



EVERYTHING  
EVERYWHERE  
ALL AT ONCE  
...FOR JUSTICE





If the title of this year's Annual Report to Stakeholders sounds familiar, you've probably seen the 2022 movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once." Or you've at least seen the trailer.

The film is hard to describe. The trailer isn't any help.

There's a middle-age woman who owns a laundromat. She is being audited by the IRS. Something crazy happens. She ends up having to connect with other versions of herself in alternate realities in order to save the multiverse. There is a good amount of martial arts action and a talking raccoon chef.

How this alludes to 2021 at the NJC may not be immediately apparent.

Start with this: Something crazy happened in 2021: Covid. Again. But in spite of the many challenges, the NJC and its alumni managed to help keep the judiciary from being rent asunder like the fabric of the space-time continuum. Did we mention that

there were judges in kayaks, the creation of a MOOC, and a talking cat lawyer? You can read about it all in the pages that follow.

There is an ironic expression, considered a curse, that says, "May you live in interesting times." This year's forecast calls for mostly interesting with scattered calamities. As always, we thank you for supporting the College and its mission to make our world (and any others that may reveal themselves) a more just place. Whatever it takes.

Hon. Benes Z. Aldana (Ret.)  
President



Hon. Christopher T. Whitten  
Chair



## Another challenging Covid year yields high enrollments

Some of the College's in-person classes resumed in 2021, but the pandemic continued to make life complicated for all educational institutions. Overall, the NJC still managed to record its second-highest year in history as far as enrollments with 16,250 across all course types.

Courses converted from in-person to online, such as *Handling Capital Cases* and *Advanced Evidence*, continued to be popular. A total of 374 judges took those two and 10 other converted courses.

*Ethics, Fairness and Security in Your Courtroom & Community* and *Advanced Trial Skills for Judges: Managing a Jury Trial* were presented as hybrids with half of the class attending in-person at the NJC's facility in Reno and the rest online.

The College's water-law program, *Dividing the Waters*, offered a two-part webinar, *The Klamath Water Wars – Twenty Years Later*. Other first-time NJC webinars included *How Judges Should Use Their State Constitutions*, *Climate Science for Judges*, *Courthouse Dogs* and *Hate Crimes*.

Custom-course business continued to be strong. The government of Ukraine hired the College to present a webinar on judicial decision-making, which drew 355 enrollments.

## NAACP's Ifill and WA Chief Justice González deliver Jackson Lectures

NAACP Legal Defense Fund President and Director-Counsel Sherrilyn Ifill and Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven González delivered the 138th and 139th Justice Jackson Lectures sponsored by Thomson Reuters.

In the spring, Ifill spoke to judges enrolled in an online presentation of the College's course for new trial judges,



*General Jurisdiction*, as well as hundreds of others viewing online. She talked about how important it is that judges treat those who come before them with respect.

"That makes them feel that the courtroom is a place where they have some power or some agency, where they matter," she said. "And the feeling that they have – whether they win or lose – of having been heard, it's like gold."

In the fall, Chief Justice González came to Reno and delivered an inspirational and often humorous lecture about diversity on the bench. At one point he joked about a conspiracy theory making the rounds in Washington state concerning "a group of powerful White people who met in secret and decided things for the rest of us. We called it the Supreme Court."

## Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lecture Series debuts

On, March 15th, the birth anniversary of the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the College presented its first in a planned annual series of Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lectures.

An online audience of more than 500 viewed recorded tributes to Justice Ginsburg from Justice Stephen Breyer, seven female



state supreme court justices, and Board of Visitors member and former Washington Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge.

The principal lecturer was Professor Deborah Jones Merritt, a former law clerk to both Justice Ginsburg and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who talked about Justice Ginsburg's legacy. Justice Ginsburg died in September 2020.

## Faculty member co-stars in viral 'cat lawyer' video

Faculty member and Texas District Court Judge Roy Ferguson gained worldwide fame in 2021 when he presided over a normally mundane civil forfeiture hearing online.

In the video recording of the hearing (see a screen capture on the back cover of this report), the attorney for one of the parties appears to be a talking cat. The embarrassed lawyer didn't know how to turn off a screen filter that was creating the effect. Judge Ferguson (above) is heard, though not seen, patiently advising the attorney on how to correct the problem.

