The National Judicial College created the trial judges Resource Guide on Complex Litigation (the Resource Guide) for one simple reason: to assist state trial judges, whether they are seasoned veterans or relatively new to the bench, who are assigned complex civil cases. The Resource Guide is based upon the Federal Judicial Center's Manual for Complex Litigation, Fourth. While that work is excellent, the vision behind the Resource Guide was to simplify its contents for easier use by busy trial judges. The Resource Guide is a collaborative effort of The National Judicial College (the NJC) and a Board of Editors. The Resource Guide presents, in a step-by-step format, matters a judge should consider and procedures a judge should follow. For ease of reading, the Resource Guide is not heavily referenced and consists of checklists and short summaries of information. It primarily references the Manual for Complex Litigation, Fourth and other useful resources for the judge who wants to perform additional research on the area in question. While the Resource Guide is useful for all state trial judges, users will need to ensure that they are following their own constitutions, statutes, rules, and procedures. Please send any feedback on the usefulness of the Resource Guide to William Brunson, director of special projects, at brunson@judges.org.
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—Project Director: William J. Brunson, NJC Director of Special Projects