Guardianship & Probate Matters

Sept. 28 - Oct. 1, 2026
Reno, NV

Tuition: $1,599
Conf. fee: $399

NJC
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The National Judicial College

A new addition to the 2026 NJC catalog, this course will help judges navigate foundational and emerging issues in managing probate, conservatorship and guardianship cases. Key hot topics involve the intersection of traditional estate law with modern challenges, including technological changes, evolving family structures and heightened litigation. Judges frequently encounter complex disputes that demand not only a deep knowledge of the law, but also a delicate hand in managing family dynamics.

Throughout the course, expert faculty will tackle: Capacity; Undue influence; Standing; Conservatorships; Conservatorship accounting; Guardianships; Judicial ethics; End-of-life issues; Child protective proceedings; Trust litigation; Involuntary mental health treatment; Native American considerations in probate court; Settlement techniques; Managing media and public attention; and Artificial intelligence.

More info:

judges.org/courses/guardianship-and-probate-matters/

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze emerging legal issues in probate law arising from technological advancements (e.g., digital assets, electronic wills) and evolving family structures (e.g., blended families, non-traditional heirs), and apply appropriate legal principles in resolving related disputes.
- Develop strategies for managing high-conflict probate cases, including those involving contested wills, guardianships, and fiduciary misconduct, with an emphasis on preserving judicial neutrality and maintaining courtroom decorum.
- Enhance decision-making skills in emotionally charged probate matters by integrating legal reasoning with sensitivity to complex family dynamics, cultural considerations, and the psychological impact of loss.

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.

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