

# Implementing the ADA in State Court: What Your Court Needs to Know

## Knowledge & Information Services

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### [The Americans with Disabilities Act: The Provision of Auxiliary Aids to Court Spectators](#)

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The last few issues of Trends have included updates on the implementation of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) in state courts. These updates have reported on problems that states have experienced in interpreting the specific language of the ADA as it applies to courts in order to determine the appropriate type and level of accommodation necessary for compliance. To assist courts with these and other problems involving the implementation of the ADA, the National Center for State Courts has obtained a grant from the Department of Justice (DOJ) via the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to establish the *ADA Resource Center for State Courts*. The purpose of this Resource Center is to facilitate information sharing, technical assistance, and education regarding the means of implementing the ADA in a court setting.

The following piece regarding the ADA will begin a series of informational articles in *Trends* on the ADA in the courts. This article focuses on a particular gray area of the ADA about which the National Center receives many questions—the provision of auxiliary aids to court spectators.

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### **The Americans with Disabilities Act: The Provision of Auxiliary Aids to Court Spectators**

To respond to the numerous questions from courts on the subject, the Conference of Chief Justices Committee on Access to and Fairness in the Courts, via the National Center for State Courts, requested from the Department of Justice a [brief](#) presenting the underlying legal grounds for accommodation of spectators at court proceedings. The brief provides not only the legal basis for DOJ's interpretation of the legislation but also specific suggestions for implementation. It is hoped that this information will assist courts when they receive requests of this nature.

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