2020 Courses

How to Register
Our website offers an up-to-date listing of all of our courses including our online learning opportunities and FREE webcasts.

To view more information and to register, please visit www.judges.org/current-courses. When you find the course that is right for you, click on the “Register” button. Call (800) 25-JUDGE for more information.

Courses at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TUITION/CONF. FEE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27–Mar 13</td>
<td>Selected Criminal Evidence Issues (JS 602)</td>
<td>Web Course</td>
<td>$689</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Evidence Challenges for Administrative Law Judges</td>
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<td>$689</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Fundamentals of Evidence</td>
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<td>$689</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Mar 9–12</td>
<td>Advanced Trial Skills for Judges: Managing a Jury Trial</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>Call for eligibility</td>
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<td>Mar 10–12</td>
<td>When Justice Fails: Japanese-American Incarceration</td>
<td>Honolulu, HI</td>
<td>$1,059 / $299</td>
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<td>Mar 16–19</td>
<td>Logic &amp; Opinion Writing (JS 621)</td>
<td>UNLV</td>
<td>$1,549 / $399</td>
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<td>Handling Small Claims Effectively</td>
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<td>$689</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Advanced Evidence (JS 617)</td>
<td>Napa, CA</td>
<td>$1,549 / $399</td>
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<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>$1,239 / $299</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Apr 28–May 1</td>
<td>Essential Skills for Tribal Court Judges</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>$1,239 / $299</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>May 4–8</td>
<td>Civil Mediation</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>$1,399 / $369</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18–20</td>
<td>Drugged Driving Essentials for the Judiciary</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>Call for eligibility</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>May 18–20</td>
<td>Managing Cases Involving Commercial Driver’s Licenses</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>Call for eligibility</td>
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<td>June 1–4</td>
<td>Coaching Judges for Better Justice</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>June 8–11</td>
<td>Administrative Law: Advanced (JS 649)</td>
<td>Wilmington, DE</td>
<td>$1,549 / $399</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8–11</td>
<td>Decision Making (JS 618)</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<td>June 8–July 24</td>
<td>Ethics and Judging: Reaching Higher Ground (JS 601)</td>
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<td>June 8–12</td>
<td>Management Skills for Presiding Judges</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>Scientific Evidence and Expert Testimony (JS 622)</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 17–19</td>
<td>Drugs in America Today: What Every Judge Needs to Know</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>$1,059 / $299</td>
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<td>June 22–25</td>
<td>Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills (JS 624)</td>
<td>Bar Harbor, ME</td>
<td>$1,549 / $399</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>June 22–25</td>
<td>Mindfulness for Judges</td>
<td>Key West, FL</td>
<td>$1,549 / $399</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 27–Aug 28</td>
<td>Taking the Bench: An Interactive, Online Course for New Trial Judges</td>
<td>Web Course</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>Aug 3–6</td>
<td>Designing &amp; Presenting Programs Effectively: A Faculty Development Workshop</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 - The National Judicial College
### Course on self-represented litigants led to courtroom reform for this judge

In *Managing Cases Involving CDLs*, you'll learn how and why to stop “masking”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>TUITION/CONF. FEE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24–27</td>
<td>Judicial Writing <em>(JS 615)</em></td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>Leadership for Judges</td>
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<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>Sep 7–13</td>
<td>Judicial Renaissance II</td>
<td>Bilbao, Spain</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 14–17</td>
<td>Artificial Intelligence: What Judges Need to Know</td>
<td>Santa Fe, NM</td>
<td>$1,549 / $399</td>
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<td>Sep 14–Oct 30</td>
<td>Evidence Challenges for Administrative Law Judges</td>
<td>Web Course</td>
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<td>Special Considerations for the Rural Court Judge</td>
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<td>Sep 14–17</td>
<td>Traffic Issues in the 21st Century</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>Sep 21–Nov 6</td>
<td>Ethics for the Administrative Law Judge</td>
<td>Web Course</td>
<td>$689</td>
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<td>Sep 29–Oct 2</td>
<td>Designing and Presenting Effective Commercial Driver’s License Courses: A Faculty Development Workshop</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>Call for eligibility</td>
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<td>Civil Mediation</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>Oct 5–8</td>
<td>Fourth Amendment: Comprehensive Search and Seizure <em>(JS 645)</em></td>
<td>Asheville, NC</td>
<td>$1,549 / $399</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Oct 12–15</td>
<td>Ethics, Fairness, and Security in Your Courtroom and Community</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>Evidence in a Courtroom Setting <em>(JS 633)</em></td>
<td>Sedona, AZ</td>
<td>$1,549 / $399</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
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<td>General Jurisdiction <em>(JS 610)</em></td>
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<td>Oct 19–22</td>
<td>Managing Challenging Family Law Cases <em>(JS 634)</em></td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
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<td>Oct 19–29</td>
<td>Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced <em>(JS 611)</em></td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>$1,859 / $579</td>
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<td>Nov 2–5</td>
<td>Best Practices in Handling Cases with Self-Represented Litigants</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>$1,549 / $399</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2–6</td>
<td>Judicial Academy: A Course for Aspiring Judges</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>$1,239 / $299</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Nov 2–Dec 4</td>
<td>Taking the Bench: An Interactive, Online Course for New Trial Judges</td>
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<td>Sep TBD</td>
<td>Ethical Issues in the Law: A Novel Approach <em>(JS 619)</em></td>
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<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Court Management for Tribal Personnel</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The National Judicial College
TRIBAL JUDICIAL CENTER