The video can be easily found on YouTube and has been viewed millions of times. Judge Ferguson previously taught a webinar for the NJC on conducting hearings online.



## Racial Justice Roundtable caps webinar series

In the wake of the killing of George Floyd and subsequent protests against police brutality and racial injustice, the College convened the judiciary's first national self-examination and webinar series on the issue of racial justice.

Nearly 3,000 judges, attorneys and other justice system professionals enrolled in eight webinars during 2020 that



“The National Judicial College seminars continue to be the gold standard for educational opportunities for the judiciary.”

— Common Pleas Court Judge Scott N. Barrett, Kenton, Ohio. He was a participant in *Decision Making*.

covered a wide range of topics, including implicit bias, systemic racism, federal Indian policy and access to water, and bias in artificial intelligence.

The series concluded on February 25, 2021, with a virtual Racial Justice Roundtable hosted by the NJC and the National Center for State Courts. The 760 attendees included representatives of nearly every national judicial organization. The program also featured remarks by Harvard’s Robert Livingston, author of “The Conversation: How Seeking and Speaking Truth About Racism Can Radically Transform Individuals and Organizations.”

The series also generated a list of 20 Actions Judges Can Take to Combat Racial Injustice. These included, “Schedule listening sessions out in the community to find out how locals view your court.”

### Everything judges should know about hate crimes

In collaboration with the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Judicial Council and funded by the State



PAUL BECKER

Justice Institute, the NJC presented a timely webinar titled *Hate Crimes in the United States – What Judges Need to Know*.

A panel of judges and experts provided an overview of hate crimes along with advice on how to recognize hate symbols, current trends in hate crimes, how to measure the effectiveness of hate crime statutes, and best practices in sentencing hate crimes. The panel also reviewed anti-lynching legislation that had passed the House of Representatives in 2020.

### Climate science and environmental law initiatives move forward

The College successfully launched a course on *Environmental Law Essentials for the Judiciary*. The course was presented in Napa, California.

Thanks to funding from the State Justice Institute, the College is developing a curriculum for use in training state judiciaries on emerging environmental and climate change topics. Additional funding from the Environmental Law Institute – part of a two-year \$215,000 grant ELI awarded the College in 2021 – will support a yearlong project called Justice Leaders in Climate Science.

The NJC reached out to chief justices from every state to designate a judicial officer to participate in a year’s worth of in-person and online trainings. The trainings are designed to help judges become judicial leaders on climate-change-related issues and serve as a resource to other judges in their states.

### College becomes charter member of partnership to defend judicial independence

The College joined with the International Academy of Trial Lawyers (IATL), the Civil Justice Research Institute

of Berkeley Law School, the Berkeley Judicial Institute and Robins Kaplan LLP to create the Judicial Independence Collaborative.

The partnership plans to present a symposium annually for three years on the topic of preserving independent, impartial courts. The collaborative’s first such venture, titled Democracy’s Last Line of Defense, took place May 26, 2022, at The Old Post Office in Chicago and featured nearly 40 leading figures from the legal, judicial, political, media and academic worlds. The program was the brainchild of 2021 IATL President and NJC Board of Visitors Co-Chair Roman Silberfeld, partner and national trial chair of Robins Kaplan.

### First time presenting the AJEI Summit

The College and the ABA Judicial Division presented the Appellate Judges Education Institute’s annual Summit for the first time since the NJC became the home to AJEI in 2020.



Clockwise from top left: Barry Scheck, Gloria J. Browne-Marshall, and from the “Canons of Construction” panel Kirsten Castañeda, Eric J. Segall and Hon. Steve Leben (Ret.)

More than 300 judges and appellate-practice attorneys from around the country registered for the program, which took place from Nov. 11–14 at the Hyatt Regency in Austin, Texas. The previous year's Summit was canceled because of Covid.

The 75 panelists at the Summit included Barry Scheck, co-founder of the Innocence Project, who talked about preventing wrongful convictions; Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, who reviewed recent and upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decisions; and Marsha Ternus, former chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, who participated in a panel on making courageous decisions from the bench.

### Payant Award to a tribal judge for the first time

National Tribal Judicial Center Director Jan Morris presented the 2021 Payant Award for Teaching Excellence to Hon. Ramona Tsosie, a member of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe in Needles, California.

