

THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE

Est. 1963



MAKING THE WORLD A MORE JUST PLACE BY EDUCATING AND INSPIRING ITS JUDICIARY





THE HARVARD OF JUDICIAL EDUCATION

The National Judicial College was created in 1963 to address a largely unknown deficiency: the education of judges.

In many other countries, people can embark upon a prescribed course of study that will lead to appointment as a judge. In the United States, most new trial judges take the bench having had courtroom experience as a trial attorney. But to this day, no U.S. law school is known to offer a course – let alone a concentration, major or degree – in judging. And no state makes judicial education a prerequisite for becoming a judge.

The NJC has been called the “Harvard of judicial education” or the “gold standard” because it is the oldest, most prestigious and most widely attended school for judges in the United States. A nonprofit and nonpartisan organization, it remains the only truly national school for all kinds of judges.

Each year about 10,000 judges study with the NJC from all 50 states and several foreign countries.



“It is the only institution in the nation that exists for the purpose of educating judges from throughout the country in how to do their job...”

The New York Times

Former Fox News chief national correspondent Jim Angle (left) with Washington Post Executive Editor Martin Baron at an NJC national symposium for judges and journalists, “Undermining the Courts and the Media: The Consequences for American Democracy,” December 13, 2018, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Famous participants

Nine U.S. Supreme Court justices have studied with or taught for The National Judicial College.

- Tom C. Clark
- Byron R. White
- Warren E. Burger
- John Paul Stevens
- Sandra Day O'Connor
- Antonin Scalia
- Anthony M. Kennedy
- David H. Souter
- Stephen G. Breyer

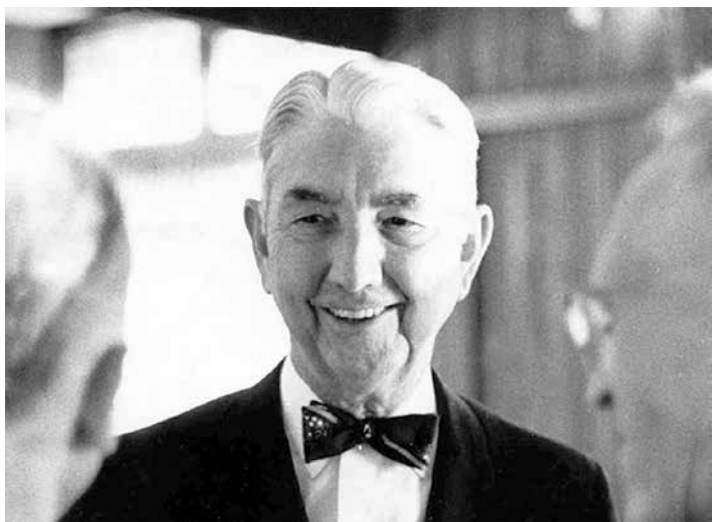
“When I was the chief justice of Alabama I made an all-out effort to try to get as many judges as possible to attend The National Judicial College. I’ve always had the idea that there ought to be some type of mandatory judicial education.”

Senator Howell Heflin

ORIGINS

In the early 1960s, a committee of the American Bar Association led by Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark issued a report strongly recommending continuing education for judges. Clark noted that judge-specific education had long been resisted for fear that “if judges admitted a need for seminars, they would be confessing inadequacy.”

Those worries proved unjustified. In the College’s first year, 360 judges applied for 85 available seats. The College held its first classes in Boulder, Colorado, in 1963 and moved to Reno, Nevada, a year later with principal financial support from the Max C. Fleischmann Foundation.



Tom C. Clark



ALL KINDS OF JUDGES STUDY WITH THE NJC

NJC course participants range from justices of state supreme courts to justices of the peace and tribal judges, some of whom have never been to law school. The College serves state trial and appellate judges, military judges, tribal judges, administrative law judges and others. Combined, these judge types decide well over 95 percent of the cases in the United States.

The 874 judges of the federal Article III courts, who are appointed for life, receive judicial education through the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C., which was established in 1967, four years after the NJC.

