

2022 Course Catalog



More to come

This catalog lists all courses currently scheduled for 2022. But keep in mind, the College schedules new free online programming – known as webinars – throughout the year.

Last year, the NJC presented about 165 of these events lasting an hour or two. These included programs that provided timely information and advice on subjects such as how to operate courts during a pandemic, how to respond to the cries for racial justice in the wake of the George Floyd killing, and how to deal with potential challenges to election results.

We'll have more events like these throughout 2022. To be the first to know about them, submit a request to be added to our email list by going to judges.org/contact-us. You can also view all upcoming courses, webinars and self-study offerings by going to judges.org/courses and searching by "Course Category."



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To Register

Go to judges.org/courses and search courses by title or keyword. When you find the course that is right for you, click the blue "Register" button.

You will be asked to sign in to a secure online portal to complete your registration. If you have already participated in an NJC course or webinar you can use those credentials to log in. If you are new to the College, simply click "New User? Register."

Do you need help with financial assistance to attend an NJC course? Email njc-scholarships@judges.org or call (800) 25-JUDGE.

COVID Protocol

All faculty, staff and participants are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. College attendees will need to show a full vaccination card or negative COVID test upon arrival. Go to judges.org/covid-19 for more information.

The National Judicial College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action, ADA organization and admits participants of any age, race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, disability or limited English proficiency.

