

FY25 JP 10-Hour Agenda

Travel & Registration Day			
3:00-5:00	Registration		
Day 1			
7:00-8:00	Breakfast & Registration		
9:00-11:00	Building Bridges: Courts & the Community		
10:00-11:00	Evidence in Criminal Cases	Don't Skip this Class – Truancy Solutions	Appeals in County Court
12:00-1:00	Lunch		
1:00-2:00	Civil Evidence: Guidelines and Best Practices	Mental Health Detention	Contempt
2:00-4:00	Look Good: Avoiding Common Mistakes	Debts and Disagreements: Civil Scenarios	Criminal Procedure Scenarios
Day 2			
7:00-8:00	Breakfast		
8:00-10:00	Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Courts	Inquests: Death Investigations & Reporting	Evictions Scenarios
10:00-12:00	Children in the Courts: Diversion and Supporting Success		

Course Descriptions

General Session: Building Bridges: Courts & the Community

How do courts foster confidence in the judiciary within their community? This class examines resources and strategies for judges to build bridges, relationships, and understanding.

Breakout Course: Evidence in Criminal Cases

A defendant cannot be convicted unless the state has proven their case beyond a reasonable doubt. This requires that the state satisfy the rules of evidence to prove its case. This class will address common evidentiary issues you will encounter at trial.

Breakout Course: Don't Skip this Class – Truancy Solutions

There are many reasons a child may be truant, including lack of initiative, drug use, domestic violence, and bullying. In this class, students will discuss various strategies for addressing truancy and learn how those strategies may apply to different scenarios.

Breakout Course: Appeals in County Court

What happens when a case moves on from justice court? Hear from a former JP and county judge on the issues that arise when a case is sent up on appeal, when it can be sent back, and more.

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Breakout Course: Civil Evidence: Guidelines and Best Practices

Justice court civil rules and procedures for evidence are often different than other courts. This class will explore those differences and cover the standards and best practices so justice courts can deal with evidence correctly.

Breakout Course: Mental Health Detention

Many JPs, as part of their magistrate duties, handle emergency detention orders (EDOs) for their county. This course will provide an overview of emergency mental health detention, recent legislative changes to this process, and valuable resources to enable your court to effectively assist the community in a situation when an EDO may be needed in the future.

Breakout Course: Contempt

Holding someone in contempt is one of the most severe powers a judge has. This course will address the unique issues concerning this option.

Breakout Session: Looking Good: Avoiding Common Mistakes

One of the fastest ways to undermine confidence in the court system is when the court makes legal errors that infringe on the rights of others. This course will examine some of the common ways courts fall into this trap.

Breakout Course: Debts and Disagreements: Civil Scenarios

In this class, attendees will discuss a variety of different scenarios that could arise in small claim and debt claim cases.

Breakout Course: Criminal Procedure Scenarios

This course will explore various options in criminal cases by examining different circumstances that judges are likely to encounter in real life.

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Courts

Are robots really going to be ruling the world? Joshua Weaver, an expert in the legal AI field, will help judges navigate the opportunities and pitfalls of the rise of AI in the courts.

Breakout Course: Inquests: Death Investigations & Reporting

This course will provide a general overview of the death investigation process and required death reporting.

Breakout Course: Evictions Scenarios

Evictions can be some of the trickiest cases justice courts encounter. This class will address eviction issues through scenarios on various topics that are taken from real life examples.

Children in the Courts: Diversion and Supporting Success

This course will explore the new juvenile diversion process including potential issues related to language access, mental health concerns, and disabilities. This course satisfies the requirement of Government Code Sec. 22.1105.