Since joining the faculty in 1999, Judge Tsosie has taught more than 30 times. She became the first tribal judge to receive the Payant Award, the College's highest teaching honor.



### Two new Trustees

The Board welcomed two new trustees: Susan Briggs (far left), a partner at Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.; and Kellye

Testy, president and chief executive officer of the Law School Admission Council.

### Another Judicial Academy graduate takes the bench

In 2021 a sixth person made it to the bench from the 2019 inaugural class of the NJC's *Judicial Academy* for attorneys who aspire to become judges.

Rania Rampersad was appointed to the East Division District Court bench in King County, Washington. The Academy returned in 2021 after a year off because of the pandemic.



### President Aldana explains about attacks on judicial independence

A special issue of the ABA Judicial Division's Judges' Journal magazine about "Judging in a Politicized America" included a lengthy piece by President Aldana.

The article, "Taking Fire from Many Directions: The Threats to Judicial Independence Are Myriad and Multiplying," catalogued many judges' concerns about their ability to carry out their responsibilities free from outside influences, especially political pressure. President Aldana also offered advice on how to defend the integrity the justice system.



### O'Connor Award will honor a judge for extraordinary service and commitment

The College established its highest honor, the Sandra Day O'Connor Award, to recognize an active or retired judge who has shown extraordinary service and commitment to justice.

The inaugural honoree of the award was Justice O'Connor herself.

An alumna and longtime supporter of the NJC, Justice O'Connor enrolled in the College's flagship course for new judges, *General Jurisdiction*, shortly after her election to the Superior Court of Maricopa County, Arizona, in 1974. In 1981, President Reagan nominated her to become the first female member of the U.S. Supreme Court. She took office the same year.

Justice O'Connor retired in 2006 and in 2018 announced her retirement from public life after disclosing that she had been diagnosed with the early stages of Alzheimer's-like dementia.

Arizona Supreme Court Vice Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer (right) accepted the award on Justice O'Connor's behalf at the annual Summit of the Appellate Judges Education Institute, which took place in November in Austin, Texas.

More information on the award and the nomination process can be found on the College's website, Judges.org, along with a video about Justice O'Connor's life and career.



### Recognizing judicial heroes and legends

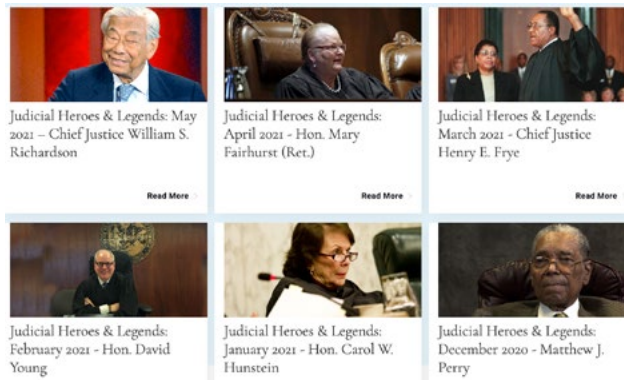
Responding to a suggestion by Trustee Edward Blumberg, the College began regularly profiling Judicial Heroes & Legends on its website, Judges.org.

Judges spotlighted during 2021 included Henry Frye, the first African-American member of the North Carolina Supreme Court; William Richardson, chief justice of Hawaii's Supreme Court from 1966 to 1982; and Abby Abinanti, chief judge of California's Yurok tribe since 2007.

“The NJC is leading the way to preparing the judiciary for transformational changes.”

— District Court Judge Manuel I. Arrieta, Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was a participant in *Judicial Leaders in Climate Science*.

Judge Abinanti was also one of two tribal judges featured in the documentary “Tribal Justice.”



The College's Judicial Heroes & Legends profiles have become a regular feature at Judges.org.

### Deaths in the NJC family

Among the many friends the College lost in 2021 were much-loved faculty member **Carl Liggio**, below left, who co-created the *Financial Statements in the Courtroom* course in 1990 and anchored the course's presentation for the next 29 years; former Colorado Supreme Court Justice **Greg Hobbs**, below right, one of the founders of the College's water law program, Dividing the Waters; and influential Washington, D.C., attorney and NJC Trustee **Pam Bresnahan**.

Appreciations of each can be found at Judges.org.



