



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

est. 1937



**IMPROVING THE LIVES
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

SINCE 1937

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges was founded in 1937 by judges dedicated to improving the effectiveness of the nation's juvenile courts. Since that time, the NCJFCJ has pursued a mission to better the juvenile justice system and raise awareness of the issues that touch the lives of many of our nation's children and families. This commitment to improving the way courts deliver justice to children and families in crisis has made the NCJFCJ a leader in continuing education opportunities, research, and policy development in the field of juvenile and family justice.

Based on the University of Nevada, Reno campus since 1969, the NCJFCJ is led by a 30-member Board of Trustees and issue-focused committees made up of dedicated and enthusiastic NCJFCJ members. The NCJFCJ's research division, the National Center for Juvenile Justice, established in 1973 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is relied upon by federal agencies and national, state, and local organizations around the country for its quality research and technical assistance. The NCJFCJ's dedicated staff, located in Reno, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C., are committed to meeting the needs of our members and others working in the field.

Today's judges, juvenile justice professionals, and others working on behalf of at-risk children and families are faced with very different issues than the judges who founded the NCJFCJ in 1937. Our goals and mission have not changed, however, and continue to focus on meeting the needs of those dedicated professionals in their efforts to improve the lives of our nation's children and families.

NCJFCJ FACTS at-a-glance

ESTABLISHED: 1937, headquartered at the University of Nevada, Reno since 1969.

RESEARCH DIVISION: National Center for Juvenile Justice, located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

MEMBERSHIP: Nearly 2,000 members (judges, magistrates, referees, court administrators, probation officers, and other juvenile and family justice professionals) from every state and several foreign countries.

LEADERSHIP: 30-member Board of Trustees, led by Judge Patricia A. Macías, NCJFCJ President.

ANNUAL BUDGET: \$14 million.

STAFF: 101, located in Reno, Nevada, Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



For more than 70 years, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges has worked to ensure that our nation's children and families receive the best possible outcomes from a justice system that is effective, fair, and timely. This task has never been an easy one and became even more daunting in 2008, with tough financial challenges facing families across the country, as well as the courts, judges, and related professionals who serve them.

NCJFCJ's nearly 2,000 members—judges, commissioners, masters, referees, probation officers, court administrators, social workers, attorneys, and many other professionals working on behalf of children and families—are the inspiration behind our continuing progress and service to the field. Since its establishment in 1937, the NCJFCJ has been dedicated to providing the essential tools—including the best possible training, technical assistance, and research—to help our nation's judges and related professionals meet the challenges they confront daily in their work in our juvenile and family courts.

This report celebrates NCJFCJ's challenges and successes in 2008. Following are some highlights:

What's New

- NCJFCJ published a number of resources during 2008 on topics including child support, disaster preparedness for dependency courts, child trauma, handling dependency cases involving domestic violence, aftercare, educational needs for children in foster care, substance abuse, domestic assaults by juveniles, and many more.

Ongoing Efforts

- NCJFCJ continued progress on the "Courts Catalyzing Change" initiative, and in 2008 started development of a benchcard to help judges reduce disproportionality and disparity from the bench. The CCC project brings together judges, system experts, researchers, and others to create a national agenda to address the problem of disproportionality of minority children and their families in the foster care system.

Continuing Education

- In 2008, NCJFCJ trained or assisted in training more than 13,500 judges and juvenile and family justice professionals at the Reno headquarters and around the country on a variety of topics related to juvenile and family justice. Educational highlights in 2008 included the *National Forum on Children, Families and the Courts: Planning for the Future* held in Philadelphia; the *71st Annual Conference* in Norfolk, Virginia, at which Virginia First Lady (and former judge) Anne B. Holton spoke on the needs of teens aging out of foster care; concurrent sessions of the popular *Child Abuse and Neglect Institute* in Reno; *Designing Your Juvenile Drug Court* held in Michigan; the *National Roundtable on the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Juvenile Delinquency* held at Lake Tahoe; and the interactive *Managing Challenging Family Law Cases* held in conjunction with The National Judicial College in Reno.