Course at a Glance

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	TUITION/CONF. FEE	PAGE
Jan 24–Feb 25	Taking the Bench: An Interactive, Online Course for New ALJs	Online	\$329	3
Jan 24–Mar 11	Special Considerations for the Rural Court Judge	Online	\$749	3
Jan 31–Mar 18	Selected Criminal Evidence Issues (JS 602)	Online	\$749	3
Feb 14–Apr 1	Evidence Challenges for Administrative Law Judges	Online	\$749	3
Feb 28–Apr 15	Fundamentals of Evidence	Online	\$749	3
Mar 7–9	When Justice Fails: Japanese-American Incarceration	San Francisco, CA	\$1,159 / \$329	9
Mar 14–17	Logic & Opinion Writing (JS 621)	Las Vegas, NV	\$1,699 / \$439	6
Apr 4–14	General Jurisdiction (JS 610)	Reno, NV	\$1,999 / \$649	4
Apr 4–7	Judicial Writing (JS 615)	Reno, NV	\$1,359 / \$329	4
Apr 11–14	Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills (JS 624)	San Diego, CA	\$1,699 / \$439	6
Apr 18–May 21	Taking the Bench: An Interactive, Online Course for New Trial Judges	Online	\$329	3
May 2-5	Best Practices in Handling Cases with Self-Represented Litigants	Napa, CA	\$1,699 / \$439	6
May 2-5	The Traffic Case: A Course for Nonlawyer Judges [new]	Reno, NV	Call for information	8
May 16–20	Civil Mediation	Reno, NV	\$1,499 / \$419	4
May 23–25	Drugs in America Today: What Every Judge Needs to Know	Denver, CO	\$1,159 / \$329	6
May 23–26	Decision Making (JS 618)	Bar Harbor, ME	\$1,699 / \$439	7
June 6–9	Administrative Law: Advanced (JS 649)	Philadelphia, PA	\$1,699 / \$439	7
June 6–July 22	Ethics and Judging: Reaching Higher Ground (JS 601)	Online	\$749	3
June 13–16	Fourth Amendment: Comprehensive Search & Seizure (JS 645)	Santa Fe, NM	\$1,699 / \$439	7
June 13–14	Advanced Bench Skills: Procedural Fairness	Santa Fe, NM	\$899 / \$279	7
June 20–24	Management Skills for Presiding Judges	Reno, NV	\$1,499 / \$419	4
Aug 14–20	Administrative Law: Fair Hearing (JS 612)	Reno, NV	\$1,799 / \$539	4
Aug 15–17	Arbitration, Family Mediation & Alternatives for Resolving Disputes [new]	Reno, NV	\$899 / \$259	8
Aug 22–25	Designing and Presenting: A Faculty Development Workshop	Reno, NV	\$1,359 / \$329	4
Aug 22–25	Court Management for Tribal Court Judges and Personnel (JM 690)	Reno, NV	\$1,359 / \$329	2
Sep 12–14	Drugged Driving Essentials for the Judiciary	Reno, NV	Call for information	4
Sep 12–Oct 28	Evidence Challenges for Administrative Law Judges	Online	\$749	3
Sep 12–Oct 28	Handling Small Claims Cases Effectively	Online	\$749	3
Sep 12–Oct 28	Fundamentals of Evidence	Online	\$749	3
Sep 19–22	Mindfulness for Judges	Duck Key, FL	\$1,699 / \$439	9
Sep 19–Nov 4	Ethics for the Administrative Law Judge	Online	\$749	3
Sep 26–29	Judicial Writing (JS 615)	Online	\$1,359	4
Sep TBA	Judicial Renaissance 2022	Seoul, South Korea	\$3499	9
Sep/Oct TBA	Ethical Issues in the Law: A Novel Approach (JS 619)	Ashland, OR	\$1,699 / \$439	9
Oct 3–6	Advanced Tribal Bench Skills: Competence, Confidence and Control	Reno, NV	\$1,359 / \$329	2
Oct 10–14	Judicial Academy: A Course for Aspiring Judges	Reno, NV	\$1,359 / \$329	5
Oct 10–20	General Jurisdiction (JS 610)	Reno, NV	\$1,999 / \$649	4
Oct 10–20	Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced (JS 611)	Reno, NV	\$1,999 / \$649	5
Oct 17–20	Ethics, Fairness and Security in Your Courtroom and Community	Reno, NV	\$1,359 / \$329	5
Oct 17–20	Managing Challenging Family Law Cases (JS 634)	Reno, NV	\$1,359 / \$329	5
Oct 31–Nov 3	Lessons from Tough Cases: A Seminar on Judging [new]	New Orleans, LA	\$1,699 / \$439	8
Oct 31–Nov 3	Advanced Evidence (JS 617)	Sedona, AZ	\$1,699 / \$439	7
Oct 31–Nov 3	The Anti-Racist Courtroom: Theory and Practice [new]	Memphis, TN	\$1,699 / \$439	8
Oct 31–Nov 4	Civil Mediation	Reno, NV	\$1,499 / \$419	4
Oct 31–Dec 15	Special Considerations for the Rural Court Judge	Online	\$749	3
Nov 7–10	Leadership for Judges	Reno, NV	\$1,359 / \$329	5
Nov 7–Dec 9	Taking the Bench: An Interactive, Online Course for New Trial Judges	Online	\$329	3
TBA	Advanced Tribal Court Management	TBA	\$1,699 / \$439	2

Click here for a downloadable, one-page version of the 2022 schedule.



THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE

TRIBAL JUDICIAL CENTER

The National Tribal Judicial Center at the NJC offers courses developed specifically for tribal court judges and court personnel. The center also provides publications, technical assistance, and scholarships to members of tribal justice systems across the nation.

Advanced Tribal Court Management

TBD | TBD

This course provides tribal court judges and court administrators with a more in-depth examination of the business of managing a court. After taking this course, you will be able to: discuss external and internal jurisdictional cooperation; recognize the fundamental goals of access to justice and the establishment of stare decisis in the tribal court; design internal controls and develop policy for enhanced court operation; assess ethical issues; and evaluate the impact of tradition and custom on court operations.

Advanced Tribal Bench Skills: Competence, Confidence and Control

October 3–6 | Reno, Nevada

This four-day course is highly interactive and designed to give tribal judges more confidence in handling all aspects of trials. You will participate in daily workshops on professionalism, ethics, the role of the judge, and techniques for maintaining control of the trial process. After attending this course, you will be able to preside over fair and impartial trials, create an appropriate trial environment, articulate and enforce ground rules for trial conduct by advocates, and efficiently handle unexpected events that frequently occur during a trial.

