

NJC Courses

Dispute Resolution Skills (JS 625)

Why should I take this course?

In light of ever increasing court dockets and limited time, judges are being asked to use alternative methods of dispute resolution to avoid trials. This course provides participants with information on the newest methods of dispute resolution including judicial settlement methods, mediation for family and civil cases, summary jury trials, and other innovative devices used to solve disputes more efficiently and effectively. Participants will also participate in skills-building exercises.

What will I learn?

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Define and use the various dispute resolution devices;
- Evaluate and decide which dispute resolution device is appropriate for the individual dispute given the nature of their courts, the attorneys and their legal cultures;
- Recognize those cases that are not appropriate for alternative dispute resolution; and
- Adopt an appropriate role in settlement proceedings consistent with emerging legal and ethical restraints.

Who should attend?

This course is designed for general jurisdiction judges, limited jurisdiction judges, administrative law judges, as well as other court personnel. Judges who have responsibility for areas such as complex litigation, small claims or family disputes, where traditional dispute resolution methods have been the source of dissatisfaction, have found the course particularly useful. Judges who want to strengthen their own understanding of negotiation or settlement techniques have also found the course useful.

Who are the members of the faculty?

Judges who have been active in managing their dockets through the use of alternative dispute resolution are the primary faculty members. The faculty is led by retired judge Samuel G. DeSimone of New Jersey.

How is this course taught?

Judge DeSimone is renowned for his interactive teaching style. The participant should expect to be actively engaged throughout the course with small group discussion and simulated settlement negotiations. The course will use many role-play scenarios to practice dispute resolution skills in a variety of settings.

Does this course qualify for credits in the Judicial Studies degree program?

This course qualifies for two credits in the Judicial Studies degree program upon successful completion of the course and the course exam. In addition, this course qualifies for the Certificate in Judicial Development program, Administrative Law Adjudication Skills, Dispute Resolution Skills, General Jurisdiction Trial Skills, Special Court Trial Skills, and Tribal Judicial Skills programs.

What should I tell my presiding judge or funding agency so that my attendance will be approved?

This course will provide the judge with tools to be able to resolve more disputes at earlier stages in the proceedings allowing the judge to concentrate on those cases that should be tried. The course will acquaint judges with the variety of systems being employed throughout the country for resolving disputes inside and outside of court, as well as each system's advantages and disadvantages. The course will also give judges an opportunity to experience and practice various forms of dispute resolution.



Judicial College Building/MS 358 • Reno, NV 89557 • (800) 25-JUDGE • www.judges.org

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Whom should I contact for more information?

For more information, please contact the registrar's office at (800) 255-8343 or registrar@judges.org.



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