Research

- For the past five years, NCJFCJ's research division, the National Center for Juvenile Justice, has played a key role in the Models for Change juvenile justice reform initiative, an ambitious effort to develop successful and replicable models of juvenile justice system reform in four pilot sites around the country.

Looking to the Future

- Supervised visitation and safe exchange will be the focus of a national conference scheduled in September 2009, to be presented by NCJFCJ and the Office for Violence Against Women. *A New Direction for a Safer Tomorrow: A National Conference on Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange* will convene national experts to provide professionals in the field of supervised visitation and safe exchange with information on how better to provide services that account for domestic violence.

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"The NCJFCJ has enriched my professional life beyond my wildest dreams. Working with judges from around the country, being supported by expert staff, and having available the rich resources of the NCJFCJ and the NCJJ have made me a better judge."

Judge Leonard P. Edwards (ret.), NCJFCJ Past President
San Jose, California
Recipient, 2004 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence

President's Message

Welcome to the 2008 annual report of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. This year has been a remarkable one in so many ways. Our country witnessed unprecedented national optimism followed by a fierce economic downturn. Our military troops, which include young mothers and fathers, still occupy foreign lands. We pray for their swift return and for a warm welcome as heroes when they rejoin their families.

Countless parents and children across the country have experienced the effects of our country's political and economic climate. Courts likewise have experienced the strain of diminished resources, which in turn, impacts the level of services available to families in legal crises. We all wish for stability and recognize it is the key to successful outcomes. Our role as judges requires us to lead the way, in teaching resiliency through our actions both on and off the bench.



The National Council has taken the lead this year on a national level with policymakers and Executive Branch agency executives to emphasize the importance of children in the court system being given the best and most coordinated service delivery system.

Whether the child comes to court as a victim of child abuse and neglect, or the victim and children are seeking the protections of the court to be safe from domestic violence, a family comes to us to sort out a high-conflict custody situation, or a youth is involved in the juvenile justice system, we know the best practice is to view him or her in the context of developmental level, unique family structure, and community connections.

The National Council, through its trainings, publications, and programs, reflects this cutting-edge philosophy. We believe that every judge should have access to our resources. In this way, families and children who enter our courts around the country will have the benefit of the best, most effective, and efficient justice possible.

We join the country in celebrating the optimism that has spread since the election of President Barack Obama. When his team has called on us to provide perspective and guidance, we have responded with enthusiasm. We will continue to be the voice of the nation's juvenile and family court judges, paving the way for a better and more responsive court system.

Judge Patricia A. Macías

NCJFCJ's 71st Annual Conference was held July 27-30, 2008 in Norfolk, Virginia with more than 600 registrants, faculty, exhibitors, guests, and staff in attendance.



NCJFCJ's 2008-09 Executive Committee and Executive Director Mary Mentaberry at the July 2008 installation of Judge Patricia Macías as President. From left are: Judge Douglas Johnson, President-Elect; Mary Mentaberry; Judge Susan Carbon, Immediate Past President; Judge Patricia A. Macías, President; Judge Michael Nash, Secretary; Judge R. Michael Key, Vice President; and Judge Patricia Martin, Treasurer.

During 2008, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges continued to provide the field with the cutting-edge resources for which it has become known. The educational opportunities, technical assistance, research, publications, and other resources provided through NCJFCJ have continued to lead the field in improving court practice in individual courtrooms, jurisdictions, and across the nation as well.

The NCJFCJ has long supported two keys to practice improvement—judicial leadership and collaboration. The organization's leaders understand that a judge alone cannot implement lasting change in a jurisdiction, statewide or nationally, but that a collaborative approach to leadership, involving all key stakeholders in decisions that might change the way they do business, is critical to building and sustaining change.

The NCJFCJ has evolved and now differs from other justice-related organizations in a variety of ways. While once there was a single primary subject upon which the organization's efforts were focused, over the past three decades that work has expanded to include various other topic areas including juvenile justice, family law, child protection, domestic violence, and research and statistics. While we are united under a single mission, the resources provided by the organization are as diverse as the field which we serve.