Court Management for Tribal Court Judges and Personnel (JM 690)

August 22–25 | Reno, Nevada

This interactive course provides tools for tribal court clerks to use in handling all areas of accepting and processing legal documents, calendaring and docket controls, records and caseload management, and courtroom duties. During the course, tribal court clerks will develop practical approaches for making court improvements and will gain the confidence to make suggestions. Faculty will focus on the role and duties of court personnel in addition to the standards for appropriately handling court cases. Finally, the course faculty will address customer service and ethical standards for court clerks. After this course, participants will be able to: suggest court improvements; manage court cases efficiently and effectively; provide greater customer service; and respond to difficult situations ethically.

Taking the Bench: An Interactive, Online Course for New Administrative Law Judges

January 24–February 25

This four-week online course is designed for ALJs who have been recently appointed or hired. Participants will spend an average of six to eight hours per week on assignments, and to complete the course, participants will be required to attend a weekly one-hour web conference.

Selected Criminal Evidence Issues (JS 602)

January 31–March 18 | Online

You are often called on to make instantaneous decisions from the bench on the admissibility of evidence. Do you have a firm grasp on all of the rules of evidence as they apply to criminal cases? This web-based course provides the tools to make evidentiary rulings quickly and confidently in criminal cases.

Evidence Challenges for Administrative Law Judges: Online

February 14–April 1 & September 12–October 28

Are you making evidentiary rulings with confidence? This web-based course will help you develop the skills needed to rule accurately on issues of hearsay, foundation, privileges and burden of proof and make correct determinations concerning both expert and lay-witness observation through real-world examples and interactive tasks.

Fundamentals of Evidence: Online

February 28–April 15 & September 12–October 28

This course is designed to provide you with a practical framework for ruling on evidence. You will be introduced to the principles of the Federal Rules of Evidence with a focus on using the rules to decide evidentiary issues. This course will benefit judges without law degrees who are looking for a better understanding of evidence as well as judges with law degrees who are looking for a refresher.

Taking the Bench: An Interactive, Online Course for New Trial Judges

April 18–May 21 & November 7–December 9

The purpose of this online course is to provide education for judges who have been recently elected or appointed. The course is four weeks in length. Judges spend an average of six to eight hours per week on assignments, and you will be required to attend a weekly web conference.

Ethics and Judging: Reaching Higher Ground (JS 601)

June 6–July 22 | Online

As a judge, you have the responsibility of upholding the Model Code of Judicial Conduct. During this course, you will explore the foundation of ethics; review and apply the Code to behavior both on and off the bench; and develop a framework to improve cultural competence.

Ethics for the Administrative Law Judge

September 19–November 4 | Online

Rule with confidence knowing your decisions are ethically appropriate. This web-based course uses hypothetical scenarios, interactive learning activities, and online discussion to explore the ethical issues that face the administrative law judge. You'll be able to apply the Model Code of Judicial Conduct for federal administrative law judges and explain the differences between your individual state code and the Model Code.

Handling Small Claims Cases Effectively

September 12–October 28 | Online

Small-claims cases can be among the most stressful and frustrating a judge will handle. Litigants with no knowledge of the legal system or its procedures often come to your court with very challenging legal issues. This course will guide you through the small-claims process, from pretrial to trial to post-trial proceedings, and it will help you develop practical skills for handling all aspects of the process.

Special Considerations for the Rural Court Judge: Online

January 24–March 11 & October 31–December 15

Isolation, underfunding, lack of collateral social services in the community, and a high public profile. Do these circumstances sound familiar? They will to judges in rural courts. This course shares techniques and experiences from rural judges in meeting these challenges and provides tools and suggestions you can use in your rural court.

California's tribal judiciary pioneer



If you've seen the documentary "Tribal Justice," which debuted on the PBS series "POV" in 2017, you probably remember Abby Abinanti.

