



The Center for Elders and the Courts

Resources, Training, and Tools for State Courts

Key Points

- This project is funded for a two-year period by the Retirement Research Foundation, Chicago, Illinois (project activities began July 1, 2008 with a total budget of \$243,579).
- The mission of the Center for Elders and the Courts is to provide leadership and resources to the courts on a spectrum of issues impacting the elderly.
- The Center for Elders and the Courts is guided by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the National Association for Court Management, the American Judges Association, the National College of Probate Judges, Stetson University's Elder Law Center, and several individual judges with expertise on elder issues. In addition, representatives of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) newly appointed task force on elder issues will serve on the Steering Committee.
- The Center for Elders and the Courts aims to
 1. improve awareness among judges and court administrators of elder issues, particularly related to elder abuse and guardianship;
 2. provide resources and training to judges and court staff to adequately prepare them to address elder issues, and to respond to the specific obstacles and challenges posed by these cases, and
 3. identify, document, and distribute promising practices to the courts.
- Products developed by the Center for Elders and the Courts will include
 1. an online clearinghouse for the courts on aging issues, elder abuse, and guardianship (featuring promising practices, a Speaker's Bureau, a listserv and threaded discussion),
 2. the development of a judicial training program specifically designed for state judicial educators, including a "train the trainer" DVD, and
 3. a business plan that addresses sustainability beyond the initial grant period.
- Look for developments at **www.eldersandcourts.org**.

For more information, contact Brenda Uekert at buekert@ncsc.org (757-259-1861) or Denise Dancy at ddancy@ncsc.org (757-259-1593).

Elder Abuse Toolkit for the Courts

Key Points

- This project is funded for a one-year period through a Bureau of Justice Assistance Byrne grant (project activities began November 1, 2008 with a budget of \$123,870).
- This project's goal is to create and distribute an elder abuse toolkit for the courts.
- The project team will convene a group of experts to help develop components of the toolkit. NCSC will select members of the Elder Abuse and the Courts Working Group to participate on this project. In addition, NCSC will work with CCJ/COSCA's task force on elder issues to ensure the consistency and applicability of products.
- The toolkit will be designed to increase awareness and improve court responses to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The toolkit will include
 1. a judicial benchcard,
 2. an interagency coordination guide,
 3. model practices,
 4. a compilation of resources, and
 5. a data collection guide.
- The deliverables will be made available at national judicial and court management conferences and online at NCSC's website. Products will be highlighted at the Center for Elders and the Courts website.