JUDICIAL EDUCATION ON A SHOESTRING

A Brighter Future for Kosovo Justice

Protecting You from the "Madness in the Shadows"
Judicial Education on a Shoestring – Doing More With Less

As we continually examine strategies hoping to find the answer to cope with the challenges presented by increasing requirements in an environment of scarce resources, there is the blunt awareness that we all are having to “do more with less!” In this annual issue of Case In Point, we take a look at how judges can do just that. As a leading judicial education provider, the NJC is committed to providing and supporting a stimulating, high-quality learning environment for judges of all jurisdictions. And, like all top-performing educational organizations, it is our goal to be even better.

In the following pages you will learn more about how the NJC’s staff, faculty and generous donors are helping the College attain its mission of “advancing justice through judicial education.” Individuals, organizations and corporations that have donated to the NJC are noted in this issue, and we thank them for their continued support. The NJC also greatly appreciates the assistance of our sponsors, CourtCall®, Westlaw® and ExhibitOne®, for their generous sponsorship of this issue.

A special thank you to Heather Singer, former NJC communications specialist, for her dedicated effort toward the compilation, editing and proofing of this issue – you will be missed. And, thanks to Christina Nellemann for her continued excellence in producing this annual issue. I hope you find the topics and articles provided in this annual issue of benefit, and we all hope to see you at the NJC, online, or in person, this summer or fall.

Thanks for reading,

Trace Robbers
Director of Communications

Cover Photography: Jeff Ross, Reno, NV
Cover Models: Betty Morgan, William Brunson and Trace Robbers
Judicial Education on a Shoestring

By Trace Robbers, Director of Communications

In these times of economic turmoil we bet you are asking yourself, “How can I afford quality judicial education for myself and my court personnel on a shoestring budget?”

A Brighter Future for Kosovo Justice

William Brunson, Director of Special Projects

In an effort to assist the Kosovo judiciary in improving its court system, Judge Dale Koch and Dennis Jones recently presented two educational programs in Klina, Kosovo.

Protecting You From the “Madness in the Shadows”

John F. Muffler, Assistant Chief, United States Marshals Service

In the past four years there has been a dramatic increase in violence toward judges. John Muffler of the U.S. Marshals offers recommendations for helping you minimize your profile and raise your security levels.
One of the benefits of being president of The National Judicial College is attending a variety of judicial conferences, educational programs, and meetings of justice organizations. While I am not a member of many of these judicial associations, nor a colleague on the bench, I have always been welcome and asked to fully participate. In these programs, I marvel at the dedication of the judges, administrators and others who come together to improve the administration of justice. It is at these times that I miss being a part of the day-to-day work of the courts providing fair, timely and accessible justice. The administration of justice is a noble undertaking but also an exacting, demanding, and in many ways an unforgiving profession if you do not do your best each day, each case. One cannot rest on what he or she did yesterday or today. You will be judged on how well you handle your next case! I have often repeated to judges what I heard during a 1979 general jurisdiction class at NJC:

“When you hold a hearing or preside over a trial, say to yourself – this is a very important case that I will be hearing – because it is important to the parties.”

I believe this statement is more than a challenge to do one’s best. It is recognition of the magnitude and gravity of what judges do each and every day. It is one important reason why NJC devoted the previous issue of this magazine to the subject of judicial stress (as have the publications of other judicial entities). In this current economic climate, judges and court personnel are being asked to do more with the proverbial “less.” Courts are coming under intense fiscal pressure to cut personnel and programs but maintain quality of service. At a time when the judicial system needs education the most, it is unfortunate that it has become an expendable budget item. NJC is committed to providing financial assistance to support education whether it be:

- New judge education
- Improvement of judges’ knowledge, skills or abilities in the important areas of case flow management, conducting the trial, opinion writing, traffic, scientific evidence, handling complex cases, or other subjects
- Seminar series offerings intended to invigorate a judge’s commitment to justice through presentations such as: Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills, Judicial Philosophy and American Law or Today’s Justice.
- Web-based courses addressing ethics, evidence, or rural court judges, among other subjects

Under the stress and demand to excel each day, NJC recognizes the difficulty to find time to pursue education. Our commitment to you is to provide a learning environment that will honor your valuable time and where you will experience challenging education involving collegial dialogue. During these times, education is needed more than ever whether it be at an in-state conference, an NJC course, a seminar series program, a webcast, or a web-based course. It is our promise as your partner in education to provide innovative education to assist you in meeting the demands of judging in the 21st century. We look forward to being of service to you.
So, you’re thinking, “How can I afford quality judicial education for myself and my court personnel on a shoestring budget?” The National Judicial College is ahead of the game and has many options available to help you get the education you need in this tough economic time. The NJC’s numerous course options combined with its scholarship program make it easier for judges to obtain a quality judicial education. Program delivery options, such as online learning, presenting programs in your state, and webcasts offer a convenient and cost-effective way of learning. Taking an intensive seminar series program in your area also saves time and money. Whatever learning option is right for you, the NJC remains committed to helping you achieve your educational goal. The NJC offers a broad range of topics covered in-depth by faculty members who are experts in interactive presentations. The faculty and staff members work hard to create an innovative curriculum continuously updated with the most current information and technology to make for a unique learning environment. When judges attend the NJC, they are instilled with a powerful tool – knowledge – a tool that will help guide and advance them along the path of their judicial careers.

Here are 10 ways to access judicial training on a shoestring budget.

1. APPLY FOR AN NJC SCHOLARSHIP

Many NJC judicial education courses and programs are within reach with the help of a scholarship from NJC or the State Judicial Institute (SJI). Each year, the NJC receives donations and grants that enable scholarships to be awarded to qualifying judges who wish to attend the NJC in pursuit of higher judicial education. SJI received a federal authorization to provide scholarships, support research, and develop curriculum/programs. For thousands of judges, scholarships ease the financial burden of attending the nation’s leading judicial education institute. Financial assistance is available from a number of sources to address tuition, conference fees, travel or accommodations, depending on your individual circumstances.

For immediate consideration contact the NJC Scholarship Office toll free: 1-800-25-JUDGE, or email Scholarship Coordinator Rebecca Bluemer at bluemer@judges.org.
2. TAKE AN EXTENSION OR FUNDED COURSE

It may make economic sense for you to ask the NJC to bring the course to your jurisdiction. With the right number of students, the per student tuition cost can be less, and you will save on travel expenses too. Since 1965, the NJC has conducted over 500 extension programs attended by more than 35,000 participants. The NJC customizes each program to meet your needs. In addition, the NJC collaborates with state judicial educators, state agencies and national organizations to offer numerous courses which are fully or partially funded by the sponsoring agency. For example, the NJC collaborates with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to offer Financial Statements in the Courtroom at regional locations several times each year. There is no tuition fee for approved participants and under the grant, the NJC offers a stipend which, in many cases, fully covers the travel costs to attend. The NJC also collaborates with the National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law to offer courses on the Fourth Amendment. This course is offered several times each year in Reno or in Oxford, Mississippi. There is no tuition for approved participants and a stipend to defray travel costs is provided.

For more information on how you can bring an extension course to your state or agency, or to find out what funded programs are available, please contact William Brunson at (775) 327-8211 or at Brunson@judges.org.

3. CUT COSTS WITH AN ONLINE COURSE

One of the most cost effective ways of receiving a valuable judicial education is through the NJC’s online courses. New programs are added each year as this mode of delivery becomes more popular. Participants are drawn to NJC’s web-based courses because of their quality, our faculty, and the convenience of being able to study without time or location constraints. These courses provide quality judicial education through reading, tests, discussion boards, web conferences and assignments guided by expert faculty members. Web-based courses cover a variety of issues including Evidence Challenges for Administrative Law Judges, Handling Small Claims Effectively and Selected Criminal Evidence Issues.

Current course listings are always available for viewing at the College’s website at www.judges.org/courses.html.

4. TAKE A SEMINAR SERIES COURSE

Have limited time to be away from court this year? The NJC’s Seminar Series offers a challenging and intensive learning environment held at various significant locations across the nation. The College’s Seminar Series is a popular option for judges seeking to refresh skills in a concentrated amount of time. Judges participate in captivating presentations led by top-notch faculty. Along with challenging topics, each seminar allows participants additional personal time to explore the area and be re-energized. These courses and programs have gained in popularity as a way to receive a quality judicial learning experience in a variety of locations. Courses and programs are held throughout the year at locations such as Washington, D.C., Newport, RI, San Francisco, CA, West Yellowstone, MT, Seattle, WA, Phoenix, AZ, San Antonio, TX, and Naples, FL.