### Private Facebook group for judges created

The College launched a new private group for judges on Facebook called In Chambers.

With membership restricted to judges and retired judges, the group is intended to provide a private space online where judges can meet informally, compare notes, and share information and experiences. By year's end more than 300 judges had been admitted.



### Recognized for LGBTQ+ support

The International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges awarded the College its 2021 Distinguished Service Award in recognition and appreciation of the NJC's support of the association, contributions to the association's Judicial Education Institute, and assistance in raising the profile of the association within the legal community.

Joseph Sawyer, NJC director of online learning and faculty development, and faculty members Phyllis Kotey and Todd Brower taught in the association's Judicial Institute in 2021.

Separately, Washington Supreme Court Justice Helen Whitener, an NJC alumna, received the Stonewall Award from the ABA Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity during the ABA Midyear Meeting in Seattle. Justice Whitener is the first Black woman to serve on the Washington

Supreme Court, the fourth immigrant-born justice and the first Black LGBT judge in the state of Washington.

### Spreading understanding about artificial intelligence and the law

The College co-hosted, online, the third Athens Roundtable on Artificial Intelligence and the Rule of Law. The annual conference draws judges, lawyers, corporate executives and policymakers from all over the world.

In early 2022 the NJC's Judges.org website served as a portal to a self-study Massive Open Online Course or MOOC on *AI and the Rule of Law*. More than 4,000 people around the world registered for the course, which was made available in seven languages.

The College also co-hosted a live question-and-answer session on “Digitizing the Justice System” along with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in cooperation with The Future Society and CETIC.br.



### College welcomes Distinguished Fellow and Judge-in-Residence

Lawyer and law professor Keith R. Fisher, a nationally known expert on business and commercial courts and legal and judicial ethics, joined the College as its first Distinguished Fellow. The position is funded, in part, by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. One of his initial projects was to establish a series of judicial ethics trainings.

The College appointed longtime NJC faculty member and retired Indiana Superior Court Judge Earl Penrod as a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Judge-in-Residence. In his new role he will conduct research, serve as faculty, and design and update curricula related to drug-impaired driving.



During the pandemic, judges and staff of the Salt Lake City Justice Court took to kayaks and canoes to visit a homeless encampment along a river and help clear up legal issues.



## Swapping his gavel for a paddle

Clemens Landau isn't wearing his black robe. He's in plain clothes as he hops out of his kayak at a homeless encampment along the Jordan River in Salt Lake City. Along with a social worker and bailiff, they walk from tent to tent offering to absolve bench warrants if defendants are willing to talk.

Some of the people seem wary, but others are relieved to have a way to attend court during the pandemic. Resolving warrants allows them to reapply for government benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and housing assistance. For others, seeing a judge in their midst just paints a better picture of the justice system.

"Part of the assignment is to kind of shift-change hearts and minds about what we're there to do," says Landau, presiding judge of the Salt Lake City Justice Court. "The more we do these, the more people understand that we are not just a source of jail time and unpayable fines."

Salt Lake City Justice Court Judge Jeanne Robison helped initiate the Kayak Court idea alongside one of the court's social workers after Judge Robison took the NJC's *When Justice Fails* course. The course looks at periods in history, such as during the Holocaust, when injustices prevailed.

In 2021 Judge Landau expanded on the idea when he took the College's workshop-style *Leadership for Judges* course on developing innovative ideas. The course has been supported

by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

It's just one of the innovations tried by the Justice Court. During the pandemic, the court also outfitted a van for mobile proceedings and hosted hearings online. Because patrons of the court are diverse, options were needed for people lacking internet access and phones.

there must be consequences, I'm not interested in the backstory," he says. "It gets messier when you try to go into more dimensions about, 'OK, why is this person stuck in this cycle?'"

Though the outreach efforts necessitated by the pandemic required more work, he isn't keen to throw them away. Public service is better when

“The more we do these, the more people understand that we are not just a source of jail time and unpayable fines.”

—Clemens Landau, presiding judge of the Salt Lake City Justice Court

Judge Landau explains that implementing new strategies has meant working more closely with other agencies. It's also meant confronting what leads people to his courtroom, such as mental health issues and housing instability.

While those precursors don't necessarily fall under the court's purview, offering a warm hand-off to medical providers, social workers and substance-abuse counselors can help avoid recurring court appearances, he says.