The film follows the efforts of Abinanti, chief judge of the Yurok Tribe in Northern California, and a judge with another tribe as they dispense justice based on traditional Native values, including restorative justice and sustainable coexistence with the natural world.

In 1974 she became the first female Native American admitted to the State Bar of

California. Two decades later she was appointed a commissioner of the San Francisco Superior Court, becoming the first California tribal person to serve as a judicial officer of the state. She has been chief judge of the Yurok since 2007.

She taught at an NJC symposium for tribal and state court judges in 2012. In June 2021, the College recognized her as a Judicial Hero & Legend by profiling her on the judges.org website.

General Jurisdiction (JS 610)

April 4–14 | *Reno, Nevada*

October 10–20 | *Reno, Nevada*

Jumpstart your judicial career! Since 1964, this course has supplemented state-sponsored judicial education by providing a solid foundation in the substance and theories that all new judges should have beginning their careers on the bench. You will be immersed in the core competencies of your profession. After attending this course, you will be able to: manage your courtroom and individual cases, including cases involving self-represented litigants; conduct jury trials more effectively; summarize and apply developments in criminal law and procedure, judicial discretion, ethics, and sentencing; rule on evidence more confidently; make fair and unbiased decisions; and interact effectively with the media. The communication and listening skills learned in this course will enable you to communicate more effectively in your courtroom and with court staff.

Judicial Writing (JS 615)

April 4–7 | *Reno, Nevada*

September 26–29 | *Online*

Are your judicial documents clear, coherent and unambiguous? This course applies advanced composition principles to judicial writing at all levels of judicial work. Beginning with questions of aim, audience and style, we will go on to consider best practices in legal and judicial writing and think together about relationships between decision-making and decision writing. Any judge, judicial officer, law clerk, or court-affiliated staffperson who writes briefs, opinions, findings of fact, conclusions of law, jury instructions, or correspondences can benefit from this course.

Civil Mediation

May 16–20 | *Reno, Nevada*

October 31–November 4 | *Reno, Nevada*

Mediation is an important option in every system of justice. This course is interactive, fast paced and practical. Simulations, interpersonal-skill development and role play enable participants to integrate communication and problem-solving techniques for effective mediation management, thus avoiding classic errors. After completing the course, participants receive a certificate honored by most states with mediator credential requirements.

Management Skills for Presiding Judges

June 20–24 | *Reno, Nevada*

Your court needs a strong leader. Learn how to tackle human-resources issues, budget complications, and other management challenges. During this five-day class, presiding judges, assistant presiding judges, administrative law judges, chief judges, and chief administrative law judges will hone their management, leadership and communication skills.

Administrative Law: Fair Hearing (JS 612)

August 14–20 | *Reno, Nevada*

This intensive two-week course provides newer state and federal administrative law adjudicators with a solid foundation in the tools and techniques to create and maintain a “fair hearing,” complete the record, and provide a clear order. Separate tracks are offered that recognize the differences between the conduct of low-volume and high-volume proceedings.

Designing & Presenting Programs Effectively: A Faculty Development Workshop

August 22–25 | *Reno, Nevada*

Designed for judicial educators who want to improve their teaching skills, this workshop emphasizes a “learning by doing” model. Using Kolb’s Learning Style Inventory, you will identify your own learning style while recognizing the need to teach to your participants’ varied learning styles. The faculty will empower you to write effective learning objectives, which are the foundation of your teaching.

Drugged Driving Essentials for the Judiciary

September 12–14 | *Reno, Nevada*

Unlike alcohol-impaired driving, drugged driving has no bright-line test for impairment. Drugged-driving cases require a judge to utilize a variety of judicial tools to adjudicate these cases effectively. In addition to the ability to determine which kinds of drugs an individual may be using, it is important to know how these drugs affect the individual and whether they impair the ability to function. It is also imperative that a judge knows how to craft sentences effectively, including treatment options, to provide a participant with the most beneficial mode of recovery.

