



THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE

BACKSTORY

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ONE OF NEVADA'S TREASURES: THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE

For legal practitioners who have never sat on a judicial bench, it is easy to overlook a treasure hiding in our own backyard in Reno, Nevada: the National Judicial College (NJC). Founded in 1963, the NJC is this country's leading provider of judicial education. Its mission is "education, innovation and advancing justice."



The Nevada Supreme Court hears oral arguments in the NJC's Model Courtroom.

work on the bench. This program is required for all judges in Nevada and in six other states. When the course was last taught in October 2017, its student population included, among many others, Kathleen Drakulich, recently appointed to the Second Judicial District Court;

Mark Bailus, recently appointed to the Eighth Judicial District

Court; and Aimee Banales, recently sworn in as a Temporary Protective Order Master in the Second Judicial District.

In addition to its regular courses, the NJC offers certification for judges wishing to focus their studies on a specific academic area. These certifications include: Administrative Law Adjudication Skills, Appellate Judicial Skills, Dispute Resolution Skills, General Jurisdiction Trial Skills, Special Court Trial Skills and Tribal Judicial Skills. The NJC also hosts special courses for judges from around the world, including South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa, using instantaneous translation equipment.

Importantly, the NJC was one of the first institutions to address the unique and specific needs of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal law judiciaries with its National Tribal Judicial Center (NTJC). The NTJC began in 2002 and is funded by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. It seeks to improve justice by providing national training and education programs that focus on judicial proficiency, competency, skills and understanding. The NTJC offers scholarships to students in need of financial tuition assistance and actively seeks donations so that it may increase these awards.

For more information about the NJC and the NTJC, consult its website at www.judges.org. For information regarding donations or legacy gifts, contact the NJC's Development Director, Jeanne Hill, at hill@judges.org. **NL**

Educating approximately 7,500 judges annually, the NJC provides courses to judges both in Nevada and also from many other states. A great number of the attendees have been just recently appointed or elected to the benches in their jurisdictions, many with little to no courtroom experience, despite having impressive legal careers. The college seeks to prepare them for their courtroom work through lectures, question-and-answer sessions, group discussions and other learning techniques. It offers both in-person and online classes, and even provides custom courses to groups requesting specific types of education.

The NJC educates its students in a state-of-the-art, 90,000-square-foot facility on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno, in classrooms outfitted with smart classroom technology. The college utilizes an experienced faculty. Among its members are knowledgeable judges, law professors and other experts from around the country; all of them volunteer their time to teach the judicial students and help to turn them into more qualified, confident judges.

One of the NJC's most popular programs is a two-week course entitled "General Jurisdiction." Taught every April and October to more than 200 new judges annually, the course seeks to provide each new judge with a solid foundation of the necessary substance and theories for their

The author's biography is available on page 6.