As the topic areas have expanded over the years, so has the membership of the organization. The NCJFCJ, at one time primarily a juvenile justice and judicially focused membership organization, has expanded not only its resources, but its membership as well. The NCJFCJ now broadly encompasses those who hear cases related to children and families, including judges of all case types that touch the lives of children and families. NCJFCJ's members have broadened to include judges, attorneys, child welfare professionals, volunteers (CASAs, foster care review board members), juvenile probation officers, court administrators, and juvenile corrections personnel, among others.

The NCJFCJ has also expanded beyond the bounds of the borders of the United States. We not only host visitors from various nations throughout the world, but NCJFCJ members and staff have been involved in outreach efforts to a number of foreign nations.



Services we provide include both formal and informal learning opportunities within the United States and beyond.

Finally, the NCJFCJ is unique in its calling upon the resources of membership and leadership to perform the work of the organization. While professional staff are recognized experts in their own right, they access the services of volunteer judges and other professionals to provide the resources to the field. Those willing to serve as faculty on local, state, and national programs, those who serve as model court/court improvement sites, those who contribute to our publications, those who serve as research sites, and especially those who contribute countless hours annually to support the governance of the organization are NCJFCJ's greatest resources. Our Board of Trustees guides and informs the work of the organization from a practice-based perspective.

As we have progressed through 2008, we have done so with an eye toward continued growth and development in new areas of interest which serve the needs of our members and the field. We look back at 2007 as a year of celebration, during which we recognized NCJFCJ's 70th Anniversary. And we look forward to 2009, when we will celebrate our 40th Anniversary on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. We have much to reflect upon and much to look forward to, and as the nation's oldest judicial membership organization, NCJFCJ continues to work toward improving outcomes for children and families in the nation's justice system through a commitment to provide the very best in services and resources to the field.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary V. Mentaberry'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial 'M'.

Mary V. Mentaberry



Judges Jerrauld Jones of Norfolk and A. Ellen White of Rustburg served as co-chairs of the Virginia Host Committee for the Norfolk Annual Conference.



Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine speaks at the opening session of NCJFCJ's 71st Annual Conference held in July 2008 in Norfolk, Virginia.

Family Violence Department

The Family Violence Department (FVD) is dedicated to improving the way courts, law enforcement agencies, and others respond to family violence, while recognizing the legal, cultural, and psychological dynamics involved. Its ultimate goal is to improve the lives of domestic violence victims and their children.

Special Content Areas

National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence (NJIDV)

The NJIDV, funded by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), is a joint project of the FVD and the Family Violence Prevention Fund. The NJIDV provides a continuum of judicial education in the area of domestic violence with a basic Enhancing Judicial Skills course and a more advanced Continuing Judicial Skills course. The NJIDV represents the most recent iteration of the FVD's OVW-funded judicial education project, which has been providing judges with skill-based domestic violence workshops since 1999.

Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program

The FVD is developing a Web site that will feature interactive training modules and serve as a resource library for Supervised Visitation Program grantees and non-grantees. The interactive Web site will include materials and information for individuals and agencies that provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services to adult victims and children and perpetrators of domestic violence. The FVD, in partnership with OVW, will present the first national conference on supervised visitation and safe exchange in September 2009. The conference, entitled *A New Direction for a Safer Tomorrow: A National Conference on Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange*, will convene national experts to provide professionals in the field of supervised visitation and safe exchange information on how better to provide services that account for domestic violence.

The Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody

The Resource Center provides technical assistance, training, policy development, and publications in the special issue area of child protection and custody in adult domestic violence cases. One of the highlights of 2008 was the National Roundtable on the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Juvenile Delinquency where participants examined the intersection of domestic violence and juvenile delinquency, explored ways to tackle the issue, and identified strategies and tools needed to address it. The FVD continues its work on domestic violence and differentiation, exploring how to screen cases to determine family dynamics, identifying safe intervention methods, and assessing which outcomes afford the most contact consistent with safety needs.

