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CNO REVIEW

July 2016



The
JOURNEY
of Ohio's Judicial College

Celebrating 40 years of significant milestones marking high-quality, thorough, and inventive education.
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The JOURNEY of Ohio's Judicial College

“ [W]e no longer accept the ancient folklore that every lawyer — even every good lawyer — is automatically qualified to fulfill all the functions of a judge simply because he puts on a black robe.

— Chief Justice Warren E. Burger
U.S. Supreme Court
Economic Club of New York
Jan. 23, 1974

The Ohio Judicial College turns 40 this month, and enrollment and services have never been higher. In four decades, the Judicial College has served many of the roughly 1,200 judges and 830 magistrates working now in courtrooms statewide. Besides being the go-to resource for judicial education in Ohio, the College has branched out to deliver substantive, practical instruction to thousands of others instrumental to the judicial branch — court personnel, acting judges, guardians ad litem, and, in the last year, lawyer and non-lawyer guardians for adults. In 2015 alone, 21,276 participants took Judicial College courses. That number included 114 new judges who benefited from the in-depth orientation course and approximately 7,000 adult guardians who gained essential skills for their roles.

Judge **Diane Palos**, of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, has enjoyed the innovative approaches to education that the College offers and the practical know-how she's gained from courses. Judge Palos, who's currently chair of the College's board of trustees, mentions the “thought-provoking” class she took about poverty, which was structured to put attendees in the shoes of poor people who encounter the justice system. She also points to the helpful takeaways, such as checklists and flow charts, that can be used immediately back at the courthouse.

“Judicial education is essential to running a courtroom,” she said. “The combined experience of the judges attending and providing the training will far exceed any individual judge's knowledge or experience.”

Chief Justice **Maureen O'Connor** adds that this type of tailored and real-world education and training prepares judges for the complex — and often emotional — situations they deal with nearly every day.

“Specialized education for judges helps to serve the public by ensuring the competency of the judicial branch,” the chief justice said. “Through the knowledge and skills gained in Judicial College courses, judges and court personnel are empowered to perform their responsibilities with fairness and integrity, preserving impartiality and access to the justice system.”



40 YEARS OF MILESTONES



Doors Open

Following the creation of the National Judicial College in 1963, Franklin County Municipal Court Judge **R. Patrick West** begins corresponding with Ohio Supreme Court Justice **C. William O'Neill** in the early 1970s about a statewide organization that would design and offer specialized education to judges. After receiving a federal grant, the Supreme Court establishes the Ohio Judicial College in June 1976. The College is governed by a board of trustees, and the leadership finds an office for director **Laurence Stone**, its sole employee the first year, on the second floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus. Ohio was one of the first states in the country to provide judicial education.

Inaugural Class

The College's first course updates judges on drunk driving laws, after stricter statutes are enacted in the 1970s. The College holds the course in nine locations statewide, and 151 judges attend. They pay no tuition to take the course, which includes lunch and reimbursement of travel expenses. Throughout his

tenure, Stone keeps classes small – 25 people per session – and, after this inaugural course, typically picks six venues across the state.

Mandatory Education for Judges

In 1981, the Supreme Court adopts a rule requiring judges to complete 20 hours of education each year, including one course from the College. This mandate precedes the continuing education requirements for lawyers by eight years. Currently, judges must take 40 hours in each two-year period, while attorneys have to finish 24 hours in that timeframe.



College Adapts and Finds Home with Supreme Court

As federal grant dollars dwindle, the College adjusts – it begins charging \$50 for courses and in 1982 becomes part of the Ohio Judicial Conference. A 1989 court rule moves the Judicial College under the Ohio Supreme Court umbrella and defines the makeup and terms of the College's board of trustees. Tuition for judges remains today, 34 years later, at the nominal \$50 level.

Tailored Education for Referees

The Judicial College expands its audience in 1988 to include courses to assist referees, now referred to as magistrates. The earliest classes focus on their role in courts and the rules of evidence.

Orientation for New Judges Formalized

In 1992, the College develops a day-and-a-half orientation for newly-elected judges before they take the bench. Topics address caseload management, working with the public, and judicial ethics. The College continues a decades-old, annual "New Judges School" for all judges each year after they're sworn in.

Later, the College combines these two efforts, and the orientation becomes more intensive. Part of the more in-depth offering includes a mock trial, with new judges presiding. By 2001, the orientation spans 10 days – five before judges start in the courtroom, and five more a few months after most judges begin their term.

Today, rules require new judges to complete the College's comprehensive orientation program, with

the same two-part training. In addition, judges who hear death penalty cases have to take a capital-case course, and new judges must partner with a mentor judge during the first year of their tenure.

Education Expands to Court Personnel

The College creates a committee that includes Ohio Association for Court Administration members, probation officers, court reporters, and others to increase the educational opportunities for court managers and staff. Out of the committee's work comes courses, about topics such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and jury management, created specifically for court personnel.

College Adopts Education Model Based on Needs of Judges

After **John Meeks** takes the helm at the College in 1996, he travels with two judges and a magistrate to the Leadership Institute in Judicial Education at the University of Memphis. They return with the groundwork for expanded

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“The Judicial College serves an ever-broadening audience with ever-expanding coursework. If you have a need to learn, the Judicial College has a course to address that need.

– Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, Ohio Supreme Court State of the Judiciary, Sept. 3, 2015

MILESTONES Continued from p. 9



faculty development and curriculum-based education, which focuses on what the audience needs to know and do, as well as the different experience levels of participants. The model forms the cornerstone that informs the College's development of courses going forward. Twenty years later, the College has 10 robust education tracks from which to build many well-researched courses.

