

Judicial Education Committee Meeting

Friday, January 10, 2025 at 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Committee Members Present:

Hon. Kimberly J. Bacon; Hon. Heather Barajas; Hon. Brian Cook, Magistrate; Hon. Carolyn Foley, Magistrate; Hon. Lisa Glickfield; Hon. Christopher Goff, Indiana Supreme Court; Hon. Elizabeth Hurley; Hon. Bruce Parent; Hon. Hunter Reece; and Hon. Marc Rothenberg (chair)

Staff Members Present: Catheryne Pully; Vicki Davis; Ashley Moise; Kristyn Hill; Mary Mitchell; Paige Newland; Jordan Sauvain, Hon Thomas Felts, Senior Judge; and Hon. Earl Penrod, Senior Judge.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- a. Judge Rothenberg called the meeting to order.

2. **2024 Retreat Digest:** Ashley Moise reviewed the top 5 goals from the digest: 1) judicial subject matter experts; 2) efficiency at conferences and integration with online learning; 3) annual needs assessment; 4) formalized faculty development program; and 5) online orientation. Ashley also reviewed the key decisions and program enhancements. The Committee appreciated the organization and facilitation of the retreat and thought it was productive.

3. Past Program Review

- a. New Judicial Officer Orientation: Kristyn Hill reported that there were 68 new judicial officers in attendance. The Education team was pleased with the program and the overall positive reviews. The highest-rated sessions were Evidence and the Experienced Judges Panel. Thank you to our faculty and session organizers.
 - i. Most indicated that they felt connected to their peers and had a good experience. Some wanted more practical sessions in the December program. Some Committee members have heard comments reflecting this. A proposed solution is to move Employment Law online (either on-demand or as webinars in November) to free up more space for in-person practical content in December.
 - ii. The Committee expressed concern about individuals who have gone through orientation multiple times. Some do not know about the waiver request process. IOCS Education will explore ways to make the current waiver process more well-known.
- b. Winter Workshop: Ashley reported that this conference focused on behavioral health and adult guardianship. There were 147 attendees. Most sessions were well-received. Some desired more interactivity, more resources, and/or more Q&A opportunities. The Committee members who attended offered positive feedback.

4. Future Program Review

- a. Spring Judicial Conference: Ashley reported that the Spring Judicial Conference will run concurrently with the Justice Services Conference. Time slots will be amended to align both conferences as well as accommodate the desires of participants to have shorter sessions. There will be a combination of shorter "fast-track" sessions and longer "deep-dive" sessions. IOCS is attempting to secure Jonathan Shapiro for a joint plenary.
 - i. The Committee discussed splitting the usual fall law update sessions into two parts and presenting the first half at Spring. Committee members who have served as faculty for these sessions expressed a willingness to proceed with this idea as long as a final decision is made with sufficient notice to prepare.

- ii. There are some logistical concerns to work out for staff regarding the registration forms for both conferences.
 - b. Proposal for 2025 Winter Workshop Topic on Judicial Writing: Ashley reviewed the proposed conference outline on judicial writing. This topic was discussed at the October Committee meeting. The Committee still strongly supports this topic and suggests including the perspective of an appellate judicial officer. This topic could also include a discussion of AI writing tools. The Committee will consider this proposal and vote on it at the next meeting.
5. **Proposal for a joint conference with the American Judges Association at the 2026 Spring Judicial Conference**
- a. Judge Tom Alevizos, President-elect of the American Judges Association, reached out regarding a potential collaboration for their 2026 Midyear Conference in Indianapolis. He proposed aligning it with the IOCS 2026 Spring Judicial Conference at the Indiana Convention Center for April 14-16, 2026. The AJA expects around 50-60 attendees and would handle their hotel reservations while collaborating on meeting space, AV, and catering costs.
 - b. The Indiana Judges Association is disinclined to pursue this merger.
 - c. The Committee weighed the benefits of collaborating with the AJA against the possible detriments of spending more money and creating friction with the IJA.
 - d. IOCS will seek more information from the AJA to bring back to the Committee.
6. **Master's Program:** Judge Penrod reported that the Subcommittee met recently and decided there was no significant benefit to renaming the "judicial college" program; rather, it needs to be better explained to our audience along with the Master's certificate program and the graduate program. More efforts will be made at educational events to promote these programs.
7. **Other:** The Strategic Planning Committee recommends keeping the district meetings at the Annual Meeting and recommends reserving a few minutes at some point for some remarks about the Strategic Planning Committee.
8. **Future Meeting Dates:**
- a. 3/7/25 at 1:00 pm in Zoom
 - b. 5/30/25 at 1:00 pm in Zoom
 - c. 7/11/25 at 1:00 pm in Zoom
 - d. Save the date: 10/23 and 10/24 in-person retreat