Ethics, Fairness and Security in Your Courtroom and Community

October 17–20 | *Reno, Nevada*

As a judge, you have the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the court process. Are you succeeding? This course will help participants reduce bias and prejudice in their court as well as apply security measures when engaging with the public.

Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced (JS 611)

October 10–20 | *Reno, Nevada*

About 66 percent of our nation’s cases are processed in a “special court” — traffic or municipal court, misdemeanor court, domestic violence court, or small-claims court, to name a few. During the course, you will devise strategies and learn skills to assist in traffic court, small-claims court, misdemeanor cases, and cases involving alcohol and drug use and family violence.

Judicial Academy: A Course for Aspiring Judges

October 10–14 | *Reno, Nevada*

Judges have to be able to manage themselves, juries, cases, court computer programs, and other intricacies. This course provides the fundamental management tools to individuals seeking election or appointment to the bench. The Academy emphasizes a “learn by doing” dynamic featuring judges, judicial selection professionals, and other experts. The College admits up to 40 participants and will endeavor to select diverse participants (age, race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin) to help in the national effort to ensure a diverse judiciary.

Managing Challenging Family Law Cases: A Practical Approach (JS 634)

October 17–20 | *Reno, Nevada*

This course is for any judge who hears family law cases. The faculty provide practice-based tools to assist judges in the management of the most complex issues in domestic relations. Presented in partnership with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Judicial Studies Graduate Degree Program at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Leadership for Judges

November 7–10 | *Reno, Nevada*

Judges are often asked to lead projects that will improve the justice system. Learning about project management, leadership, human resources, and other business- or organization-based principles will help you succeed in these projects. This course provides leader judges with the answers to many court-related questions. The course takes place in a workshop setting where you can practice techniques learned with beneficial feedback from your judicial colleagues and experienced faculty members.

Five success stories

Launched in 2019, the NJC’s Judicial Academy is believed to be the only course in the country for lawyers who aspire to become judges. Five alumni of the first class have already made it to the bench:

Olga Álvarez, Superior Court, San Diego County, California

Jose S. Castillo, Superior Court, San Diego County, California

Marie A. Moses, District Court, 2nd Judicial District, Denver, Colorado

Patrice W. “Patti” Oppenheim, Family Court, 22nd Judicial District Court, St. Tammany and Washington Parishes, Louisiana.

Lorrie Sinclair Taylor, General District Court, Loudoun County, Virginia (first Black judge in county’s history)



Logic and Opinion Writing (JS 621)

March 14–17 | Las Vegas, Nevada

The curriculum is designed for all adjudicators who wish to improve their writing through application of logic constructs and writing techniques. This course will assist anyone who writes judicial opinions in becoming a more skillful and effective opinion writer. The first half of the course invites you to examine the underlying principles of syllogistic reasoning and how these principles may apply. The second half of the course addresses writing judicial opinions as a reasoned statement that justifies the outcome that the decision maker reaches. Anyone who writes judicial opinions — judges and others — will benefit from this unique class.

Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills (JS 624)

April 11–14 | San Diego, California

Do you need a fresh look at your role on the bench? From civility to contempt, this course will help you develop the skills you need to oversee your courtroom effectively. After completing this course you will be able to demonstrate effective communication behaviors on the bench, make and protect the record more effectively, apply contempt powers from the bench with confidence and restraint, and more. This course is open to judges only. The curriculum is designed for general jurisdiction, special court, and tribal judges who hear criminal or civil cases.

Best Practices in Handling Cases with Self-Represented Litigants

May 2–5 | Napa, California

In the past decade, self representation has increased exponentially. Self-represented litigants now appear on court dockets in almost every case possible, including civil, criminal felony, domestic relations, traffic, criminal misdemeanor, small claims, probate and administrative cases. After this course, participants will be able to: recognize when an indigent self-represented party may be entitled to court-appointed counsel, move a self-represented-party civil docket expeditiously, use settlement techniques in cases involving self-represented litigants, recognize the limits on assisting self-represented parties, and apply innovative methods and strategies to ensure that these litigants have proper access to the justice system. After this program, participants will be able to describe some of the best practices for managing these difficult cases.

