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President

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Williamsburg Office

December 15, 2014

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am pleased to provide you with this recently published edition of *Examining the Work of State Courts: An Overview of 2012 State Trial Court Caseloads*, produced as a joint effort of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSA) and the National Center for State Courts. The statistical information found in the enclosed report is derived from national caseload databases maintained by the Court Statistics Project (CSP). These databases are the *only* continuously maintained source for information on the work of the nation's state trial and appellate courts.

This report provides judicial branch leaders and managers, judges, executive and legislative branch policy makers, and other justice system partners with information that will help identify emerging trends in state judicial systems, compare caseloads across states and jurisdictions, and measure the possible impact of current or proposed legislation. As justice system reform efforts continue, the analysis provided herein informs critical policy discussions.

This brief overview of state court caseload statistics is supplemented by more detailed information provided at the Court Statistics Project web site, www.courtstatistics.org. Using the CSP DataViewer, an interactive query tool, users can filter and sort data to create their own comparisons, and export the data for use in reports and presentations.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the assistance that the CSP receives from state court administrators and judicial branch staff that make these publications possible. The professionalism with which they respond to and clarify our requests for caseload information is essential and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Richard Y. Schauffler
Director, Court Statistics Project