

NJC Courses

Managing Complex Litigation (JS 629)

(offered biennially in even numbered years)

Why should I take this course?

Trial judges frequently handle what is considered “complex litigation.” These cases may arise in the context of environmental litigation, massive tort litigation, anti-trust litigation, product liability litigation, class action suits and other cases where multiple parties are involved, including third-party actions or cases where multiple parties have been consolidated. These cases involve different procedural judicial skills and case management skills to handle the numerous parties, issues, and voluminous records involved in such litigation. This course emphasizes the substantive knowledge needed to manage complex cases confidently and efficiently, and focuses on the latest techniques available to judges in such cases.

What will I learn?

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify cases that require extraordinary management efforts and summarize some of the ethical ramifications that complex cases present;
- Describe the resources necessary to manage complex cases effectively and efficiently and recognize the management option that is best suited to the particular complex case before you;
- Outline the pretrial procedures that will assist you in controlling the litigants, lawyers, and pace of the complex case and draft a case management order to suit your particular needs;
- Recite the advantages and disadvantages of state and federal coordination and the procedure for effectively coordination complex cases;
- Manage juries, witnesses, exhibits, and opening and closing arguments during a complex case with greater confidence; and
- Identify procedures and policies that will define how judges manage complex cases of the future.

Who should attend?

Judges who may be assigned complex litigation involving numerous parties and massive records would benefit from taking this course. State and Federal administrative law judges who regularly hear complex licensing, regulatory, and enforcement proceedings are also appropriate applicants for this course.

Who are the members of the faculty?

The faculty consists of judges, attorneys and educators who are recognized as experts in the field of complex litigation-related issues.

How is this course taught?

The faculty members cover the latest procedural techniques available to handle complex cases in a lecture, role-play, and group discussion format. Managing complex litigation in criminal cases will be offered. Participants are encouraged to interact with one another in workshops and small discussion groups to compare and analyze their experiences with their own complex case calendars.

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

This course qualifies for 2 credits toward the Judicial Studies degree and as an elective in the Certificate in Judicial Development, Administrative Law Adjudication Skills, Dispute Resolution Skills and General Jurisdiction Trial Skills programs.



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

By improving your ability to handle complex litigation, you will enhance your own productivity and efficiency. You will also be able to share many of the concepts and techniques with your colleagues.

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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