



A nonprofit organization improving justice through leadership and service to courts

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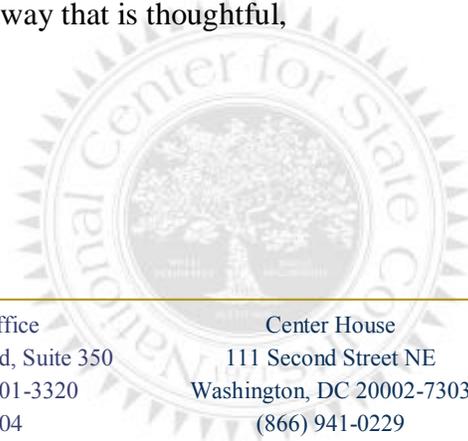
Dear Colleague:

In July, 2016, the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) endorsed 13 recommendations for improving the American civil justice system. The report and recommendations, titled *Call to Action: Achieving Civil Justice for All*, was the result of more than two years of research and work of the CCJ Civil Justice Improvements (CJI) Committee, which was charged to develop guidelines and best practices to ensure the just, prompt, and cost-effective resolution of civil cases in state courts.

As Chief Justice Thomas A. Balmer of Oregon, who chaired the committee, has noted: “This is a call to action for state court leaders across the country. Our courts need to resolve disputes fairly—but also at lower cost and with less delay. The support of the Conference of Chief Justices is vital, and now we turn to working with judicial leaders to implement these proven recommendations.”

With support from the State Justice Institute, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and IAALS, the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, have turned their efforts to supporting implementation. NCSC and IAALS are working with state and local courts and with civil justice stakeholders across the country to provide education and technical assistance, host CCJ/COSCA regional summits, develop practical guides and self-assessment tools, and support state and local court pilot projects—all with the goal of ensuring that states have the tools and support necessary for implementation.

One of these tools is the enclosed guide, *Transforming our Civil Justice System for the 21st Century: A Roadmap for Implementation*. Much effort has been devoted to the study of organizational change over the last twenty years, recognizing that how change is implemented determines success—or failure. The objective of this roadmap is to ensure that courts across the country can embrace the recently adopted recommendations in a way that is thoughtful,



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responsive to the needs of court users, well-designed, and well-executed so that the reforms have the greatest possible likelihood of success. We recognize that courts will enter this process at different points, with different needs, and with different prior knowledge and experience. Our goal with this roadmap is to provide an overall framework for success.

The first step in the roadmap is leadership. You play an instrumental role in transforming our civil justice system to meet the challenges—and the opportunities—of the 21st Century. We appreciate your leadership and hope that you find this roadmap helpful as you respond to CCJ and COSCA’s call to action. You can access information about the CJI Implementation Plan and additional implementation tools at www.ncsc.org/civil. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions about the CJI recommendations or would like technical assistance with your civil justice reform efforts.

Best Wishes,

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