

Judicial Education Committee Meeting

Friday, January 23, 2026 at 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Committee Members Present:

Hon. Earl Penrod, Senior Judge (Acting Chair); Hon. Kimberly J. Bacon; Hon. Heather Barajas; Hon. Carolyn Foley, Magistrate; Hon. Charnette Garner; Hon. Christopher Goff, Indiana Supreme Court; Hon. Elizabeth Hurley; Hon. Marissa McDermott; Hon. Bruce Parent; Hon. Kristine Osterday; Hon. Leslie Shively; Hon. Kenton Kiracofe

Staff Members Present: Catheryne Pully; Vicki Davis; Ashley Moise; Amy Elson; Kristyn Hill; Caroline Martin; and Mary Mitchell

1. Call to Order

- a. Judge Penrod (Acting Chair) called the meeting to order and reiterated the mission of the Judicial Education Committee: to provide education of great depth, breadth, and quality to continually develop Indiana's judicial branch as a learning institution. The three primary functions are 1) to schedule and develop judicial officer education curriculum; 2) identify and train faculty for judicial officer conferences; and 3) develop a long-term vision for judicial education.

2. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes:

- a. Thank you to Caroline for synthesizing the notes and discussion from the Judicial Education retreat.
- b. Several Committee members who attended expressed appreciation for the organization and facilitation of the retreat and enjoyed collaborating with one another.

3. Past Program Review

- a. Domestic Relations Program:
 - i. Ashley Moise reported that the Domestic Relations Workshop took place on November 14; 81 people registered. Topics included teenagers refusing parenting time; supervised visitation in high-risk situations; child support guidelines; complex domestic relations cases; enforcement; data dashboards; and trauma-informed judging. Many sessions used panels.
 - ii. Overall, reviews were strong. Content was well-received and considered useful and practical. A large majority reported feeling more connected to their peers. Attendees appreciated the venue.
 - iii. A few sessions could have benefitted from adding more appellate-level perspectives, clearer objectives (ex. the grief-themed session), or broader applicability (ex. the Marion County technology dashboard session).
- b. Winter Workshop:
 - i. Amy Elson reported that the Winter Workshop took place on December 5. The theme was judicial writing. Topics included citation updates and using visuals; AI and judicial writing; communication and public trust; and managing wellness during the writing process. The featured speaker, Professor Steed from Toledo College of Law, was generally very well-received, though the presentation ran a bit short.
 - ii. All the sessions received positive comments; attendees felt the material was practical and requested more education in judicial writing in the future. Attendees also gave high praise for the venue.
 - iii. Committee members who attended agreed with the positive feedback.
 - iv. There was some discussion on the timing of the Winter Workshop. It is still beneficial to have it in December for end-of-year CLE, although a larger discussion was prompted surrounding the efficiency of content delivery in general. In the era of shrinking budgets and constrained resources, it would be helpful to give some thought towards optimizing content delivery not

just to judges, but to other judicial branch stakeholders, as well (law enforcement, lawyers, court staff, etc.). This is important not just for cost-cutting reasons, but also to reduce the burden on judicial officers who receive education and then must take what they have learned back to their local justice stakeholders. **This topic is worth further discussion and can be added to the next retreat agenda.**

