


AJA, National Center to Develop New Substance Abuse Education Program

The American Judges Association (AJA) and the National Center for State Courts are taking steps to help courts deal with the problems posed by alcohol and drug abuse cases under an initiative recently funded by the State Justice Institute (SJI): *Judicial Education on Substance Abuse: Promoting and Expanding Judicial Awareness and Leadership*. This initiative marks the first grant that AJA has ever received from SJI.

The National Center, on behalf of AJA, will develop, demonstrate, and disseminate an educational curriculum on substance abuse for judges, which will be adaptable for use at the national, state, and local levels. The curriculum will seek to create an awareness of the nature of addiction and substance abuse problems, to provide

judges with general education on successful treatment delivery and prevention programs, and to offer approaches on how to build a collaborative network with other disciplines involved with substance-abusing populations.

AJA will lead the development of the curriculum in cooperation with other national organizations, including the Conference of Chief Justices, Conference of State Court Administrators, National Association of State Judicial Educators, National Association for Court Management, and National Judicial College.

For more information about this initiative, please contact Hillery Efkean at the National Center for State Courts by phone (703-841-5606) or e-mail (hefkeman@ncsc.dni.us). Congratulations to Ms. Efkean for writing this successful grant for AJA. 

BENCHMARK

American Judges Association
Association Services

National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Ave. (Zip Code 23185)
P.O. Box 8798
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8798

President

Judge Bonnie Sudderth
352nd District Court
401 W. Belknap Street
Ft. Worth, TX 76196

Editor

Judge Milt Nuzum
Marietta Municipal Court
301 Putnam St.
Marietta, OH 45750

President-elect

Presiding Judge Francis X.
Halligan, Jr.
Municipal Courts, Ocean County
707 Main Street
P.O. Box 1286
Toms River, NJ 08754

Managing Editor

Chuck Campbell
National Center for State Courts

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