

# SJI NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, No. 12

## SJI Awards FY 2015 Fourth Quarter Grants

### 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](#).



The SJI Board of Directors met on September 21, 2015, at the Supreme Court of Texas in Austin to make decisions on quarterly grant applications and awarded a total of ten (10) new grants.



**The Board of Directors at the Supreme Court of Texas.**

adopt this software. The Board also awarded a SIG to the NCSC to support the *State Courts Election Law Resources* project in preparation for the 2016 elections. This project will result in an election law curriculum that each state can

use to develop its own customized lesson plans; a series of on-demand webinars featuring prominent subject matter experts; and a resource toolkit on election law available to state court judges.

Six (6) Technical Assistance (TA) Grants were approved, including: assistance to the Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Common Pleas Court for an operational review; a Family Law Unit Reengineering project in the Orange

County, California, Superior Court; assistance to the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts for a statewide juvenile probation officer review; funding to the Fulton County, Georgia, Juvenile Court to support a project focusing on educational neglect cases; training tools for state court judges on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status provided by American University; and, a court consolidation impact assessment for the 25<sup>th</sup> District Court of Michigan.

Two (2) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were approved: support to the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) for judicial edu-

The Board awarded a Strategic Initiatives Grant (SIG) to support the *National Conservatorship Accounting Project*. Through this project, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) will further expand conservator monitoring software first developed in Minnesota (also with SJI support). The project will: 1) disseminate, adapt, and pilot conservatorship accounting software developed in Minnesota to three additional states; and 2) develop and test tools to identify problematic cases and direct critical resources to those cases. As part of these efforts, the NCSC will convene a *Conservatorship Accountability Project Network* to encourage more states to

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cation on human trafficking issues, including a new focus on developing jurisdictional collaborative teams to address human trafficking; and the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts for an online pretrial services education program which will be made available to all state courts.

**Left: State Court Administrator David Slayton leads a tour of the Supreme Court. Right: The dome of the Texas State Capitol features a lone star.**



## Minnesota Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Planning Project



### Minnesota Security Training Final Evaluation Report Training Sessions - Week of June 15

National Center for State Courts

July 2015

Nathan Hall, Project Director  
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With grant assistance from SJI (SJI-14-N-154), the Minnesota Judicial Branch recently completed a three phase evaluation of court security services.

The decision to address court security followed statewide upgrades to court technology and a focus on enhanced services to self-represented litigants. Additional attention to emergency preparedness throughout the

public sector and a desire for more responsive protocols helped solidify court security as priority over the past 18 months.

The report, titled, *Minnesota Security Training*, provides details on the success of this project. For example, evaluations were provided upon completion of the first part of Phase III – delivering training sessions to courts in Anoka, Mankato, Rochester, St. Paul, and Windom, Minnesota, using a customized Court Security Tool Box. Overall, on a scale of 1 to 8, the training sessions received a mean of 7, or excellent. The report breaks down by court training site which components of the court security training curriculum were most salient, as well as how the training was delivered, evaluated, and could be improved. Using a train-the-trainer method, participants will now be able to deliver additional court security training as needed, or when the Court Security Tool Box is updated.

During Phase I of the project, NCSC experts with backgrounds in court facilities planning, emergency planning, and security worked with a committee designated by the Minnesota Judicial Branch to oversee the project. During this phase, five comprehensive security assessments of different court facilities were conducted in high volume, remote, and standard courthouse facility types. Phase II centered on NCSC developing material for a Court Security Tool Box to assist judges, court staff, and judicial partners, again with collaboration and input from the committee overseeing the work.

A full copy of the final [report](#) is available through the NCSC Digital Library.

# Missouri Concludes Case Management Planning

SJI assistance (SJI-14-T-245) enabled the Missouri Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) to plan for the development of a new statewide case management system.

The new system will:

- Reduce operational costs;
- Take advantage of new technologies; assist in processing cases more quickly, with less effort, and without sacrificing the quality of justice;
- Increase standardization of court operations statewide;
- Improve the electronic exchange of information with other justice system partners; and,
- Increase the lifecycle and lower the cost of the technology that is employed in the state.

The NCSC worked with the Missouri Supreme Court's Case Management Oversight Team to review the current and desired functionality of an integrated case management system, to include the employees who will use the system. The review addressed the governance model, required infrastructure, costs, application development and support, and information technology management required for deploying and maintaining the new system.

The 15 recommendations contained in the final report constitute an action plan that will help the Missouri courts succeed with business process management. A full copy of the [report](#) is available through the NCSC's Digital Library.



## Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator: Improved Court Case Management System

FINAL REPORT

MAY 2015

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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.