4. Retreat Debrief

- a. Subcommittee on the Judicial College rebranding update:
 - i. Judge Penrod reported that the proposed new name for the Master's Certificate Program is the ***Judicial Education Capstone Program***. Applicants who successfully complete the program would receive the Capstone Medal.
 - ii. Requirements would start with 120 hours of education beginning after the application has been approved. Ideally, some of these sessions would be specific to the Capstone program, but more development is needed.
 - iii. The next requirement would be a special project. This could be writing a law review article or a book; developing a judicial education community outreach program that is replicable by other judges; or completing a judicial education contribution track, such as:
 - 1. Preparing a written curriculum for an education topic
 - 2. Creating materials for a number of sessions, or
 - 3. Serving as faculty for a number of sessions.
 - iv. Applicants would submit a written outline of their proposed project highlighting the value of their contribution to judicial education.
 - v. The subcommittee would like to continue developing the finer points of this structure pending preliminary approval by the rest of the Education Committee. Judge Shively moved to approve; Judge Barajas seconded. **The Committee voted unanimously to approve this name change and requirements.**
- b. 2026 Conference Goals and Session Ideas:
 - i. Amy reviewed the 2026 goals created by the Education Committee:
 - 1. Encourage and strengthen relationships between judicial officers
 - 2. Engage audiences by providing varied content suitable for multiple experience levels presented by quality speakers
 - 3. Expand the pool of presenters and provide opportunities for faculty development
 - 4. Explore ways for judicial officers to meet the needs of their communities
 - 5. Increase audience participation in sessions
 - ii. Several key themes arose from the Education Retreat digest:
 - 1. A desire for more deep-dive topics
 - 2. A desire for more discussion opportunities rather than mostly lecture-based education
 - 3. A desire for more course leveling/progression (101, 201, 301, etc.) for certain topics
- c. Faculty Development
 - i. Mary Mitchell reported that the Education staff met to craft a faculty development plan. So far, the team has developed a curriculum, an implementation plan, and discussed creating some evaluation tools. The team also aims to create a faculty-tracking system to be able to maintain a comprehensive list of teaching topics and also to be able to recognize potential faculty overuse and burnout.
 - 1. Mary reviewed the multi-topic curriculum proposal which consists of a short introductory video, an on-demand webinar on adult learning principles, a webinar/workshop combination on developing course objectives and how to reach them, two 75-minute in-person sessions on teaching methods, and a final remote workshop on the tools of teaching. This faculty development program will be marketed at the Spring Judicial Conference with the goal of having it ready for enrollment by the Annual Meeting.

2. The Committee supports this proposed curriculum and suggests incorporating 1) a list of IOCS staff attorneys with specific expertise for assistance with research and 2) a faculty handbook to accompany the coursework.
5. **Spring Programming Discussion**
 - a. Amy Elson reviewed a proposed Spring Judicial Conference agenda. Topics were prompted by discussions at the previous Education Committee retreat. The proposed agenda will keep last year's structure of both longer workshops (for deep-dives) and fast-track sessions and incorporate more opportunities for discussion and course leveling. For example, Day 1 would offer a workshop on sentencing issues in policy and practice, and Day 2 would offer a follow-up fast-track session on the same topic but with a discussion-based structure. The Committee supports a tryout of this format.
 - b. Additionally, the conference contains three general themes of 1) judicial writing, 2) AI in the courts, and 3) judicial leadership. Attendees could opt to follow one theme, or "track," throughout the conference, but they do not have to.
 - c. Finally, there will be another Statehouse and Law Library tour, with a look at some of the Library's rare book collection, offered at the conference.
6. **Future Meeting Dates:**
 - a. March 13, 2026 at 1pm
 - b. May 15, 2026 at 1pm
 - c. July 10, 2026 at 1pm
 - d. October 22-23, 2026 at 1pm

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Newland

Judicial Education Committee Meeting

Friday, March 13, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Committee Members Present:

Hon. Thomas Felts, Senior Judge (Acting Chair); Hon. Kimberly J. Bacon; Hon. Carolyn Foley, Magistrate; Hon. Charnette Garner; Hon. Christopher Goff, Indiana Supreme Court; Hon. Elizabeth Hurley; Hon. Kenton Kiracofe; Hon. Marissa McDermott; Hon. Joshua Orem, Magistrate; Hon. Kristine Osterday; and Hon. Hunter Reece;

Staff Members Present: Vicki Davis; Ashley Moise; Amy Elson; Kristyn Hill; Caroline Martin; Mary Mitchell; Paige Newland; and Hon. Earl Penrod, Senior Judge.

1. Call to Order

- a. Judge Felts (Acting Chair) called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes:

- a. Magistrate Foley moved to approve the January minutes. Judge Reece Seconded. Unanimous. Minutes approved.