"It's pretty easy to ... stay in a two-dimensional place and just say, 'Look, these are the charges,

defendants don't have to take full days off from work or pay for parking and childcare.

"There's a lot of great stuff that we've done over the past two years ... and (we're going to) fight like hell to make sure we keep the good stuff."

In *Leadership for Judges*, he says, he learned that leadership isn't one-size-fits-all — you can play to your strengths.

For some, leadership involves gregariousness and gravitas, for others it's not being afraid to pick up the paddle and row.

Offenders accepted into Healing to Wellness Court begin a four-phase program that includes help getting clean and recognizing the stressors that led them to drugs and alcohol.



A sweat lodge in Akwesasne.  
Photo by Raun Mitchell, Seven Dancers Coalition.

# A tribal court seeks to understand addictions and heal the brain and spirit

They're problems common to many isolated people living along the United States-Canada border: drug smuggling, access to illegal drugs, substance abuse, addiction.

About 16,000 enrolled members of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe live in this heavily forested area of northeastern New York state that the Mohawk call Akwesasne (pronounced ACK-weh-SASS-nee). Until the last decade, the tribe had few resources to help members who came into its justice system with drug problems. But in 2010 the tribe launched its Healing to Wellness Court.



The therapeutic court is designed to serve offenders 16 and older who commit nonviolent crimes while under the influence of drugs or alcohol or who have been convicted of drug possession or trafficking.

During the court's existence, 36 offenders have been accepted into the program, says the tribe's chief judge, National Judicial College alumna and faculty member Carrie Garrow. Of those who have been accepted since she took the bench in 2016, half have graduated, she says, and there has been no recidivism.

Overall, there have been 36 participants since the program's inception. Slightly more than a third have graduated with zero recidivism by graduates.

Judge Garrow, who is also president of the National American Indian Court Judges Association, says the program works like this:

Offenders accepted into Healing to Wellness Court begin a four-phase program that includes help getting clean and recognizing the stressors that led them to drugs and alcohol.

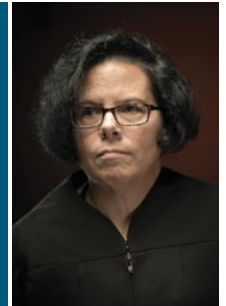
Court coordinator Micaelee Horn, who helped start the program, is in charge of monitoring mandatory activities. These include regular drug testing, attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and community service.

Instead of AA or NA, an offender may also opt for tribal cultural traditions like participating in an outdoor sweat lodge. In these ceremonies, a traditional healer uses sacred fire, water and native medicines to heal a damaged spirit. There are also talking circles and singing.

The talking circles are hosted by The Seven Dancers Coalition, a group consisting of the Mohawk and the five other nations in the Iroquois Confederacy. The name comes from a Mohawk legend about a group of seven children who camped on Lake Ontario in the winter. During a ceremony, they dance to the beat of a leader's water drum.

“(The participants) talk about the impact of aspects of their culture – what it means to be Mohawk.”

— Judge Carrie Garrow, National Judicial College alumna and faculty member



“(The participants) talk about the impact of aspects of their culture — what it means to be Mohawk,” Judge Garrow says. “My experience is that it helps participants reconnect to their community and feel they belong.”

She says the tribe's judiciary is continuing research into how childhood trauma affects behavior into adulthood. Studies by the Centers for Disease Control show that toxic stress from Adverse Childhood Experiences can harm children's brain development, immune systems, and stress-response systems. She says such insights have helped her and her staff understand people dealing with addictions who come into their court.

“We may not know what has happened to them, but instead of asking ‘What’s wrong with you?’ we try to be more trauma-informed.” *The NJC receives support from SAMSHA through the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry to teach judges about the science and treatment of addiction.*

“If they have bought-in to making a change in their life, we’re the place that offers them an opportunity to do it.”

—J.L. Brewer, director of the Jackson Jennings Community Corrections and Drug Courts



# Building a facility for change instead of just another jail

**T**he woman was in her early 20s and using opiates. She had fallen in with a bad crowd of people who were also addicted to drugs. Some were likely members of a gang.

She was eventually arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamines, a Level 6 felony, along with misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

Fortunately for her, those were her first arrests as an adult, and her juvenile record was clean.