“It is just remarkable the improvement that [The National Judicial College] has made in the administration of justice. It’s beyond measure.”

U.S. Supreme Court Chief
Justice Warren E. Burger

“[If you’ve just been sworn in as a judge], you pack up and go to Reno. Yes, Reno. That’s where you can go to school and get a crash course in how to be a judge. Less than a mile from the bright lights of the casinos sits The National Judicial College.”

CBS 60 Minutes

THE NATIONAL TRIBAL JUDICIAL CENTER

There are 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States, each a sovereign nation. More than 60 percent have tribal courts. Tribal judges have participated in NJC courses since the College’s founding in 1963. In 2002, after consulting with tribal judges and leaders, the College created the National Tribal Judicial Center (NTJC).

Today, no other entity comes close to the NTJC in terms of the depth and breadth of educational programming provided to tribal courts. The center educates more than 450 tribal judges and court service professionals annually. Its courses are taught by current and former tribal judges and court administrators, mainly Native Americans.



WHAT THE NJC TEACHES: AN EVER-EVOLVING CATALOG

The College offers about 100 in-person and an equal number of online courses each year. Tuition-based, in-person courses typically last one to two weeks. Some are as short as a day, or even a couple of hours, in the case of special presentations made under grants and contracts.

Longstanding classroom courses cover the fundamentals of being a judge: conducting a trial, judicial ethics, opinion and order writing, admission of evidence, decision making, procedural fairness, guarding against bias, court management. Other courses address more specialized topics such as handling death penalty cases or issues related to impaired driving.

An NJC-affiliated program, *Dividing the Waters*, prepares judges to adjudicate water-related issues, particularly water rights disputes in the arid West.

The College is constantly developing new courses in response to needs. Recent examples include courses on fracking, new immigration laws and policies, the brain science of addiction, how to interpret electronic evidence, and how judges can use mindfulness to deal with second-hand trauma from years of

wrenching testimony and having to make painful, life-altering decisions.



WHO TEACHES NJC COURSES

The College operates under a model of judges teaching judges. Most courses are taught by teams of current and retired judges who do so as volunteers. They are often joined by experts such as psychiatrists, psychologists, law professors, accountants, specialized attorneys, treatment providers, historians and demographers.

Judges actually compete for the honor of teaching for the NJC. They first complete a faculty development course and then must receive high marks from course participants or they will not be invited back.

About 200 judges from all over the country volunteer as instructors each year.

Justice Jackson Lecture Series

Starting with its founding in 1963, the College's has invited prominent figures in law, government and business to address participants in the NJC's *General Jurisdiction* course for new judges. Here are some past Jackson Lecturers, the positions they are best known for, and the year they spoke.

Ramsey Clark

Attorney General of the United States (1968)

Dean Rusk

Secretary of State of the United States (1975)

George H.W. Bush

President of the United States (1982)

Sandra Day O'Connor

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (1983)

Frank J. Fahrenkopf Jr.

Chair of the Republican National Committee (1990)

Kenneth Starr

United States Solicitor General, Independent Counsel (1992)

Anthony M. Kennedy

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (1993)

Richard Bryan

United States Senator, Nevada (2004)

Christine M. Durham

Chief Justice, Utah Supreme Court (2009)

Erwin Chemerinsky

Dean, U.C. Berkeley Law School (2018)

Karen Korematsu

Founder and Executive Director, Fred T. Korematsu Institute (2018)

WHERE THE NJC TEACHES

The NJC historically presented its courses at its headquarters on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno. And its flagship course for new judges, *General Jurisdiction*, is still taught there exclusively. In recent years, an increasing number of courses have been offered at locations around the country. States, tribes and other organizations also frequently contract with the College to present all or part of a course or a series of courses at their sites. The College presents scores of interactive courses, webinars and materials online.

● **Reno, Nevada: Epicenter of Judicial Education**



Reno is not only home to The National Judicial College but two allied organizations: the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, founded in 1937, and the unique Judicial Studies Graduate Degree Program of the University of Nevada, Reno, launched in 1986.



