

CONFERENCE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS

RESOLUTION 5

Commending the American Bar Association publication "*Court Access for Individuals Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: A Guide*"

WHEREAS, the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) remains committed to access required by the law for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing as well as all individuals; and

WHEREAS, COSCA recognizes that when communication and language barriers intrude into the process of justice and prevent essential communication and understanding, some of the most basic strengths and values of our justice system are too often negated; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts was established in 1995, demonstrating the commitment of the state courts and the National Center for State Courts to language access as a core function of the courts, and subsequently in 2013 the Language Access Services Section was established in the National Center for State Courts furthering the commitment to ensuring that states understand and address the need for language access in the courts; and

WHEREAS, the ABA has developed an informational guide to serve as a resource for ensuring that individuals who utilize American Sign Language and/or are deaf or hard of hearing receive equal access to all that occurs in courts across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of State Court Administrators recognizes that many state, county and local court systems face significant fiscal and practical challenges in achieving all of the goals and practices stated in the Guide;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of State Court Administrators expresses its appreciation to the American Bar Association for its efforts in drafting "Court Access for Individuals Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing: A Guide" and commends the "Guide" to its members for their consideration.

Proposed by the COSCA Access, Fairness and Public Trust Committee at the at the 2015 Midyear Meeting.