Even more fortunately, the county where she was arrested, rural Jackson County in Indiana, about halfway between Indianapolis and Kentucky, had a drug court program aimed at helping offenders like her end the cycle of addiction and committing crimes to support the habit.

In June 2021, the community gained another resource when Jackson and neighboring Jennings County opened the Jackson Jennings Community Corrections Work Release Facility.

A key proponent in getting it built was NJC alumnus Richard W. Poynter, presiding judge of the Jackson County Circuit Court.

One of the main purposes of the facility, he says, is to help offenders from dysfunctional families and backgrounds establish some stability in their lives.

"I felt like we were failing," says Judge Poynter, who was a prosecutor for 13 years before taking

the bench 10 years ago. "We weren't reaching a group of people who needed to be reached. Putting people in jail is not solving their problems. The key is to get them to change their behavior."

Only nonviolent offenders are allowed to live in the work-release facility, which with a capacity of 150 is one of Indiana's largest. The residents' schedules are tightly structured. That includes being allowed out for 12 to 14 hours a day to work at local factories, warehouses, restaurants and other employers. That's the release aspect of the program.

Residents earn the prevailing local wages, which are around \$15 to \$22 an hour, according to J.L. Brewer, director of the Jackson Jennings Community Corrections and Drug Courts.

An offender with a typical three-year felony sentence must complete 180 days in the facility — longer if they break the rules, including failing a drug test. They can then graduate to home confinement with an ankle bracelet monitor.

Brewer said about 99 percent of people in the criminal justice system are there because of something to do with drugs. The work-release facility not only tests continually but has in-house mental health and addiction therapists.

"If they have bought-in to making a change in their life, we're the place that offers them an opportunity to do it," he says.

Brewer says local officials agreed to build the

facility because the jails were full and they didn't want to pay to build more. Unlike at a jail, residents pay \$20 a day in rent to stay at the work-release facility. They must also pay for their own food, toiletries, even the drug tests, which run \$60 a month.

As the facility approached its one-year anniversary, it was too early to say conclusively if it had helped reduce recidivism. But there were success stories. The young woman with the opioid addiction was one.

**"Putting people in jail is not solving their problems. The key is to get them to change their behavior."**

—Judge Richard Poynter

Early on during her time in the facility, she contracted Covid-19 and had to be quarantined in a hotel. During her first night away, she relapsed. But she has been clean ever since, Drug Court Coordinator and Case Manager Michelle "Missy" Cox said in May 2022.

Now in her own apartment and with her own car, the woman was continuing to work as a quality-assurance specialist at a local auto parts factory while studying to earn a GED.



‘I’ve taken so many courses from the NJC that really pushed me and helped me gain skills and knowledge of the court system.’

—Chuuk State (Micronesia) Supreme Court Associate Justice Kerio Walliby



# A voyage to judicial education in the western Pacific

In 2021, the schedule for the College's popular *Leadership for Judges* course, which was being held online because of the pandemic, called for class to begin each day at 8 a.m. Pacific, 9 a.m. Mountain, 10 a.m. Central, 11 a.m. Eastern and 1 a.m. "Chuuk."

Chuuk is one of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia, a country composed of more than 600 islands in the western Pacific. The middle-of-the-night start time in Chuuk mattered to just one course participant: Kerio Walliby, an associate justice of the Chuuk State Supreme Court.

NJC courses often attract judges from other counties, and the College has long taught courses abroad. But few NJC alumni have come from as far away as Justice Walliby.

It is nearly 5,800 miles, as the albatross flies, from Justice Walliby's home island of Weno to the NJC's headquarters in Reno, Nevada. He has now attended seven NJC courses, though only two of them in person: *General Jurisdiction* and *Fourth Amendment: Comprehensive Search & Seizure*.

Justice Walliby is also unusual among NJC alumni in that he has no law degree. But that's not unusual among Micronesian judges or even justices of the Supreme Court, he said.

The governor of Chuuk State appointed him to the court in 2016 after he had served for about a

year and a half as a correction officer in the Department of Public Safety. Before that he spent about 17 years as state justice ombudsman for the country's national Supreme Court, he said. He also served 14 years as program administrator for substance abuse and mental health in Micronesia's Department of Health and Social Affairs.

