

become aware of their circumstances and help them discover positive ways to deal with the negative stresses in their lives. He has written books containing hour-long lessons that are offered weekly over a nine-month period, before they are repeated. He developed a training-and-certification program for others who teach the ACTS program based on his curriculum. Today, he is the executive director of the program. There are 3,000 locations where ACTS is offered in all 50 states, as well as in Canada and Mexico. It received the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Governor's Award in 2003.

Carpenter observed that "ACTS was a faith-based program before anyone had ever heard of the concept." He stresses that ACTS receives no government funding. Most ACTS programs are taught in the facilities of the churches of his denomination. In my own community, if probationers object to attending ACTS because it is offered in a church, they may choose other options for their probation. Sometimes the alternatives are not as convenient for them as ACTS would have been, but the options are there.

I mentioned the young man who visited me. He shared his initial intense dislike for me. He said he resisted the education he received at ACTS. As time

went on, the information he was receiving began to change his way of thinking, and he saw that his life could be better. He said he has been drug free for many months. He has new goals in life and a bright future. My role was minimal. The ACTS curriculum provided a road map for this young man's recovery. He can take pride that he has done the hard work and taken control of his life, rather than let the drugs control it. I feel good about that.

Rod Carpenter has been appointed as the executive director of a 501(c) 3 program named Life in Focus Education (LIFE). The ACTS curriculum is being used as LIFE's drug-and-alcohol program, along with additional education programs for anger management, parenting skills, and personal financial planning using the FDIC Money Smart program and many more social-skill-oriented programs.

If you are interested in any of these ACTS programs, you can visit the Web site at [lifeinfocus.org](http://lifeinfocus.org) or call the organization at (314) 336-1833 and talk to Rod Carpenter or a member of his staff.

If you know of any program that you think others in our profession can use, please contact *Benchmark* and share the information with other members of AJA. 

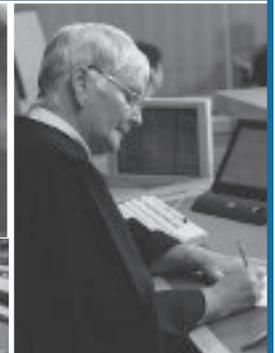


## NINTH NATIONAL COURT TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

National Center for State Courts

September 13-15, 2005 Seattle, WA

INNOVATION | INFORMATION | INTERCONNECTION



... the only conference dedicated exclusively to court technology

[WWW.CTC9.ORG](http://WWW.CTC9.ORG)

Dear Colleague,

From systems to security our world is changing as never before - at a pace never before seen.

As court professionals, we are challenged to apply technology to manage, secure and ensure that our courts continue to adapt to new realities.

We at the **National Center for State Courts** are proud of our tradition of bringing you Court Technology Conferences that showcase the latest technology solutions for the challenges you face every day.

Join the more than 2,500 court professionals and over 100 exhibiting companies in Seattle at **CTC9** to listen and learn, to plan and prepare, and to educate and exchange on the most innovative solutions in court technology today.

For more information and to REGISTER, please visit us at [www.ctc9.org](http://www.ctc9.org).  
Phone: 888-609-4023 | E-mail: [CTCInformation@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:CTCInformation@ncsc.dni.us)

LEAD SPONSORS