Judicial Education Committee Meeting

Friday, March 7, 2025 at 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Committee Members Present:

Hon. Heather Barajas; Hon. Julie Fessel Flanigan, Magistrate; Hon. Carolyn Foley, Magistrate; Hon. Lisa Glickfield; Hon. Charnette Garner; Hon. Christopher Goff, Indiana Supreme Court; Hon. Marissa McDermott; Hon. Hunter Reece; and Hon. Marc Rothenberg (chair)

Staff Members Present: Catheryne Pully; Vicki Davis; Ashley Moise; Amy Elson; Kristyn Hill; Mary Mitchell; Paige Newland; Jordan Sauvain, Hon. Kimberly Dowling, Senior Judge; Hon. Thomas Felts, Senior Judge; and Hon. Earl Penrod, Senior Judge.

1. **Call to Order and Welcome:** Judge Rothenberg called the meeting to order.
2. **Meeting Minutes:** Judge Reece moved to approve the January minutes; Mag. Foley seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the January Minutes.
3. **Past Program Review**
 - a. New Judicial Officer Orientation 2: Thank you to Committee members who served as faculty for this program. Amy Elson reported that the participant reviews were positive overall – almost 85% reported either a good or excellent experience. Participants also appreciated the opportunities to connect with colleagues.
4. **Future Program Review**
 - a. Spring Judicial Conference:
 - i. Ashley Moise reported 260 registered as of today (March 7), which is trending upwards for this time normally. IOCS will rerun registration in the coming weeks.
 - ii. Ashley reviewed the structure of the conference which will be a combination of 75-minute “fast track” sessions and 2.5-hour “workshop” sessions. The Justice Services conference will run concurrently on the second floor. There will be one joint plenary between the two conferences on Wednesday morning.
 - b. Annual Meeting Decisions and Discussion:
 - i. Day One Reception Options at Grand Wayne Center: the Committee voted to serve hors d’oeuvres instead of a full dinner to facilitate better socializing.
 - ii. Day Two: the Committee supports asking the Allen County Bar Association to host a reception at the courthouse similar to 2017.
 - iii. Plenary Direction: The Committee was asked to consider bringing graduate program topics to the Annual Meeting. The Committee’s first choice is the “lessons learned from the past” with the acknowledgement that historical topics are usually well-received.
 - iv. Plenary Direction: The Committee is asked to provide general feedback on plenary objectives and components. The Committee favors the topic of personal and courthouse security, including practical takeaways, awareness, taking proactive security measures, etc. Perhaps this topic could be presented as a plenary and a follow-up breakout session. The Committee is interested in pursuing Judge Esther Salas as a potential speaker, possibly combined with a security expert.
 - v. Run/Walk: Despite the multiple hotels, Judge Felts feels confident we can keep the run/walk.

- c. Proposal for 2025 Winter Workshop Topic on Judicial Writing: Amy Elson reviewed the draft agenda for judicial writing which takes inspiration from the National Judicial College's writing program. There will be a focus on clarity, style fundamentals, advanced style, and persuasiveness and argument as used in an opinion. Amy reviewed options for national and local faculty. The Committee recommends an Appellate Court Judge and a Supreme Court Justice as faculty.
- 5. **Joint Ventures with the ISBA:** The Committee is generally supportive of doing another joint program with the ISBA in the future as long as there is some preservation of judicial officer-only programming.
- 6. **Master's Program:** Judge Penrod reported that another subcommittee meeting is being planned. They hope to provide further updates after this meeting takes place.
- 7. **Future Meeting Dates:**
 - a. 5/30/25 at 1:00 pm in Zoom
 - b. 7/11/25 at 1:00 pm in Zoom
 - c. Save the date: 10/23 and 10/24 in-person retreat
- 8. **Addendum: Wellbeing Subcommittee update:** Mary Mitchell reported on behalf of Judge Bacon that the Wellbeing Subcommittee is bringing back the Connections Lounge for the Spring Judicial Conference. The Subcommittee would like to add phone chargers, criminal code books, and entries for a gift basket raffle. The Subcommittee would also like to add another run/walk in the evening. More ideas are forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Newland

