

ATTORNEY Course



THE NATIONAL
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

Judicial Academy: A Course for Aspiring Judges

April 13-17, 2026

Reno, Nevada



Former NJC President Benes Aldana with Judicial Academy alumna Jaime Hawk at her investiture as a judge of the King County (WA) Superior Court

Your journey to the bench starts here.

Deciding to make the move from bar to bench is a decision filled with uncertainties and often complex pathways. The National Judicial College has created the one-of-a-kind program designed to assist attorneys in navigating the journey from attorney to judge.

During this weeklong course, participants will learn if a career on the bench is right for them and how to pursue a judicial position, whether the jurisdiction utilizes an appointment or election process. The course tackles campaign ethics, social media, judicial ethics, campaign finance, public and private interviews, and other issues that commonly arise. The course also includes sessions on decision-making, security, winding down a practice, and conflicts of interest so attorneys can take the bench with confidence. Expert faculty include current judges, retired judges, state supreme court chief justices and appointment and election specialists.

Development of application materials and interview skills are also a key feature of the course.

Please visit the course pages on judges.org for deadline information. Scholarships may be available.

To apply: judges.org

**38 alumni from the first four
Judicial Academy courses have
taken the bench.**

2026 Tuition: \$1,749
2026 Conference Fee: \$499
(includes breakfast & lunch)



"I absolutely loved the Judicial Academy, and I highly recommend that anyone aspiring to a judicial career invest in this course."

Presiding Judge Lorrie Sinclair Taylor 20th Judicial District Court Loudoun County (VA). First African-American judge in the history of Loudoun County



Judicial Academy alumni who are now on the bench (from left): King County (WA) District Court Judge E. Rania Rampersad; St. Tammany & Washington Parishes (LA) Family Court Judge Patrice Oppenheim; California Fourth District Court of Appeal Associate Justice Jose S. Castillo; and Prince William County (VA) Special Justice for Juvenile Mental Health Cases Kiah D. Spinks

"I really cannot say enough about the Judicial Academy. Being amongst peers and faculty dedicated to each other's success was special enough, but the curriculum was above and beyond a typical CLE. Just an outstanding experience." - 2024 Participant