

NCSC Updates Jury Trial Innovations

Courts looking for the latest information on ways to improve jury service can turn to a new edition of *Jury Trial Innovations (JTI)*, the National Center for State Courts' guide to techniques used nationwide to make jury service more appealing to the public and to help jurors be more effective as decision makers. This new edition was updated by G. Thomas Munsterman and Paula L. Hannaford-Agor, of NCSC's Center for Jury Studies, and G. Marc Whitehead, chair of the Jury Initiatives Task Force of the American Bar Association's Section of Litigation, who were the editors of the original edition published in 1997.

This new edition looks at innovations courts have tried in the decade since the first edition was published, especially those involving the model of "the interactive juror"—that is, innovations focused on how jurors organize information, how to keep jurors actively involved in trial proceedings, and how jurors test what they see and hear against their own beliefs and values. After

exploring "How Jurors Make Decisions: The Value of Trial Innovations," *JTI* discusses innovations in six areas:

1. Jury Administration and Management
2. Voir Dire
3. Pretrial Management
4. Trial Procedures
5. Jury Instructions and Deliberations
6. Post-Verdict Considerations

Each section describes how a particular technique is used, lists the advantages and disadvantages of the technique, and cites appropriate court rules, statutes, references, and studies.

The new edition of *Jury Trial Innovations* will be available in September 2006 and can be ordered through NCSC's online bookstore accessible through the "Communications" page on NCSC's Web site (www.ncsonline.org). 

New Survey of Judicial Salaries Compares Court Managers' and Other Public Administrators' Salaries

The National Center for State Courts' latest *Survey of Judicial Salaries* (vol. 30, no. 2) takes a broader look at compensation in the courts. This *Survey* not only reports the salaries of judges at all levels as of January 1, 2006, but also looks at how the salaries of court administrators compare to those of other public-sector administrators.

About 60 percent of the states reported salary changes for judges or justices, and 65 percent for state court administrators, since the last *Survey*. Salary ranges are as follows:

- Chief, Highest Court—\$102,466 to 198,567
- Associate Justice, Court of Last Resort—\$100,884 to 182,071
- Judge, Intermediate Appellate Courts—\$101,612 to 170,694
- Judge, General Jurisdiction Trial Courts—\$94,093 to 165,200
- State Court Administrators—\$69,100 to 175,728

The average annual change in salaries for these positions ranged from 3 to 3.2 percent from 1997 to 2006.

A special section ("How Do Court Manager Salaries Compare to Other Public-Sector Administrators?") uses the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *National Compensation Survey* and the National Association for Court Management's membership profile survey to develop benchmark salaries for public administration in general and court management in particular. "Court management" covers the job titles of "Court Administrator," "Court Manager," and "Clerk of Court," and this section develops benchmark salaries for rural, mixed, and urban jurisdictions of three different sizes: small (up to 5 judgeships), medium (6 to 20 judgeships), and large (more than 20 judgeships).

The *Survey of Judicial Salaries* is published twice each year by NCSC's Knowledge and Information Services (KIS) Office and can be found online at http://www.ncsonline.org/D_KIS/Salary_Survey/Index.html. For questions or comments regarding this *Survey*, contact KIS at (800) 616-6164. 