See the full Seminar Series schedule at www.judges.org/seminarseries.html.

5. TUNE IN TO WEBCASTS & WEBINARS

Another cost-saving strategy implemented by The National Judicial College is the creation of judicial webcasts and webinars. These learning options provide the tools – both literally and figuratively – to bridge the gap in adult learning created by distance learning. The NJC recently broadcast its first judicial webcast entitled, “From the Second Amendment to the Death Penalty: Notable Decisions of the U.S.
Supreme Court, 2007-2008 Term.” Robin Wosje, director of grant projects and special initiatives at the NJC, who worked as the webcast producer, said, “The biggest challenge with the webcast was recreating the experience of being at the College.” To do so, Robin worked with the NJC’s Distance Learning and Technology Manager, Joseph A. Sawyer, to offer this new learning experience – directly to the judge’s own computer. The programs enlist distance learning experts such as the Hon. David M. Gersten of the Third District Court of Appeal in Miami, Florida, to serve as faculty for the webcasts. Judge Gersten has served on the NJC faculty for over a decade and has been teaching online courses for some time.

For more information on participating in an NJC webcast or webinar visit: http://www.judges.org/webcasts09/ or contact Robin Wosje at wosje@judges.org.

6. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

The NJC conducts numerous Faculty Development Workshops each year where judges from around the country develop their expertise in a subject area, such as Handling Capital Cases, Commercial Drivers License cases, Sentencing Sex Offenders, etc. In addition, these judges learn how to effectively present the information and enhance their own skills as adult educators. As a result, there are hundreds of willing and able presenters around the country who can present at your educational event. The NJC can also bring a Faculty Development Workshop to your state or agency to provide judges in your judicial system with the knowledge, skills and tools necessary to develop and deliver programs specific to your court’s needs.

For more information on the NJC’s train-the-trainer programs please contact: Joy Lyngar, Chief Academic Officer, at lyngar@judges.org.

7. READ JUDICIAL PUBLICATIONS

A certain way to keep educational costs to a minimum is to seek out publications and professional journals that meet your interests and needs. The NJC produces and features quality books by authors from around the nation on a variety of subjects. Current topics include: Anatomy of a Trial: Public Loss, Lessons Learned from The People vs. O.J. Simpson by Jerri-anne Hayslett; Inherent Powers of the Court by Felix F. Stumpf; Logic and Legal Reasoning by Professor Douglas Lind; Judicial Discretion: A Text by J. Eric Smithburn; Grimes Criminal Law Outline (2007-2008 Supreme Court Term) by Judge Stephen A. Schiller (Ret.) and Judge Thomas P. Durkin (Ret.); NJC Deskbook on Evidence for Administrative Law Judges by Christopher B. McNeil, General Editor; The Judge’s Evidence Bench Book by Leo H. Whinery, Theodore P. Roberts and Robert B. Smith; Search & Seizure Sourcebook for State Judges by Kenneth R. Evans; and International Child Custody Cases: Handling Hague Convention Cases in U.S. Courts by Judge James D. Garbolino.

For more information on how to order these and other titles from the NJC, please visit: www.judges.org/books.html. Additional books/resources can also be found at the American Bar Association website: www.abanet.org/abastore.

8. EXPLORE NJC WEB/INTERNET RESOURCES

When it was first developed, using the Web involved spending a lot of your time just looking for sites. Since the recognition of the potential of the web by commercial users, we are now surrounded with sound, animation, real-time video and more from professionally designed sites packed with information just waiting to be explored. The NJC maintains numerous websites designed to inform the public as well as to educate the judiciary on various issues, concerns and points of view. Whatever the topic might be – the Internet has become the leading source for research. The NJC’s websites and partner sites offer information on judicial-related topics. While this list is by no means exhaustive, it is a starting point for your exploration:

- The National Judicial College: www.judges.org
- National Tribal Judicial Center: www.judges.org/ntjc.html
- Dividing The Waters – western water litigation resources: www.dividingthewaters.org
- Capital Cases Resources: www.capitalcasesresources.org
- Commercial Driver’s Licensing Laws: www.cdlresources.org
- Back on TRAC – Treatment, Responsibility & Accountability on Campus resources: www.judges.org/backontrac
9. ACCESS PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION RESOURCES

Joining and participating in professional judicial organizations can give you access to a wide variety of cost-saving resources and contacts. Joining a judges association provides opportunities to share with and learn from others as well as receive needed information on judicial trends and forecasts. Your state judicial educator can provide you with detailed information on professional organizations and available resources for your state. Here are a few organizations worthy of exploring:

- ABA - Judicial Division: www.abanet.org/jd/home.html
- AJA: American Judges Association: aja.nscd.dni.us
- AJS: American Judicature Society: www.ajs.org
- CCJ: Conference of Chief Justices: ccj.nscd.dni.us
- CCPIO: Conference of Court Public Information Officers: www.ccpio.org
- COSCA: Conference of State Court Administrators: cosca.nscd.dni.us
- International Association of Lesbian & Gay Judges: home.att.net/~ialgj
- NACM: National Association for Court Management: www.nacmnet.org
- NAHO: National Association of Hearing Officials: www.naho.org
- National American Indian Court Judges Association: www.naicja.org
- NASJE: National Association of State Judicial Educators: nasje.org
- NAUIAB: National Association of Unemployment Insurance Boards: nauiab.org
- NAWJ: National Association of Women Judges: www.nawj.org
- NBA: National Bar Association: www.nationalbar.org
- NCACC: National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks: www.appellatecourtclerks.org
- NCJFCJ: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: www.ncjfcj.org
- NCIJL: National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law: www.olemiss.edu/depts/ncjirl
- NCPJ: National College of Probate Judges: www.ncpj.org
- NCSC: National Center for State Courts: www.ncsconline.org
- NDCI: National Association of Drug Court Professionals: www.ndci.org
- NNABA: National Native American Bar Association: www.nationalnativeamericanbarassociation.org

10. JOIN AN ONLINE NETWORKING GROUP

Are you out there? As noted in the Spring/Summer 2007 issue of Case In Point, judges in increasing numbers are blogging and using professional networking sites such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter to reach out to their communities and colleagues. It seems that everyone is a member of an online social network these days. Whether it’s your kids on MySpace and Facebook, or your colleagues on LinkedIn, people are taking advantage of these new online networking groups to communicate and expand knowledge bases. These online networking websites are being used regularly by millions of people, and it now seems that social networking will be an enduring part of everyday life. By following a few simple rules, blogging/online judges can ensure their information is valued without compromising judicial ethics. According to Judge Adam Fisher, NJC faculty member, blog-worthy topics can consist of handling the press, managing a heavy caseload docket and ex parte communication. “These sorts of topics can benefit all judges,” Fisher noted. Also in agreement with that opinion is the Hon. William F. Dressel who said, “As long as judges are using blogs
and networking sites to enhance public education and understanding of our justice system and not compromising the integrity of cases, then judicial blogs could serve and promote a greater understanding of the challenges and difficulties judges face in advancing justice."


After more than four decades, the NJC is still a national leader in judicial education. As one of the first organizations to offer programs to judges nationwide, the NJC continues to improve judicial productivity, challenge current perceptions of justice and inspire judges to achieve judicial excellence. The College serves as the one place where judges from across the nation and around the world can meet to improve the delivery of justice and advance the rule of law through a disciplined process of professional study and collegial dialogue. The NJC recognizes that these are challenging times for the judiciary and is committed to helping judges from all jurisdictions obtain the judicial training needed – even if on a shoestring budget.

For more information on the College’s course and program offerings contact: Joy Lyngar, Chief Academic Officer, 775-327-8263, or by email at lyngar@judges.org.

The Judicial Studies (JS) degree program has recently expanded the courses eligible for credit. The JS degree program provides administrative law judges with a formal academic setting in which judges can integrate technical studies of the judiciary with more academic ones in an effort to provide an intellectual assessment of the role of the American judiciary. The program is a collaboration between the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), The National Judicial College (NJC) and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJF-CJ). A major academic objective of the degree program is to help create and define a new academic discipline, judicial studies.

