

thoroughly tested in other jurisdictions such as the establishment of videolinks between courts and jails, the use of optical imaging for recordkeeping, and the creation of an automated management information system. (See section XI.H.2.b. regarding other limits on the use of grant funds to purchase equipment and software.)

In previous funding cycles, grants have been awarded to support:

Demonstration and evaluation of communications technology, e.g., interactive computerized information systems to assist pro se litigants; the use of FAX technology by courts; a multi-user "system for judicial interchange" designed to link disparate automated information systems and share court information among judicial system offices throughout a State without replacement of the various hardware and software environments which support individual courts; a computerized voice information system permitting parties to access by telephone information pertaining to their cases, an automated public information directory of courthouse facilities and services; an automated appellate court bulletin board; and a computer-integrated courtroom that provides full access to the judicial system for hearing-impaired jurors, witnesses, crime victims, litigants, attorneys, and judges.

Demonstration and evaluation of records technology, including: the development of a court management information display system; the integration of bar-coding technology with an existing automated case management system; an on-bench automated system for generating and processing court orders; an automated judicial education management system; testing of a document management system for small courts that uses imaging technology, and of automated telephone docketing for circuit-riding judges; and evaluation of the use of automated teller machines for paying jurors.

Court technology assistance services, e.g., circulation of a court technology bulletin designed to inform judges and court managers about the latest developments in court-related technologies; creation of a court technology laboratory to provide judges and court managers with the opportunity to test automated court-related systems; enhancement of a data base documenting automated systems currently in use in courts across the country; establishment of a technical information service to respond to specific inquiries concerning court-related technologies; development of

court automation performance standards; and an assessment of programs that allow public access to electronically stored court information.

Grants also provided support for national court technology conferences; preparation of guidelines on privacy and public access to electronic court information and on court access to the information superhighway; the testing of a computerized citizen intake and referral service; development of an "analytic judicial desktop system" to assist judges in making sentencing decisions; implementation and evaluation of a Statewide automated integrated case docketing and record-keeping system; a prototype computerized benchbook using hypertext technology; and computer simulation models to assist State courts in evaluating potential strategies for improving civil caseflow.

e. *Improving the Court's Response to Gender-Related Crimes of Violence.* This category includes the development, testing, presentation, and dissemination of education programs for State; and local court judges and court personnel on:

- The effective use and enforcement of protective orders and the implications of mutual orders of protection;
- Evidentiary issues arising in gender-related criminal cases, including the use of expert testimony and the application of rape shield laws and their limits on the introduction of evidence of the cross-examination of witnesses;
- The use of self-defense and provocation defenses by alleged victims of gender-related violence accused of assaulting or killing their alleged abusers; and
- Sentencing decision-making in cases involving gender-related crimes of violence.

Institute funds may not be used to provide operational support to programs offering direct services or compensation to victims of crimes.

In previous funding cycles, the Institute supported a national conference on family violence and the courts, and follow-up conferences and technical assistance in several States; development of curricula for judges on handling stranger and non-stranger rape and sexual assault cases and on family violence; evaluation of the effectiveness of court-ordered treatment for family violence offenders; a demonstration of ways to improve court processing of injunctions for protection and a study of ways to improve the effectiveness of civil protection orders for family violence victims; an examination of state-of-the-art court practices for

handling family violence cases and of ways to improve access to rural courts for victims of family violence; and preparation of an analysis of the issues related to the use of expert testimony in criminal cases involving domestic violence.

f. *The Relationship Between State and Federal Courts.* This category includes education, research, demonstration, and evaluation projects designed to facilitate appropriate and effective communication, cooperation, and coordination between State and Federal courts. The Institute is particularly interested in innovative education, evaluation, demonstration, technical assistance, and research projects that:

- i. Build upon the findings and recommendations made at the Institute-supported National Conference on the Management of Mass Tort Cases held in November, 1994. (A summary of the recommendations and findings from the conference was published in the Winter 1995 issue of *SJI NEWS*.)
 - ii. Develop and test curricula and other educational materials to:
 - illustrate effective methods being used at the trial court, State, and Circuit levels to coordinate cases and administrative activities; and
 - conduct regional conferences replicating the 1992 National Conference on State/Federal Judicial Relationships.
 - iii. Develop and test new approaches to:
 - handle capital habeas corpus cases fairly and efficiently;
 - coordinate related State and Federal criminal cases;
 - coordinate cases that may be brought under the Violence Against Women Act;
 - exchange information and coordinate calendars among State and Federal courts; and
 - share jury pools, alternative dispute resolution programs, and court services.
- In previous funding cycles, the Institute has supported national and regional conferences on State-Federal judicial relationships, a national conference on mass tort litigation, and the Chief Justices' Special Committee on Mass Tort Litigation. In addition, the Institute has supported projects developing judicial impact statement procedures for national legislation affecting State courts, and projects examining methods of State and Federal court cooperation; procedures for facilitating certification of questions of law; the impact on the State courts of diversity cases and cases brought under section 1983; the procedures used in Federal habeas corpus review of State court criminal cases; the factors that