The center offers courses developed specifically for tribal court judges and court personnel. Subjects include: tribal court planning and development, court management and administration, judicial ethics and discipline, attorney licensure and discipline, lay advocate and tribal prosecutors skill building, code development, case-flow management, procedural fairness, judicial bench skills, appellate skills, teambuilding, court security, succession and strategic planning, action planning, peacemaking, and tribal-state-federal cooperation and collaboration. The center also provides publications, technical assistance, and scholarships to members of tribal justice systems across the nation.

**2020 Courses**

**Tribal Court Management of Alcohol and Drug Cases**

**TBD | TBD**

Effective management of drug and alcohol cases in tribal court can have a profound impact on the treated individuals and ultimately their communities. After participating in this course, participants will be able to: assess the extent of the alcohol and substance abuse problem in their tribal communities; outline the physiological and pharmacological aspects of alcohol and drugs; interpret alcohol and drug testing results; and select appropriate strategies and tools for the treatment process.

**Advanced Tribal Bench Skills: Competence, Confidence and Control**

**August 24–27 | 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.

“We learned to follow due process and write proper court orders.”

Kenaitze Tribal Judge Mary Ann Mills

**Court Management for Tribal Personnel**

**TBD | TBD**

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 caseflow 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: make suggestions for court improvements; manage court cases efficiently and effectively; provide greater customer service; and respond to difficult situations, ethically.

**Essential Skills for Tribal Court Judges**

**April 28–May 1 | Reno, Nevada**

This course assists tribal court judges in developing the basic skills necessary to preside over criminal and civil matters in tribal court. After attending the course, you will be able to outline appropriate jurisdictional boundaries for both civil and criminal cases in Indian Country, rule effectively on the admissibility of testimonial and documentary evidence in both civil and criminal matters, evaluate the role of tradition and custom in tribal court proceedings, write clear and well-reasoned decisions, and establish and maintain rules of court appropriate for tribal jurisdictions.
Tribal judge Mary Ann Mills’s path to serving as a judge for Alaska’s Kenaitze people did not begin with law school. In fact, it started in the 1970s, when she was employed as a counselor for the Anchorage Urban Native Center.

During that time, she saw hundreds of native children removed from their families and placed in state-run boarding schools or with non-native families. In some cases, the children were removed from their parents as soon as they were born because, according to Mills, the state considered the parents unfit. Many of the parents were addicted to drugs or alcohol. Nonetheless, “What the state did was criminal,” she says, because it violated the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

In 1978, the ICWA, a federal law, was enacted in response to a crisis involving American Indian and Alaska Native children and families. The law stipulates that a child’s tribe and family must have the opportunity to be involved in decisions affecting services and placements for Indian children. Before the ICWA, a large number of native children were separated from their families and placed with state welfare and private adoption agencies, even when fit relatives were available. Historically, Mills’s people had little recourse when it came to keeping their children out of state custody, she says. But thanks in part to what Mills and her tribal colleagues learned during NJC courses, members of the Kenaitze tribe have been able to keep more children with the tribe, placing them with healthy relatives instead of seeing them placed in institutions or with non-native foster families.

At NJC courses, “We learned to follow due process and write proper court orders,” says Mills, “and that’s what wins cases that are challenged in state court.”

