

CONFERENCE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS

Resolution 4

In Support of the National Center for State Courts' "Elder Abuse and the Courts Working Group"

- WHEREAS, U.S. Census data indicates the number of elders in the United States population has increased and is projected to reach an unprecedented proportion of the general population in the upcoming years; and
- WHEREAS, numerous surveys substantiate the increase in elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation cases over the last decade with a further expectation of rising levels of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation cases; and
- WHEREAS, cases involving elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation present in a variety of jurisdictional contexts across our nation's courts; and
- WHEREAS, the courts are in the unique position to identify and intervene in cases where elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation may be suspect; and
- WHEREAS, the courts recognize the importance of protecting the elderly from the various forms of abuse to which they are vulnerable through the efficient and effective handling of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation cases by the nation's courts; and
- WHEREAS, the National Center for State Courts has created the *Elder Abuse and the Courts Working Group*, a national multidisciplinary group of experts and practitioners on courts, elder issues and elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, to provide proactive leadership to courts; and
- WHEREAS, the primary goals of the Working Group are to assist courts in identifying cases of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and to develop toolkits and resources that will improve court responses; and
- WHEREAS, the *Elder Abuse and the Courts Working Group* has a long-term strategic plan to facilitate increased judicial awareness and improved court responses to issues involving the elderly, which includes:
- Creating consensus on terminology
 - Compiling and distributing resources
 - Developing tools to help courts identify cases

- Creating response toolkits
- Writing a White Paper to inform public policy
- Developing an education and training toolkit; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of State Court administrators does hereby:

1. Acknowledge the benefit of proactive, national collaborative efforts such as that initiated by the National Center for State Courts through the creation of its ***Elder Abuse and the Courts Working Group***.
2. Commend the ***Elder Abuse and the Courts Working Group*** to national judicial associations and encourages funding entities to support the Working Group's ongoing efforts.

Adopted as proposed by the Courts, Children, and Families Committee at the COSCA 2005 Midyear Meeting, San Diego, California, December 9, 2005.