**2009 ADDITIONS TO THE JUDICIAL STUDIES DEGREE PROGRAM**

**REQUIRED COURSE:** Administrative Law: Fair Hearing (JS 612)
August 24-September 3, 2009 | Reno, NV

**ELECTIVE COURSE:** Administrative Law: Advanced (JS 649)
June 8-11, 2009 | Reno, NV

**ELECTIVE COURSE:** Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills (JS 624)
July 5-9, 2009 | Seattle, WA

**ELECTIVE COURSE:** Logic and Opinion Writing (JS 621)
April 27-30, 2009 | Reno, NV

**ELECTIVE COURSE:** Evidence in a Courtroom Setting (JS 633)
Date and location in 2010 TBA

For more information on obtaining a JS degree from the University of Nevada, Reno, please contact the University of Nevada, Reno, JS Advisor Denise Schaar-Buis, Program Officer at (775) 784-6270 or jsp@unr.nevada.edu. For full course descriptions visit www.judges.org/mjs.html.
TOM GIRARDI, an NJC Trustee and prominent trial attorney in Los Angeles, California, believes strongly in the importance of a well trained judiciary. Despite his very busy schedule involving complex litigation cases and class actions for his personal injury firm, Girardi/Keese, Mr. Girardi dedicates time to serving as an NJC Trustee and is a member of the California Judicial Council.

Mr. Girardi and his firm are proud supporters of the NJC’s Pillars of Justice Fund and will be supporting a faculty development workshop this summer primarily for administrative law judges. Mr. Girardi recently said, “A well trained judiciary is critical to upholding democracy and the rule of law. In my practice, I appear before many judges and experience first hand the positive impact of a well educated judge. I am a strong supporter of the NJC since I know that the organization provides excellent innovative education to judges around the country and the world that makes an impact in ensuring a fair and balanced judicial system.”

The NJC’s Pillars of Justice Fund was created to reach out to law firms and corporations in support of a Research, Education and Service Fund, scholarships, and expansion of the NJC’s endowment.

For more information about how you can support the Pillars of Justice Fund, please contact Gretchen Alt Sawyer at (800) 25-JUDGE or alt@judges.org.
As founder of one of the world’s largest justice endeavors, William H. Neukom, Esq., managing partner of the San Francisco Giants and former board member for The National Judicial College, spoke passionately to more than 100 people at The National Judicial College’s Tom C. Clark Auditorium on Oct. 29, 2008.

“Justice means so many different things to so many different people but is built on universal principles,” he said, as he described the World Justice Project’s initiatives to ensure fairness and equality on a worldwide scale.

Mr. Neukom served as the NJC’s 121st Jackson Lecturer. His speech was entitled, “The World Justice Project: The Role of the Judiciary.” According to the World Justice Project’s website (www.worldjusticeproject.org), the World Justice Project is a multinational, multidisciplinary initiative to strengthen the rule of law worldwide. It is creating an international network of stakeholders who are advancing the rule of law as a foundation for thriving communities. It is based on two complementary premises: the rule of law is the foundation for communities of opportunity and equality; and multidisciplinary collaboration is the most effective way to advance the rule of law. The NJC’s Jackson Lectures are held in honor of Justice Robert H. Jackson, a 1940s Supreme Court Justice often remembered for his role as chief prosecutor in the Nuremberg War Trials. The NJC presents these lectures at the end of each two-week General Jurisdiction course for course participants as well as community residents.

Mr. Neukom became managing partner of the San Francisco Giants on Oct. 1, 2008. Previously, he had re-joined Preston Gates & Ellis LLP, now K&L Gates, LLP, in 2002 as a partner in the Business Practice Group in Seattle. Prior to that, he held the position of executive vice president of law and corporate affairs at Microsoft where he spent 17 years managing the company’s legal, government affairs and philanthropic activities. Mr. Neukom served as a board member on the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, YMCA of Greater Seattle, Dartmouth College, University of Puget Sound and the Corporate Council for the Arts. Mr. Neukom was appointed to The National Judicial College Board of Trustees in 2003 by the ABA and served until he became president-elect of the ABA.
Early in the summer of 2008 we began researching disaster preparedness techniques for the NJC. The recent earthquake activity in California and Nevada prompted us to examine our policies and procedures as well as the relationship with our host, the University of Nevada, Reno. Studies show that among companies that have had a major loss of computerized data, 43 percent never reopened, 51 percent went out of business in two years, and only 6 percent survived in the long term. What made the difference for the survivors? They had a plan for the continuing operations of their business.

The NJC is in a unique situation as a 501(c)3 entity that operates on the UNR campus, because the NJC relies on UNR for a number of facility-related services. Because of this relationship, our exposure to a large-scale earthquake is even more complicated with respect to the availability and prioritization of recovery resources. During this initial “Risk Assessment” phase, we realized that there is more to consider than just earthquakes, and more to consider than just the loss of computerized data. Other potential hazards including facility issues convinced us of the need to begin a comprehensive program to strengthen our ability to respond to a wide range of events and then quickly recover and continue operations.

In 2008, we learned about a cutting-edge court emergency planning project in California. This statewide effort was initiated by the California Administrative Office of the Courts and focused on Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) for the 58 county-level Superior Courts. We learned that COOP, often known as Business Continuity Planning, is outlined and endorsed by FEMA and is the best operational tool for dealing with all types of risks that can impact and disrupt normal day-to-day operations. The California project is centered on a web-based tool that simplifies the planning process, streamlines data entry, and standardizes all court COOP efforts in the state. We were impressed with this concept and also with the idea of using the Internet to assist with the planning process. We contacted Bold Planning Solutions, the designer of the EMplans.com system, and they agreed to assist us with our disaster preparedness effort.

First, we identified and developed a COOP team of departmental staff including management, operations, information technology, finance and the facility management staff from UNR. Second, we began collecting information about essential functions and vital records. All key staff as well as outside vendors and partners were identified with contact information and specific roles and responsibilities. Third, throughout the second half of 2008, we conducted a number of meetings, fine-tuned the data, and successfully completed all the required data entry for a FEMA compliant COOP plan.

We discovered that the real value in developing this plan was the thought process that had to go into it. Throughout the process, we recognized that disaster preparedness is an on-going project and that these plans must be maintained on a regular basis. With this in mind, our management has made it over a difficult “speed bump” with this initial planning process, and we are committed to continuing this important effort in the future.

For more information on Bold Planning Solutions, visit www.BMPlans.com
Workshops Strengthen Court/Media Relations

When The National Judicial College joined with the Reynolds School of Journalism to create the Reynolds National Center for Courts and Media, the primary goal was to increase communications between these two professions critical to our democracy.

Now, with the completion of five regional workshops in 2008, the Center was able to make progress toward that goal.

With a series of grants, The National Judicial College and the Center conducted a series of regional workshops to bring judges, court personnel and journalists together to discuss the many changes occurring in both institutions. The five regional workshops held in 2007 and 2008 followed the 30 state workshops held in 2005 and 2006 to foster discussions.

While the initial workshops were designed to initiate communication between judges and journalists, the regional workshops focused on creating or strengthening mechanisms locally to maintain the links for communication. In many cases, these were creating local bench-bar-press committees to help work through tensions or ongoing problems.

The result of the second round of workshops was the creation of a booklet that is available for judicial, bar and journalism entities on how to create bench-bar-press committees and to institutionalize ongoing dialogue. The booklet will soon be available online in PDF form, either on the websites of the Center or The National Judicial College.

William Brunson, director of special projects at the NJC, said the workshop series met all the goals set for it. Even with the Center being part of the Reynolds School of Journalism, both entities can begin to collaborate on helping courts and media improve their working relationships.

For more information about the Reynolds National Center for Courts and Media, visit the website at www.courtsandmedia.org.

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When judges muse about the media’s coverage of the courts, they invariably bemoan the number of times articles about trials are inaccurate. And those reports were by journalists who were in the courtroom. What will be the impact on accuracy now that some media are outsourcing editorial coverage to writers in India who are paid by the word as independent contractors?

Too far fetched?
It already is happening. The Pasadena online newspaper “Pasadena Now” fired its seven staffers who were making $600 to $800 a week and replaced them with six writers in India, using emails, phones and video-streaming to cover city hall.

