

NJC Courses

Special Court Jurisdiction

Why should I take this course?

This course is specifically designed for special court judges without law degrees who were recently appointed or elected. Judges will learn the basics of their judicial role, including small claims, traffic court, and misdemeanor cases. This program helps judges gain confidence in knowing that they are properly following legal and procedural requirements in their role as judge.

What will I learn?

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Make appropriate evidentiary rulings;
- Conduct criminal hearings and trials in compliance with constitutional and statutory standards;
- Manage cases involving self represented litigants;
- Create an environment of fairness and impartiality in the courtroom;
- Communicate effectively and appropriately in court and with the media;
- Sentence offenders while addressing the needs of the community;
- Recognize psychological profiles of offenders in court;
- Make appropriate decisions in small claims;
- Analyze principles of damages and restitution in civil cases;
- Apply a legal reasoning and analysis process to the facts of a case;
- Describe judicial immunity and when it does or does not apply;
- Recognize and appropriately sanction direct and indirect contempt;
- Control potential courtroom disruptions;
- Communicate more effectively from the bench; and
- Identify and utilize numerous stress reduction techniques.

Who should attend?

Full-time or part-time judges from urban or rural courts of special jurisdiction, including tribal courts, will find this course valuable.

Who are the members of the faculty?

The faculty is composed of experienced judges, professors and consultants who have proven teaching and communication skills.

How is this course taught?

The faculty encourages participant interaction during class. They make themselves available outside of the classroom for informal discussion of issues and problems. Some sessions will be taught jointly with Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced. Group facilitators, who are graduates of the course, serve as discussion leaders and mentors in small group settings during the entire two-week session. Classroom presentations are balanced with problem solving sessions, case studies, and small group discussions.

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

This course does not qualify for credits in the Judicial Studies degree program. However, it does qualify as a requirement in the Certificate in Judicial Development, Dispute Resolution Skills, Special Court Trial Skills and Tribal Judicial Skills programs.

NJC Courses

Special Court Jurisdiction

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

Increasing caseloads, public criticism, community demands and legal complexities make the judge's job more difficult than ever before. This investment in judicial education will be returned to the court and community through the judge's increased efficiency, better decision-making skills, improved understanding of the law, and more confidence on the bench.

Whom should I contact for more information?

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