

Model Judicial Leadership Summits on the Protection of Children

In 2005, the first National Judicial Leadership Summit on the Protection of Children, held in Minneapolis, brought together from each state, the chief justice and chief state court administrator, and chief child welfare administrator. This summit focused on the need to form cross-system collaborations to improve outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system. Each state team designed an action plan to ensure that collaborative work continued. One year after the Summit, each state was surveyed regarding implementation of state action plans. Responses were received from 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Continued avenues of collaboration to improve family outcomes were reported by two-thirds of the states.

Since 2005, follow-up Summits – held in New York City in 2007, hosted by Chief Judge Judith Kaye, and in Austin, Texas in 2009 – have strengthened the implementation of cross-system collaborations. The third summit encouraged further collaboration, recommending that state teams include the head of the state education and labor departments.

The *National Judicial Leadership Summit on School-Justice Partnerships* is a natural extension of the Summits on the Protection of Children. Recognizing the power of invoking judicial leadership to bring partners to the table to collaborate, the Summit on School-Justice Partnerships will foster the collaborations necessary in each state to address the pressing issues leading to the school to prison pipeline.