

SJI Newsletter

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SJI Awards FY 2019 Third Quarter Grants

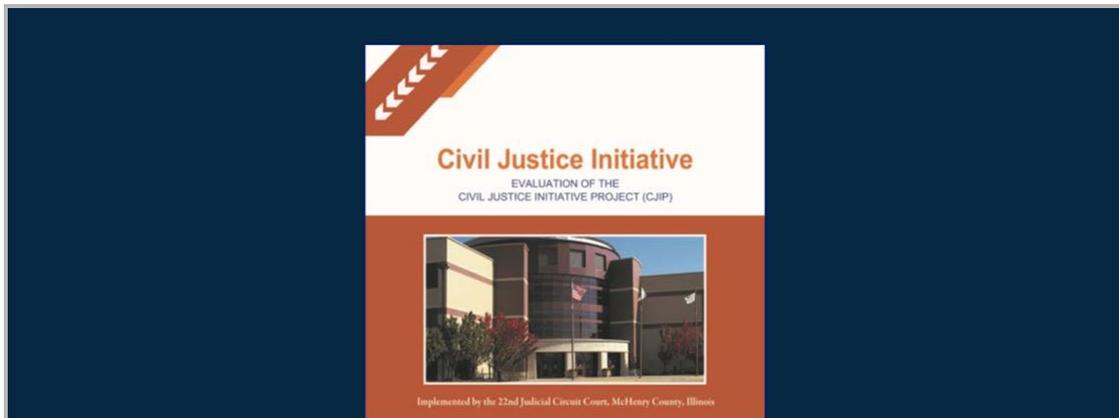
The SJI Board of Directors met on June 24, 2019 to make decisions on quarterly [grant applications](#) and awarded a total of 12 new grants.

A [Project Grant](#) was awarded to the District of Columbia Courts to develop a language access program, including the first nationwide Amharic Court Interpreter Certification Exam to better serve litigants from the Washington, D.C. metro region's Ethiopian population.

Seven (7) [Technical Assistance Grants](#) were awarded: the Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts for an assessment of self-represented litigants; the Massachusetts Administrative Office of the Trial Court for a plain language and simplified court procedures project; the 7th Judicial Circuit of Maryland for a strategic planning initiative; the 2nd Judicial Circuit of Arkansas for a calendar/caseload improvement project; the Connecticut Judicial Branch for an electronic records management initiative; the Deschutes County, Oregon, Circuit Court for a Central Oregon Regional Guardianship Summit; and the 41B District Court in Michigan for a strategic planning project.

Four (4) [Curriculum Adaptation and Training \(CAT\) Grants](#) were awarded: The National Judicial College (NJC) for judicial webcasts; the New York Unified Court System for a faculty development workshop on creating and presenting webinars; the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) on opioids education; and the Hawaii Administrative Office of the Courts for Institute for Court Management (ICM) training.

The deadline for FY 2019 4th quarter grants is August 1, 2019.

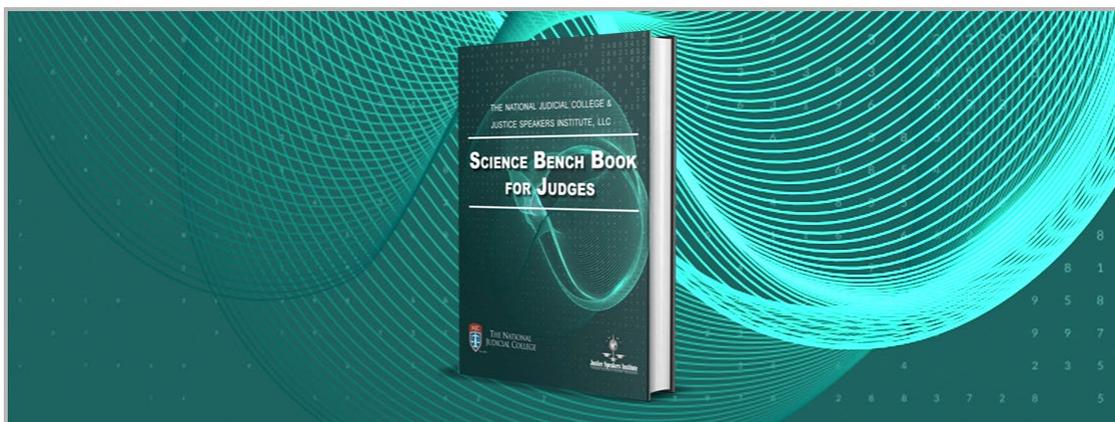


McHenry County, Illinois, Wraps Up Civil Justice Initiative Project Planning

With support from the State Justice Institute, the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court of McHenry County, Illinois undertook an ambitious plan to implement all 13 of the [CCJ civil justice recommendations](#).

