

educational programs sponsored by national and State providers that they could not otherwise attend because of limited State, local, and personal budgets; and

- Provide States, judicial educators, and the Institute with evaluative information on a range of judicial and court-related education programs.

Scholarships will be granted to individuals only for the purpose of attending an out-of-State educational program within the United States. Application procedures may be found in section VI.F.

#### 5. The Relationship Between State and Federal Courts

This category includes education, research, demonstration, and evaluation projects designed to facilitate appropriate and effective communication, cooperation, and coordination between State and Federal courts.

The Institute is particularly interested in innovative projects that:

- Evaluate State and Federal courts' experiences with capital cases to identify reasons for reversals of trial court convictions, barriers to timely disposition, and steps that can be taken to minimize reversals and undue delay;
- Educate judges about capital case law, DNA evidence, and judicial administration issues arising from death penalty cases, e.g., court security, jury sequestration, and media management;
- Establish standards for selecting qualified appointed defense counsel in capital cases, and evaluating different appointment approaches;
- Support commissions that involve members of the judiciary in reviewing and remedying errors that led to wrongful convictions in death penalty cases;
- Coordinate and process mass tort cases fairly and efficiently at the trial and appellate levels;
- Provide assistance to courts in developing plans to continue operations in the wake of a catastrophic incident, including establishing lines of succession; and
- Develop effective emergency responses to acts of terrorism.

#### B. "Think Pieces"

This category addresses the development of essays of publishable quality directed to the court community. The essays should explore emerging issues that could result in significant changes in court process or judicial administration and their implications for the future for judges, court managers, policy-makers, and the public. Grants supporting such projects are limited to

no more than \$10,000. Applicants should follow the procedures explained in section VI.B. of this Guideline.

Think piece topics are limited to the five Special Interest categories listed in section II.A. of this Guideline. In particular, the Institute is interested in supporting the development of essays on:

- Issues related to the institutionalization and maintenance of drug and other problem-solving courts, e.g., maintaining budgets in fiscally constrained times, finding new sources of money, identifying and selecting new judges while still maintaining the focus of the court and enthusiasm for the concept;
- What the courts have learned from problem-solving approaches that can be applied throughout the court system to enhance public trust and confidence; and
- The advantages, disadvantages, and appropriate use of anonymous juries.

#### C. The Solutions Project

The Solutions Project is a process intended to infuse the State courts with the ability to develop innovative and creative ways to address the problems they face and provide a mechanism to transfer these ideas throughout the nation. In addition to providing State courts with an array of promising solutions to their most pressing problems, the Solutions Project will generate consensus on projects, ideas, and programs that merit additional Federal funding support because of their broad appeal and promise.

In FY 2003, the Institute awarded close to \$400,000 to support Solutions Project grants in 20 States. The grants support events and activities such as town hall meetings, focus groups, surveys, and other initiatives designed to (a) collect information about the problems facing the courts in a particular State, (b) assess the effectiveness of the solutions the court system has developed to respond to those problems, and (c) solicit the public's recommendations about other potential solutions.

The Board of Directors also awarded planning grants to the National Center for State Courts and the Center for Effective Public Policy to design the tasks required to carry out the national aspects of the Project. The Institute has reserved up to \$400,000 in FY 03 funds and up to \$400,000 in FY 04 funds to support the national phase of The Solutions Project. Visit the SJI Web site ([www.statejustice.org](http://www.statejustice.org)) for continuing updates on the Project.

#### D. Technical Assistance Grants

The Board will set aside up to \$200,000 to support the provision of technical assistance to State and local courts. The program is designed to provide State and local courts with sufficient support to obtain technical assistance to diagnose a problem, develop a response to that problem, and implement any needed changes. The Institute will reserve sufficient funds each quarter to assure the availability of Technical Assistance Grants throughout the year.

Technical Assistance Grants are limited to no more than \$30,000 each, and may cover the cost of obtaining the services of expert consultants; travel by a team of officials from one court to examine a practice, program, or facility in another jurisdiction that the applicant court is interested in replicating; or both. Normally, the technical assistance must be completed within 12 months after the start date of the grant.

Only a State or local court may apply for a Technical Assistance grant. The application procedures may be found in section VI.D.

### III. Definitions

The following definitions apply for the purposes of this Guideline:

#### A. Acknowledgment of SJI Support

The prominent display of the SJI logo on the front cover of a written product or in the opening frames of a videotape developed with Institute support, and inclusion of a brief statement on the inside front cover or title page of the document or the opening frames of the videotape identifying the grant number. See section VIII.A.11.a.(2) for the precise wording of the statement.

#### B. Application

A formal request for an Institute grant. A complete application consists of: Form A—Application; Form B—Certificate of State Approval (for applications from local trial or appellate courts or agencies); Form C—Project Budget/Tabular Format or Form C1—Project Budget/Spreadsheet Format; Form D—Assurances; Disclosure of Lobbying Activities; a detailed 25-page description of the need for the project and all related tasks, including the time frame for completion of each task, and staffing requirements; and a detailed budget narrative that provides the basis for all costs. See section VI. for a complete description of application submission requirements. See appendix F for the Project Grant application forms.