Program Illuminates Emerging Science and Tech Issues

Judicial leaders form the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource (ASTAR) Center in 2005 after finding that new developments in science and technology presented unique challenges for judges. Ohio and Maryland spearhead the national program. The College designs standardized training to handle the increasing volume of complex, high-tech cases on court dockets and draws judges from 40 states

to the courses. The project, which requires 120 hours of advanced training, receives strong support from then Chief Justice **Thomas J. Moyer**, who serves as ASTAR vice chair for a time. Sessions delve into forensics, agricultural science, genetics, bioethics, reproductive medicine, and computers.

Education Methods Diversify

Live sessions are the heart of the Judicial College's work. Judges report that the chance to chat informally and face to face with their colleagues proves invaluable to their profession. But the College always considers other ways to meet the needs of busy judges. In the early years, courses are videotaped, and judges can borrow tapes from the College's loan library. Audiotapes are popular as well. In 1993, the College receives a grant to launch its first teleconference session.

As the Internet age dawns, the College adapts and

develops live-streaming via webcasts and online courses for all its audiences. The College also finds success with experiential learning. For one non-traditional course, juvenile judges visit detention centers for firsthand knowledge. During another, judges and magistrates travel to Amish regions of the state to expand their understanding of the group's customs and culture.

College Assists Guardians ad Litem

The Court adopts a rule in 2009 setting standards for guardians ad litem, who are appointed to represent a child's best interests in a legal dispute concerning the minor's custody or welfare. The College provides the mandated pre-service and annual education.

Judicial eCademy Launched

The College leverages the web in 2011 to elevate the services provided to its diverse audiences. Judicial eCademy not only enables all people to register online for both live and web-based courses, but also offers webinars and makes pre-recorded courses available on demand.

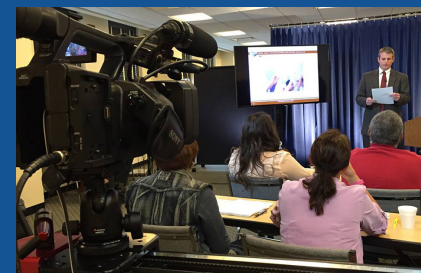
"The Internet makes learning affordable, convenient, and makes educational information available when needed," said **Milt Nuzum**, who became the College's director in 2007.

Impact of Judicial Education Measured

The Ohio State University conducts a 2011 evaluation of the Judicial College. The research finds the judicial education provided through the College promotes excellence and expertise among both new and experienced judges.

Adult Guardians Join Groups Served

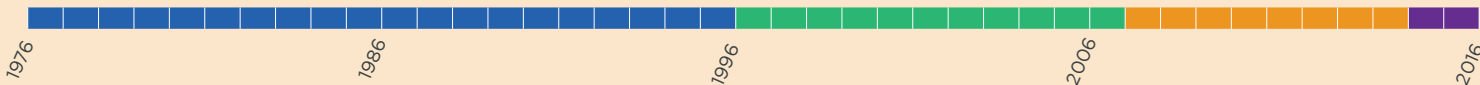
On June 1, 2015, rules take effect to protect vulnerable adults who are under the care of guardians. To help guardians comply with the mandate, the College, now under the leadership of **Christy Tull**, develops fundamental and continuing education courses. Tracks are developed for attorneys and non-attorney professional guardians as well as for layperson guardians, who are often family members, friends, or volunteers. In the first year, nearly 11,000 guardians are educated through sessions via in-person courses, online instruction, and broadcasts.



TOP LEFT: Judges participate in a 2007 ASTAR course. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** An adult guardianship training session is broadcast statewide via the Ohio Channel at the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center.

LEADERSHIP

A look at the Ohio Judicial College directors from 1976 to present



1 Laurence Stone
1976 - 1996

“It was an honor and a pleasure to play a role in the early development of the Judicial College. I learned a lot and had a terrific time watching the College grow into the outstanding judicial branch education program that it is today.”

2 John Meeks
1996 - 2006

“Increased staffing at the Judicial College resulted in greatly enhanced education for judges, magistrates, and staff, both in quality and quantity.”

3 W. Milt Nuzum III
2007 - 2014

“The Judicial College equips judges to deal with the ever-changing legal landscape in order to make appropriate judicial decisions on motions and cases that come before them.”

4 M. Christy Tull
2015 - Present

“Thanks to the investment of the judicial branch community, the Judicial College has enjoyed great success on which we will build our next 40 years.”

College Staff Are Leaders Nationally in Arena

Judicial College staff are recognized leaders in judicial education. Stone, Meeks, Tull, and **Margaret Allen** have all served as president of National Association of State Judicial Educators. Allen was hired this year to coordinate the Court Management Program within the National Center for State Courts – a program in which Ohio was a charter member.

Judges from Missouri, Utah, and other states have reached out to Ohio about what the College does and how it’s done. Delegations from Louisiana and Illinois have visited.

“Ohio has been recognized by other judicial educators as one of the top programs in the country for many years,” said Meeks, who is now vice president at the Institute for Court Management in Williamsburg, Virginia.

2,373 courses
in **40 YEARS**
educating
204,638
people



Whether it has been course work regarding capital cases, the new traffic code, or developing the educational program for this conference, the college has been vital to the challenge to improve the skills of judges and court personnel.

— Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer, Ohio Supreme Court, State of the Judiciary and Ohio Judicial Conference annual meeting, Sept. 12, 2002