3. Past Program Review

- a. N/A

4. Upcoming Programs

a. Spring Judicial Conference:

- i. Amy Elson reviewed the agenda. There will be a combination of longer workshops and shorter fast-track sessions. The Committee's overarching 2026 goals and conference-specific goals set at the October meeting were implemented when crafting the program.
 1. Overarching goals:
 - a. Varied content on varied levels: There will be both jurisdiction-specific sessions as well as broadly applicable sessions (such as working with attorneys, AI, etc.).
 - b. Increased participation: There will be an AI computer-based workshop, an Associated Inquiry and Discussion (AID) session on sentencing issues, and more.
 - c. Recruiting additional faculty: There will be a faculty development session that will preview the upcoming faculty development curriculum being developed by the Education Division.
 2. Conference-specific goals:
 - a. More deep-dives into advanced topics: two examples are a multi-session sentencing program and a session on court-ordered titles.
 - b. Thematic tracks: this year's tracks will be Judges as Leaders; Data, Technology and Judging; and Court Oversight for Judges.
 - c. Specific priority topics: Sentencing, Working with Court Administrators, AI, Grants, and Difficult Litigation.
- ii. Registration is anticipated to be about the same level as usual, although some are experiencing hotel reservation issues due to the convergence of several large events in downtown Indianapolis.
- iii. Discussion: Attendees liked the option for fast-track sessions last year, so we brought it back this year. The Committee and faculty are also excited about more discussion opportunities.

b. **Annual Meeting:**

i. Plenary requests:

1. Ashley Moise reported that there is a potential partnership opportunity with the FSSA's Division of Mental Health and Addiction to bring in an outside speaker on the topic of behavioral health. We want to make sure the messaging on this topic aligns with the priorities of the Court. The Behavioral Health Committee's inaugural report will be published soon and will likely provide some additional content direction.
2. Chief Justice Rush prioritizes court security and would like to bring back James Hamilton.
3. Data cleanup: This wouldn't necessarily need a full plenary timeslot, but a small presentation is needed. Courts should engage best practices for data accuracy and timeliness. For example, ensure disposed cases do not still show as pending. This topic could potentially be paired with weighted caseload and judge time.

ii. Theming: On the topic of combining sessions, if the Committee has ideas for session groupings (themes), feel free to share with the Education Division.

iii. Additional discussion:

1. Ashley relayed Judge Rothenberg's suggestion of a panel on resource-sharing (magistrates, etc.).
2. The topic of data cleanup and accuracy will also be a focus for court and clerk personnel education this year.

5. **2028 Annual Meeting Location**

- a. Vicki Davis reported that based on traditional rotation, 2028 will bring the conference north. Possible locations are South Bend or Fort Wayne. Fort Wayne has inquired about bringing an event back. The Committee generally likes the idea of Fort Wayne but is interested in the upcoming renovation happening at the South Bend DoubleTree. The Committee is also interested in exploring the northwestern region in the future. Additionally, the Signia being built off the Indiana Convention Center looks like a good future option for Annual Meetings.
- b. Judge Reece moved to nominate Fort Wayne. Judge Garner seconded Unanimous vote: **Fort Wayne approved for 2028.**

6. **Court Personnel Education**

- a. Mary Mitchell gave an update on 2026 court personnel education and highlighted the networking groups: there is one for court reporters and another for court administrators. These take place online and are good opportunities to meet fellow court staff and facilitate discussion on various topics of interest. If the Committee members' staff has topic suggestions or other education ideas, they are welcome to reach out to the Education Division.

7. **Judicial Capstone Program update (formerly Master's Certificate)**

- a. Judge Penrod reminded the Committee of the name change to Judicial Capstone Program. The subcommittee still plans to flesh out the program requirements and present those at a future committee meeting. The subcommittee would like to make a short marketing pitch at the Annual Meeting for this program. The goal is to have as much support and buy-in as possible. Increased marketing and clarification of the program parameters would help this.
- b. Committee members are invited to reach out to the Subcommittee with any feedback or questions.