Locations of NJC courses, 2016-2018

Point Clear, AL
Anchorage, AK
Fairbanks, AK
Little Rock, AR
Scottsdale, AZ
Sedona, AZ
Tucson, AZ
Window Rock, AZ
Hot Springs, AR
Morrilton, AR
Irvine, CA
Monterey, CA
Napa, CA
Sacramento, CA
San Diego, CA
Temecula, CA
Denver, CO
Vail, CO

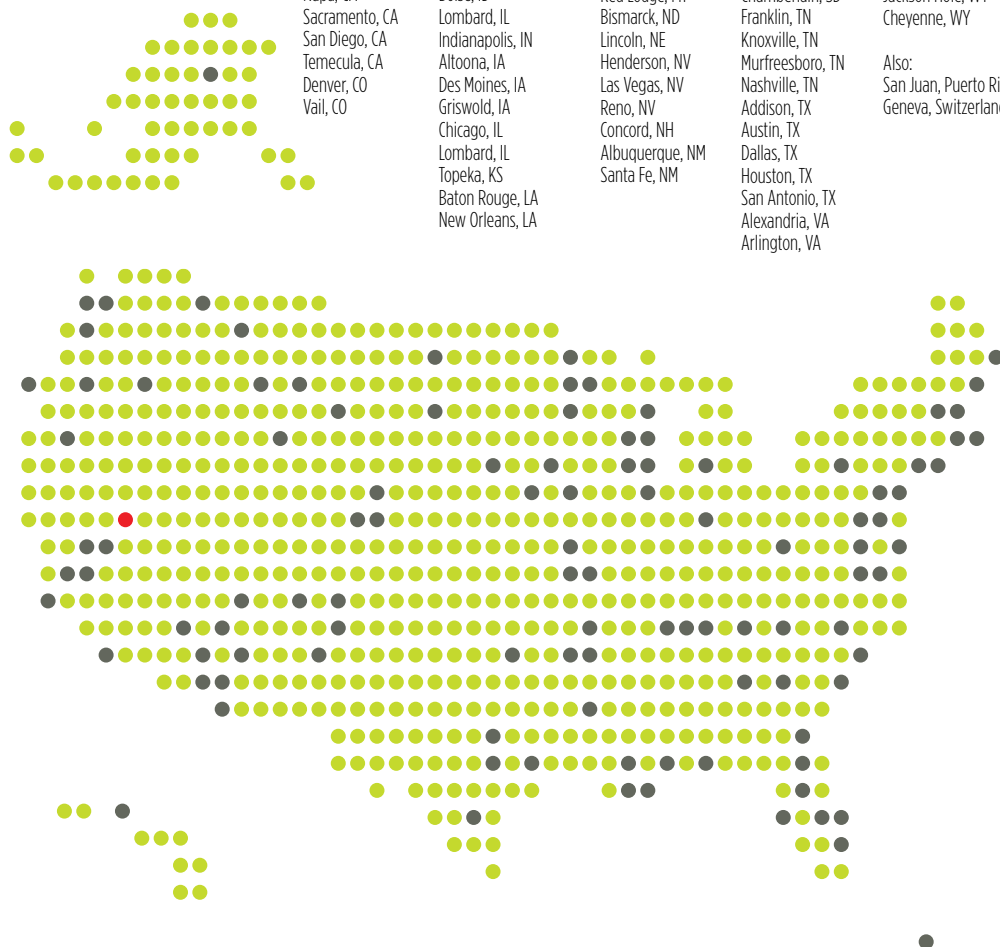
Wilmington, DE
Washington, DC
Clearwater, FL
Jacksonville, FL
Miami, FL
Orlando, FL
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Tampa, FL
Athens, GA
Atlanta, GA
Savannah, GA
Honolulu, HI
Boise, ID
Lombard, IL
Indianapolis, IN
Altoona, IA
Des Moines, IA
Griswold, IA
Chicago, IL
Lombard, IL
Topeka, KS
Baton Rouge, LA
New Orleans, LA

