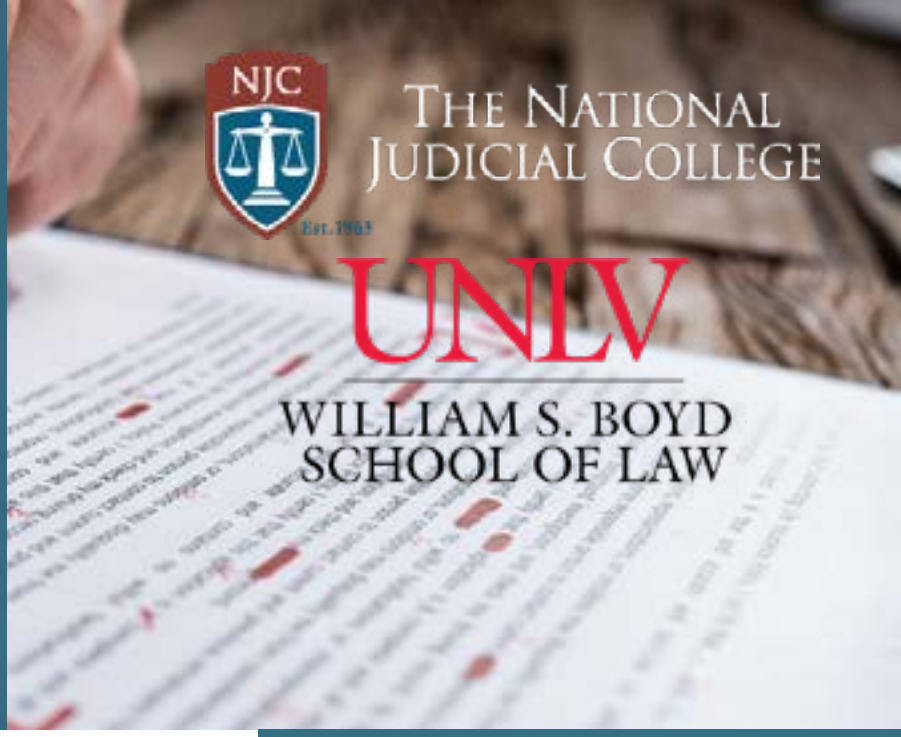
Write Like a Judge:

Essential Skills for Judicial Clerks, Staff Attorneys and New Lawyers

October 2 -4, 2026
Las Vegas

Tuition: $989/$199 conf. fee



Working with a judge is an incredible opportunity, and the writing expectations are high.

Judicial clerks and staff attorneys draft judicial opinions, bench memos, and court orders on day one. Mistakes are costly. This hands-on training will show exactly how to write like a judge, avoid common pitfalls, and make the judge's life easier—so you can stand out as a top-tier law clerk.

Taught by sitting federal and state judges as well as legal writing experts, this immersive two-day training will teach you how to draft clear, concise, and well-reasoned documents. You'll receive personalized feedback, learn strategies for handling high-volume workloads, and gain insider insights into what judges expect from their clerks. This is not a law school writing class. This is real-world clerkship training that will prepare you for the challenges ahead.

Participants will learn how to leverage AI to streamline research, improve drafting, and enhance the accuracy and quality of their work, while remaining mindful of its limitations and responsibilities.

"This comprehensive course offers an engaging and practical experience that empowers participants to excel in legal and judicial writing while leveraging innovative tools and strategies. It provides a unique opportunity for like-positioned people to pool their experience, learn from some of the - objectively - most talented legal writers in the nation, and hone their craft. It is also one of the rare opportunities that are immediately applicable in my daily tasks, and every session offered takeaways I utilized my first day back at work after the course." - 2025 Participant

More info:

judges.org/courses/write-like-a-judge-essential-skills-for-judicial-clerks-staff-attorneys-and-new-lawyers/

Objectives

- Equip judicial clerks and new lawyers with the skills to produce high-quality legal documents that enhance their professional credibility.
- Construct coherent, logical frameworks for legal memoranda, briefs, and judicial opinions
- Recognize and correct common errors, including verbosity, redundancy, and ambiguous language
- Craft compelling arguments through rhetorical techniques, logical reasoning, and effective tone for specific audiences
- Learn to receive, interpret, and implement feedback to refine written work
- Develop strategies for managing deadlines, creating outlines, prioritizing tasks, and overcoming writer's block

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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