

SJI Newsletter

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SJI Awards FY 2018 Third Quarter Grants

The SJI Board of Directors met on June 11, 2018, at the Minnesota Judicial Center to make decisions on quarterly grant applications and awarded a total of 10 new grants.

A [Project Grant](#) was awarded to the [Washington Administrative Office of the Courts](#) for a statewide gender bias assessment. The project will identify and describe gender bias with a particular focus on how race, poverty, and other intersectional identities impact women when they access the courts, participate in proceedings, or work in the court environment, and the consequences they experience once they leave the courthouse. The [National Association of Women Judges \(NAWJ\)](#) has expressed interest in this project, and will seek to incorporate the outcomes of the assessment into their meeting programming. In addition, both the [Conference of Chief Justices \(CCJ\)](#) and the [Conference of State Court Administrators \(COSCA\)](#) have expressed renewed interest in gender bias in the courts, as demonstrated by a recent resolution encouraging state judicial branch education on workplace

harassment, procedures for addressing harassment, and directing the [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\)](#) to create a repository of resources on workplace harassment, including model policies and procedures.

Seven (7) [Technical Assistance \(TA\) Grants](#) were awarded: the [17th Judicial Circuit of Illinois](#) for an efficiency and process assessment for; the [NCSC](#) for a municipal court interactive learning and website revision project; the [Texas Municipal Court Education Center](#) to build trust and confidence through model court websites and signage; the [Texas Office of Court Administration](#) for a family court outcomes assessment; the [Colorado Administrative Office of the Courts](#) for a plain language forms project; the [Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts](#) for a strategic planning initiative; and the [Barry County, Michigan, Family Court Division](#) for a strategic planning project.

Two (2) [Curriculum Adaptation and Training \(CAT\) Grants](#) were awarded: the [NAWJ](#) for a sexual harassment education program; and the [Institute for Continuing Judicial Education of Georgia](#) for a judicial faculty development workshop.

The next deadline for grant applications is August 1, 2018 (FY 2018, 4th quarter).



National Judicial Opioid Task Force Meets to Address the Opioid Crisis

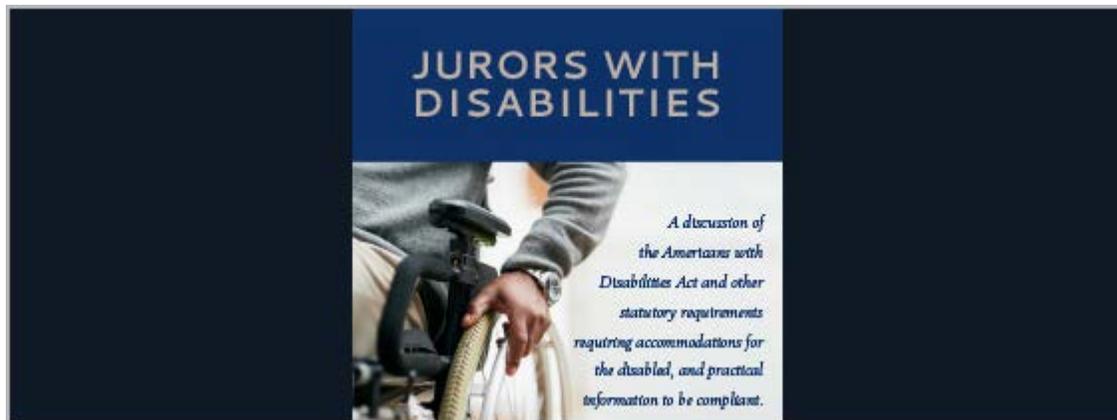
Earlier this month, the [National Judicial Opioid Task Force \(NJOTF\)](#) convened in Indianapolis, Indiana. Presenters from national organizations with knowledge and expertise on the opioid crisis shared information, resources, and discussed collaboration with state courts and the NJOTF.

Content from each presentation is now available [online](#) and linked below:

1. [Pregnant and Parenting Women with Opioid Use Disorders: Implications for Child Welfare and Juvenile Dependency](#) by Nancy Young, Executive Director, Children and Family Futures.
2. [Collaboration Opportunities: Addiction Medicine, Justice and the Opioid Crisis](#) by Penny S. Mills, Executive Vice President/CEO, American Society of Addiction Medicine.
3. [Substance Use Disorders: A Public Health and Public Safety Priority](#) by Kathryn Cates-Wessel, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

4. [Opioid Addictions Outbreak: A Response to a Public Health Crisis](#) in Erie County, New York by Matt Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties and Mark Poloncarz, County Executive, Erie County, New York.
5. [Combating the Opioid Epidemic](#) by Carrie Hill, Director, National Center for Jail Operations, National Sheriffs Association.
6. [How Governors and States Are Approaching the Opioid Epidemic](#) by Chelsea Kelleher, Senior Policy Analyst, Best Practices Health Division, National Governors Association.
7. [Overview of State Opioid Policy and Legislation](#) by Alison Lawrence, Program Director and Amber Widgery, Senior Policy Specialist, Criminal Justice Program, National Conference of State Legislatures.
8. [Advancing Justice: The Opioid Crisis](#) by Carson Fox, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Drug Court Professionals.
9. [NAAG Efforts Against the Opioid Epidemic](#) by Chris Toth, Executive Director, National Association of Attorneys General.

This content builds on and expands previous NJOTF efforts. Sharing this information is consistent with [principles](#) developed in January 2018. SJI provided key support to launch the Task Force and remains a partner in these efforts.



National Center for State Courts Releases New Report on Jurors with Disabilities

With support from SJI, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) released a new report titled, [Jurors With Disabilities](#), as well as a corresponding [presentation](#).

Both products derive from a greater need expressed by the state court community for updated, comprehensive information that addresses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and other statutory requirements requiring accommodations.

The presentation provides an overview of ADA Title II, including exceptions, and lesser known Architectural Barriers Act, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and a nod to state statues that may require more compliance than federal laws. It includes detailed notes for each slide to assist the reader.

The report delves much more deeply into accommodations for jurors with disabilities; what is needed and necessary; and how to conduct a reasonableness analysis if a court denies an accommodation. Included in the report is extensive caselaw related to the public sector, and specifically court accommodations for jurors. Other key elements include:

- A timeline of courts and disabilities;
- Assistive devices and technology to accommodate persons that are blind, Deaf-Blind, low vision, or have hearing impairments;
- Conditions specifically excluded under ADA, and some of the more difficult determinations, such as alcoholism, illicit drug use, and persons receiving treatment for a substance-use addiction;
- Service animals and the allowable information a court may obtain to make determinations; and,
- General guidance designed to achieve a proactive program, with well-trained jury managers, that maintains compliance as its cornerstone.



SJI Remembers Chief Justice Clement Clay "Bo" Torbet, Jr.

Former SJI Board Chair and Alabama Chief Justice Clement Clay "Bo" Torbet, Jr. died on Saturday, June 2, 2018.

In November 1976, he was elected Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court where he served two terms until 1988. During his tenure as Chief Justice, he was active in national and international judicial organizations, serving as President of the Conference of Chief Justices, Chairman of the National Center for State Courts, and SJI's first Board Chair, serving from 1986 to 1991. After leaving the court, he taught at both the University of Alabama School of Law and Cumberland School of Law before joining the law firm Maynard, Cooper & Gale where he practiced until his retirement.

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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.