Handling Capital Cases

December 7 - 10, 2026
New Orleans, LA

Tuition: $1,979
Conf. fee: $549

Death is different.

A judge who is assigned a capital case feels the difference the moment they learn they have been assigned to preside over a death penalty case. Even a judge with experience in handling major criminal cases may feel lost in navigating the issues that are unique to capital cases.

Judges must serve as guardians of the integrity of the judicial process as well as the rights of those charged with a capital crime. By participating in this course, judges will be able to carefully analyze federal constitutional principles that apply in every phase of the capital case, beginning with the appointment of qualified counsel and continuing through pretrial motions, jury selection, trial logistics, jury instructions, penalty phase particulars, and post-trial motions.

"Without exception, the most qualified, engaging, experienced, and, dare I say, entertaining, faculty I have ever had the pleasure to learn from over my 15 years on the bench." - 2023 Participant

"This was one of the most informative courses I have ever attended, with great activities to illustrate points and great documentation that I can use, not only for death penalty cases, but for all criminal cases as well." - 2023 Participant

More info:

www.judges.org/courses/handling-capital-cases-js-623/

Objectives

- Analyze the federal constitutional principles that apply to state capital cases;
- Manage recurrent pretrial and trial issues in capital cases, including issues related to courtroom security, disruptive conduct, self-representation, jury sequestration, and jury deadlock;
- Administer a fair and efficient jury selection process in a capital case;
- Conduct a proper penalty phase hearing;
- Confront the likely ethical issues that judges face in capital cases; and
- Rule appropriately on post-trial issues including those frequently raised on collateral review by those sentenced to death.

Established in 1963, the NJC is a nonprofit organization and the only educational institution in the U.S. that teaches judges of all types from across the 50 states, Indian Country and abroad.

Contact Us:
800.255.8343 info@judges.org
judges.org