Drugs in America Today: What Every Judge Needs to Know

May 23–25 | Denver, Colorado

Addiction can affect every aspect of a case's outcome. With opiate addiction at epidemic levels in both urban and rural America, the NJC has crafted a new course that focuses on the neurology of addiction with an emphasis on heroin and painkillers. This course will provide an in-depth analysis of the science behind addiction and will offer practical solutions for the judge to manage all case types affected by drug use.

Decision Making (JS 618)

May 23–26 | Bar Harbor, Maine

This course will familiarize you with the factors that affect the judicial decision-making process and assist you in the analysis of your own thinking and style. Faculty will address the psychology of decision-making, how personality type may influence decision-making, ethical considerations that may impact decision-making, how appellate courts review decisions, and practical suggestions to aid in making decisions from the bench.

Administrative Law: Advanced (JS 649)

June 6–9 | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

This course — for experienced administrative law judges, adjudicators and hearing officers — gives an in-depth look at federal and state administrative law, including evidentiary trends in administrative proceedings, due process, ethics, and court procedures unique to administrative law. The course also looks at the implications inherent in conducting telephone hearings.

Fourth Amendment: Comprehensive Search and Seizure (JS 645)

June 13–16 | Santa Fe, New Mexico

When is a search or seizure justified? Who has standing to challenge? When is a warrant needed? If the amendment is violated, does the exclusionary rule apply? This course answers these questions and others through the examination of U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Advanced Bench Skills: Procedural Fairness

June 13–14 | Santa Fe, New Mexico

Every day when you take the bench you have the opportunity to ensure that litigants leave your courtroom with greater respect for the justice system — whether they have won or lost their case. As a judge, you have the responsibility to ensure that the four key principles of procedural fairness (voice, respect, neutrality and trust) are exhibited in your courtroom. With busy dockets and an increase in self-represented litigants, how can you be both efficient and effective in demonstrating these tenets? During this course, you will learn to address the myriad of instances where your justice and procedural fairness changes the participant's response, ensuring greater compliance and respect for the court.

Advanced Evidence (JS 617)

October 31–November 3 | Sedona, Arizona

This course is a must for judges who want to improve their evidentiary rulings. The expert faculty will review recent cases that impact evidentiary rulings, address problematic areas under the Federal Rules of Evidence, and explore the impact of these on evidentiary issues in state courts. After attending this course, you will be able to rule on evidentiary issues with greater accuracy and confidence.

PREREQUISITE: law degree or completion of one of the following courses: *Special Court Jurisdiction* or *Fundamentals of Evidence* (or its equivalent)

Eight facts about alcohol and drug abuse that every judge should know

1. Marijuana consumed today bears little resemblance to marijuana in the 1970s. The concentration of the psychoactive ingredient (THC) has increased almost six-fold.
2. Heroin appears to have become more lethal. Heroin deaths climbed in 2017 to a reported 15,954 in the United States — despite a decrease in heroin use.
3. Shown next to this penny is a fatal dose of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid about 100 times stronger than morphine.
4. In 2017, opioid-involved overdoses accounted for 67 percent of overdose deaths.
5. More people now die from drug overdoses than car crashes.
6. Children are 45% more likely to attempt suicide if their parents are addicted to opioids.
7. People suffering from mental illness are more likely to abuse substances and less likely to get help. Ninety percent of the 9.2 million individuals 18 and older with both mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders receive no treatment.
8. Ninety-three percent of college graduates say they've used alcohol in the past compared with 76 percent of adults who did not finish high school.

Decision-making and the “reasonable person” standard

According to an April 2021 survey of NJC alumni, judges disagree over whether the venerable “reasonable person” standard works as an objective test of responsible thinking and behavior.

The emailed survey asked, “Has your thinking about the ‘reasonable person’ standard changed as you’ve learned more about disparities in society?”

