

motivate litigants to select Federal or State courts; and the mechanisms for transferring cases between Federal and State courts, as well as the methods for effectively consolidating, deciding, and managing complex litigation. The Institute has also supported a test of assigning specialized law clerks to trial courts hearing capital cases in order to improve the fairness and efficiency of death penalty litigation at the trial level, a clearinghouse of information on State constitutional law decisions, educational programs for State judges on coordination of Federal bankruptcy cases with State litigation, and a seminar examining the implications of the "Federalization" of crime.

*g. Conference Implementation Projects.*

In 1995, the Institute sponsored four national conferences on issues of critical importance to the State courts:

- The National Conference on Eliminating Race and Ethnic Bias in the Courts held March 2–5, 1995 in Albuquerque, NM;

- The National Interbranch Conference on Funding the State Courts held September 28–October 1, 1995 in Minneapolis, MN;

- The National Town Hall Meeting on Improving Public Confidence in the Courts convened, via a videoconference, in 11 sites across the country on October 13–14, 1995; and

- The National Symposium on the Implementation and Operation of Drug Courts to be held on December 2–5, 1995 in Portland, OR.

The Institute is interested in supporting education, demonstration, technical assistance, research, and evaluation projects to address the issues or implement the recommendations and State action plans resulting from these conferences. The Institute is particularly interested in supporting:

i. *The National Conference on Eliminating Race and Ethnic Bias in the Courts*—Innovative national, regional, and State projects addressing the non-State specific issues discussed during the Conference, and projects to implement the action plans developed by teams from jurisdictions which were unable to meet the previously announced special October 6, 1995, deadline for concept papers. (For further information about the Conference, contact SJI Program Manager Cheryl D. Reynolds at 703–684–6100, or John Richardson, Research Associate, National Center for State Courts, P.O. Box 7898, Williamsburg, VA 23187–8798, 804–253–2000.)

In previous funding cycles, the Institute has supported several projects to prepare and test curricula and other

materials for judges, court personnel, and judicial education faculty on diversity and related issues; and provide information regarding the American justice system for non-English speakers, and improve the quality of court interpreting.

ii. *The National Interbranch Conference on Funding the State Courts*—Innovative projects to develop and test methods for linking assessments of effectiveness, such as the Trial Court Performance Standards, to fiscal planning and budgeting, including service efforts and accomplishments approaches (SEA), performance audits, and performance budgeting; and test innovative programs and procedures for providing clear and open interbranch communications at the State and local levels. (For further information about this conference, contact SJI Deputy Director, Richard Van Duizend 703–684–6100 or Robert Tobin, Senior Research Associate, National Center for State Courts, 1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 1710, Arlington, VA 22209 703–841–0200.)

In previous funding cycles, the Institute has supported projects that examined State court expenditures and staffing; documented methods for determining judgeship needs; prepared a trial court financial management guide; analyzed differing methods for financing court facilities; evaluated techniques for improving collection and administration of monetary penalties and assessments; and presented regional conferences on improving relations between the judicial and legislative branches of government.

iii. *The National Town Hall Meeting on Improving Public Confidence in the Courts*—Innovative projects to implement the findings, recommendations, strategies, and action plans developed by the local receiving sites as well as at the national broadcast site. (For further information about the National Town Hall meeting, contact SJI Program Manager Cheryl D. Reynolds, 703–684–6100; Dr. Pamela Casey, Senior Research Associate, National Center for State Courts P.O. Box 8798, Williamsburg, VA 23187–8798, 804–253–2000; or Kathleen Sampson, Director, Information and Program Services, American Judicature Society, 25 E. Washington Street, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60602, 312–558–6900.)

*For a list of previously funded projects on topics related to the National Town Hall Meeting, see section 11.B.2.a.*

iv. *National Symposium on the Implementation and Operation of Drug Courts*—Innovative projects that address the issues, findings, and

recommendations resulting from the Symposium, including, but not limited to:

- The development and testing of educational programs for judges and court personnel concerning the management of treatment-based drug court programs;
- The examination of the judicial ethics concerns that may be involved in operating a treatment-based drug court program;
- The preparation of measures, forms, and other tools for self-evaluation of a treatment-based drug court program;
- The development and testing of innovative information systems to facilitate the efficient sharing of information between the court and the agencies and services involved in the operation of an effective treatment-based drug court program; and
- The evaluation of the applicability of court-enforced treatment programs to substance abuse-related cases involving juveniles and cases requiring treatment services in addition to substance abuse treatment (e.g., spousal abuse, child abuse, or mental health cases).

(For further information contact SJI Program Manager Janice Munsterman 703–684–6100 or Caroline Cooper, Justice Programs Office, The American University, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Brandywine-Suite 660, Washington, DC 20016–8159, 202–885–2875.)

The Institute will not fund projects focused on developing additional assessment tools, establishing court-enforced treatment programs for adult substance abusers, or providing support for basic court or treatment services.

In previous funding cycles, the Institute has sponsored a National Conference on Substance Abuse and the Courts, and State efforts to implement the plans developed at that Conference. It has also helped to support projects to provide technical assistance to State and local courts; identify successful drug case management strategies; conduct seminars on drug case management; and develop a guidebook for implementing drug case processing initiatives; as well as to conduct regional training programs for State judges and legislators on substance abuse treatment. In addition, SJI has supported the evaluation of: court-enforced treatment programs initiated by the Dade County, Florida, Pulaski County, Arkansas, and New York City courts; special court-ordered programs for women offenders, and other court-based alcohol and drug assessment programs; replication of the Dade County program in non-urban sites; assessments of the impact of legislation and court decisions dealing