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Grantee Spotlight: Mississippi Center for Justice - Justice Court Access Program



Each county in Mississippi contains its own Justice Court where community members bring legal actions to settle local, small-dollar disputes. Court regulations and policies vary in each county, and they can be incredibly confusing for Mississippians to navigate, almost all of which are *pro se* litigants. The COVID-19 pandemic created more variation as judges and court staff introduced... [Read more](#)

In the News

[SJI Court Pandemic Response and Recovery Program Updates](#)

Through a competitive grant process, SJI selected twelve projects that assist state and local courts in their response to, and recovery from, COVID-19, with a look towards the future of court operations. These projects focus on institutionalizing and/or replicating practices that were implemented during the pandemic, ensuring access and fairness, and include a review of costs and benefits, not only to the courts, but also to court users. Grantees met virtually in March of 2022 to share insights gained from each of the projects described below. Grantee observations were synthesized in the [Court Pandemic Response and Recovery Grant Program Roundtable](#) report. Additionally, resources for... [Read more](#)

[Task Force Releases Comprehensive Guidelines, Principles for Juvenile Mental Health Diversion](#)

[Task Force Releases Comprehensive Guidelines, Principles for Juvenile Mental Health Diversion](#) Upwards of 70% of young people in the justice system have a diagnosed mental disorder, and 90% have experienced a traumatic life event that can negatively impact their mental health. To assist courts and service providers in addressing the growing mental health crisis, the National Judicial Task Force to Examine Courts' Response to Mental

Illness recently released a set of *Juvenile Justice Mental Health Diversion Guidelines and Principles*... [Read more](#)

New Videos Explain the Basics of Conservatorships

The [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) has just released a new set of resources to help courts monitor conservatorship cases. A [three-part video series for court staff](#) is now available online and provides guidance on case management, detecting red flags and ways to respond to suspected fraud or abuse. The videos - Monitoring Conservatorship and Guardianship Cases, Red Flags in Financial Reports and Responses to Potential Fraud or Abuse – provide specific instruction on how court staff can ensure... [Read more](#)

Announcements



June is [Elder Abuse Awareness Month](#), acknowledging the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older people by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. For more information, please visit: [Raising Awareness – World Elder Abuse Awareness](#).



Upcoming Webinar!
Emerging Issues in Neuroscience for Judges
The [National Judicial College](#) will be hosting this webinar on June 22nd, 2022, starting at 2:00PM EST. Neuroscience has provided insights that have influenced the Supreme Court's view of whether youth ought to be tried or punished as adults. In short, the nexus between science and law is of increasing importance and this webinar aims to enhance courts' understanding of neuroscience for the administration of justice. Register [here](#).



Upcoming Webinar!
Implicit Bias and Juror Decision Making. The [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) will be hosting this webinar on June 17th, 2022 at 1:00PM EST. Learn about implicit bias and how it affects decision making by all participants in criminal trials, including judges and jurors. For



Register Now! The [National Association for Court Management](#) (NACM) 2022 Annual Conference is taking place from July 10-14th, 2022 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The conference theme is *Courts Leading the Way in Advancing Justice: A Call to Action*. This theme will focus on the important concept that justice reform must come from within

more information and to register today, click [here](#).

courts across the globe. Register [here](#).



Upcoming Conference! Join the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ) in Reno, Nevada, for the 85th Annual Conference, July 17-20th, 2022, which 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](#).



Upcoming Webinar! *Judicial Guardianship Evaluation: A New Tool for Judges*. Judges who preside over guardianship cases are required to make determinations of capacity and to decide whether a guardianship is necessary to protect individuals who are unable to make decisions on their own behalf. NCSC will be hosting this webinar on June 21st, 2022, at 1:00PM EST. Register [here](#).



Apply today! [Hybrid Hearings Improvement Initiative](#). This project will provide state and local courts an opportunity to learn from and improve upon pandemic-era best practices and to create permanent changes to their hearing practices. Grants will be awarded to 10 to 20 jurisdictions to support the cost of technology equipment and installation of the equipment in at least one courtroom in the jurisdiction, integration with existing systems (when appropriate) and technical assistance to support preliminary operation of the equipment. Application Deadline: July 13, 2022, apply [here](#).



New Pretrial Survey! With support from [State Justice Institute](#), the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) is conducting surveys of state courts to learn more about their pretrial policy changes since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This survey is primarily intended for judges and court leadership who can answer questions about state or local pretrial policies and practices. Your participation will provide insights for developing tools to support effective pretrial practices and overcome recent challenges. Take the survey now at: [Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management](#)

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.



The next deadline to submit a grant application to SJI is **Aug 1, 2022**.

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



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