



# CIVIL JUSTICE INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In July 2016, the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) adopted a resolution endorsing the Report and Recommendations of its Civil Justice Improvements Committee. The 13 recommendations are designed to secure the fair, speedy and inexpensive resolution of civil cases in state courts.

The recommendations present a comprehensive framework that features:

- A Pathway Approach based on the concept of proportionality in which both civil rules and court resources are matched to the unique needs of each case;
- A radically different staffing model for civil case processing that delegates substantial responsibility for routine caseload management to specially trained professional staff, supported by effective case automation, permitting judges to focus on tasks that require their unique training and expertise; and
- A renewed focus on high-volume calendars that comprise the vast majority of contemporary civil caseloads, especially improved access for self-represented litigants, and greater attention to uncontested cases and greater scrutiny of claims to ensure procedural fairness for litigants.

With the support of a generous grant from the State Justice Institute, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) are partnering on a three-year project to implement the CJJ Recommendations. The CJJ Implementation Plan is a multi-pronged effort to:

- Develop and disseminate an **Implementation Roadmap** with checklists and assessment tools for courts to gauge their readiness to undertake recommended reforms and to identify areas for focus;
- Conduct a series of **strategic planning workshops** for the CCJ and COSCA regional committees to share information about the impact of civil justice reforms and effective implementation strategies;
- Deliver **education and technical assistance** for state and local courts to obtain advice and assistance from national experts;
- Create **a national clearinghouse** for information about civil justice efforts;
- Develop and pilot test **automated triage criteria** to streamline the process of assigning civil cases to the pathway that provides the optimal level of judicial case management and court oversight;
- Define the roles and employment qualifications for **civil case management teams** consisting of specially trained professional staff who perform routine case management under the supervision of the trial judge; and
- Oversee and evaluate up to four **demonstration pilot projects** by state and local courts that implement one or more of the CCJ Recommendations and assess their impact on civil case processing.

The CJJ Report and Recommendations and information about the CJJ Implementation Plan are available at [www.ncsc.org/civil/](http://www.ncsc.org/civil/). For additional information, contact the Project Director, Paula Hannaford-Agor, at [phannaford@ncsc.org](mailto:phannaford@ncsc.org) or 757-259-1556.