When designing programs for the Kenaitze, the NJC respected the tribe’s culture and beliefs, she says.

“Because of this, we were able to establish our Henu Wellness Court, which deals with substance abuse and is based on traditional values, and our judges sit concurrent with the state court judges.”

National Tribal Judicial Center courses help tribes preserve their culture, beliefs and families
A state judicial education manager on Mindfulness for Judges

Judging is stressful. I have felt increased stress in recent years and I have not handled it in a healthy way. I hoped the Mindfulness course would provide me with additional knowledge and tools to effectively manage stress in a healthy way. The course was everything I had hoped for and more.

“The presentations on mindfulness recognizing and countering physiological responses to stress, coping with trauma, breathing and meditation, and the associated exercises provided me with valuable new information and tools for dealing with stress in a healthy way. The course also included, among many other things, segments on effective listening and speaking, mindfulness in general, and mindfulness directed at implicit bias and diversity.

“Research shows that our decision-making skills decrease as our stress level increases. I believe if I put into practice what I learned during the course I will have better focus and concentration on what really matters in the work tasks before me and less distraction from attorneys’ and litigants’ emotions and presentation styles. I have already seen positive results at work.”

Hon. James E. Wilson, Jr.
First Judicial District Court, Carson City and Storey County, NV

Mindfulness for Judges
June 22–25 | Key West, Florida

This four-day course, held in beautiful Key West, Florida, is an opportunity to pause from the many complexities of being a judge and find some space to breathe and reflect. Mindfulness is the practice of cultivating non-judgmental awareness in the present moment. It is a practice of learning to pay attention to our thoughts, emotions and physical sensations and acknowledging whatever is present and using that information to respond to the unfolding of our work and lives.

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.

“The ‘novel’ approach was certainly that—both literally and figuratively—leading to an educational experience that I have not found elsewhere in my 30 years as a lawyer and 10 as a judge. I commend it to my colleagues along with the NJC’s other vast offerings.”

Judge Tim Sulak, 353rd District Court, Austin, Texas
Leadership for Judges
August 24–27 | 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.

Lessons from Tough Cases:
A Seminar on Judging, Judicial Independence, Faithfulness to the Rule of Law, and Mind vs. Heart
October 12–15 | Charleston, South Carolina

What was your toughest case? How did you handle it? Do you wish, upon reflection, that you’d handled it differently? During this course you and your peers from the bench 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 brand-new four-day course was inspired by the new 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.

Judicial Renaissance II
September 7–13 | Bilbao, Spain

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.

Leadership course led to creation of a veterans treatment court in Florida

A 2012 study by a forensic psychologist found that nearly 1 in 10 combat veterans had been arrested since their deployment. The arrest rate was nearly 1 in 4 for vets diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and high irritability.

In Florida, some veterans charged with nonviolent crimes end up in the Marion County Veterans Treatment Court in Ocala. Created seven years ago by administrative judge, NJC faculty member and Leadership for Judges alumnus Jim McCune, it was one of the first in Florida, a state with many veterans.

Veterans who plead guilty in the special court and complete at least a year of counseling and other services ordered, which can include community service, typically have their charges dropped.

In its first four years, the court produced a success rate of nearly 88 percent. To date, it has helped more than 200 veterans pay back the community after breaking the law. It has also helped many deal with PTSD and substance abuse.

“You can't punish, punish, punish for addictive behavior,” says Johnny Valentine, a veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who has served as the court's case manager since 2016. “We want to stop that cycle.”

Judge McCune, who serves in Florida’s Fifth Judicial Circuit, says the NJC’s innovative Leadership and for Judges and The Courage to Make a Difference courses encouraged him to push forward with his dream to develop a therapeutic alternative to incarceration.

From the start, he says, he resolved to take on the tough cases.

“The best way to get good stats (in regard to recidivism) is to take low-need, low-risk cases. We want to take high-risk, high-need cases. That’s part of the courage. That’s where you have the potential to make the biggest impact.”
Imagine flying overseas and landing in a country where no one speaks your language, yet they expect you to understand and even converse with them.

Judge Jane Butler of Arizona’s Pima County Superior Court says that is how people who represent themselves in court without a lawyer can feel in the typical family law courtroom.

After completing several courses, including Best Practices in Handling Cases Dealing with Self-Represented Litigants, Butler says she better understands the people who appear before her without legal representation and how she can help them while maintaining her neutrality.

