

# NJC Courses

## General Jurisdiction (JS 610)

### Why should I take this course?

This course provides a forum for judges to comfortably share ideas with judges from across the country and around the world and provides many opportunities for participating interactively and in skills-based training. The National Judicial College provides a unique environment where you can ask questions without fear of reprisal in your quest to master the intricacies of your new profession.

### What will I learn?

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Manage their courtroom and individual cases, including cases involving self represented litigants;
- Conduct jury and bench trials more effectively;
- Make fair and unbiased decisions;
- Communicate more effectively from the bench, using both verbal and nonverbal communication techniques;
- Summarize and apply developments in criminal law and procedure, family law, judicial discretion, judicial ethics, and sentencing;
- Discuss the principles of problem solving courts;
- Rule on evidence more confidently; and
- Interact with the media in a positive manner.

### Who should attend?

This course is for full-time general jurisdiction judges. The course is designed for judges of all jurisdictional sizes. Most participants find that their attendance is most meaningful if they can attend six to twenty-four months after taking the bench. More experienced judges with or without law degrees who have completed the basic two-week Special Court Jurisdiction course are eligible to attend.

### Who are the members of the faculty?

The faculty is composed of experienced and knowledgeable judges, law professors and experts from other disciplines who have considerable experience in teaching judges and in using the techniques appropriate for professional education.

### How is this course taught?

The faculty uses a variety of adult education methods including lecture, question and answer, debate, hypotheticals, problem-solving, videotaped instruction, and panel discussions. Participants also observe a portion of an actual drug court session. There is a great deal of sharing of experience and practice, which occurs particularly in the daily small-group discussions conducted by group facilitators who have previously attended the course. The atmosphere is intended to be relaxed with as much time as possible for completing exercises, but the lectures are deliberately provocative in comparing methods, ideas, and procedures.

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

This course is a required course in the Judicial Studies degree program. Four credits will be earned upon successful completion of the course and the course exam. In addition, this course qualifies as a requirement in the Certificate in Judicial Development, Dispute Resolution Skills, 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?

This course provides a rare opportunity for judges from across the country to come together to share ideas on the best methods of managing their courtrooms. Past participants report that this course complements in-state training. Participants make life-long friends during the course and these colleagues will serve as resources for professional and personal growth long after the course is over.

### 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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