

# NJC Courses

## Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced (JS 612)

### Why should I take this course?

This course is designed for special court judges who were recently appointed or elected. This course is filled with valuable information and practice opportunities in all of the areas that they encounter in the courtroom. The program encourages participants to interact with experienced judge faculty and participants from across the country. Participants will devise strategies and learn skills to assist them in traffic court, small claims, misdemeanor cases, and cases involving alcohol/drug use and family violence.

### What will I learn?

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the role and responsibilities of a judge;
- Recognize the evolving role of the judge as a change agent in the community;
- Apply a practical approach to Fourth Amendment issues and use approved guidelines for issuing search warrants;
- Conduct criminal hearings and trials in compliance with constitutional and statutory standards;
- Make better decisions regarding the admissibility of evidence;
- Work effectively with court interpreters;
- Create an environment of fairness and impartiality in the courtroom;
- Communicate effectively in the courtroom and with the media;
- Determine appropriate sentencing alternatives for specific offenses and offenders;
- Recognize and utilize the psychological profiles of criminal personalities in sentencing;
- Manage the courtroom and individual cases efficiently and comfortably, including cases involving pro se litigants;
- Mitigate potential trial disruptions and utilize effective courtroom control measures;
- Discuss drug and alcohol courts and recognize addictive behavior;
- Increase litigant, attorney and public confidence in the courts by using proper case, calendar and trial management techniques; and
- Identify and practice numerous stress reduction techniques.

### Who should attend?

This course is designed for special court judges who have graduated from law school. More experienced judges without law degrees who have completed the basic two-week Special Court Jurisdiction course are eligible to attend. Any judge of limited jurisdiction from urban or rural areas, who serves full-time or part-time, and has been recently elected or appointed to the bench should attend. Also experienced special court judges in need of a good review and update on current law will also find this course useful.

### Who are the members of the faculty?

The faculty is composed of experienced judges from across the country, as well as law professors and consultants who all have excellent teaching and communication skills.

### How is this course taught?

The course is an introduction to every substantive and skill area a new judge will encounter on the bench, with an emphasis on practical application. The faculty encourages participant interaction and is available outside of the classroom for informal discussion of issues and problems. The class also meets in small discussion groups daily. Trained group facilitators assist each group to work through problem solving exercises, while examining new ideas and complex issues. These facilitators are experienced judges who are graduates of the course and are willing to guide discussion and mentor members of their group for two weeks. Friendships and networking among these groups often extends years after the course. Some segments of this course are held in conjunction with the Special Court Jurisdiction course.

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### 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. It does, however, qualify for the Certificate in Judicial Development, Dispute Resolution 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?

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, better 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](mailto:registrar@judges.org).