Leadership for Judges teaches judges how to develop projects to improve their courts. In Justice Walliby's case, he wanted to take what he had learned from the NJC and teach it to the 42 municipal judges of Chuuk State. Chuuk is Micronesia's most populous state with about 50,000 inhabitants of islands in less than a 50-square-mile radius.

Justice Walliby said municipal judges are appointed by mayors.

"It doesn't matter who they pick. They don't have any background" in the law or courts, he said.

The judges handle minor criminal matters such as assault, theft, property damage, and failure to have a license or pay taxes for a store, he said.

He wanted to teach the municipal judges the basics of criminal and civil procedures, the rules of evidence, how to write court orders, and

more. That involved translating materials into various local languages. Nineteen judges participated in his first training, held in early 2022, and he said he hopes to do more as funding allows.

"I've taken so many courses from the NJC that really pushed me and helped me gain skills and knowledge of the court system," he said.

His goal is to continue learning and spread the knowledge.

Justice Kerio Walliby wanted to take what he had learned from the NJC and teach it to the 42 non-law-schooled municipal judges on the islands of Micronesia's Chuuk State.

*Facing page, clockwise from lower left: departing Chuuk Lagoon for judicial training on an outer island, Losap Municipality; receiving completion certificates; Justice Walliby (blue shirt) with the chief judge of Losap.*

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— Judge Gregory A. Adams, Superior Court, Decatur, Georgia

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The College's Reading & Robes™ civic education outreach continued to grow in 2021. By year's end the program had reached a total of more than 2,500 children in 15 states since its launch in 2019.

Reading & Robes™ features judges, in their robes, explaining about their work and reading aloud from culturally diverse books with themes of justice, fairness and the law. By year's end a total of 55 judges had participated and \$114,450 had been raised to support the program.

The College thanks the program's funders: NV Energy Foundation, Wilbur May Foundation, William N. Pennington Foundation, Nevada Gold Mines, Nevada Humanities and the Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation.

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“The NJC is doing an outstanding job in regard to its virtual courses.”

— Superior Court Judge Calvin D. Hawkins, East Chicago, Illinois. He participated in *Marijuana Impaired Driving Cases: What Judges Need to Know*, an Online Workshop and Ethics Webinar Series: *Use of Contempt Power*, among many other courses.

## GRANT SUPPORT

In 2021, The National Judicial College held cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The NJC serves as a sub-recipient on U.S. Department of Justice cooperative agreements with the University of North Dakota School of Law Tribal Judicial Institute.

The NJC also serves as a sub-recipient on two U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration cooperative agreements awarded to the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry. These are important collaborations between medical professionals and the legal system on the topic of opioids.

The NJC partnered with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Commercial Driver's License program to provide traffic safety education to judges.

The NJC also receives grants from the State Justice Institute, a nonprofit organization established by federal law in 1984 to award grants to improve the quality of justice in state courts, and to foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts.



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Here's how to make a gift that will benefit you now and support the College for all time

The National Judicial College has played a key role in educating judges since 1963. Through your will, a charitable remainder or life trust, or by naming the NJC as the beneficiary of your life insurance or IRA, you can help the NJC continue to provide judges with the knowledge, skills and abilities vital for their role on the bench.

Here are the most popular Planned Giving options:

### Trusts, Wills and Bequests

Leave the NJC a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. Reduce your estate tax base by the full amount of the gift.

### Life Insurance Policies

Name the NJC as a beneficiary for the whole or part of a life insurance policy that is prepaid but is no longer needed by your family.

### Retirement Plans

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Place cash or property worth \$100,000 or more into a trust to provide you with income for life or a term of years. The remainder will be distributed to the NJC.

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Place cash or property in a trust that pays a fixed amount to the NJC for a term of years. Upon the completion of the term, the assets transfer to the NJC.

### Certificate of Deposit or Other Security

If there are judicial causes you care about, we can help you have a positive impact by making a planned gift to support NJC course development in a specific area of the law. Choose from Administrative Law, Appellate Law, General Jurisdiction, Military, Special Court or Tribal.

### Scholarships

If you prefer to provide scholarship assistance, with a minimum gift of \$50,000 you can endow

a scholarship in your name, the name of a loved one, or of a colleague.

A scholarship endowment of \$50,000 will generate proceeds to bring new judges to the *General Jurisdiction* course for decades to come.

