

Ethical Issues in the Law: A Novel Approach

July 28 - 31, 2025
Ashland, Oregon

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



THE NATIONAL
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

The law and Shakespeare tangle into an ethical quagmire in this unique course.

This course immerses participants in in-depth discussions and analyses of ethical behavior and justice at the intersection of law, literature, and life experience. The curriculum employs a two-text approach: the literary text and the "life text" — the personal experiences of the judge engaging in the discussions.

A key aspect of the course is a focus on creative practice and its positive impacts on judicial ethics and decision-making. What can literature, poetry, and art teach us about ethics and justice? Through a survey of their roles in justice movements and their presence in courts, participants will explore how these forms of creative expression — from poetry and short stories to visual art and theater — can shape and challenge ethical perspectives.

Participants attend plays at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and discuss the ethical dilemmas posed within the plays as the dilemmas relate to the judiciary. The Oregon Shakespeare Festival was founded in 1935. Ashland, Oregon is located in the southern part of the state near the Oregon Coast, Redwood National and State Parks, and Crater Lake National Park.

"This is a course that makes you slow down and reflect upon what you do and why you do it, and whether you are living up to your ethical ideals and whether you could or should approach matters differently." - Recent participant

More info:

judges.org/courses/ethical-issues-in-the-law-a-novel-approach-js-619/

Objectives

- Describe the ways in which literature exemplifies ethical issues facing the judiciary.
- Identify an author's views of justice and the judge's responsibilities to administer justice in poetry, short stories, and the selected works of William Shakespeare.
- Explain and apply judicial ethics in a manner that enhances public confidence in the judiciary.

"I have taken 15+ classes at NJC/ UNR and this ranks in the top two courses. It was fun, it was intellectual, and I wish it was longer. And, I wish I could take it every year."

-Recent participant

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.

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