Self-represented litigants now rave about her deft handling of their cases.

“Judge Butler tries to understand the essence of matters in the family and suggests an alternative that both spouses understand is fair and acceptable,” writes one. “She does not just order but explains what the law says and how it is fair, which is very good to most laypeople.”

“It made a difficult and scary situation easy for me,” writes another self-represented litigant, who disclosed having suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. “I was terrified of having to openly talk about the situation on the record in a room full of strangers.”

The judge says comments like these have made her more patient and understanding.

“It would be easy to say that as a judge it is not my job to help SRLs,” she says. “And some judges do that. The law treats SRLs the same as lawyers, but judicial canons allow us to relax those rules that would have impeded access to justice for SRLs.”

Best Practices in Handling Cases with Self-Represented Litigants
November 2–5 | New Orleans, Louisiana

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.

When Justice Fails: Japanese-American Incarceration
March 10–12 | Honolulu, Hawaii

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 State judiciary responded to claims of national emergency, and what the judges of today can learn from the mistakes of the past.

During this three-day course, participants will visit the Honolululi National Monument. Established by President Barack Obama in 2015, the monument is located on land that served as the largest and longest-used confinement site in the Hawaiian Islands for U.S. citizens and residents of Japanese and European ancestry arbitrarily suspected of disloyalty following the attacks on Pearl Harbor. Participants will hear from Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.

Decision Making (JS 618)
June 8–11 | Denver, Colorado

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.
Reclaim your court from cookie-cutter plea bargains

Plea bargains account for nearly 95 percent of all criminal convictions in the United States. In cases of domestic violence, the rate is even higher.

It would be impossible for trial judges to clear their dockets without plea bargains. But rarely do these agreements give a judge a clear understanding of what happened and why and what the appropriate sentence would be to prevent its reoccurrence. The parties know the “going rate” for a particular offense in advance, and interventions tend to follow a “cookie-cutter” approach.

NJC faculty member David Suntag, a retired-active trial judge from Vermont who teaches Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills and several other courses, advocates for incorporating procedural fairness principles into plea and sentencing hearings.

He helped develop and oversaw a novel Integrated Domestic Violence Docket that was tested in the rural county of Bennington, Vermont, between 2007 and 2010. A study found that under this system, the recidivism rate for misdemeanor criminal domestic violence was 40 percent lower compared with the traditional court treatment, and the recidivism rate was 50 percent lower for crimes overall.

In addition to Enhancing Judicial Bench Skills, Judge Suntag teaches about incorporating procedural fairness into plea bargains in the NJC’s General Jurisdiction, Domestic Violence and Advanced Bench Skills courses.
Advanced Evidence (JS 617)
April 20–23 | Napa, California

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)

Evidence is so important in our duties as judges, and I found Advanced Evidence to be one of the best courses I have attended at the Judicial College. No matter how long one has been a judge, it’s always important to continue your legal education and improve your evidentiary rulings. The Judicial College does a superb job in offering the best courses for Judges.”

Judge Michelle Leavitt, Eighth Judicial District Court, Department XII, Las Vegas, Nevada

Evidence in a Courtroom Setting (JS 633)
October 19–22 | Sedona, Arizona

This is a highly interactive course in which judges from different jurisdictions and backgrounds can openly and vigorously examine the rules of evidence that apply in their jurisdictions. Topics include: ethical issues, relevancy, lay and expert witnesses, impeachment, privileges, best evidence and demonstrative evidence, authentication, hearsay and its exceptions, electronic evidence, and judicial notice.

Scientific Evidence and Expert Testimony (JS 622)
June 8–11 | Reno, Nevada

The emergence of DNA analysis in the 1990s led to serious questioning of the validity of many of the traditional forensic disciplines. Very recently, forensic feature-comparison methods such as hair analysis, bullet comparison, fingerprints, bitemark comparisons, tire and shoe tread analysis, and the like have been called into question. Additionally, case reviews have found that expert witnesses overstated the probative value of their evidence, going far beyond what the relevant science could justify. Are there additional science-based steps that could help ensure the validity of forensic evidence used in the U.S. legal system?

This course will provide you with the ability to evaluate and interpret scientific and forensic evidence and to rule confidently on their admissibility in both civil and criminal cases. Moreover, you will be able to highlight the limitations and challenges associated with certain types of forensic evidence and describe the current state of forensic methods.