That was just one aspect of the rapid and tumultuous series of changes discussed at the national conference entitled FYI, LOL or OMG – Technology’s Impact on the Courts and Media, held at The National Judicial College in November of 2008. The conference was sponsored by the Reynolds National Center for Courts and Media, The National Judicial College and the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Bringing technology experts together with judges, journalists and court personnel, the conference not only focused on the impact bloggers and other online journalists are having on the courts, there were actual demonstrations of the newest technologies available – including the pros and cons of using such technology in courts.

“The conference was important especially for judges to be able to assess the swirling decline of traditional media,” said Hon. William F. Dressel, president of The National Judicial College. “The courts have relied on newspapers, magazines, radio and television to tell their stories and help the public establish a level of trust and confidence in the judiciary. Now those traditional means are disappearing or seriously eroding in terms of impact in favor of online communications.”

This means the courts will have to adjust to the new media to ensure the public understands how the courts work and why they are important for the citizens.

Gary Hengstler, director of the Reynolds National Center for Courts and Media, said a major focus of the Center going forward will be to assist courts in coping with the changes, and to bolster their means of communication with the public.

For more information about the Reynolds National Center for Courts and Media, visit the website at www.courtsandmedia.org.

Teach Justice to Journalism Students

The Judges in J-School Program is sponsored by the RNCCM Endowment Rollan Melton Fund. This program brings judges to journalism schools across the country as a “scholar in residence” engaging students and faculty in a wide ranging discussion centered around the 1st and 6th amendments. Potential topic areas include constitutional issues, (particularly the First and Sixth Amendments), as well as access to court files, gag orders, ethics, and confidential sources.

Upcoming programs will be held at Texas State University at San Marcos, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Idaho. Presentations at other schools are currently in development.

This program is provided at no cost to journalism schools or universities and the institution retains creative authority to structure the program that will best address the institution’s needs. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Folsom-Smith at (800) 25-JUDGE or cfsmith@judges.org.
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NJC’s 2009 Webcasts

The NJC is offering informative webcasts in 2009 on subjects such as reducing recidivism, ethics and self-represented litigants. States, individuals, groups or courts may sign up for a yearly subscription. CLE may be available for these webcasts. Because of the different requirements in each state for CLE and, in particular, web-based education, NJC cannot guarantee that participants will receive CLE credit for the webcast. NJC will provide a Certificate of Attendance which participants may use to certify their attendance at the webcasts. Participants are responsible for submitting the Certificates of Attendance and any other required information in accordance with their state’s specific rules.

**INDIVIDUAL WEBCAST CHARGE:** $50 per webcast

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* A subscriber is one computer and phone location. As many attendees as you would like may be at one subscriber station.

**To register go to the NJC Meeting Center at www.tinyurl.com/955kct.**

**SENTENCING PRACTICES TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM: EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES**

**Instructor:** Mark Carey, The Carey Group, White Bear Lake, Minnesota

**May 7, 2009, 3:00 p.m.–4:15 p.m. ET (12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m. PT)**

There is now a large body of science that describes what works in reducing recidivism. A growing number of researchers are concerned about the ethics of the justice system; namely, the potential for the system to do harm by imposing sanctions and conditions that actually increase recidivism. Fortunately, most judges have instinctively done the right thing without the advantage of research data. Yet, this research can strengthen the court’s sentencing positions when confronted with external or media criticism, and improve public safety outcomes through targeted sentencing orders and court demeanor. This session will review current research and information about evidence based practices in sentencing to assist judges in imposing sentences that reduce recidivism and rehabilitate the offender.

**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS**

**Instructors:** Hon. Karen Adam, Arizona Superior Court Pima County, Tucson, Arizona and Kelly Tait, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada

**September 10, 2009, 3:00 p.m.–4:15 p.m. ET (12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m. PT)**

Self-represented litigants now appear on court dockets in almost every type of case, including civil, criminal felony, domestic relations, traffic, criminal misdemeanor, small claims, probate and administrative cases. Self-represented litigants pose a special challenge for the judge presiding over the case because they are often not aware of the intricacies of courtroom procedures and evidence rules. This session will provide practical suggestions for communicating effectively with self-represented litigants while maintaining impartiality and achieving the most equitable results possible.

**ETHICS IN THE EVERYDAY COURT**

**Instructor:** Hon. Michael Keasler, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Austin, Texas

**October 13, 2009, 3:00 p.m.–4:15 p.m. ET (12:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m. PT)**

On a daily basis, judges and court systems face scrutiny and criticism by the public. Further, judges regularly confront ethical issues in both their professional and personal lives. This session will provide judges with an up-to-date understanding of tools to assist them in maintaining and raising ethical standards and public perceptions of their courts and the entire court system. This session will include a discussion of recusal issues and a look at emerging ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct issues and a review of sexual harassment issues.
Leonard “Len” Langen (April 7, 2008) and Kathryn Louise “Kitty Lou” Langen (Sept. 6, 2008) led busy and active lives, yet they still found time to donate to one of Judge Len Langen’s favorite charities, The National Judicial College. Through the couple’s planned giving initiative, the Langen’s recently bequeathed more than $20,000 through a charitable remainder unitrust to the NJC in support of furthering justice and the rule of law.

Judge Len Langen was profoundly influenced by the NJC’s judicial education programs as well as the College’s commitment to helping judges be more proficient in their roles. According to their son, John, the couple wanted to support the program that gave back so much to his father during his judicial career.

“My parents knew the importance of the NJC as the leader in judicial education and they wanted to help others experience it too,” said John Langen. William F. Dressel, president of the NJC, noted that the Langens’ gift sends a strong message about the importance of planned giving for the College as it will allow the institution to continue to provide needed programs and services to the judicial community. “We are grateful to the Langens for their gift which will be used to educate judges, enhance existing programs and support new programs that will make a difference in achieving fair and impartial justice,” he said.

According to John Langen, after his father’s career in the FBI and later as a successful trial attorney, the senior Langen became a judge for the Montana Seventeenth Judicial District in January of 1977. He attended the General Jurisdiction course at The National Judicial College in the spring of that year. “Dad was concerned about the quality of the Montana court system and worked constantly to improve it,” said John Langen of his father. John Langen practiced law in his district for 12 years and has personal knowledge about his father’s professionalism and dedication to the court.

“One on more than one occasion he singled out The National Judicial College as representing high standards of excellence,” said John Langen. “I know both mom and dad were happy to be able to support in some small way the mission of the Judicial College.”

For more information about NJC’s planned giving program, please visit the Planned Giving page or contact Gretchen Alt Sawyer at (800) 25-JUDGE.
Thomson Reuters is undertaking a major national initiative to solicit video recordings of hearings/trials from judges across the country and publish them on westlaw.com, the largest online legal research database in the world. Video records can produce substantial benefits for both lawyers and judges.

For lawyers, the advantages include the opportunity to observe the presentations of expert witnesses they’re considering using in their own trials; watch counsel examine and cross-examine witnesses on issues of interest; and learn what happened in the courtroom even when they don’t have a transcript. For judges, the benefits include seeing how matters are handled by other courts; the opportunity to watch a witness again before writing an order or opinion; and an excellent way to see how expert witnesses scheduled to testify in their cases testified in other trials.

Many State court systems now permit live streaming video of court proceedings via the Internet to interested parties. The equipment used by Westlaw and its partner Courtroom Connect does not interfere with court proceedings; it typically consists of one compact, stationary video camera on a tripod, a video encoder that enables the video signal to be sent over the Internet, an audio mixer, and a device that transmits the signal. With the exception of the camera, all of the equipment can fit on a small table. It usually takes about four hours to install and test the equipment. To webcast proceedings live, a separate Internet connection can be installed in order to prevent any disturbance to the court’s Internet connection.

This collaboration will also provide video records that the NJC can use as powerful educational tools to show good courtroom management techniques, inform judges about scientific and other complex issues, and demonstrate the effective use of video technology itself. Westlaw would like NJC’s help in identifying upcoming trials, hearings, and other proceedings in cases that may be of interest to lawyers and judges across the country. Please help the College, yourself, and other judges across the country by letting us know if you have any trials or other proceedings coming up that would be good candidates for video streaming and recording.

