

# NJC Courses

## Selected Criminal Evidence Issues: A Web-Based Course

### Why should I take this course?

You are often called on to make instantaneous decisions on the admissibility of evidence from the bench. To do so correctly, you need to have a firm grasp on all of the rules of evidence as they apply to criminal cases. Although this course does not cover all the issues presented in our residential course, this course provides judges with the tools to make evidentiary rulings quickly and confidently in criminal cases.

### What will I learn?

After participating in this course, you will be able to:

- Apply rules of inclusion and exclusion;
- Define the foundations for the admissibility of criminal evidence;
- Define and apply the rules for impeachment and cross examination;
- Apply the rules regarding confessions and admissions;
- Compare hearsay exclusions and hearsay exceptions; and
- Other relevant issues.

The course uses the Federal Rules of Evidence as the standard adopted by a majority of the states, incorporating common law rules when applicable.

### Who should attend?

This course is designed to meet the needs of law school trained general jurisdiction judges who preside over felony cases. Judges without law degrees can meet the course prerequisite by completion of the Basic Evidence course or its equivalent, Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced course or the Special Court Jurisdiction course.

### Who are the members of the faculty?

The faculty consists of experienced trial court judges and a law professor who have made criminal evidence a top priority in their teachings.

### How is this course taught?

This web-based course will allow for collegial interaction with other judges from around the country. It will also challenge the judge with self-tests, discussion group questions, assignments and readings that will ensure the judge has the benefit of shared wisdom from both the participants and the expert faculty members. Participants will have weekly assignments, online group discussions and four live Web conferences with the faculty. It is anticipated that judges will spend between four and five hours on lessons per week. These assignments can be completed at home, in the office or anywhere where the judge has access to an Internet-ready computer.

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

This course does not qualify for any credits in the Judicial Studies degree. However, this course does qualify for the Certificate in Judicial Development General Jurisdiction Trial Skills, Special Court Trial Skills and Tribal Judicial Skills programs.



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

Recent high profile criminal cases have piqued the public's interest in criminal evidence. Trial court judges need to rule confidently on evidence issues that are frequently complex or involve new science or technology. This course gives trial court judges the solid legal basis and analytical frameworks for making decisions correctly and quickly under intense public scrutiny.

### **Whom should I contact for more information?**

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



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