Fourth Amendment: Comprehensive Search and Seizure (JS 645)
October 5–8 | Asheville, North Carolina

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. Along with computers and digital evidence, the course examines consent searches, warrant execution issues, and searches without warrants, including exigent circumstances, community caretaking, inventory searches, automobile searches, frisks, and searches incident to arrest.
Management Skills for Presiding Judges
June 8–12 | Reno, Nevada

Your court needs a strong leader. Learn how to tackle human-resources issues, budget complications, and other management challenges. As a result of 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.

Coaching Judges for Better Justice
June 1–4 | Reno, Nevada

Throughout a judge’s career, there are challenges, opportunities, and times of stagnation. During these times, support from a structured coaching program can be a highly effective and efficient way to help high-performing people improve results and attain goals in ways that are sustained over time. Like any professionals, judges need support from time to time in order to perform better, renew commitment, and improve their own capabilities and effectiveness. Relentless decision-making leaves little time or psychic energy to examine one’s performance on one’s own. And the isolation inherent in judging promotes the tendency to be convinced of the correctness of one’s decisions. This course will teach the fundamental concepts underlying the practice of peer-to-peer coaching, i.e. judges coaching other judges. Funding is available for state-designated representatives who wish to explore implementation. A formal coaching program will provide an infrastructure that builds enduring capacity and compassion providing all judges consistent support throughout their professional careers. This course is offered in partnership with Dr. Jan Bouch and the Justice Coaching Center and admission is by application.

Judicial Academy: A Course for Aspiring Judges
November 2–6 | Reno, Nevada

Judges have to be able to manage themselves, juries, cases, court computer programs, and other intricacies. This course will provide the fundamental management tools to individuals seeking election or appointment. The Academy will emphasize a “learn by doing” dynamic featuring judges, judicial selection professionals, and other experts who will help the candidates discover ways to seek judicial positions and to build strong foundations for serving in the role.

General Jurisdiction (JS 610)
March 23–April 2 & October 19–29 | Reno, Nevada

Jumpstart your judicial career! This course supplements 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.

Designing & Presenting Programs Effectively: A Faculty Development Workshop
August 3–6 | 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. Learning objectives help you avoid the classic error of providing too much information. You will facilitate learning activities to improve comprehension and retention, avoiding the overlong, dry lecture. Structuring a presentation is an art. This workshop will give you the tools to create dynamic and interactive courses. You also will learn the difference between teaching and reference materials.

Civil Mediation
May 4–8 & October 5–9 | Reno, Nevada

Mediation is an important option in every system of justice. Judges with mediation skills can gain opportunities both on and off the bench. This five-day, 40-hour course is hands on, 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. Enrollment is limited.
In June 2018, a truck plowed into a Jeep Wrangler stopped in traffic on Interstate 84 in Idaho, killing the truck driver and three Idaho airmen who were in the Jeep.

A newspaper account later revealed that the truck driver had been convicted of more than 20 driving-related violations in four states.

The obvious question was, why was a driver with so many convictions still on the road and in possession of a commercial driver’s license?

One likely reason, though it was not part of the record, relates to an all-too-common traffic court practice called “masking.”

Masking relates to plea bargains struck by commercial drivers who are in danger of accruing so many violations that they face the automatic loss of their commercial driver’s license (CDL). When they’ve reached the limit, they often seek to plead guilty to different infractions or to attend driver’s education courses, an alternative known as diversion or deferred prosecution.

Prosecutors and judges are often sympathetic to the driver’s argument that the loss of their CDL will take away their means of earning a living and supporting their family. But preserving a driver’s license in this way effectively – and illegally – masks the true record of dangerous driving.

For nearly 20 years, The National Judicial College, supported by grants from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, has been educating judges about masking and other highway safety regulations. In the past two years, more than 300 judges have tuned in to the College’s live national webcasts on the subject or to webcasts customized to each of the 50 states. In 2016 and 2017, 447 judges attended in-person courses presented in seven states.

In Florida, former St. Petersburg Circuit Court Judge Karl Grube, now in senior status, says judges in his state used to withhold convictions in almost all commercial operators’ cases, such as speeding, careless driving and improper lane changes. That changed when the NJC came to town.

“Once our judges realized that our practices were not only contrary to the law but dangerous to the motoring public, we slowly turned the corner to avoid masking,” he says.