A Framework for Enhanced Judicial Response in Domestic Violence, Child Custody & Visitation Cases

The Framework project partners the FVD with OVW and the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic Violence to develop a resource for judges to address best practice in supervised visitation and custody matters involving domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or dating violence. The resource, *A Judicial Guide to Child Safety in Custody Cases*, will be distributed nationally in mid-2009. The goal of the project is to facilitate improved outcomes by increasing judicial understanding of how to balance the safety needs of children and their abused parents with the rights of parents to have access to their children.

Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice (Greenbook)

Funded since 2000 by OVW, the *Greenbook* project focuses on developing collaboration and communication within and among juvenile courts, the child protective system, and domestic violence services. The *Greenbook* project offers communities a

guiding framework to develop interventions and measure progress as they seek to improve responses to battered women and their children who are in contact with these systems. The *Greenbook* project will soon publish the *Reasonable Efforts Checklist for Dependency Cases Involving Domestic Violence*, which is designed to aid judges in making the reasonable efforts findings required by federal law in dependency cases involving domestic violence at each stage of a dependency proceeding. In June 2009, the *Greenbook* project will present a national summit meeting entitled "From Inspiration to Innovation: Leadership, Partnerships, and Change" in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Full Faith and Credit: Making It Happen

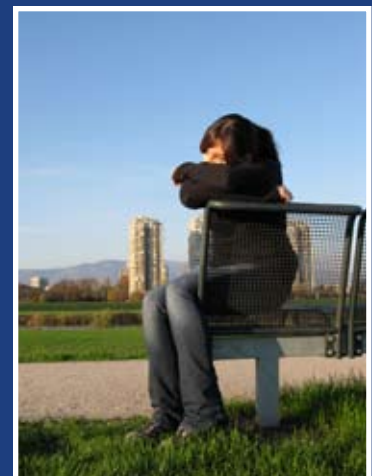
The FVD's Full Faith and Credit project is funded by OVW and focuses primarily on domestic violence protection orders at both the issuing and enforcement stages. The *Full Faith and Credit—A Passport to Safety: A Judge's Bench Card*, which will be revised in 2009 to reflect changes in the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, is a practical bench guide on the principles of full faith and credit and protection orders, including issues such as child custody and firearms prohibitions. Additionally, the FVD, in partnership with the National Center on Full Faith and Credit, continues to provide training nationally on VAWA 2005's new Judicial Notification requirement to STOP grantees.

Enhancing Judicial Skills in Cases Involving Abuse and Sexual Assault Against the Elderly

The OVW-funded Elder Abuse project is a collaborative effort of the FVD, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the National District Attorneys Association. The project's goal is to enhance the safety of elderly individuals and to ensure greater perpetrator accountability for the abuse and sexual assault of these victims.

"I cannot say which part of the meeting was my favorite because I have never been to a conference that contained such helpful information! All the interactions and discussions really made a difference in how we should really look into the domestic violence lens!"

*Conference Participant, Supervised Visitation Program Grantee
Communities: Envisioning Solutions for Collaborative Practice,
February 2008*



The mission of the Juvenile and Family Law Department (JFLD) is to affect national policy and enhance the functioning of the juvenile and family court field through state-of-the-art research, training and professional education, technical assistance, and the production of educational resources for the benefit of children, families, and communities. In 2008, the JFLD underwent substantial funding and staffing changes, but continued to pursue its mission by providing a broad array of training at the regional, state, and local levels, as well as on-site and office-based technical assistance services.

Training highlights for 2008 included the “Fall College” series held at NCJFCJ headquarters, which offers programs in *Evidence in Juvenile and Family Court*, *Core College: The Role of the Judge*, and *Managing Challenging Family Law Cases* (held in partnership with the National Judicial College). The other program traditionally held during this time, *Judicial Response to Alcohol and Other Drugs*, was cancelled due to low enrollment, which appeared related to increased travel restrictions in many jurisdictions. In consultation with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, which provides support for these judicial education programs, efforts are underway to take this and other programs on the road to improve accessibility and attendance.

