

NCSC Publications Look at Courts' Role in Society

Four new publications of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) highlight the important role of courts in our society.

Justice Case Files: The Case of Internet Piracy, the first in a projected series of graphic novels about how courts affect the lives of ordinary people, provides a detailed, easy-to-digest explanation of how the criminal- and civil-justice systems work. The story traces the experiences of Megan, a college freshman charged with illegally downloading music, and Ellen, Megan's grandmother, who is fighting their city's attempt to seize their home through eminent domain. NCSC underwrote the costs for developing this 24-page, full-color graphic novel, which also received a rigorous review from judges and other legal professionals. To order *The Case of Internet Piracy*, please contact Greg Chadwell at Layne Morgan Media at gregc@laynemorgan.com or at (417) 887-1233.

The "Free to be Fair" poster series raises public awareness of mission of the justice system. The three posters carry a unified message that the courts are open to everyone, listen to everyone, and protect people's rights. These posters, which measure 17 by 22 inches, can be customized with a court or state seal. Sample posters can be seen online at www.ncsconline.org. For

more information, contact Deloris Gager at dgager@ncsc.dni.us or (757) 259-1864.

"Judicial Conduct and Ethics" is the theme of a special issue of NCSC's *Justice System Journal* (vol. 28, no. 3 [2007]). This issue brings together prominent judges, attorneys, court administrators, and scholars with many different perspectives on judicial ethics, particularly in the wake of the American Bar Association's recently adopted *Model Code of Judicial Conduct* and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Republican Party of Minnesota v. White* (2002). To order, contact NCSC's fulfillment house at (888) 228-6272 toll free or (802) 862-0095; fax (802) 864-7626; or e-mail ncsc.orders@aidcvr.com.

Future Trends in State Courts 2007 is the latest in NCSC's long-running "Report on Trends in the State Courts" series. The 2007 edition begins with a moderated panel discussion that looks at how courts approach "the future." Brief articles on important developments in three key areas—Technology, Families and Problem-Solving Courts, and Promising Practices—follow this discussion. *Future Trends in State Courts 2007* can be obtained from the Knowledge and Information Service at (800) 616-6164 and can also be found online at www.ncsconline.org. 

NCSC Online Resources Provide Assistance, Data

The National Center for State Courts provides online resources at www.ncsconline.org to aid courts with disaster planning, provide data on court operations and judicial compensation nationwide, and assist courts interested in adopting a problem-solving approach.

The Continuity of Court Operations (COOP) Web site helps courts prepare for disaster. This site takes courts through all the steps necessary to develop, initiate, maintain, and carry out a COOP plan. NCSC prepared this new guide with the assistance of a national coalition of leaders involved in business-continuity planning for the courts, with support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

NCSC's Court Statistics Project (CSP) site delivers more than the most accessible, up-to-date analysis of caseload trends in the state courts. Online, interactive features now allow users to download the data

in charts, tables, and graphs and navigate to related references on the Web. Users can also query CSP's database by state or geographic area and download CSP's latest reports.

NCSC's online Judicial Salary Resource Center provides courts with the most up-to-date salary data for judges and court administrators at all levels. State court administrative offices can now enter their salary data into the Resource Center directly, and users can pull up the specific salary information they need and view past issues of the *Survey of Judicial Salaries*, which will still be published.

NCSC's Problem-Solving Court Toolkit provides courts with a blueprint for applying a problem-solving approach to cases that involve recurring social and medical problems. The Toolkit includes a set of assessment questions and a set of steps for implementing a problem-solving approach. 