“I had no idea that these plea agreements effectively violated the law until I took the course,” says Judge James Hanby, a justice of the peace in Wilmington, Delaware. “I now take a much closer look at the record of violations.”
Managing Cases Involving Commercial Driver's Licenses
May 18–20 | Reno, Nevada

Without proper enforcement of regulations governing drivers, large tractor rigs, school buses, and even automobiles carrying dangerous cargo can cause devastating crashes. Judges have an ethical responsibility to ensure they apply both state and federal law to these cases. Correctly upholding the law can ensure that risky commercial drivers remain off of America’s roadways.

Drugged Driving Essentials for the Judiciary
May 18–20 | 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.

Traffic Issues in the 21st Century
September 14–17 | Reno, Nevada

Judges are facing more and more complex traffic issues as the law and technology progress. This course is designed to provide an overview of current traffic laws and technological trends and their application to the judiciary.

Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced (JS 611)
October 19–29 | 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. This course educates special-court judges recently appointed or elected. 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.

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

Designing and Presenting Effective Commercial Driver's License Courses: A Faculty Development Workshop
September 29–October 2 | Reno, Nevada

Are your educational programs interesting, thought-provoking, fun and enriching? The vast majority of people teaching in professional education are never exposed to adult education principles and practices. This workshop will help you create educational programs that will keep your students’ attention.

Artificial Intelligence: What Judges Need to Know
September 14–17 | Santa Fe, New Mexico

Artificial intelligence (AI) will impact every field. The judicial branch of government is not an exception. Judges will hear cases involving autonomous vehicles, medical malpractice, and other legal areas involving AI. In addition, judges will be asked to use AI in their own work. AI is being developed to determine the risk of criminal defendants, the amount of bail, and to assess appropriate sentences. AI is impacting how attorneys practice law, including the deep analysis of judicial decisions enabling a litigator to tailor an argument to a particular judge. How can a judge determine if an AI system is trustworthy?

Drugs in America Today: What Every Judge Needs to Know
June 17–19 | Seattle, Washington

With opiate addiction at epidemic levels in both urban and rural America, the NJC has crafted a 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.

“I attended the course Drugs in America Today: What Every Judge Needs to Know. I can say without exaggeration, it was the best training I have ever attended.”

Judge Candyce Cline, Westminster Municipal Court, Westminster, Colorado
Administrative Law: Fair Hearing changed her life

Feeling burned out and isolated as an administrative hearing referee for the State of Arkansas, Hon. Toni T. Boone (Ret.) first attended the College in 1998 for the two-week Administrative Law: Fair Hearing course.

She said the experience literally changed her life.

After learning new ways of presiding over hearings and enjoying the collegiality of meeting other judges who face similar issues, she returned to her job with a “renewed spirit and excitement,” she says.

It wasn’t long before she returned to the College as an instructor, and she has been teaching ever since. A past chair of the Faculty Council, she has now taught in more than 90 courses in addition to taking more than a dozen.

Administraive Law: Fair Hearing (JS 612)
August 16–22 | 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.

Administrative Law: Advanced (JS 649)
June 8–11 | Wilmington, Delaware

This advanced four-day 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. Special emphasis is placed on the impact of recent decisions.

Judicial Writing (JS 615)
April 28–May 1 & August 24–27 | Reno, Nevada

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.

Logic and Opinion Writing (JS 621)
March 16–19 | Las Vegas, Nevada

This course will assist anyone who writes judicial opinions to become 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.
WEB COURSES

Ethics and Judging: Reaching Higher Ground *(JS 601)*
June 8–July 24

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 21–November 6

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.

Evidence Challenges for Administrative Law Judges
February 17–April 3 & September 14–October 30

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.

Selected Criminal Evidence Issues *(JS 602)*
January 27–March 13

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 you with the tools to make evidentiary rulings quickly and confidently in criminal cases.

Fundamentals of Evidence
February 17–April 3

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.

Handling Small Claims Cases Effectively
April 13–May 29

Small-claims cases can be among the most stressful and frustrating that a judge is called on to handle in a court of limited jurisdiction. Litigants with no knowledge of the legal system or its procedures come to your court with situations often containing 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 dealing with each aspect of the process.

Special Considerations for the Rural Court Judge
September 14–October 30

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.

Taking the Bench: An Interactive, Online Course for New Trial Judges
July 27–August 28 & November 2–December 4

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 are required to attend a weekly web conference.
We’re with you

“If judges don’t speak up for their own independence, nobody else is going to.”