Other notable training events during 2008 included the *National Forum on Children, Families and the Courts: Planning for the Future*, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the *27th Annual Juvenile Probation and Justice Management Conference* held in Reno, Nevada; and *Designing Your Juvenile Drug Court and Current Perspectives on Juvenile Justice*, provided under contract with Michigan’s Administrative Office of

the Courts. Altogether in 2008, the JFLD provided 29 trainings in more than a dozen states to nearly 2,400 juvenile and family court professionals in areas including adolescent development, substance abuse, sexual offending, motivational interviewing, gender-specific responses, juvenile drug courts, graduated sanctions, evidence-based programs, child support, and self-represented litigation.



This year marked the last year the JFLD assumed primary responsibility for overseeing the educational component of the NCJFCJ’s *National Conference on Juvenile Justice* (presented in conjunction with the National District Attorneys Association) and *Annual Conference*. Together, nearly 1,400 judges and other system professionals attended these two hallmark conferences in 2008. Beginning in 2009, planning for the educational component of both conferences will be a collaborative effort across all content-area departments and include a call-to-present protocol.

Efforts continued to secure base funding to support implementation of the *Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines* project. To date, implementation of the *Guidelines* via Model Court sites has been supported through contract funding from each site. Unfortunately, substantial reductions in funding across the nation have reduced the number of Model Court sites from six at the start of 2008 to four at the end of the year. Nonetheless, the Second Annual Delinquency Model Court Project Lead Judges’ and All-Sites Meetings were held in Austin, Texas, in June 2008 with more than 60 participants. Presenters included faculty from the University of Texas at Austin, representatives from local youth-serving agencies, and member judges.

New publications that were completed with the Strategies in Practice Grant from the Office of Child Support Enforcement included two Technical Assistance Bulletins, entitled *Why Medical Child Support is Important—And Complex* and *Integrating Problem-Solving Court Practices into the Child Support Docket*, and bench cards entitled *A Practice Guide: Making Child Support Orders Realistic and Enforceable*. Each of these publications was well received by the field, and the grant closed with a sizeable reprint order.

Responsive technical assistance, both office-based and on-site to judicial officers and other juvenile and family court professionals, continued to be a particular strength of the JFLD. Nearly 200 technical assistance requests were fulfilled in 2008, including on-site work in delinquency courts in nearly one-half dozen states. Further, JFLD coordinated several international visits to the NCJFCJ for the purpose of information sharing, including hosting delegations from Mexico and Iraq.



“Thank you for a great conference [Enhancing Your Juvenile Drug Court].... The speakers were great and the written materials are gold. I will be using this material for a long time.”

Judge Daniel R. Murphy
Albany, Oregon

National Center for Juvenile Justice

The National Center for Juvenile Justice is the Research Division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Since its founding in 1973, NCJJ has been dedicated to strengthening the effectiveness of juvenile and family justice systems and improving the quality of justice for children, families, and the community. NCJJ works to accomplish this mission through research and technical assistance supported by federal, state, and private funding.

Systems Research

The two primary Systems Research projects are the National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Project and National Juvenile Court Data Archive both funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The *Juvenile Court Statistics* reports are the Archive's flagship publication series. The Archive provides a wealth of information about cases handled by courts with juvenile jurisdiction. The Archive continues the work begun in 1927 by the Children's Bureau making it one of the oldest national justice data collection efforts in the country. The project's online *Statistical Briefing Book* [<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/>] continues to be the most visited portion of OJJDP's Web site, making it the nation's primary source for statistical information on juvenile offenders and victims and the juvenile justice system. The user-friendly site offers statistical answers to frequently asked questions about a wide range of juvenile justice issues. In addition, its Easy Access family of data analysis and dissemination tools gives users quick and easy access to detailed statistics on a variety of juvenile justice topics. The site also includes these popular report series:

- *Juvenile Offenders and Victims*
- *Juvenile Arrests*
- *Juvenile Court Statistics*
- *OJJDP Bulletins*

Applied Research

NCJJ continues to play a key role in the Models for Change juvenile justice reform initiative supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Models for Change (MfC) is an ambitious effort to develop successful and replicable models of juvenile justice system reform through strategic investments in four states: Pennsylvania, Illinois, Louisiana, and Washington. These core states are working through the initiative to accelerate momentum toward a more effective, fair, and developmentally sound approach to juvenile justice nationwide. In its capacity as the initiative's "Technical Resource Center," NCJJ supports local and state-level strategic planning efforts, prepares data inventories for monitoring progress, and works with our MfC colleagues nationwide to develop and support the research, tools, and resources that other states can use to enhance their own juvenile justice system reform efforts.

