

E-SJI NEWS

Senate Confirms New SJI Board Member



Photo of Chief Judge Lippman, courtesy of the New York State Court of Appeals.

On January 1, 2013, the U.S. Senate confirmed Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman to the SJI Board of Directors. Chief Judge Lippman was nominated by the President on May 24, 2012. He is currently Chief Judge of the State of New York and Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, a position he has held since 2009.

Chief Judge Lippman has spent his entire legal career in the New York State court system, serving for 40 years in a variety of roles. He was Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court, First Department from 2007 to 2009; an Associate Justice of the Appellate Term for the Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts from 2006 to 2007; a Justice of the Supreme Court, Ninth Judicial

District from 2006 to 2009; and Chief Administrative Judge of all New York State Courts from 1996 to 2007. Chief Judge Lippman is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Chief Justices, former President of the Conference of State Court Administrators, and former Vice Chair of the Board of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, which the NCSC awarded to him in 2008.

He holds a B.A. from New York University in Government and International Relations and a J.D. from the New York University School of Law.

Executive Session Continues to Provide Resources

Jointly supported by SJI and the [Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs/Bureau of Justice Assistance \(BJA\)](#), the *Harvard Executive Session for State Court Leaders in the 21st Century*, engaged state court leadership, policy makers, judicial scholars, and national court support organizations in a three year dialogue on the challenges state courts will face in the foreseeable future.

Many topics were developed by members into papers that continue to be published in a series by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and hosted online as part of an [Executive Session Resource Center](#). The most recent [paper](#) released addresses the issue of keeping courts funded in times of serious budget constraints. A total of six papers have al-

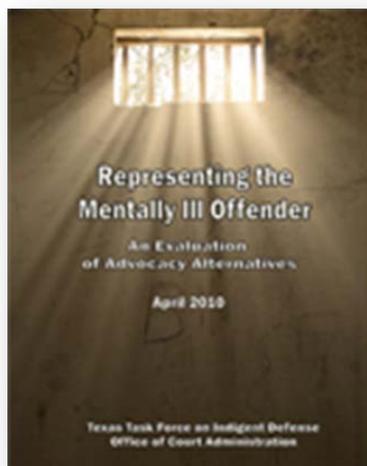
ready been released with seven more papers being authored for a 2013 release. Each author or team of authors will also record a short video introduction to each paper and the concepts addressed in their work.

Other paper topics are also under development. All papers and associated resources, as well as a complete list of participants from the session meetings are available through the [Executive Session Resource Center](#) on the NCSC website. For more information on the resources available, contact NCSC Principal Court Research Consultant David Rottman, drottman@ncsc.org.

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Texas Addresses Alternatives to Incarceration for Mentally Ill Offenders and Improves Outcomes



With an SJI Project grant in FY 2008 (SJI-08-N-072), the Texas Administrative Office of the Courts/Indigent Defense Commission examined how mentally-ill offenders entered the judicial system, and to what extent their cases were effectively adjudicated.

The report, titled *Representing the Mentally Ill Offender: An Evaluation of Advocacy Alternatives*, explored the use of alternative sanctions for offenders who were identified as having mental health issues. The two-year project showed that criminal offenders with mental impairments who were treated for their illness instead of being jailed were less likely to commit crimes again for up to 18 months. Since this project concluded, the Commission reports that Texas has aligned more resources with this strategy as it continues to prove effective in reducing recidivism. Furthermore, the Texas Discretionary Grant budget now includes more funding for mental health treatment courts and similar intervention-based programs than in prior years. Some of the accomplishments this project and its committed stakeholders were able to advance include:

- By FY 2013, at least 12 counties will provide direct client services through specialized indigent defense programs with a mental health focus;

- In 2009 Lubbock County established the state's first Managed Assigned Counsel (MAC) program to represent people with mental illness; and,
- Collin County received funding to start its own Managed Assigned Counsel program for FY 2013. In addition to Lubbock and Montgomery Counties, Texas now has three MAC programs in operation.

The project stresses the value of collaboration beyond traditional criminal justice system partners to include expert technical assistance and resources, mental health partners, academia, and individual and family mental health advocates, and support networks. In addition to this [summary](#) and its [supplemental case study materials](#), the Commission maintains a robust [web-site](#), which offers resources on best practices, planning, monitoring, annual reports, and technical assistance. Questions about the study, final report, and the continued work of the Commission can be directed to James Bethke at jim.bethke@txcourts.gov.



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Washington State Blended Learning Project

Initiated as an effort to provide quality education and training for less money, the Blended Courts Learning Project (SJI-10-E-014) enabled the Washington AOC's Court Education Services (CES) Division to explore using web-based learning in the courts. The web-based system was intended to complement occasional in-person and other traditional modalities through its use of the Adobe Acrobat Connect Pro software for webinars and web conferences, as well as Adobe Presenter for self-paced modules.

A recently released report from the two-year project shows that Washington's court educators were able to adopt a blended, or hybrid model of court education throughout the state by deploying a test series consisting of four separate learning programs addressing the following topics: 1) *Resources, Budgets, and Finance*; 2) *Dealing with Difficult People*; 3)



and 4) *Procedural Fairness*. The programs were designed with judicial officers and court administrators in mind, however some programs, like *Search and Seizure* were created especially for new judges. These programs consisted of 18 separate learning modules, 12 eLearning modules, and six live sessions.

Like other states, the Washington AOC has experienced budget reductions over the years, including nearly a 20 percent cut in 2009. With little new revenues expected, the Judiciary committed to finding more cost effective and efficient ways to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Courts. Team members from CES were encouraged to explore eLearning and development of online tools to support the statewide educational needs of judges, administrators, and court staff. With help from SJI, the AOC was able to develop, deploy, and evaluate the blended learning model. Details of this process, including lessons-learned and the outline of each program is contained in a 10-page [report](#). An [article](#) reviewing the project also appears in the August 2012 edition of the National Association of State Judicial Educators (NASJE) News.

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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.

