

SJI NEWSLETTER

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New Guide on Unaccompanied Immigrant Minors and the State Courts

SJI Grantees

When Tweeting or posting to Facebook about your SJI Grant, be sure to use the hashtag #SJIGrant - we will share your project nationally.

You can access our latest posts via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



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The [Center for Public Policy Studies](#) (CPPS) and the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) are increasing state court capacity to address the increasing number of immigrant children likely to appear in state courts. With SJI support, CPPS and the NCSC recently released a [Guide to State Court Cases Involving Unaccompanied Immigrant Children](#). The purpose of the *Guide* is to increase understanding among state court judges, court administrators, and other key stakeholders regarding:

- Federal immigration law, policy, and practice, and the impact on state court cases involving Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs);
- How the work of the state courts in cases involving UACs intersects with the needs of the federal immigration system;

- The different types of cases and matters where UACs might appear in state courts; and
- The potential role of the state courts in providing factual findings in cases involving UACs.

While there are other forms of federal immigration relief for refugees, victims of human trafficking, and other groups, the *Guide* focuses solely on the state court findings required for use in federal determination of Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). The *Guide* also provides recommended action steps for state courts to use in addressing cases involving UACs.

To date, CPPS and the NCSC have: hosted a national webinar on the UAC issue, which is available [online](#); created a [webpage](#) for additional resources; released an [information card](#) for judges and court practitioners on SIJS.

Human Trafficking Toolkit for State Courts

With support from SJI, the [Center for Court Innovation](#) (CCI) has just released its latest resource for state courts and communities, [Responding to Sex Trafficking in Your Jurisdiction: A Planning Toolkit](#). This toolkit offers a step-by-step process to help courts and communities assess their current approaches to human trafficking and prostitution, and develop or enhance a state court-based response. The materials in the toolkit



are based on promising practices identified through both CCI's demonstration projects, and national training and technical assistance.

For more information, or to request assistance, contact CCI, which offers training and technical assistance to state courts as a member of the SJI-funded [Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative](#).

SJI Launches New Website

The State Justice Institute (SJI) has launched a new website, with improved functionality, design, and navigation. The new website has been designed to enhance accessibility and best reflect the work accomplished by SJI and its grantees.



The new website features an improved homepage design, cleaner layout of page content, search function, and an intuitive and consistent site-wide navigation system. It is also accessible through a wider range of web browsers and personal electronic devices, including mobile devices and tablets, and has been designed to meet all relevant accessibility standards.

In coordination with the website's redesign and launch, SJI's presence on social media, including Facebook and Twitter has also been updated.



State Justice Institute

The State Justice Institute (SJI) was established by federal law in 1984 to award grants to improve the quality of justice in state courts, facilitate better coordination between state and federal courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts.

NEXT GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for new grant applications for the 4th quarter of FY 2015.

August 1, 2015

Grant and Education Support Program (ESP) Deadlines

SEARCH SJI GRANTS

SJI continues to make all grant reports and most grant products available online through the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Library and Digital Archive.

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SJI NEWS

SJI Board Member Receives National Honor for Leadership in Racial and Ethnic Fairness

The National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (NCREFC) will hold its annual conference June 10-13, 2015, in Buffalo, New York. This year, SJI Board member and Chief Judge of the State of New York, Jonathan Lippman, will receive one of their highest honors, recognized for his long career and a lasting ...
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SJI Board of Directors Meeting

The SJI Board of Directors will be meeting on Monday, June 29, 2015 at 1:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine in Portland, Maine. The purpose of this meeting is to consider grant applications for the 3rd quarter of FY 2015, and other business. All portions of this ...
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Video Explains Purpose of WINGS



The National Guardianship Network (NGN) has released a new video introduction - [What is WINGS](#), by District of Columbia Chief Judge Eric Washington. The video highlights the NGN's efforts to improve state adult guardianship practices through collaborative court-community

partnerships. WINGS, an acronym for the [Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders](#), has been funded in part by SJI for the past two fiscal years. The five-minute video is featured in the "What's New," section of the [NCSC's Elders and the Courts](#) website.

The new video functions as a lead-in to the NGN [Replication Guide for state WINGS groups](#).

SJI Board Member Honored

In May, Judge Gayle Nachtigal received the 2015 Emma C. McKinney Distinguished Citizen award from the Hillsboro, Oregon Chamber of Commerce. The award is presented every year in honor of the longtime [Hillsboro Argus](#) matriarch. The Argus will make a \$500 donation to a nonprofit organization of Judge Nachtigal's choice.

Judge Nachtigal currently serves as a Senior Circuit Court Judge in Washington County, Oregon. Her leadership in a range of national organizations, including the American Judges Association, National Center for State Courts' Court Consulting Advisory Board, and SJI, have made her a sought after voice on issues relevant to the state courts. Judge Nachtigal has been a member of the SJI Board of Directors since 2010, and serves as the Board's Secretary.



Update on FY 2016 Appropriations



The House Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Subcommittee on Appropriations marked up the FY 2016 CJS bill on May 14, 2015, which included SJI's full request totaling \$5,121,000 (the same level as FY 2015). The bill was subsequently approved by the full Appropriations Committee on May 20th, and the House on June 4th. The Senate CJS Subcommittee marked up the bill on June 10th, and the full Senate Appropriations Committee approved the bill on June 11th, both of which also included SJI's full request.

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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.

