

# CONFERENCE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS

## Resolution 2

### **Endorsing and Supporting: *Judicial Education on Substance Abuse: Promoting and Expanding Judicial Awareness and Leadership***

WHEREAS, the pervasive problem of substance abuse is often before the courts; and

WHEREAS, the courts have a unique opportunity to heighten accountability for substance abusers and to stop recidivism; and

WHEREAS, the courts support ongoing education, implementation of effective strategies and collaboration regarding substance abuse issues; and

WHEREAS, the American Judges Association and the National Center for State Courts, in partnership with a variety of national organizations, has developed an educational curriculum in response to these judicial needs; and

WHEREAS, the resulting curriculum - *Judicial Education on Substance Abuse: Promoting and Expanding Judicial Awareness and Leadership* - was developed and refined based on the following objectives:

- generate an awareness of substance abuse issues before courts;
- identify the judicial role in responding to litigants and to the community in cases with substance issues;
- provide a basic understanding of the nature of substance abuse, addiction and recovery, and treatment modalities;
- assist the judge with the development of strategies and tools for addressing cases with substance abuse problems;
- encourage judges to collaborate with other judges, lawyers and interested community leaders in best addressing cases with abuse issues and in developing problem-solving approaches generally; and

WHEREAS, this curriculum has been piloted at two widely attended judicial conferences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of State Court Administrators:

1. endorses the objectives and strategies set forth in the *Judicial Education on Substance Abuse: Promoting and Expanding Judicial Awareness and Leadership*;
2. supports such curriculum based on these objectives and strategies as a useful tool for dealing with cases involving substance abuse; and
3. acknowledges the benefit of collaborative efforts between and among national

organizations in the development of educational materials enhancing judicial awareness and practices.

*Adopted at the Conference of State Court Administrators 2003 Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 31, 2003.*