TO PARTICIPATE

E-mail the case information and anticipated schedule to William F. Dressel at shodeen@judges.org or call (775) 327-8260.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR
In an effort to assist the Kosovo judiciary in improving its court system, Judge Dale Koch and the NJC’s former Chief Operations Officer Dennis Jones presented two, 2.5-day educational programs entitled “Management Skills for Presiding Judges and Court Administrators” in October 2008 in Klina, Kosovo.

“The Kosovo judges and court administrators that I met truly want to improve upon their system of justice,” noted Jones. Judge Koch and Jones educated the groups about organizational leadership, personnel management, judicial administration, key roles and responsibilities of president judges and court administrators, enhancing the relationship between president judges and court administrators, creating a vision for their courts, and recommending next steps to build on progress made during the programs. Nearly 30 president judges, court administrators, and members of the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) Secretariat participated in each program.

Jones, who now serves as the executive officer of the Sacramento Superior Court, found the participants to be very interested in the program: “The attendees were polite and open to hear the opinions and views of others throughout both educational programs even though there are differences in how our respective courts operate.” For instance, Kosovo utilizes panels of three judges, one legally trained judge and two lay judges. The faculty discussed the purposes of the courts, and the participants noted that deterring criminal behavior, doing individual justice in individual cases and protecting individuals from the arbitrary use of government power as most important.

Judge Koch, was president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and is a former presiding judge in Multnomah County, Oregon and now serves as a board member for the National Center for State Courts, noted that the judges and court administrators face many of the problems that plague other judicial systems around the world. “Most in attendance noted that low judicial salaries, inadequate court facilities, and lack of appropriate technology are all serious impediments to meaningful progress.” Jones agreed with the assessment and added “many of the attendees identified a lack of court control over the budget and personnel issues as additional impediments.”
Jones added “the participants willingly and enthusiastically looked past the impediments and consistently focused on improving the current system, working with existing resources. I was impressed with their ability to strive towards a brighter future for their courts.”

The NJC participated in this program in partnership with the International Division of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Since 2001, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has worked to support the development of the judicial system in Kosovo. Building on previous assistance to the judiciary, USAID launched the Kosovo Justice Support Program (KJSP) in July 2007. KJSP is a 3-year, 19.5 million USAID program targeting six objectives:

1. Improve the capacity of the KJC in support of an independent judiciary
2. Improve court administration
3. Improve professionalism and ethics of judges and court staff
4. Support for minority service and representation of minorities in the judiciary
5. Develop Ministry of Justice (MOJ) legal drafting, policy formulation and guidance skills
6. Establish and support the public prosecutors service

The NJC’s faculty gave the participants several opportunities to plan for steps that they will take after the program to continue the work begun during the program. The expectation is that each participant would continue this work after the programs.

To ensure that they met their objectives, Jones and Judge Koch made a number of suggestions. Jones suggested “it would be quite beneficial for the members of the secretariat staff to visit courts and for court staff to visit staff at the secretariat and learn more about how each entity operates, develop a greater understanding of each of their respective roles, and develop professional relationships based on trust and mutual respect.” Judge Koch added that “meaningful involvement by president judges and court administrators in the goal setting process of the KJC would advance the relationship between the KJC and the trial courts.” Jones also suggested expanding the pilot court by identifying additional courts that show promise and are willing and able to participate. He cautioned, however, that “it’s a double-edged sword to praise the model courts as exemplary. Recognition of model programs can sometimes lead to resentment from the non-model courts.”

If you would like to learn more about the NJC’s international programs, please contact Director of Special Projects William Brunson at brunson@judges.org or (800) 25-JUDGE.

Providing a bequest to the NJC in your estate creates a lasting legacy and invests in the future of the College. A gift made by will or living trust can be simple to arrange. A provision or amendment prepared by your attorney at the time you make or update your will or trust is all that is necessary. Not only does a bequest strengthen the NJC’s future, it also provides substantial benefits to donors.

To learn more about leaving a legacy, please contact Gretchen Alt Sawyer at (800) 25-JUDGE or alt@judges.org.
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Every judge has dealt with a self-represented litigant who arrives at court with a shoe-box full of receipts to prove they’ve paid child support or spousal maintenance, or to document repairs or medical expenses. Or a self-represented litigant who brings a list of witnesses’ phone numbers for the judge to call. In one of my recent cases, the self-represented father showed the child protection case worker a copy of a patient’s x-ray, and asked her to point out a fracture. When she finished testifying, he handed me an 18-page Internet document about the drugs prescribed to his daughter so that I could better understand his position about her medical care.

When asked what is most vexing about working with self-represented litigants, most judges cite evidence and ethics issues, usually in the same context. Judges believe those issues are compounded when one side in a dispute is represented by counsel.

There are techniques that judges can use to handle complex evidentiary questions and to avoid stepping over the ethical line. The Self-Represented Litigant Network curriculum for judges provides a three-step protocol for dealing with evidentiary issues in non-jury hearings. First, the judge allows most evidence in. Second, the judge filters the evidence and determines what should and should not be admitted. The judge clearly explains the problems with the evidence, or asks an objecting attorney to explain the basis for the objection. Finally, before excluding evidence, the judge gives the litigant an opportunity to remediate the problems with it. If that can’t be done, the judge is not bound to admit it.

Case law supports the admission of evidence more often than its exclusion: an analysis of evidentiary issues in federal cases found that the vast majority was overturned because the judges did not admit evidence, not because they admitted it erroneously. Although there are few published case law and ethics opinions regarding self-represented litigants, what is written is instructive. On appeal, trial judges are commended for being helpful rather than hurtful to self-represented litigants. In only the most extreme circumstances have judges been reversed or sanctioned for assisting self-represented litigants in presenting their cases. Stepping off the bench to do independent research for a self-represented litigant, for example, is not allowed. But asking questions of both sides to ascertain information needed to make a decision is absolutely appropriate, and often required. Child custody determinations, for example, require detailed findings that can only be made with complete information.

Finally, the 2008 ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct provides that reasonable judicial accommo-
dations for self-represented litigants do not compromise judicial neutrality or independence. This Model Code provision has been adopted or expanded upon in several states. Judicial angst about self-represented litigation will never completely disappear. But judges can rely on case law, ethics opinions, and the Code of Conduct to support rather than impede those without counsel.

For more information on working with self-represented litigants, register for the NJC course, Best Practices in Handling Self-Represent Litigants on October 19–22, 2009 in Reno, NV and for the NJC Webcast, Effective Communication with Self-Represented Litigants on September 10, 2009. Please contact the registrar at (800) 25-JUDGE or registrar@judges.org.

CONTINUING ON THE TRIBAL PATHWAY

ON December 9-10, 2008, The National Tribal Judicial Center at The National Judicial College hosted a two-day national gathering for tribal, federal and state justice leaders at the Agua Caliente Reservation in Palm Springs, California. This was an occasion for the three justice communities to meet and work on furthering collaborative partnerships, enhancing cooperation and strengthening relationships for the greater good of all people. The participants included tribal judges, tribal government leaders as well as other justice system collaborators, representatives of several federal and state agencies and members of state judiciaries.

Among the distinguished speakers were the Hon. Eugene White-Fish, NAICJA president and chief judge of the Forest County Potawatomi Tribal Court, the Hon. Christine M. Durham, chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court and president-elect of the Conference of Chief Justices and A. Elizabeth Griffith, deputy director, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The Gathering highlighted successful tribal-state collaborative courts on the national scene and offered an opportunity for respectful dialogue and a free exchange of concepts by the three entities on how to foster continuing collaborations based on the needs of the communities they serve.

THE NTJC IN 2009

The National Tribal Judicial Center is pressing ahead with an exciting schedule for 2009. NTJC is offering three tuition based courses, *Tribal Court Management*, *Essential Skills for Tribal Court Judges* and *Advanced Bench Skills*. The Center will also offer *Dispute Resolution Skills for Tribal Justice Systems*, a new lay advocates training, and two web courses on court management as grant funded training opportunities. In collaboration with other national tribal court assistance providers, NTJC will be hosting two programs in Alaska for Alaska Native justice systems. Additionally, in cooperation with the New Mexico Tribal-State Judicial Consortium, the Center will host a regional conference later this year.
W e are pleased to announce that Ann Tho-nton Field of Cozen O’Connor in Phila- delphia, PA has accepted the position of chair of the NJC’s Board of Visitors. Previously, Ann was vice-chair of the Board of Visitors. “I am proud to be chair of the Board of Visitors, an important group for the College that serves as a major resource of ideas for its programs and services as well as helps with nationwide fundraising efforts. Members are com- mitted to the College’s mission and believe in the importance of a well educated judiciary that is vital to upholding democracy and the rule of law,” said chair Ann Thornton Field. Ann is a member of the Cozen O’Connor law firm and is chair of the General Litigation Department. Her practice is focused on commercial litigation, aviation and products liability matters.

