decision on Native American Families Webinar. This [National](#)



Upcoming Conference!
Join the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ) for the 2024 National Conference on Juvenile Justice taking place **March 17th – 20th,**

[Association for Court Management](#) (NACM) presentation on **February 22nd, 2024, at 3:00PM EST** will provide a brief historical context of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), the points considered in *Haaland v. Brackeen*, and a summary of the decision. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

2024, at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown in Cleveland, Ohio. The conference will feature amazing presentations on current and cutting edge topics that will inspire you, broaden your knowledge, and provoke discussions about issues facing the juvenile and family court system. Register [here](#).

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, 2024**.

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



State Justice Institute

12700 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 340

Fairfax, VA 22033

Board of Directors

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