TRAFFIC RESOURCE CENTER for JUDGES

Issue Brief: Judicial Traffic Resources in the NCSC Library

Issue Brief 4: Judicial Traffic Resources in the NCSC Library (April 2014)

This Brief was produced by the Traffic Resource Center for Judges, an initiative of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The Traffic Resource Center is a cooperative effort between the Department of Transportation and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to establish a resource for judges, court administrators, court clerks, and other court staff on issues related to traffic adjudication.

About the Author:

The Brief was prepared by Joan K. Cochet NCSC Library Resource Manager, Points of view or opinions expressed in the Brief are those of the author and do not represent the official position of the NCSC or NHTSA.

One of the critical goals of the **Traffic Resource Center** is to provide a useful, ready reference for judges on traffic-related issues. The Center serves as an informational clearinghouse for specialized traffic issues, evidence-based practices, and basic legal references. The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Library plays a significant role in this clearinghouse function by integrating and funneling materials into the Traffic Resource Center and by serving as a central repository for all traffic information regardless of format.

National Center for State Courts Library

The National Center for State Courts Library is the world's leading collection of resources related to the field of judicial administration. It is the central nationwide repository for state court work products while also serving as the primary archival depository for National Center for State Courts reports and documents. The collection contains over 50,000 titles in various formats: print, electronic, video, CD-ROM, DVD, and microfiche. In 2011, the NCSC Library became the sole repository for all reports funded by the State Justice Institute (SJI). Through the NCSC Library's online catalog, users are able to locate titles and retrieve an increasing number of electronic versions of the Library's print resources. In addition to the NCSC Library's online catalog, NCSC and SJI digital titles are also available through our eCollection database. As with the Library's online catalog, this searchable database does not require logins to access.

Library Services

The mission of the NCSC Library is to provide a full service resource center for all members of the court community. To that end, the NCSC Library answers hundreds of reference questions each year from court constituents, law libraries, and court related organizations. Library staff members assist with locating resources, scanning articles, and compiling bibliographical reference lists. Printed resources without digital surrogates are available for check-out to judges and state court staff and any resource not located within the collection can be obtained through an interlibrary loan request. As part of the National Center for State Courts' clearinghouse function, the NCSC Library promotes the sharing of information and resources by providing easy access to relevant, up-to-date court administration materials to all court community members.

NCSC Library's Traffic Collection

The National Center for State Courts Library houses hundreds of judicial administration titles related to **traffic.** All these resources are available to the court community through the Library's online catalog. Many of the titles listed in the catalog have digital surrogates. Retrieving electronic copies of traffic-related titles simply necessitates clicking on a chain link

icon. The NCSC Library has created a virtual collection of traffic resources.   Library titles cover a wide range of traffic issues such as: impaired driving, procedural fairness, DUI courts, traffic courts, photo speed enforcement, license suspensions, non-criminal traffic violations, traffic bench warrants, sentencing, recidivism, alcohol interlock programs, re-engineering DUI case processing, juvenile DUIs, collection of traffic fines, and rehabilitative programs. To create a one-stop core traffic collection, the Library has systemically accumulated judicial traffic bench books, NHTSA published titles and traffic educational resources that can be used for presentations.

Beyond Books

Not all needed information on traffic –related issues is found in books. The NCSC Library subscribes to the print editions of numerous journals and periodicals as well as several online databases for electronic article retrieval. These subscriptions give Library staff more options to assist judges and court staff on traffic questions and technical assistance. Many court-related journals feature articles on the latest traffic issues. The NCSC Library subscribes to *ABA Journal, American Criminal Law Review, Corrections Compendium, Court Manager, Court Review, Judges' Journal, Crime and Delinquency, Criminal Law Bulletin, Criminology, Criminology and Public Policy, Judicature and Justice System Journal,* just to name a few. Online database subscriptions, such as ones to LexisNexis, JSTOR, EBSCO and Hein Online, provides NCSC staff immediate access to the most current case law, legislation, and articles.

Conclusion:

The **Traffic Resource Center** is a clearinghouse of information for all judges and court staff who need assistance with traffic-related issues. The NCSC Library supports that function by creating a core collection of traffic materials that is relevant, comprehensive, and easy to access. For more information, please contact Joan Cochet, Library Resource Manager, at jcochet@ncsc.org.

Online legal research provided by LexisNexis.

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