Judicial Education Committee Meeting

Friday, May 30, 2025 at 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Committee Members Present:

Hon. Kimberly Bacon; Hon. Brian Cook, Magistrate; Hon. Carolyn Foley, Magistrate; Hon. Charnette Garner; Hon. Lisa Glickfield; Hon. Elizabeth Hurley; Hon. Bruce Parent; Hon. Hunter Reece; Hon. Marc Rothenberg (Chair); and Hon. Leslie Shively

Staff Members Present: Catheryne Pully; Vicki Davis; Ashley Moise; Amy Elson; Kristyn Hill; Mary Mitchell; Jordan Sauvain, Hon. Thomas Felts, Senior Judge; and Hon. Earl Penrod, Senior Judge.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- a. Judge Rothenberg called the meeting to order.

2. Meeting Minutes: Judge Reece moved to approve the March minutes. Judge Hurley Seconded. Unanimous. Minutes approved.

3. Past Program Review

- a. Spring Judicial Conference: Amy Elson reviewed the evaluation tally. Of the 325 who responded, 90% reported either a “good” or “excellent” conference experience. Approximately half of respondents have been judicial officers for less than 12 years. Three quarters of respondents reported feeling more connected to their peers after attending the conference. The Education team is pleased with this feedback and seeks to increase levels of satisfaction even more in the future.
- b. Plenary speaker Johnathan Shapiro’s message of finding the “why” in what you do seemed to resonate with respondents.
- c. Concurrent breakout sessions:
 - i. Judicial officers enjoy learning from other judicial officers and taking ideas back to their own courtrooms.
 - ii. Some want more in-depth analysis of certain topics; some disputed the notion of “hot” topics vs “basic” topics.
 - iii. Question-and-Answer sessions were appreciated.
 - iv. The interactive technology session was highly praised.
 - v. Respondents greatly appreciated the mixture of fast track and longer workshop sessions and would like to see that format continue.

4. Future Programs

- a. Recent Legislation Webinars: Ashley Moise reported that the recent legislation webinars will be a bit different this year. Staff attorneys who compile the legislation will record their presentations individually. These videos will be posted to the Indiana Judicial Branch Education Network so judicial officers can view them at their convenience.
- b. Annual Meeting: The Education team seeks Committee feedback on the following:
 - i. Conference tagline/theme: the Committee favors either “Every Decision, Every Docket, Every Hoosier,” or “More than a Ruling.”
 - ii. Plenary: the Holocaust topic will be either Day 1 or Day 3; a wellness and/or inspirational topic will be either Day 1 or Day 3; the Day 2 plenary will be more of a briefing to the judiciary on a variety of administrative topics: Court initiatives, announcements, etc. Please send recommendations for a wellness and/or inspirational speaker to Ashley and Vicki.

5. **Master's Program:** Magistrate Flanigan reported on the work of the subcommittee to enhance the Master's Program and Judicial College program. The subcommittee hopes to provide the Education Committee Chair with some talking points to advertise the programs at the upcoming Annual Meeting and provide clarity specifically on the requirements for the Judicial College. For the Master's Program, the subcommittee discussed incorporating faculty development. For example, aspiring criminal law faculty could create a criminal law curriculum. The subcommittee also recommends changing the name of the program. The subcommittee plans to reconvene once more this summer and will present some more concrete recommendations for moving forward at the October in-person Committee meeting.
6. **Future Meeting Dates:**
 - a. 7/11/25 at 1:00 pm in Zoom
 - b. Save the date: 10/23 and 10/24 in-person retreat

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Newland and Jordan Sauvain