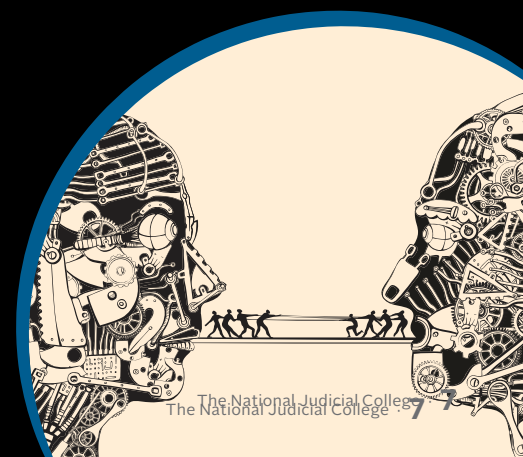
The “no” votes outnumbered the yeses 64 percent to 36 percent. But the more than 100 comments left by judges turned up a crucial ambiguity: Many judges who voted “no” indicated that

no awareness of societal disparities was going to alter their faith in an objective “reasonable person” standard. But other judges who voted no said their thinking hadn’t changed because they *already* believed in taking such disparities into account.

The issue appeared to boil down to whether the same standards of reasonable thinking and behavior can be applied to people from very different backgrounds and experiences.

As one anonymous judge put it, “The question really is whether judges ... will expressly ... or implicitly impose their

own standards despite the cultural differences of the persons who appear before them.”





The Traffic Case: A Course for Nonlawyer Judges [NEW]

May 2–5 | Reno, Nevada

Nonlawyer judges may preside over cases involving impaired driving, which is a crime in all 50 states. Criminal matters such as impaired driving where incarceration is a potential sentence can have issues concerning due process, the 6th Amendment, and the right to a fair trial. This course is specially designed to give nonlawyer judges a solid foundation in evidence admissibility, the flow of a trial from beginning to end, case management, sentencing and more.

Arbitration, Family Mediation, and Other Alternatives for Resolving Disputes [NEW]

August 15–17 | Reno, Nevada

Reduced court hours and increased case filings are pushing family law and civil law departments to the breaking point. This course provides participants with information on evolving methods of dispute resolution including mediation for family and civil cases, judicial settlement methods, arbitration, and other innovative devices used to solve disputes more efficiently and effectively. You will be provided checklists, tips and suggestions that will help, especially with an increasing number of self-represented litigants. Participants will also participate in skills-building exercises.

Lessons from Tough Cases: A Seminar on Judging, Judicial Independence, Faithfulness to the Rule of Law, and Mind vs. Heart [NEW]

October 31–November 3 | New Orleans, Louisiana

What was your toughest case? How did you handle it? Do you wish, that you'd handled it differently? During this course you will analyze and critique poignant stories of trial judges who struggled with cases involving judicial independence, the rule of law, vicarious trauma, ethics, dealing with the media, personal security, and more. Participants will be able to share their own toughest cases as well. This four-day course was inspired by the book *Tough Cases: Judges Tell the Stories of Some of the Hardest Decisions They've Ever Made*, edited by judges Russell F. Canan, Gregory E. Mize and Frederick H. Weisberg.

The Anti-Racist Courtroom: Theory and Practice [NEW]

October 31–November 3 | Memphis, Tennessee

This groundbreaking four-day course combines embodied experience and jurisprudence to create a deep emotional and intellectual understanding of racial bias in the courts. Participants will be challenged to examine their own beliefs, including unconscious beliefs, and consider antiracist theory with practice as potential antidotes to bias. The curriculum includes history, experiential learning, cognitive science, and psychological and sociological research. The class will visit the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Hotel (site of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination in 1968) to examine artifacts and archival material about the American civil rights movement not available to the public. After taking this course, you will understand how to identify sources of personal and systemic bias within the judiciary and know the concrete, actionable steps you can take to address bias.