The NJC Board of Visitors is a group of promi- nent individuals from across the country who share in the NJC’s mission of providing leadership in achieving justice through quality judicial education and collegial dialogue. Members play a direct and per- sonal role in strengthening the College’s position as a leading institution for judicial education by providing leadership, advice and counsel to the president and staff on initiatives that are important to the Col- lege’s mission. They also serve as a major source of ideas for our programs and services as well as assist with nationwide fundraising efforts and developing new sources of revenue that are very important for strengthening the College’s financial resources.

Michael DeMarco, a long time supporter of the NJC and partner with K&L Gates, was chair of the BOV since its inception in 2006 and was previously a member of the College’s Advisory Council. Michael stepped down as chair last November to accept a position on the NJC’s Board of Trustees.

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is alleged that Mark Twain opined that “Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting over.” The New Mexico state engineer knows it well; he is tasked with administering the public waters of this beautiful, but thirsty, state.

Historically, the hearings unit of the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) has assisted by hearing disputed water right cases. Now, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), mostly through mediation, is included in our handling of these sometimes-rancorous arguments and The National Judicial College (NJC) helped with that implementation.

In April of 2008, the NJC held its Mediation for Administrative Law Judges course in Santa Fe, N.M. The course was full and well received by all participants.

“I thought the class had an excellent balance,” said Mediator Charles Kinney, of Santa Fe. “The real strength of it was the depth and breadth of the experience of the faculty and the facilitators. The course focused on many areas in which I need to improve.”

Our hearing process can be intense. Applicants must publish legal notice of a water right application for three weeks and anyone who objects on grounds of impairment to existing water rights, conservation of water, or public welfare may file a protest. The Rules of Civil Procedure and Evidence generally apply and OSE hearings are essentially equivalent to district court trials. The hearings can take several days, with the potential of a trial de novo on appeal to the district court.

The NJC’s course covered a wide range of topics including the essential stages of mediation; planning and conducting mediations; preventing and breaking impasse; facilitating decision making; understanding the unique ethical dilemmas facing mediators and much more. “I would recommend the course to anyone doing ADR. There was a logical progression of information that built upon other sessions,” expressed Hon. Victor Kovach, of Santa Fe.
“There was a nice balance of lectures, role playing and workshops.”

Since the hearings unit was formed in New Mexico in 1997, there has never been more than three examiners. Now, only two of us share the docket for the whole state. The cases coming before us are becoming more problematic. The issues are increasingly complex, the number of parties is soaring, and difficult legal issues are routinely being raised. Until about a year ago, we were being overwhelmed. But since taking the NJC’s Mediation for Administrative Law Judges course, it has eased some of the pressure. I really do want to express gratitude to the College for its ability in the mediation course to match the needs of the students with the instructors and facilitators. It was really amazing.

“Without a doubt, this was one of the best if not the best course I’ve had” said Mediator Kinney. And Judge Kovach added, “I went to the class with expectations and it exceeded my expectations in every way.”

ADR came to be the path that we chose to address docketing concerns. Our Governor had strongly encouraged agency use of ADR techniques to cut costs. The legislature had joined in the movement by passing the New Mexico Governmental Dispute Prevention and Resolution Act and the Mediation Procedures Act, which defined the scope, procedures and confidentiality of mediations done by agency personnel. After a successful pilot program, the hearings unit hired a full-time ADR officer.

That person is highly trained in mediation skills, but the hearing examiners were not. We are both graduates of previous NJC courses, so that’s where we looked for help. The two examiners and our ADR officer signed up for Mediation for Administrative Law Judges course. We even convinced the school to offer the course in Santa Fe! Having successfully completed the course allows us to cite formal 40-hour training from a credible source, gives us a common vocabulary and approach to mediation, and has enabled us to design and implement effective individual and co-mediator models.

One unexpected benefit arose as we started into the mediations. People representing the state’s highly diverse ethnic and cultural traditions have responded well to OSE-facilitated mediations, finding they are a non-threatening way to express very profound differences in belief about water. The mediations that have been carried out have a success rate of approximately 85%. In our most recent reporting period, mediation accounted for approximately 25% of closed cases. The state engineer is pleased with the progress and continues to support us strongly in making mediated settlement a major tool in quenching the thirst of our ever-growing state.

CAPPS TRAINING AT THE NTJC

Eunice Pierre, Policy Advisor, Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, attended the CAPPS (Community Analysis Process for Planning Strategies) program hosted by Fox Valley Technical College and the National Tribal Judicial Center at The National Judicial College recently. There were 13 tribes represented at the program which focused on strategic grant implementation plans for new Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program grants for tribal communities.

Pictured from left: William F. Dressel, NJC president; Eunice Pierre, policy adviser, BJA; Christine Folsom-Smith, program attorney, National Tribal Judicial Center; Joy Lyngar, NJC chief academic officer.
The primary function of the United States Marshals Service is the protection and preservation of the judicial branch. The mutual roles of protectee and protector were made clearly evident when U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow testified before the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Senate, May 18, 2005, regarding the tragic murders of her husband and mother by a pro se litigant: “I am the fourth judge since 1978 who has been the victim of assassination as a result of the ‘madness in the shadows of modern life.’ I borrow that phrase from the note former President Clinton wrote me, more specifically, as a direct result of a decision made in the course of fulfilling the judge’s oath to do justice without fear or favor.”

Protecting you in the administration of your duties in support of the law has never been more crucial. Our commitment to preventing further victimization involves serious consideration of these glaring similarities between attacks:

1.) All attacks occurred away from the courthouse and at the residence.
2.) All attacks happened as a result of involvement over a specific court case.
3.) Assailants conveyed no prior threats to the victims.
4.) Three of the attacks stemmed from civil cases.

Over the past decade, the occurrence of threats to the federal judiciary averaged 53 per month from the period 1996 to 2003 and escalated to an average of 107 per month in 2007. This is a dramatic and marked increase of 101 percent. Primarily owing to the following—the negative shift of society towards judges, prosecutors and law enforcement and significant efforts toward educating the judiciary and their staff on reporting requirements. With timely and proper reporting, protective intelligence measures function more effectively, and this enables the proper assessments for judicial safety.

Additionally, the successes of these protective measures rely significantly on the ability of law enforcement to deliver proactive measures in a reactive situation. Equally, this ability relies heavily on the cooperation of the judge.

As you are aware, there is an inherent risk to being a judge today. Judge Jack Corderman, Maryland Circuit-Retired, survivor of a mail bomb that detonated in his hands at his residence, told me in an interview, “We’d like to think we are public servants but more and more we are becoming public targets.” As you have sworn an oath to your profession, so have the U.S. Marshals, Sheriffs, and law enforcement. We are equally committed to providing you with the protection you deserve and the freedom you require so you can continue to administer your oath “without fear or favor.”

John F. Muffler
Assistant Chief, United States Marshals Service
1. Actively participate in your own security, if not for yourself, for your spouse and children. According to U.S. District Judge Henry Hudson and co-chair of the Committee on Judicial Security, Judicial Conference of the United States, “Too often judicial security is focused solely on the judge. To be truly effective, it must include the judge’s immediate family and staff. They are equally vulnerable.”

2. Be proactive. Provide law enforcement with critical personal data so that in the event of an emergency your personal information and that of your family can be quickly retrieved. This information can include blood type, medical history, doctor, address, people living in your home, vehicles owned, spouse employment and children’s school contact information, to name a few.

3. Have a security assessment of your residence and person conducted by a trained security professional. The assessment should detail patterns of travel/habits and their pros and cons, safe rooms, lighting, locks, windows, landscaping and security systems.

4. The importance of a home security system cannot be understated. This should work in conjunction with the security assessment recommendations. Judge Hudson is emphatic about this subject and states, “Unless there is an immediate threat, judges tend to put security on the back burner. Some become complacent and stop using their home alarm system. Keep in mind that rarely are attacks on judges or federal facilities preceded by any form of threat.”

