

NJC Courses

Advanced Evidence

Why should I take this course?

Consistently rated as one of the top courses at NJC, Advanced Evidence is a must for judges who want to improve their evidentiary rulings. This course gives you the opportunity to analyze rules of criminal and civil evidence in a setting where you can debate the rules with other judges from around the country. The expert faculty will not only lead participants through the quagmire of the Federal Rules of Evidence, but will also compare and contrast the common law rules of evidence. The course is “advanced” in the sense that you have the opportunity to examine the various rules of evidence in depth. It is helpful if you can bring your state’s evidence rules with you, so you can compare and contrast those rules with the federal rules.

What will I learn?

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Rule on evidentiary issues with greater accuracy and confidence;
- Ensure that the baseline relevancy issues are met and their probative value outweighs unfair prejudice;
- Analyze quickly whether character evidence is admissible, particularly with regard to prior bad acts;
- Describe when habit and custom evidence may be admitted;
- Rule on impeachment objections after analyzing bias, capacity, and prior inconsistent statement rules;
- Outline an analytical scheme for ruling on hearsay objections and the exceptions;
- Recognize the judicial role of gatekeeper; and
- Confidently rule on issues relating to lay opinion and expert opinion testimony.

Who should attend?

This course has been specially developed for general jurisdiction judges or special court judges who hear criminal and/or civil cases. If you are a legally trained administrative law judge, you certainly are welcome; however, some of your practical concerns may not be specifically addressed. Appellate judges are encouraged to enroll not only for an update on evidence, but to hear the practicalities of applying evidentiary rules from a trial court judge’s perspective.

Is there a prerequisite to attend?

A law degree or completion of one of the following courses is required to attend: Fundamentals of Evidence (or its equivalent), Special Court Jurisdiction, or Special Court Jurisdiction: Advanced.

Who are the members of the faculty?

Faculty members are judges recognized as experts in the field of evidence, as well as law professors who understand the real-life concerns that judges face.

How is this course taught?

The faculty uses a number of adult education techniques including lecture, audio-visual aids, question and answer, debate, and class problems. Participants will also be directly involved in solving hypotheticals in your small group discussions.

Does this course qualify for credits in the Judicial Studies degree program?

This course qualifies for two credits in the Judicial Studies degree program upon successful completion of the course and the course exam. In addition, this course qualifies for the Certificate in Judicial Development, General Jurisdiction Trial Skills, Special Court Trial Skills, Administrative Law Adjudication Skills, and the Dispute Resolution Skills programs.



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What should I tell my presiding judge or funding agency so that my attendance will be approved?

Judges must have a good understanding of the rules of evidence to make appropriate decisions in their courtrooms. This course gives the participant judge the rare opportunity to contrast their state rules of evidence with those of their colleagues from around the country. Each participant will also be given in-class problems that they must present to their colleagues. Ultimately, the judge participant will come away with a greater grasp of the rules of evidence and the reasons underlying those rules.

Whom should I contact for more information?

For more information, please contact the registrar's office at (800) 255-8343 or registrar@judges.org.



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