

# New Publications Take up How Courts Work with the Public

Three new publications show courts how to improve trust and confidence in the justice system by helping courts improve their service to the public.

Improving service coordination is the topic of *Court Responses to Individuals in Need of Services: Promising Components of a Service Coordination Strategy for Courts*, a new publication from the National Center for State Courts' Research Division. This report examines the "problem-solving approach" of jurisprudence and specific types of problem-solving courts (e.g., drug courts), places court service coordination in the context of the Trial Court Performance Standards, and discusses promising components of effective service coordination, using examples from state courts all over the country. To obtain a copy of *Court Responses to Individuals in Need of Services*, contact Lynn Grimes, National Center Research Division, at (757) 259-1812 or e-mail [lgrimes@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:lgrimes@ncsc.dni.us). The cost is \$5.00.

Guiding child welfare practitioners, social workers, lawyers, and judges through the fed-

eral regulations imposed by the Adoption and Safe Families Act is the topic of *Making Sense of the ASFA Regulations: A Roadmap for Effective Implementation*.

This new book from the American Bar Association (ABA) Center on Children and the Law offers guidance on many aspects of these regulations, including required court actions and findings in foster care cases, periodic judicial oversight of foster care cases, safety requirements for foster and adoptive homes, and placement of Indian and other minority children. This book is available for \$14.95 from the ABA Service Center at (800) 285-2221.

The New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts has launched a statewide volunteer program for all of the state's courts. This program brings together courts and communities in partnership to improve how courts respond to the needs and interests of the people they serve. A *Court Volunteer Booklet*, which was funded by a grant from the State Justice Institute, provides simple step-by-step instructions for setting up a volunteer program. To obtain this booklet, contact Pamela Hull at (505) 827-3921 or e-mail [aocpwh@nmcourts.com](mailto:aocpwh@nmcourts.com). 

---

## Science, Technology, and Law Resource Center Available on Web

The National Center for State Courts has established a new online tool to help judges, law clerks, and court staff address the challenges brought on by scientific evidence and technology issues in the courtroom: the Science, Technology, and the Law Resource Center Web site (<http://www.ncsc.dni.us/RESEARCH/ST&L/index.html>).

Resources listed on the Web site are organized in an easy-to-access format using terms familiar to judges and legal researchers. The resources listed are authoritative, comprehensible, and "neutral." For example, most of the short introductory and background pieces found under the headings "Resources for Judges" and "Science 101" were produced for judges or under the sponsorship of the State Justice Institute, National Judicial College, Federal Judicial Center, and other organizations, such as the American

Association for the Advancement of Science (as part of the "Science for All Americans" series).

The Resource Center will keep you informed about upcoming events, such as conferences and seminars, and about recent cases and articles involving science, technology, and the law. There are links to other valuable law and science Web sites, as well.

The Resource Center, which has been in operation since August 2001, will grow as additional knowledge tools are created or identified. If you have any suggestions concerning the Science, Technology, and Law Resource Center, please contact B. Michael Dann, retired Arizona judge and Visiting Fellow at the National Center for State Courts, at [mdann@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:mdann@ncsc.dni.us) or (800) 616-6109. 

