CONFERENCE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS

Resolution 4

In Support of Improving the State Courts’ Response to Human Trafficking

WHEREAS, the serious issue of human trafficking is often before the courts; and
WHEREAS, the courts are uniquely positioned to combat this crime and help victims; and
WHEREAS, there is a lack of a coordinated justice-system response to human trafficking in many jurisdictions; and
WHEREAS, New York State Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman hosted the National Summit on Human Trafficking and the State Courts, sponsored by the State Justice Institute, the National Center for State Courts, the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators, and the Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative, to advance an improved response to human trafficking by state courts nationwide; and
WHEREAS, the 51 states and territories participating in the Summit developed action plans that include the following strategies to address human trafficking:

• Raising awareness of human trafficking among justice system stakeholders;
• Convening or participating in multidisciplinary collaborations;
• Implementing screening tools to identify victims;
• Developing partnerships with victim service providers;
• Developing specialized criminal or juvenile/family court dockets;
• Hosting statewide human trafficking summits; and
• Establishing local protocols and standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of State Court Administrators encourages its members to:

1. Promote the strategies and best practices set forth at the National Summit on Human Trafficking and the State Courts; and
2. Increase education and training opportunities for justice system stakeholders; and
3. Encourage the use of training and technical assistance from the Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative and other sponsors of the Summit; and
4. Implement court-led responses to human trafficking with support from the Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative and other sponsors of the Summit.

Proposed by the COSCA Court, Children, and Families Committee and the Criminal Justice Committee at the at the 2015 Midyear Meeting.