5. Communicate any threat, inappropriate communication or unusual contact to your law enforcement provider immediately. The more it can monitor and assess, the better it can implement necessary protective measures.

6. Develop an emergency action plan in conjunction with law enforcement, for you and your family. This should include precautions for receiving mail and packages at your residence. Can you have your mail sent to the work address where it can be X-rayed?

7. Take advantage of the excellent security training that many states offer via their administrative offices. The Administrative Offices of the Pennsylvania and California courts, respectively, are two of the best in the country at educating the judicial family.

8. Judge Michael J. Valentine, District Court Fairfax, Virginia-Retired, has lectured many times on the topic of judges carrying concealed weapons, as well as court and personal security, “…it is the topic with which few ask about publicly and many ask about privately. Consider the following: What is the law in your jurisdiction? Are you properly trained? Up until a few years ago the majority of police officers were killed with their own weapons. Will you be able to use deadly force in a split second decision based on theoretical threats? Guns and alcohol don’t mix. Are you prepared to avoid consumption when carrying a firearm? Most court security professionals would prefer to have you unarmed in court. They are there to assess and take action with their firearms, if necessary. Not you. Guns are dangerous. Think it through…avoid a tragedy. In the final balance this is a personal decision.”

9. Understand what your state offers in terms of protecting personal information. The Honorable James Brandlin, Los Angeles Superior Court judge, championed legislative changes in California for judicial officials and is an expert in this field. He suggests some methods in obtaining privacy protection: taking title to your residence in a trust not involving the family name; DMV confidentiality; voter record confidentiality; and having your name and address removed from internet vendor search engines.

10. Tap into the U.S. Marshals Service Judicial Security Division’s Inspectors – the country’s top experts on judicial security – to educate and train you, your staff, and law enforcement on the best practices of judicial security.
Faculty and participants alike gave rave reviews of the debut of The National Judicial College’s new *Judicial Wellness and Personal Security* course, held in September of 2008 at its Reno, NV., campus.

“I gave assurance to more than one participant that the stress management activities would be of critical use in their courts and personal lives,” expressed Adam Fisher, of South Carolina, an NJC faculty member for the course and former chair of the NJC’s Faculty Council.

The Judicial Wellness and Personal Security course provided information on a wide range of services and support for state, local, federal and international jurisdictions relating to judicial security. The judicial wellness portion of the course tackled issues such as judicial stress, personal goals and exercise, nutrition and wellness.

“The personal topics were particularly helpful as I learned ways that others have dealt with judicial stress,” said course participant, Hon. Bruce Moore, an administrative law judge from Salina, KS.

The personal security portion of the course was taught by U.S. Marshals whose goal is to instill a greater sense of personal security in our nation’s judges.

“The participants have a vested interest in personal security,” explained Assistant Deputy Chief U.S. Marshal John Muffler. “You can see this in the dialogue in the class. We want to assist the judiciary in safety and security in every way we can.”

Personal security has always been important for judges,” explained Judge Michael Valentine, deputy administrator, National Center for Judicial Security, Judicial Security Division of the U.S. Marshals, who taught a portion of the program. “In the last 27 years, I have talked to hundreds of judges. It is overwhelming how many judges have questions on personal safety issues but they don’t want to ask. By coming to this course, they were able to get all the answers to their questions without having to ask. It lowers stress and anxiety levels greatly.”

According to its website, the U.S. Marshals Service, Judicial Security Division, is committed to the protection of the judicial process by ensuring the safe and secure conduct of judicial proceedings and protecting judges, jurors and other members of the federal judiciary. This mission is accomplished by anticipating and deterring threats to the judiciary, and by continuous development and employment of innovative protective techniques.

“I found the course to be quite interesting and thought-provoking,” said participant, Hon. Calvin Hawkins, of Chicago, Ill. “I mainly came here for the court security portion of the course but the interesting dynamic was the component of eliminating stress by dealing with possible insecurities. I hadn’t considered that.”

The course will be offered every other year and is slated again for 2010.
Inherent Powers of the Court
Felix F. Stumpf, Esq.
In this 2008 revision of Felix F. Stumpf’s book on Inherent Powers of the Court, originally published in 1994, Mr. Stumpf has retained the major outlines of the subject matter of the earlier edition. Although there is a short historical and general overview, the coverage is principally a division of inherent powers case in four major categories: Separation of Powers, Court Governance, Implementation or Conduct of the Adjudicative Function and Logistical Support.

202 pages softcover / $60

Logic & Legal Reasoning
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Professor Douglas Lind
This book builds on Professor Lind’s efforts to provide the best and latest methods to intertwine logical legal arguments in an easily accessible format. Through the cases, Professor Lind demonstrates how judges can integrate logic into their decisions.

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NJC Deskbook on Evidence for Administrative Law Judges
Christopher B. McNeil, General Editor
A complete updated revision of Goldberg’s Deskbook on Evidence for Administrative Law Judges first published in 1993. It acquaints ALJs with the substantive context for understanding evidentiary concepts, provides state and federal authorities to support their rulings and serves as an everyday checklist guide for executive branch adjudicators.

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The Colorado County Judges Association recently recognized Gilpin County Court Judge Frederic B. Rodgers with the Anthony Greco Award “For Exemplary Achievement and Leadership as a County Court Judge.” The award was presented to Judge Rodgers at this year’s Colorado Judicial Conference.

“Anyone who received so many nominations is obviously held in very high esteem by their colleagues,” Judge Ethan Feldman, former Colorado County Judges Association president and current Arapahoe County Court judge, said of Judge Rodgers.

Judge Rodgers has been on the Gilpin County and district court bench in the First Judicial District since 1986. In addition to presiding over civil, criminal, domestic relations, juvenile, mental health and probate cases, he served as Jefferson County probate judge from 2005 to 2007.

“I am pleased, honored and overwhelmed by this recognition,” Judge Rodgers said. “I have always considered it my privilege to serve the people of Colorado from the bench and to have the relationships that I do with my colleagues in county courts across the state. I never expected to receive an award for simply doing what I consider to be my job.”

Judge Rodgers is the current chair-elect of the National Judicial College Board of Trustees and has served as president of the Colorado Municipal Judges Association, the Colorado County Judges Association, the National Conference of Special Court Judges, as chair of the American Bar Association Judicial Division and vice-president of the Colorado Trial Judges Council.

Neil Alexander Scholarships Established

By Steve Wise, President National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary

The National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary (NAALJ) established a scholarship program in 2008 to assist administrative adjudicators attending a one-week, resident course at the National Judicial College (NJC) in Reno, Nevada. Two $500 scholarships each year are awarded for NAALJ members to use in combination with a 50-percent tuition waiver awarded by NJC for the one-week course.

The scholarships are named the Neil Alexander Scholarships in honor of a NAALJ colleague who at the time of his recent untimely death was chief hearing examiner of the D.C. Commission on Human Rights. Judge Alexander served as co-chair of the 2007 NAALJ Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Judge Alexander was recognized as an expert in discrimination law and a leader in the fight for social justice. He presided over administrative law hearings dealing with cases of discrimination filed under the D.C. Human Rights Act. With his extensive knowledge of discrimination law, he wrote numerous legal decisions in cases that received regional and national attention involving housing discrimination based on AIDS, employment discrimination based on race, and hostile work environments based on sexual orientation. He was also a guest lecturer at Georgetown University School of Law, Howard University School of Law, and at the University of Maryland for its African-American Studies Program.

The 2008 Neil Alexander Scholarship recipients are Hon. Josephine C. Townsend, who is an ALJ for the Washington State Department of Licensing...
in Vancouver, WA, and Hon. James A. Monk, who conducts special education hearings for the New York Education Department.

NAALJ is pleased to partner with NJC to provided needed educational opportunities for members of the administrative law judiciary. For more information on the Neil Alexander Scholarships, contact Judge Phyllis Carter at PhyllisCarter@wvdhhr.org.

HON. DANIEL P. RYAN OF MICHIGAN TO CHAIR THE NJC’S FACULTY COUNCIL

The NJC is pleased to announce Hon. Daniel P. Ryan, of Detroit, MI., as the new chair of the NJC’s Faculty Council. Judge Ryan, who sits on the circuit court bench, has been an alumnus of the College since 1995 and joined the faculty in 1996.

