

- Develop and test a range of strategies, methodologies, guidelines, and outcome measures to evaluate the effectiveness of programs established to assist people without lawyers.

## 2. Application of Technology in the Courts

This category includes the testing of innovative applications of technology to improve the operation of court management systems and judicial practices at both the trial and appellate court levels. The Institute seeks to support local experiments with promising but untested applications of technology in the courts that include an evaluation of the impact of the technology in terms of costs, benefits, and staff workload, and a training component to assure that staff is appropriately educated about the purpose and use of the new technology. In this context, "untested" includes novel applications of technology developed for the private sector that have not previously been applied in the courts.

The Institute is particularly interested in supporting efforts to test and evaluate technologies that would:

- Test and evaluate approaches permitting self-represented litigants to file pleadings, responses, and other forms electronically;
- Demonstrate and evaluate the delivery of technology to rural courts through an Internet-based "application service provider" approach;
- Evaluate approaches for electronically filing pleadings, briefs, and other documents; approaches to integrate electronic filing and electronic document management; and the impact of electronic court record systems on case management and court procedures;
- Test and evaluate the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) software as a means of examining and improving courts' outreach to particular segments of the communities they serve;
- Demonstrate and evaluate the use of expert system technology to assist judicial decision-making; and
- Evaluate innovative applications of technology designed to ensure the safety of all who use and work in the courts.

## 3. Children and Families in Court

This category includes education, demonstration, evaluation, technical assistance, and research projects to identify and inform judges of innovative, effective approaches for handling cases involving children and families. The Institute is particularly interested in projects that would:

- Test and evaluate different approaches to managing and

adjudicating domestic violence cases, including domestic violence courts; integrated case management information systems; collaborations among courts, law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, women's shelters, victims support and advocacy organizations, and others; and other innovative practices intended to improve the courts' response to domestic violence.

- Demonstrate and evaluate innovative approaches to manage and coordinate cases and proceedings involving multiple members of the same family;
- Demonstrate and evaluate the effectiveness of a "one social worker/one family" or judge-social worker team approach to handling child abuse and neglect cases;
- Develop and test innovative protocols, procedures, educational programs, and other measures to address the service needs of children exposed to family violence and the methods for mitigating those effects when issuing protection, custody, visitation, or other orders;
- Educate judges about how to interpret and evaluate evidence presented by psychologists, psychiatrists, and other professionals appearing in child custody and visitation cases involving domestic violence between the parents;
- Develop and test the implementation of a differentiated case management system for handling child custody disputes;
- Develop and evaluate educational programs addressing a collaborative community approach to reducing and preventing domestic violence for a multidisciplinary audience that includes judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, victim advocates, doctors, and social services providers;
- Evaluate the impact of court policies and procedures and collaborative community approaches designed to ensure that juvenile sex offenders have access to an appropriate array of services; and
- Create and test educational programs, guidelines, and monitoring systems to assure that the juvenile justice system meets the needs of girls and children of color.

Institute funds may not be used to provide operational support to programs offering direct services or compensation to victims of crimes. (Applicants interested in obtaining such operational support should contact the Office for Victims of Crime [OVC], Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, or the agency in their State that awards OVC funds to State and local

victim assistance and compensation programs.)

## 4. Judicial Branch Education

The Institute is interested in supporting projects that will continue to strengthen and broaden the availability of court education programs at the State, regional, and national levels. This category is divided into three subsections: (a) Innovative Educational Programs; (b) Judicial Branch Education Technical Assistance Projects; and (c) Scholarships.

*a. Innovative Educational Programs.* This category includes support for the development and pilot-testing of innovative, high-quality educational programs for trial and appellate judges or court personnel that address key issues of concern to the nation's courts, or help local courts or State court systems develop or enhance their capacity to deliver quality continuing education.

Programs may be designed for presentation at the local, State, regional, or national level. Ordinarily, court education programs should be based on an assessment of the needs of the target audience; include clearly stated learning objectives that delineate the new knowledge or skills participants will acquire (as opposed to a description of what will be taught); incorporate adult education principles and multiple teaching/learning methods; and result in the development of a curriculum as defined in section III.E.

The Institute is particularly interested in supporting the development of programs that:

- Educate judges and court personnel about how to design and sustain problem-solving courts;
- Educate State court judges, law clerks, and staff counsel about capital case law, DNA evidence, and other legal and scientific issues related to the trial and appeal of capital cases;
- Educate State court judges and court personnel about special problems related to the adjudication of capital cases, including jury voir dire, jury sequestration, sentencing hearings, court security, and media management; and
- Develop and test curricula and materials designed to familiarize judges and court managers with the need for and key elements of effective assistance programs for people without lawyers, and the resources required to sustain them.

In addition, pursuant to an Interagency Agreement with the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, the Board is reserving approximately \$800,000 to