NCJJ takes considerable pride in its close working partnership with Pennsylvania's juvenile justice leadership. Since 1994, NCJJ has been funded by a series of grants from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to provide research, analysis and technical assistance to the state advisory group, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee and its subcommittees.

In July 2008, NCJJ entered into a new grant agreement with PCCD to work collaboratively with Penn State University and Shippensburg University to create a state "Resource Center." NCJJ's role in the Resource Center is to work throughout Pennsylvania to provide probation departments and agencies providing juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention

programs with a best practice framework they can use to "raise the bar" on the services they provide to youth and families from intake and assessment through after-care and data reporting.

Legal Research

The Legal Research Division's primary mission is to track all statutory and case law developments in juvenile justice systems in the United States, as well as to maintain historical information on such laws. On an *ad hoc* basis, the Legal Research Division responds to requests for information on juvenile code provisions and reviews of significant changes in the juvenile justice system. On a monthly basis, for the past 13 years, the Division has been producing *NCJJ Snapshots*, one-page summaries of statutory law on various juvenile justice topics, as these issues are approached by each of the 51 jurisdictions. Relevant proposed legislation that may or may not be enacted is also summarized to present an idea of what people are thinking about an issue, even if it doesn't end up becoming law. This series is available online at www.ncjj.org under Serial Publications.

In an effort to keep juvenile justice professionals informed of significant judicial decisions in matters relating to juvenile and family law, the Legal Research Division also produces the *Juvenile and Family Law Digest* – published monthly by the NCJFCJ. Additional legal research is being done to track status offender statutes historically from 1985 to the present, from all 51 jurisdictions, and provide information to enhance NCJJ's National Juvenile Court Data Archive project.

"The National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Project has significantly changed the landscape of juvenile justice statistical information availability by creating an infrastructure of data and dissemination tools that have become indispensable resources for informed policy decision-making."

The Permanency Planning for Children Department (PPCD) experienced exciting and challenging times during 2008. The PPCD commenced the *Courts Catalyzing Change: Achieving Equity and Fairness in Foster Care* (CCC) initiative work, coordinating a Steering Committee meeting in Washington, D.C., in February, followed by convening an intensive Call to Action Work Group meeting in Phoenix in March/April to develop a national agenda to reduce minority disproportionality and disparities in foster care. PPCD began coordinating the integration of the CCC national agenda into local Model Court activities, and synthesizing existing Model Court initiatives into CCC tool and policy development. In late 2008, the PPCD initiated development of a judicial benchcard tool, designed to assist judges in reducing disproportionality and disparity from the bench.

In 2008, PPCD research staff completed three assessments of state Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) processes, as well as continuing work on the Washington State judicial workload study. Model Court Liaisons completed superior ongoing and proactive Model Court technical assistance and support, and Training and Technical Assistance staff responded in a timely and proficient manner to national technical assistance requests.

Victims Act Model Courts Project

PPCD staff provided continued support of system reform efforts in the Model Courts, provided support on the local, state, and national level for Court Improvement Project-supported events and trainings, as well as in the implementation of the Model Courts' national goal of reduction of disproportionality and disparities in foster care. During 2008, with the support of the

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, the Model Courts project was able to add eight new Model Courts, selected from 21 applications. In addition, the PPCD piloted its Senior Model Courts protocol, designating four Model Courts as Senior Status.

Ongoing statewide Model Court processes moved forward. The State of Colorado continued its innovative approach to statewide Model Court implementation, and the PPCD worked closely with the State of New York to tailor a new statewide Model Court, led by former Buffalo Model Court Lead Judge Sharon Townsend, in order to implement Model Court system reform efforts in concert with local Court Improvement Project efforts throughout the State of New York.