“Being selected as chair of the NJC Faculty Council is a great honor,” said Judge Ryan. As chair of the Faculty Council, he will play an important role in representing the interests of the NJC’s diverse volunteer faculty. The Faculty Council consists of ten faculty members who help ensure that quality teaching standards are maintained and that the curriculum offered is relevant, challenging and invigorating to today’s judges.

The Ryan family has a long history of support of The National Judicial College. His father, Hon. James L. Ryan, taught for the NJC beginning in 1971. As a child, Judge Dan Ryan came to the College during eight summers while his father taught courses. Although his father never pushed him to follow his own career path, Judge Ryan said his father and the NJC were positive influences on his life. Judge Ryan’s father, who also lives in Detroit, serves on the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and has been on the bench for more than 40 years.

After seven years as a lawyer in Michigan, Judge Ryan took a seat on the bench in 1994. He began teaching evidence courses at the NJC in 1996, which his father also taught. Judge Ryan was accepted into the University of Nevada, Reno Judicial Studies master’s program in 1997 and graduated on May 18, 2000 with a Trial Court Judge Major. He was accepted into the Ph.D. program in 2007 and is slated to graduate in August of 2009. Judge Ryan also completed professional certificates in NJC’s Judicial Development General Jurisdiction Trial Skills and Special Court Trial Skills disciplines in 1998 and 2001 respectively.

For more information on the work of the NJC Faculty Council, please contact Hon. Daniel P. Ryan, NJC faculty chair, at daniel.ryan@3rdcc.org.

Pictured from left: Joy Lyngar, NJC chief academic officer; William F. Dressel, NJC president; Prof. Ronald R. Hofer (Ret.), chair-elect, Brookfield, WI; Hon. Thomas Cheffins, secretary, Harrisburg, PA; Hon. Peter M. Evans, West Palm Beach, FL; Hon. Robert McBeth, Renton, WA; Hon. Louis Butler, Madison, WI; Hon. Daniel P. Ryan, chair, Detroit, MI; Hon. Amy B. Karan, Miami, FL; Hon. Anita Fogle, Columbus, OH; Hon. David M. Gersten, Miami, FL; Ramona Tsosie, Kingman, AZ (not pictured).

OTHER NJC NEWS

Karen Yates, Minden, NV, became president of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA).

IN MEMORIAM

Former NJC employee and assistant to Nevada Senator Bill Raggio, Dorothy Souza, died on October 18, 2007.
ZIMMERMAN GIVEN PAYANT AWARD
In honor of 35 years of service in teaching for The National Judicial College, Dr. Gordon I. Zimmerman, a distinguished member of the faculty of the University of Nevada, Reno, was awarded the 2008 V. Robert Payant Award for Teaching Excellence on Oct. 29. Dr. Zimmerman has taught a variety of courses at the NJC since 1974 including General Jurisdiction, Special Court Jurisdiction, Essential Judicial Skills and international courses.

MJS GRADUATES
The NJC failed to list these graduates in the last issue of Case In Point. Congratulations and we apologize for the omission.

Denise Schaar-Buis graduated with a Master’s degree from the UNR Justice Management program in December of 2008.

Hon. Philip P. Taylor, chief judge, magistrate court, GA, graduated with a Master’s degree from the UNR Judicial Studies Trial Court program in December of 2008.

Hon. Wade Thomas Minahan, magistrate, family court, OH, graduated with a Master’s degree from the UNR Judicial Studies Trial Court program in December of 2008.

JONES APPOINTED FEDERAL JUDGE
Hon. C. Darnell Jones, II, Common Pleas Court, PA, was appointed as a federal judge by the U.S. Senate. Hon. Jones has been on the NJC faculty since 1998.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES
Commissioner and Judge Pro Tempore Karen Adam was awarded the Alice Truman award. It is given annually to a member of the Arizona Women Lawyers Association who demonstrates support and encouragement for the advancement of women in the legal profession.

Judge John E. Conery, District Judge for the Sixteenth Judicial District, Parishes of St. Mary, Iberia and St. Martin, was elected president of the Louisiana District Judge’s Association at the organization’s Annual Conference on October 6, 2008. Judge Conery was also elected chief judge of the 16th Judicial District Court.

Hon. Peggy Hora was selected as a Thinker in Residence for Adelaide, South Australia. Her subject will be therapeutic jurisprudence and restorative justice.

Kevin K. Washburn, an NTJC faculty member, has been selected to lead the University of New Mexico School of Law as its newest dean and full professor of law. Washburn will begin his tenure at UNM on June 30, 2009.

NJC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM GRADUATES

Hon. Anita F. Barber, Oneida Appeals Commission, WI, graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development Tribal Judicial Skills program.

Hon. Toni Boone, NV, graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development Dispute Resolution Skills program. She also has a certificate in Administrative Law Adjudication Skills.

Hon. Walter J. Brudzinski, U.S. Coast Guard, NY, graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development General Jurisdiction Trial Skills program. Hon. Brudzinski also has a certificate in Administrative Law Adjudications Skills and Dispute Resolution Skills. He is also a JSP Master’s candidate.

Justice Courtney D. Daye, Jamaica Supreme Court, graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development General Jurisdiction Trial Skills program. He is also a JSP Master’s graduate.

Hon. Gregory T. Dupuis, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Court of Appeals, MT graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development Special Court Trial Skills and Tribal Judicial Skills programs.

Hon. Paschal A. English, Jr., Georgia Superior Court, graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development General Jurisdiction Trial Skills program.


Hon. Becky W. Gerrard, Summary Court, SC, graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development Dispute Resolution Skills program. She also has a certificate from the Special Court Trial Skills program.


Hon. Leland Wigg-Ninham, Oneida Appeals Commission, WI., graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development Tribal Judicial Skills program.

Hon. Teresa P. Rankin, Department of Administrative Appeals, NV., graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development Administrative Law Adjudication Skills program.

Hon. Shauna Graves-Robertson, Utah Justice Court, graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development Special Court Trial Skills program.

Hon. John Shirley, Justice and Pearl Youth courts, MS., graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development Special Court Trial Skills program.


Hon. Lindsay A. Tise, Georgia Superior Court, graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development Dispute Resolution Skills program. Hon. Tise also has a certificate in Special Court Trial Skills and General Jurisdiction Trial Skills.

Ms. Pilar Vaile, New Mexico Public Employee Labor Relations Board, graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development Administrative Law Adjudication Skills program.

Hon. Fredericka H. Wicker, Louisiana Court of Appeal, graduated from the Certificate of Judicial Development General Jurisdiction Trial Skills program. She is also a Judicial Studies Master’s candidate.


Faculty Awards

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Dr. Elizabeth Frances - NV
Hon. Duane R. Harves - MN

25 Year Award
Hon. Bertrand Poritsky - MN

15 Year Award
Hon. Jennifer Gee - CA
Hon. Kathleen A. Milbeck - MN
Hon. Bertrand Poritsky - MN

10 Year Award
Dr. Thomas E. Bittker - NV
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Hon. Rex J. Ford - FL
Hon. Richard A. Jones - WA
Hon. Robert E. McBeth - WA
Mr. Robert Redmond - DC
Mr. Joseph R. Sawyer - NV

5 Year Award
Hon. James E. Dehn - MN
Hon. Carol A. Eckersen – MN
Hon. Katherine D. Flores - WY
Hon. Joseph A. Grasso - MA
Hon. Steven M. Immel - WI
Dr. Melissa Piasecki - NV
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The E.L. Cord Foundation recently awarded the NJC a $40,000 grant that will provide numerous technology upgrades in the College. The Foundation has been a tremendous supporter of the College since 1965, and its giving has totaled nearly $1 million. “The E.L. Cord Foundation is a longtime supporter of the National Judicial College, and we are extremely grateful for their continued, generous support. The state of the art technology that benefits the educational experience of all judges at the College would not be available if not for the E.L. Cord Foundation,” said Hon. William F. Dressel, president of the NJC.

The E.L. Cord Foundation was established Dec. 11, 1962, by E.L. Cord, a well-known businessman, industrialist and innovator whose visions, ideas and principles were far ahead of the times. Cord had many business ventures, mainly in the manufacturing of automobiles, airplane and boat engines and electrical appliances as well as real estate. He died in 1974, and his foundation has been active in northern Nevada since that date.
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