

E-SJI NEWS

U.S. Marshals Service/SJI Conclude Judicial Security Fellows Program With Training

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In FY 2009, SJI partnered with the United States Marshals Service (USMS) on the USMS Judicial Security Fellows (JSF) Program (SJI-09-I-077). This program enabled court administrators and security officers to participate in joint training provided by the USMS and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The component of the JSF training supported by SJI included coordination of public and media relations in high visibility trials, developing approaches to policy and procedures, and consolidating training for court staff in security awareness and response.

SJI concluded its involvement with the multi-year JSF Program in June 2011, by supporting simultaneous statewide court security training in two states, Indiana and Maryland (SJI-10-I-021). The day and a half sessions were linked via video, so that teams from each state, onsite faculty, and trainers from other parts of the country, were able to participate using real-time conversations designed to enhance the overall experience.

The teams, consisting of judges, court administrators, and court security providers, such as sheriff's deputies and bailiffs, all participated as a cohesive unit representing their court, and were required to apply the information learned from each session to scenarios they encountered in their jurisdictions.

The training curricula included the following topics: 1) an overview of court structure and responsibility for security in each state; 2) best practices in court security; 3) threat and incident reporting; 4) personal safety; and 5) a security assessment exercise, referenced as Appendix II in the final project report.



The program received a rating of "Excellent" by a majority of the participants, who also found value in the information sharing and court security exercise components of the training. Presentations by trainers from the USMS National Center for Judicial Security were also well-received by participants, who found real-life applications for these lessons.

Though the JSF Program has concluded, the NCSC court security team of experts maintains an array of materials related to local, state, and national issues of court security and emergency preparedness, which can be accessed [online](#).

The report from this project, including detailed information on the training, participant feedback, and appendices can be found in the [NCSC Library and Digital Archive](#).

Lafourche Parish, LA, Criminal District Court Engages Partners to Study Caseflow and Justice Processes

The 17th Judicial District Court of Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, received a Technical Assistance (TA) grant from SJI to obtain consulting services from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), which assisted with a study of judicial system processes, specifically focusing on criminal caseflow management (SJI -10-T-177). The final report for this project was recently completed and distributed by the Court and its partners, including the District Attorney, Clerk of Court, Office of Indigent Defense, and Sheriff. The partnership proved instrumental to the study and the accompanying report.

Examination of the existing processes and multi-agency arrangements was necessary, since the Court has experienced an increase in criminal cases, which have overwhelmed available resources and forced judges to allocate a higher percentage of their time to criminal caseloads. Lafourche Parish was one of the areas hardest hit by the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, which devastated many coastal and bayou communities. The spill created competition among residents for high paying clean-up jobs and led to significant declines in citizens showing up for jury duty. In addition



to the increasing workload, the Clerk has an old case management system, which judges are unable to access. As with many courts across the country, the Parish is hampered by outdated courtroom technology with no consensus on what cost effective improvements could be made to benefit both the Clerk and the Court.

The report establishes several recommendations regarding: 1) information systems that affect criminal caseflow management; 2) establishment of processes, scheduling, probation, and related court activities to improve effective and efficient use of resources; 3) revision to monetary sanctions and collections; and 4) establishment of a criminal case policy board. The interagency collaboration needed to enact

some of the process and policy recommendations recommended in the report is key as updates to the information technology in the courtroom and at each agency will impact all partners. Further, a more cohesive approach to a unified set of criminal caseflow management policies, procedures, and protocols was deemed essential by the team of consultants to achieving improvement in efficiency and promote ongoing joint problem solving



among criminal justice partners. The final report will help the Court and its partners move forward to make these critical changes.

The 34-page report, including multiple appendices, can be found in the [NCSC Library and Digital Archive](#).

Status of FY 2012 Appropriations

The latest Continuing Resolution (CR) (P.L. 112-36) provides funding to SJI until November 18, 2011. While under a CR, SJI will approve new grants, but not make awards until a final appropriation is available for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The demand for SJI grants remains high; therefore, SJI encourages prospective grantees to submit all Project, Technical Assistance (TA), and Curriculum Adaptation (CAT) grants applications per the stated quarterly



deadlines, and not delay an application until

the final FY 2012 budget is available. SJI will continue to provide updates on its website, Facebook, and Twitter as the appropriations process continues to move forward.

SJI Releases FY 2012 Grant Guideline



On October 7, 2011, SJI released the new [FY 2012 Grant Guideline](#). The Grant Guideline appears as part of the National Archives and Records Administration's Federal Register, and sets forth the administrative, programmatic, and financial requirements for applying and administering SJI grants. This includes the newly established Education Support Program (ESP), formerly the Scholarship Pro-

gram. Among some of the notable administrative changes are the following:

Special Interest Categories: Project Grants, SJI has temporarily suspended, any prioritization on special areas of interest. The SJI Board will continue working to further encourage innovative ideas, as well as the exploration, adaptation, and improvement of policies impacting the state court community. Applicants should focus on how their project not only impacts their courts and stakeholders, but also addresses national court issues.

Education Support Program (ESP): ESP was covered extensively in the [September 2011](#) edition of the E-SJI News, including information on individual eligibility, revised application forms, and approved coursework and educational expenses.

The next deadline for Grant and ESP applications is November 1, 2011.

All materials must be sent in hard copy to SJI headquarters:

**11951 Freedom Drive
Suite 1020
Reston, VA 20190**

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