Judicial Ethics Training

When can an unassuming social media post lead to judicial discipline? What kinds of behavior constitute sexual harassment or gender bias? Is it ever proper for judges and their law clerks to do independent fact research on the internet? Which extrajudicial activities send a message of impropriety?

Nationally and internationally, these are the types of questions that judges face. To help support judicial officers in learning how to navigate a complex modern landscape, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) offers programs through its Center for Judicial Ethics (CJE) that help participants recognize and avoid behaviors that suggest partiality or prejudice, or its appearance, and could potentially lead to allegations of judicial misconduct.

CJE presents training sessions and programs on judicial ethics to courts and judges all over the world, and can offer you any of the following options:

- Small group or large group training
- Keynote presentations at annual judicial conferences and meetings
- Hands-on workshops
- Continuing judicial education/CLE sessions

Sample Topics

CJE offers a range of ethics training programs to support both judges and judicial conduct commissions. We can customize trainings to meet the needs of each individual jurisdiction. Some of our most requested topics include:

Social Media
Whether a frequent poster or a non-user, understand the threats and implications posed by social media and identify ethical best practices related to its use.

Sexual Harassment and Gender Bias
Learn how to recognize behaviors that may constitute sexual harassment or evince gender bias and ensure a non-hostile workplace for everyone at the courthouse.

Independent Internet Research
Understand the ethical pitfalls of independent research on electronic media and avoid a culture of “trial by search engine.”

Extrajudicial Activities
Learn about restrictions on fundraising, political activities, organization memberships, participating in events, and other activities by judges and, in some instances, their family members or law clerks.

To schedule a presentation or training session for your court, please contact Tina Vagenas:
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About the Center for Judicial Ethics

CJE is a national clearinghouse for information about judicial ethics and discipline. CJE produces cutting-edge research, publications, and training for judiciaries in the United States and all over the world; provides support for the conduct commissions that investigate complaints of judicial misconduct; and tracks opinions issues by ethics advisory committees. Each year, CJE responds to hundreds of requests for information from reporters, judges, lawyers, and others.

Training Program Highlights

CJE’s experts include academics, lawyers, and judges with substantial experience researching and providing instruction on best judicial ethical practices. Below are some examples from previous trainings and presentations. We also present virtually.

26th National College on Judicial Conduct and Ethics, Chicago, Illinois

Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Social Media by Judges, Global Judicial Integrity Network, Vienna, Austria

Our CourtClass series presents concise, focused, and practical tutorials that provide you with the most significant guideposts in specific subject areas and answer common questions. Click on the two images below for two recent offerings or visit ncsc.org/cje.

You can learn more about the Center for Judicial Ethics by visiting our website: ncsc.org/cje