### Legacy Council

The NJC Legacy Council is a growing group of judges, attorneys and friends who have included the NJC in their estate plans.

If you have already named us as a beneficiary of a planned gift, please let us know by filling out the "Planned Giving Statement of Intent" form available at the NJC website, [Judges.org](http://Judges.org) (Donate > Legacy Giving), so we may enroll you as a Legacy Council Member

Contact our Advancement Department at [njc-development@judges.org](mailto:njc-development@judges.org) for more details.

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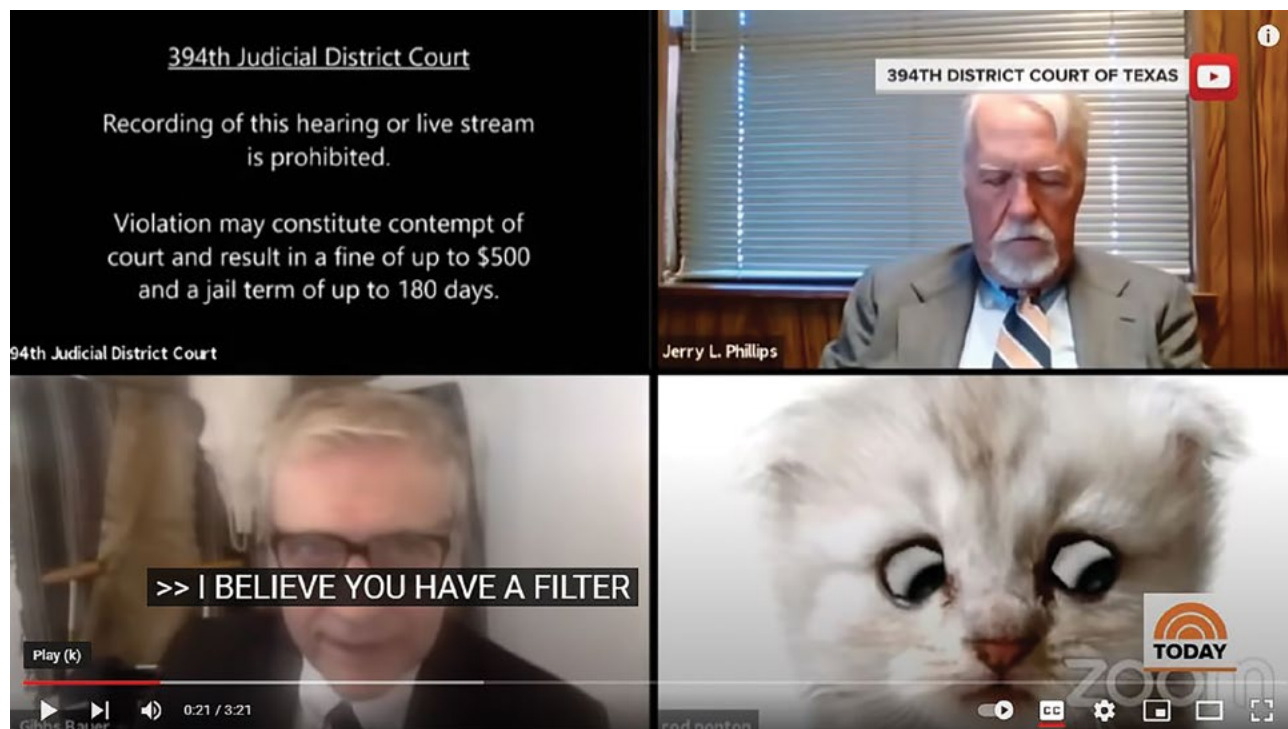
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*President Aldana (right) and Board Chair Chris Whitten raise a glass of Thirty-Seven Wines at a private wine-tasting and dinner fundraiser at the Thirty-Seven vineyard overlooking San Pablo Bay in Sonoma, California. The winery’s owners, Trustee Al Brayton (filling glasses) and his wife, Lisa, hosted. The event included a talk by UC Davis Professor Anita Oberholster (below, left) on how climate change is affecting the growing of wine grapes. Guests included (bottom right, from left) Trustees Leslie Hayashi, Mary-Margaret Anderson and Darcee Siegel.*





*Meet the unseen NJC judge behind the talking-cat-lawyer viral video, Page 2*



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