Permanent Families Project

During 2008, PPCD staff refined the curriculum for the *Child Abuse and Neglect Institute* (CANI) held in Reno in June. In addition, staff responded to requests for technical assistance, provided faculty and materials for trainings in non-Model Court educational programs, and provided technical assistance via the PPCD Resource Booth at local, state, and national trainings.

National Court and Child Welfare Collaborative

The PPCD and the National Center for State Courts have joined together under the auspices of the ABA's National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues as the National Court and Child Welfare Collaborative. The Collaborative focuses on two distinct areas of the training and technical assistance provided by the Resource Center: the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR); and the two new Court Improvement Program grants.

The PPCD has focused on designing a judicial leadership institute and curriculum, as well as national training evaluation tools.

Revisions to the Judicial Checklist on Education

In 2008, the PPCD revised the judicial education checklist, originally developed by PPCD in collaboration with Casey Family Programs. A focus group meeting of judges, educational advocates, and other experts was convened to design this revision, including identification of critical questions to be asked from the bench.

Other PPCD project activities included:

- Continued work as a member of the National Education Working Group.
- Continued work with Court Improvement Projects (CIPs) across the United States.
- Collaboration with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network in annual meetings as a member of the NCTSN Advisory Board.
- Service on the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect National Conference Planning Committee.

Publications:

- Child Victims Act Model Courts Project *Status Report 2006/2007*
- Technical Assistance Brief: *Asking the Right Questions II: Judicial Checklists to Meet the Educational Needs of Children and Youth in Foster Care*
- Technical Assistance Brief: *Children's Dental Health: The Next Frontier in Well-Being*
- Technical Assistance Bulletin: *Ensuring the Unique Needs of Dependency Courts are Met in Disaster Planning Efforts: Dependency Court Planning Templates for Continuity of Operations Plans*

"Being a Model Court makes my job exciting and allows me to hold a vision for my community that includes hope for each child I serve."

Judge Katherine Lucero
San Jose Model Court
San Jose, California



Membership

NCJFCJ's nearly 2,000 members—juvenile and family court judges, referees, masters, commissioners, court administrators, probation officers, counselors, social workers, and other related professionals—hail from every state and several foreign countries. Our members play a vital role in the organization, from attending trainings and working on committees to being trained as faculty and serving in leadership roles. Although their perspectives may differ, their goals are the same: to administer effective and enlightened justice, to rehabilitate troubled youths and families, to protect abused and neglected children, and to be an advocate for the best interests of children, families, and victims of domestic violence.

Non-judicial professionals hold associate NCJFCJ membership, and many are also members of the National Juvenile Court Services Association. The NJCSA, a membership organization for court personnel has, since 1972, worked toward improving the skills and proficiency of professionals in the juvenile justice system.

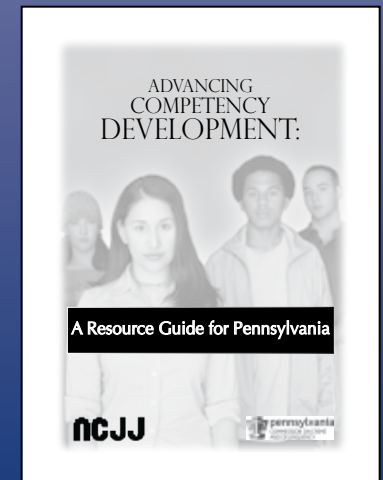
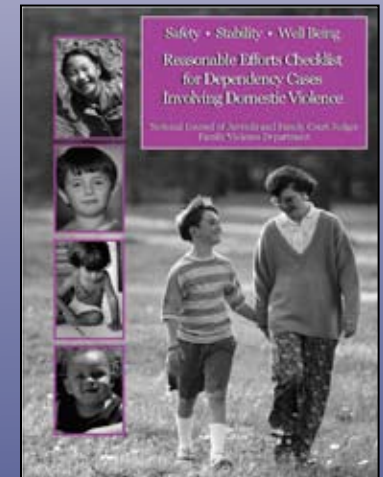
NCJFCJ members have the opportunity to serve on committees focusing on domestic violence, dependency, juvenile delinquency and family law, and international juvenile justice issues to lend their professional perspective and expertise to addressing the challenges faced by juvenile and family courts.