Annapolis, MD
Bar Harbor, ME
Portland, ME
Chaska, MN
Bloomington, MN
Minneapolis, MN
Kansas City, MO
Lake Ozark, MO
Biloxi, MS
Big Sky, MT
Great Falls, MT
Polson, MT
Red Lodge, MT
Bismarck, ND
Lincoln, NE
Henderson, NV
Las Vegas, NV
Reno, NV
Concord, NH
Albuquerque, NM
Santa Fe, NM

Salamanca, NY
White Plains, NY
Columbus, OH
Oklahoma City, OK
Ashland, OR
Hershey, PA
Philadelphia, PA
State College, PA
Providence, RI
Charleston, SC
Columbia, SC
Kiawah Island, SC
Chamberlain, SD
Franklin, TN
Knoxville, TN
Murfreesboro, TN
Nashville, TN
Addison, TX
Austin, TX
Dallas, TX
Houston, TX
San Antonio, TX
Alexandria, VA
Arlington, VA

Williamsburg, VA
Olympia, WA
Seattle, WA
Tacoma, WA
Charleston, WV
Baraboo, WI
Elkhart Lake, WI
Madison, WI
Milwaukee, WI
Oshkosh, WI
Big Horn, WY
Jackson, WY
Jackson Hole, WY
Cheyenne, WY

Also:
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Geneva, Switzerland



“My experience ... is that judges, as a group, are in fact eager students – eager to learn more about their craft and do a better job. The opportunity for judges to share that experience with other judges in a setting like the Judicial College is marvelous.”

Carl Stern, NBC News,
George Washington
University

WHY JUDGES COME TO THE NJC

Many states require at least some continuing education for judges. But mandates are not the only reason judges enroll. Many simply want to be the best judges they can be, and the experience of studying at the NJC extends beyond the lecture hall.

A poll of NJC alumni asked, “If you could change one thing about being a judge, what would it be?” Among the most common responses was “social isolation.” Ethics rules prevent judges from talking about cases or saying much at all publicly because their comments could be used to show bias.

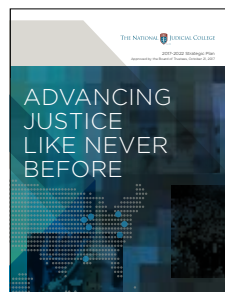
Judges who study at the NJC often say the best part of the experience is interacting with their peers from all over the country, sharing ideas, comparing notes. It’s a rare opportunity to be among people who face the same challenges of a lonely profession with sacred responsibilities.



4 out of **10** judges who attend the NJC do so on full or partial scholarship. In 2019 the College awarded more than \$600,000 in scholarships funded by endowment gifts and support from the State Justice Institute.

CREDENTIALS THAT JUDGES CAN EARN

The College awards Certificates of Judicial Development in several specialties. The College and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges also offer courses that may be applied toward master's degrees or a doctorate in judicial studies awarded by the University of Nevada, Reno Judicial Studies Graduate Degree Program. The doctorate is unique in the world.



The College's strategic plan sets out five priorities:

- Maintain Leadership in Academic Excellence
- Achieve Long-Term Financial Sustainability and Institutional Resilience
- Raise the Public Profile of the NJC and Build its Brand
- Develop and Sustain a High-Performance Team of Professionals and Volunteer Leadership
- Strengthen Our Strategic Alliances and Partnerships



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“It is wonderful to be an alumna of this college. It has a truly excellent reputation as a professional school, it has *never* had a losing football team, and it very seldom sends out letters asking the alumni for money – and when it does we have to help.”

Sandra Day O'Connor
United States Supreme Court



NJC President Benes Z. Aldana with U.C. Berkeley Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky

Support The National Judicial College

Democracy depends on having judges who are skilled, dedicated and principled. Gifts enable the College to offer more courses at more places to more judges.

The National Judicial College is a 501(c)(3), and donations are tax deductible as defined under the law. Donate at the College's secure website, Judges.org, or by mailing a check or money order to the address below.

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