



Resolution 2-2018

In Support of Increased Federal Funding for the State Justice Institute

WHEREAS, the State Justice Institute (SJI) was established by Congress in 1984 to ensure federal support and assistance for state court initiatives that promote national policies and interests in improving the fair and effective administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, strong, effective state judicial systems are the backbone of the American system of justice, resolving over 98% of all litigation in this country; and

WHEREAS, since its creation SJI has assisted state courts in implementing national policies on a host of issues including: (1) supporting a comprehensive strategy for responding to the challenges of the opioid epidemic; (2) addressing the impact of federal and state human trafficking laws; (3) improving court oversight and responses to guardianship, conservatorship, and elder abuse cases; (4) facilitating juvenile justice reform innovations; (5) reviewing fines, fees, and bail practices to ensure court processes are fair and access to justice is assured; (6) focusing on civil justice reforms to make courts more user-friendly to individuals and businesses and to fairly and promptly resolve disputes; (7) promoting court-based solutions to address the increases in self-represented litigants; (8) increasing access to courts by improving language interpreter services; and (9) reengineering to improve state court operations and use technology innovations; and

WHEREAS, SJI has assisted the National Association for Court Management through funding of numerous initiatives such as self-help guides on topics such as the court administrator guide, adult guardianship and addressing human trafficking cases; educational opportunities for attendees at NACM conferences; individual and court professional grants and scholarships; distance learning programs and several key projects by the Joint Technology Committee to better serve our courts, court leaders and ultimately our communities at large; and

WHEREAS, SJI assistance is, in the majority of cases, matched by the expenditure of equal or larger sums by state and local sources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for Court Management requests Congress to increase funding for the State Justice Institute.

Adapted from a Resolution of the Council of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators at their 2018 Annual meeting on August 22, 2018.