

50th Anniversary 2013

SYMPOSIA

The National Judicial College will be commemorating its 50th Anniversary in 2013 by holding three symposia described below. These symposia will address issues identified as important to the justice system in the 21st century. Invited attendees will vary by symposium but may include judges, lawyers, state judicial educators, scholars, researchers, representatives of court user groups, and other stakeholders. Entities/Associations will be asked to support a symposium participant designated by them. Each symposium will (i) produce educational proposals that can be used to conduct programs/presentations throughout the justice system and/or in the civic arena, (ii) determine issues that should be addressed in future justice improvement initiatives, (iii) identify educational material for justice system entities, and (iv) promote collaboration among all who seek to improve justice.

CIVILITY IN THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM: Promoting Public Trust and Confidence

April 7-8, 2013

***The National Constitution Center | 525 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106***

As the cornerstone of a civil society, it is essential that America's justice system serve and be accountable to its citizens and demonstrate a high level of civility. Unfortunately, there has been an erosion of civility across society. Each court has its own culture which sometimes promotes a civil process while in other courts, the opposite result occurs. Some courts, legal professional organizations, and justice system entities have drafted codes of conduct to encourage civility or professionalism that should be revisited. Additionally, the business of courts has changed, including who is coming before the courts with a substantial increase in self-represented litigants— that in and of itself requires a reexamination of civility. Further, the impact of technology on the justice system as well as “new media” coverage of courts only adds to the need to revisit court culture and civility and what is expected of those who come to court.

This symposium will address (i) judicial, lawyer, litigant, and other court user conduct, (ii) the role of codes of conduct, (iii) what can be done to encourage litigants and others to participate in a civil manner, and (iv) identify principles that promote civility “by all for all” in the American system of justice.

HOW COURTS RESOLVE DISPUTES: The Role of the Jury Trial in the 21st Century

June 23-25, 2013

***American Bar Association | 321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654***

Transparency in government is the foundation of any democracy and without question is essential to the effective administration of justice. Jury trials are one of the highest forms of justice system transparency with the involvement of citizens as decision makers in a public proceeding. The symposium will begin with participants reviewing a compilation of reasons why jury trials are important to the rule of law and democracy (the data will be gathered in a webcast to be held prior to the symposium). The results of this discussion will be the basis to develop a presentation on the importance of jury trials that judges and lawyers can make in schools, community entities, etc. Next, the attendees will examine initiatives being proposed or undertaken to promote the use of jury trials (see NCSC and IAALS websites for postings describing programs). Critical elements of these programs will be identified and disseminated to encourage replication in other jurisdictions. The 1992 ABA Trial Management Standards will also be revisited in light of jury trial innovations and initiatives being undertaken by the ABA, ABOTA, NCSC, and others to create an appropriate resource.

JUDICIAL COMPETENCY AND LEADERSHIP: Critical Challenges Facing the Judiciary

Date To Be Determined

***The National Judicial College | Judicial College Building/MS 358
Reno, NV 89557***

Who will become jurists in the 21st century? Will they be in their 30s or 40s with a single legal experience? What will be required to educate them to be “more than competent judges” committed to be lifelong learners, improve judicial skills throughout their careers and assume a role in justice improvement projects? There will be products and deliverables developed from the symposium which may consist of (i) a new or updated version of Principles and Standards of Judicial Branch Education, (ii) identification of core competencies required to be a judge, (iii) effective processes and protocol appropriate for new judge orientation, and (iv) identification of issues for future action.