When Justice Fails: Japanese-American Incarceration

March 7–9 | San Francisco, California

During times of societal conflict and claims of national emergency, the judicial branch has often failed to secure the promise of equal justice for all. How can the judicial branch maintain the rule of law and protect the most fundamental rights of every citizen during periods of political upheaval? The faculty for this thought-provoking class will explore how the United States judiciary responded to claims of national emergency, and what the judges of today can learn from the mistakes of the past.

Judicial Renaissance 2022

TBD | Seoul, South Korea

Lifelong learning is essential to maintain skill and knowledge in one's chosen profession. During this program, judges will engage with experts from the arts, humanities, and science to better understand the context of the legal system and judges' place within it. Judges will rediscover the foundations of justice as embodied within the scope of lasting human achievements. The focus of this program will not be the specifics of legal theory but rather how the law is enhanced by other disciplines. (Hosted by our partner, the Judicial Research and Training Institute of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea).

Ethical Issues in the Law: A Novel Approach (JS 619)

TBD | Ashland, Oregon

This course engages the participant in in-depth discussions and analyses of ethical behavior and justice at the point at which law, literature and life experience intersect. The curriculum involves a two-text approach. Participants attend plays at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and discuss the ethical dilemmas posed within the plays as the dilemmas relate to the judiciary. Plays this year will be determined at a later date.

Mindfulness for Judges

September 19–22 | Duck Key, Florida

This four-day course, held in beautiful Duck Key, Florida, is an opportunity to pause from the many complexities of being a judge and find some space to breathe and reflect.

Over the course of the four days, we will explore the most current research on mindfulness, including the neuroscience underlying mindfulness and the effects of mindfulness on work-related skills and behaviors. Specifically, participants will learn how mindfulness can help cope with trauma and enhance leadership and communication.

Research on mindfulness in the judiciary — for example, the effectiveness of mindfulness in addressing unconscious biases — will be a particular focus. In addition to the didactic portion of the program, we will spend a significant amount of time experiencing directly a wide variety of attention-focusing and meditation practices, while leaving time for thoughtful dialogue and inquiry. By the end of the course you will have both experience with mindfulness practice along with the resources to keep your practice going for years to come.

What is mindfulness, and how can it make you a better judge?



The Mayo Clinic describes mindfulness as a type of meditation in which you focus on being intensely aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the moment, without interpretation or judgment.

Retired appellate judge Patricia Blackmon has been practicing mindfulness since shortly after her election to Ohio's Eighth District Court of Appeals in 1991. She has since taught in the NJC's *Mindfulness for Judges* course five times.

She offers these tips on using mindfulness on the bench.

1. Remember what Socrates said: Four things belong to a judge: To hear courteously; to answer wisely; to consider soberly; and to decide impartially. Mindfulness can help with each of those responsibilities.
2. Start each day with a beginner's mind. Judging requires you to constantly self-examine. Are your decisions coming exclusively from a rational, reasoned approach, or are you sometimes on auto-pilot, programmed

by prior belief or bias? Start each day with a beginner's mind: open, unbiased, curious.

3. Let the dirt settle out. Meditating 10 to 20 minutes each day will help develop the rational part of your brain. Amit Sood, a professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and chair of the clinic's Mind Body Initiative, says to think of a busy brain as dirt in a glass of water that is constantly being shaken. When we meditate, the dirt settles to the bottom over time and the water clears. The dirt doesn't go away, it just settles to the bottom, creating clear vision.
4. Find your breath. When you feel yourself becoming distracted at trial, begin breathing consciously until it brings you back to the present. Being conscious of your breathing acts like an anchor to stop your concentration from drifting away.
5. Recall what's been said before answering. When asked a question, take a moment to recall the arguments made. If you're still not prepared to answer, call a recess and research the matter. The greatest enemies of a mindful approach to judging are fear and misinformation.



Patricia Blackmon was the first African American woman appellate judge in Ohio history. Before taking the bench, she was a prosecutor in Cleveland. She retired from judging in February 2021.



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