Publications

NCJFCJ's long-standing serial publications—the monthly *Juvenile and Family Law Digest*, quarterly *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, and quarterly *Juvenile and Family Justice TODAY*—have undergone significant changes in recent years. Published since 1967, the *Digest*, which summarizes recent case law in the juvenile justice field, is now published as an online resource. NCJFCJ began publishing the *Journal* in partnership with Wiley-Blackwell Publishing in 2008, which has resulted in a cleaner, more professional appearance and content. A design makeover in 2008 has also given *TODAY* magazine a fresh new look.



In 2008, NCJFCJ also published a wide variety of resources focusing on such topics as the medical issues involved in child support rulings, aftercare, child trauma, disaster planning for dependency courts, juvenile transfer and waiver, and many more. These publications can be ordered or accessed at NCJFCJ's Web site (www.ncjfcj.org), which provides the latest information on the organization's projects, publications, and conferences, as well as many other valuable resources for juvenile justice professionals.



"I think [the NCJFCJ] should be the organization that people think of first when they think of issues involving children and families."

*Judge Ernestine S. Gray
New Orleans, Louisiana*

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES AND AFFILIATES
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

Federal and state sources	\$ 10,639,689
Foundation sources	1,547,050
Other sources and contributions	136,192
Dues and subscriptions	355,016
Investment income	109,901
Registration fees	519,618
Other revenue	546,849
Contributions in-kind	<u>14,358</u>

Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	<u>13,868,673</u>
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EXPENSES AND LOSSES

Personnel	7,700,439
Travel	1,420,521
Contracts and honorarium	1,018,158
Subrecipients	469,008
Equipment leases and maintenance	101,316
Supplies and operating expenses	2,501,713
Other Council activities	1,198,585
Interest expense	17,602
Depreciation	61,468
Unrealized loss on investments	331,513
Contributions in-kind	14,358
Loss on disposition of assets	<u>24,981</u>

Total Expenses and Losses	<u>14,859,662</u>
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Change in Net Assets	(990,989)
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NET ASSETS, October 1, 2007	<u>3,539,049</u>
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NET ASSETS, September 30, 2008	<u><u>\$ 2,548,060</u></u>
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Note: Please see September 2008 Audit Report for complete presentation and notes to the financial statements. NCJFCJ audit reports are available online at www.ncjfcj.org; click on About Us/Audit Reports.

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Agencies, Foundations, Organizations

Support from foundations, corporations, federal, state, and local agencies, and individuals is vital to the work of the NCJFCJ. The NCJFCJ gratefully acknowledges those organizations and individuals who have generously contributed during 2008, enabling the NCJFCJ to continue in its leadership role in the area of juvenile and family justice.

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"I know of no organization that does a better job in trying to help children and families than the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Children come first."

*Judge Eugene Arthur Moore
Pontiac, Michigan*

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THE VISION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES is that every child and young person be reared in a safe, permanent, and nurturing family, where love, self-control, concern for others, and responsibility for the consequences of one's actions are experienced and taught as fundamental values for a successful life. The National Council seeks a society in which every child and every family in need of judicial oversight has access to fair, effective, and timely justice.

Mission Statement

THE MISSION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES is to assist the nation's juvenile and family courts in fulfilling this vision by:

Improving the standards, practices, and effectiveness of the nation's juvenile and family courts;

Providing training for judges and others who serve in these courts;

Providing support for judges through continuing education, research, publications, and technical assistance;

Providing technical support to court systems regarding their structure, management, and procedures;

Contributing to the development of national policy, standards, and procedures regarding children and families;

Acknowledging and upholding the rights of victims, the safety of all family members, and the safety of the community;

Informing the nation as to the work of the juvenile and family courts.

This mission must be accomplished consistent with the Judicial Code of Ethics applicable in each state.



“There is no greater work than helping a child find a safe home, a youth find a better way, or a family live free from violence.”

*Judge James A. Ray, NCJFCJ Past President
Toledo, Ohio*



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

est. 1937

University of Nevada, Reno

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