



THE NATIONAL
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

Decision Making

April 27 - April 30, 2026
Chattanooga, TN

Tuition: \$1,979
Conf. fee: \$549

Decision Making is one of the NJC's bedrock courses, taken by generations of judges from across the country.

This course dives deep into the heart of judging: decision making. Experts review the neuroscience and psychology of decision making and assist each participant in finding and understanding their own decision making style. Sessions wade through ethical delimas and the toughest decisions judges have to make. The course also tackles dealing with difficult litigants and the use of AI. There is a substantial emphasis on writing orders and opinions that will withstand substantial scrutiny in emotional and high-profile situations.

This course frequently utilizes break-out discussion groups where judges can examine and analyze course material as well as real-world examples from their courtrooms.

What is included in the fees?

Tuition includes all in-person materials and access to digital materials. The conference fee provides for all breakfasts and lunches.

"This was my first NJC Course and I was not disappointed in any way. The instructors were intelligent, seasoned and engaging. While I may meet with more judges at my state conference, the NJC course gave me the opportunity to interact with judges from all over the United States and US Territories who are in a variety of different roles and judgeships. I don't think I have been in a classroom and interacted with that many smart and intelligent judges in my life! It was an intellectually stimulating four days! "

— 2024 participant

More info:

judges.org/courses/decision-making-js-618-2/

Select Topics:

- Identify your own decision making style.
- Explore issues of fairness and equity.
- Examine the use of judicial discretion.
- Analyze conflicts of interest and ethical dilemmas.
- Recognize the factors that can cause an appellate court to overturn a decision.
- Write and communicate decisions more clearly.

Established in 1963, the NJC is a nonprofit organization and the only educational institution in the U.S. that teaches judges of all types from across the 50 states, Indian Country and abroad.

Contact Us:

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