The Court's Civil Justice Initiative Project (CJIP) began with a landscape assessment of its civil caseload and identifying strengths and weaknesses in civil case processing. Using a specially appointed civil case manager, the Court developed civil case pathways for each of the civil calendars. Court administration also developed technology tools to improve communication with lawyers and litigants, and enhanced case management reports to better inform judges about the status of the pending caseloads. Although too little time has elapsed since CJIP was fully implemented to gauge its long term impact, initial analyses indicate increased attorney awareness of case movement and deadlines; increased judicial and court staff attention to administrative orders and case reports; increased dialogue and buy-in around active case management; and significantly reduced time to disposition for the pending caseload.

The project also highlights the importance of judicial leadership and effective communication strategies to ensure stakeholder awareness, understanding, and support for reform efforts. More about McHenry County, and the other demonstration project sites selected, can be found on the [National Center for State Court's Civil Justice Initiative page](#).



New Science Bench Book for Judges

The [National Judicial College \(NJC\)](#) and the [Justice Speakers Institute, LLC \(JSI\)](#) are pleased to announce the release of a new online publication, *Science Bench Book for Judges*, funded by the State Justice Institute (SJI).

Judges don't need to become scientists to make appropriate evidentiary decisions about scientific evidence. However, judges do need to have a comprehensive understanding of their role in admitting scientific evidence. Everything a judge needs to know in deciding the admissibility of scientific evidence is contained in this new online publication.

Available exclusively and at no charge as a digital download, the bench book includes sections on:

- [The Judicial Gatekeeper Function](#)
by Hon. Samuel A. Thumma, Chief Judge, Division One, Court of Appeals, AZ
- [Cyber and Digital Evidence](#)
by Hon. Bridget Mary McCormack, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Michigan
- [DNA Evidence](#)
by Hon. Ming Chin, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of California
- [The Use of Science in Juvenile Court](#)
by Hon. Cindy Lederman (Ret.) Judge, Dependency Court Dade County, FL
- Plus [dozens more topics](#) to help judges anticipate and prepare to rule on admission of new areas of scientific evidence.

The bench book also provides [sample orders for criminal discovery](#) and a [state-by-state Frye/Daubert analysis](#). [Download the entire Bench Book](#), or just the sections that you need.



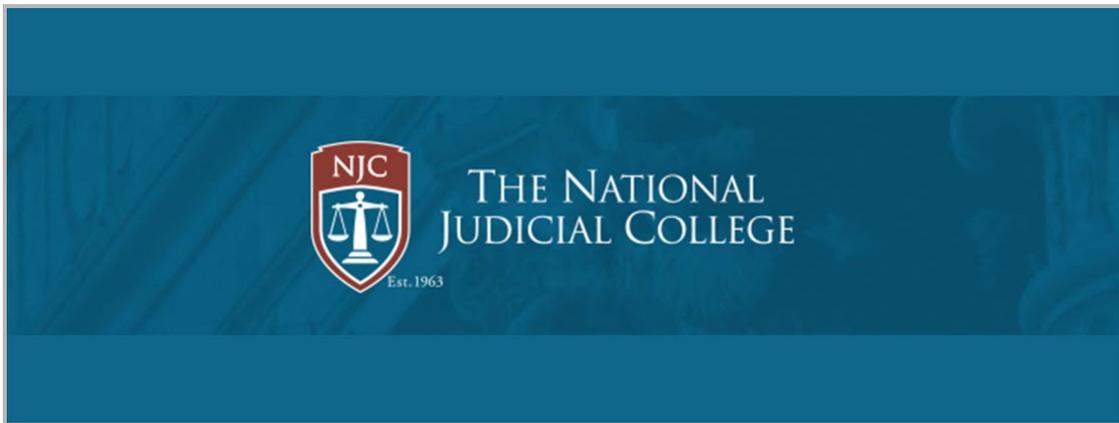
NCSC Releases *Trends in State Courts 2019*

The [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\)](#) has released the 2019 edition of the annual [Trends in State Courts](#) publication. This edition features a few articles that include past and present grant-funded projects by the [State Justice Institute \(SJI\)](#).

Trends 2019 explores how technology is influencing the courts, as well as “human capital” issues that focus on employee satisfaction.

Also included in this year’s edition:

- The Court’s Technology Communication Challenge
- Massachusetts Trial Court: Using Sequential Intercept Mapping in Response to the Opioid Crisis
- Improving Child Support Enforcement Outcomes with Online Dispute Resolution
- The Importance of a Legal Ecosystem
- Evaluating Remote Technology Options to Increase Self-Help Center Access
- Beyond Buzzwords: Building an Information Security Foundation
- Pima County’s Dependency Alternative Program: Preserving Families and Promoting Access to Justice



NJC Previews 2020 Course Catalog

The National Judicial College (NJC) is pleased to announce the [following in-person courses](#) for 2020 at the NJC's headquarters in Reno, Nevada, and across the country.

To register, or to read more about NJC courses, simply click the link of the course that interests you. Many of the most popular courses and destinations fill quickly, so early registration ensures the best possible opportunity to participate.

To determine if any of these courses are open for [SJI Education Support Program \(ESP\)](#), contact NJC Scholarship Coordinator Brenda Pardini, at pardini@judges.org or 800-255-8343.

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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 organizations work complements ours, let us know and we will share.