8. **Future Meeting Dates:**

- a. July 10, 2026 at 1pm
- b. October 22-23, 2026 at 1pm

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Newland

Judicial Education Committee Meeting

Friday, May 15, 2026 at 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Committee Members Present:

Hon. Heather Barajas; Hon. Kimberly Bacon; Hon. Carolyn Foley, Magistrate; Hon. Charnette Garner; Hon. Lisa Glickfield; Hon. Christopher Goff, Indiana Supreme Court; Hon. Elizabeth Hurley; Hon. Kenton Kiracofe; Hon. Joshua Orem, Magistrate; Hon. Kristine Osterday; Hon. Bruce Parent; Hon. Marc Rothenberg; Hon. Leslie Shively;

Staff Members Present: Vicki Davis; Ashley Moise; Amy Elson; Caroline Martin; Paige Newland; Hon. Thomas Felts, Senior Judge; and Hon. Earl Penrod, Senior Judge.

1. Call to Order

- a. Judge Rothenberg called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

- a. Judge Hurley moved to approve the March minutes. Judge Garner Seconded. Unanimous. Minutes approved.

3. Past Program Review: Spring Judicial Conference

- a. Amy Elson reiterated the 2026 goals from the retreat:
 - i. Encouraging and strengthening relationships among judicial officers
 - ii. Engaging audiences by providing varied content and varied experience levels
 - iii. Expanding our pool of presenters
 - iv. Exploring ways for judicial officers to meet the needs of their communities
 - v. Increasing audience participation in sessions
- b. There were 320 evaluation responses.
 - i. 82% rated the overall experience as either “excellent” or “good.”
 - ii. 72% rated *connection to peers* as “high;” this is encouraging, as we heavily emphasized engagement this year.
- c. The conference employed a combination of longer workshops and fast track sessions like last year. We also employed thematic tracks which were not extensively utilized – only about a third of participants purposely engaged with the thematic tracks.
- d. The AID session was very well organized and well received by attendees. Another standout was Court Ordered Titles session. Attendees also appreciated input from appellate judges and justices during a variety of sessions.
- e. The conference app was appreciated but underutilized. We will look for ways to increase engagement there.
- f. Some attendees lamented the lack of family law courses.
- g. Committee discussion:
 - i. Perhaps we can make future tracks based on years of experience instead of just topics.
 - ii. Continue having multi-part AID sessions.
 - iii. It might be good to send pre-event emails reminding attendees which sessions they signed up for.

4. Upcoming Program: Annual Meeting

- a. Ashley Moise reported that nine of thirteen breakout slots have already been filled with more expected after the next meeting with the Chief Justice.
 - i. Topic ideas include Modern News and Media Influence, Decoding the Executive Branch, Behavioral Health, Guilty Plea Waivers, and Double Jeopardy.

- ii. We also will try to include ethics sessions on all days.
 - iii. Grants sessions are often requested, but attendance is usually low. Perhaps this topic could be better as a webinar.
 - iv. The Rules Committee is working on more AI-related guidance that could serve as a session topic.
 - v. Social determinants of health could be another interesting option.
- b. Plenary topics include Security, the Business of Judging, and Behavioral Health.

5. **Other Programs and Initiatives**

- a. **Judicial Mentors Program:** Ashley Moise reported that this program is currently for trial court judges. The Committee is interested in expanding this to magistrates but with flexibility. Since magistrates are overseen by one or more trial judges, the supervising judge(s) would need to approve the magistrate's participation.
- b. **Recent Legislation Webinars:** Ashley proposed that instead of delivering the Recent Legislation webinars with live presenters, we try something different this year. This type of text-heavy content would lend itself well to being converted into a series of short, AI-generated videos. No objection from the Committee.

6. **Other**

- a. Vicki Davis is pursuing an inquiry with Tim Egan to possibly speak at a 2027 conference.
- b. Judge Felts reported that a judge from West Virginia is developing an education program for WV judges. She visited the Spring Judicial Conference for a day and a half and spoke with the team and was impressed by Indiana's programming.
- c. Indiana Judicial Education Capstone Program – Judge Penrod reported that the next subcommittee meeting scheduled. Thank you to the judges who have participated in the subcommittee: Judge Shively and Judge Barajas.

7. **Future Meeting Dates:**

- a. July 10, 2026 at 1pm
- b. October 22-23, 2026 at 1pm

8. **Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Newland