

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
TO THE ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**

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**I. STATEMENT ON COMMITTEE CONTINUATION**

Consistent with the purpose and provisions of the Supreme Court's *Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois Judges*, the Committee on Education was established to identify the educational needs of the Illinois judiciary and to develop and present educational programs to address those needs. In Conference Year 2010, the Committee received a charge to develop and recommend a "core" judicial education curriculum for Illinois judges which identifies key judicial education topics and issues to be addressed through judicial education activities each Conference year. This core curriculum was to include the identification of emerging legal, sociological, cultural and technical issues that impact decision making and court administration by Illinois judges. The Committee, in coordination with the Administrative Office, was charged with the assessment of judicial education needs, expectations, and program participation of Illinois judges, as well as reviewing and recommending educational programs offered by non-judicial conference organizations and entities for the award of continuing judicial education credit.

In conjunction with the general charge to the Committee, the Court provided the following list of 2010 projects and priorities:

- Evaluate the 2009 New Judge Seminar and design, deliver and evaluate the 2010 New Judge Seminar consistent with 2009 evaluations.
- Design, deliver and evaluate the 2010-2011 Seminar Series, including the DUI Seminar, consistent with 2009-2010 evaluations and the goals and objectives of the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety training grant awarded to AOIC.
- Design the 2011 Advanced Judicial Academy consistent with 2009 evaluations and the Court's directive to adjust the Academy schedule to a 3 or 32 day format.
- Deliver and evaluate Education Conference 2010 in February and April.
- Finalize the proposed amendments and modifications to the Supreme Court's *Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan* and submit to the Illinois Supreme Court.
- Design, deliver and evaluate the Faculty Development Workshop after determining frequency and substantive training needs.
- Assess and redesign Faculty Peer Review Evaluations and the Peer Review process.
- Assess means of faculty recruitment and the need for a diverse faculty across geographic, racial, ethnic, gender and cultural differentiations.
- Undertake any other such projects or initiatives that are consistent with the Committee's charge.

## II. SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### Education Conference 2010

Education Conference 2010, a biennial 30 hour training event, was held February 1-5 and April 19-23 at the Swissotel in Chicago. The 2010 theme, *Judging in a Diverse America*, was the focus of the plenary address offered by the Hon. Ruben Castillo, U.S. District Court Judge from the Northern District of Illinois. Each justice of the Supreme Court, and nearly all of the 958 trial and appellate court judges, participated in one of the two conference presentations. The conference offered judges a flexible selection of over 50 sessions, many repeated twice, Monday – Friday. Sessions were grouped into four tracks: Civil, Criminal, Family, and Judicial Conduct, Ethics and Professionalism. One hundred judicial faculty, representing a cross section of the state, and 34 non-judicial or retired judicial guest speakers, presented or facilitated at the conference. Use of *TurningPoint*, electronic registration, self-service kiosks and computerized onsite assistance from Administrative Office staff for scheduling changes were added features in 2010, which contributed to the successful management of the conference. Both the February and April presentations of the conference garnered an overall rating of 4.4 on a 5.0 scale.

### New Judge Seminar

The annual New Judge Seminar was presented to 38 new judges, December 7-11, 2009. The seminar was a comprehensive, week-long program designed to train new judges in a variety of substantive legal and procedural areas and to enhance courtroom management skills. Judicial ethics and conduct, including discussions on judicial attendance, timeliness and other conduct that promotes public confidence in the courts, were topics covered by experienced faculty. The seminar received an overall evaluation rating of 5.0 on a 5.0 scale for its value and benefit to new judges. Knowledge and preparedness of seminar faculty, and assistance by AOIC staff, also received a rating of 5.0. This was the sixth consecutive presentation to receive an overall evaluation of 4.8 to 5.0.

Planning is underway for the next New Judge Seminar, to be held January 24 -28, 2011, in Chicago. The seminar agenda and faculty have been approved by the Court. Faculty will continue to present session topics in a manner designed to aid the new judge's transition to the bench, help the new judge develop skills necessary to become an effective jurist and promote an increased knowledge of various substantive and procedural topics. During the seminar, or informally afterwards, faculty are generally available to new judges for follow-up. During sessions, seminar participants are encouraged to ask questions; many faculty engage new judges in role playing exercises and provide the opportunity for the critical review of scenarios and suggested responses. Small groups, facilitated by experienced judicial faculty, help foster open communication between the new judges. The use of *TurningPoint*, an audience response system,

has been a valuable teaching tool that stimulates discussion among the participants.

The 2011 New Judge Seminar also will offer informational kiosks, 15 minute sessions on topics of major interest to new judges. Kiosks provide an opportunity to share practical information and tips in a brief format. Kiosks topics will include: *Conducting Weddings, Substitution of Judge Issues, Mortgage Foreclosures, Handling TRO's, Hot Tips on Avoiding Reversals, Sealing Court Files, Eavesdropping Warrants, Pension Issues, and Completion of Travel Vouchers.*

### **2009-2010 Seminar Series**

The 2009-2010 Seminar Series offered the following mini and regional events in the Chicago area and Springfield: *Handling Civil Mental Health Commitments* (mini) (Springfield), *Challenging Issues for the Juvenile Court Judge* (regional) (Springfield) and *DUI Offenders in State Court* (grant funded regional) (Chicago area). The seminar offerings were intentionally limited to three due to the extensive course offerings of Education Conference 2010. Eighteen judges attended *Handling Civil Mental Health Commitments* and gave the seminar an overall quality rating of 4.1/5.0. Thirty-one judges attended *Challenging Issues for the Juvenile Court Judge*, which received 4.0/5.0 overall rating. Thirty-two judges attended *DUI Offenders in State Court* and rated the overall quality of the seminar 4.7/5.0.

### **2010-2011 Seminar Series**

The Court approved the 2010-2011 Seminar Series, a total of four seminars, two mini and two regional events. [Mini seminars are one-day training events, whereas regionals are two-day education events]. The 2010-2011 Seminar Series topics are: *Predicting Violent Behavior in Custody and Visitation*, a regional seminar to be held November 4-5, 2010, in the Chicago area; *Probate in the Baby Boomer Age*, a mini seminar scheduled for December 3, 2010, in Springfield; *Search and Seizure At Home and on the Road*, a mini seminar to be held in Springfield on February 24, 2011; and *DUI/Traffic Issues*, an Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety, grant funded regional training event scheduled for April 12-13, 2011, in the Chicago area.

### **Advanced Judicial Academy**

The 2011 Advanced Judicial Academy, *To Have or Have Not: The Impact of Poverty and Wealth on Justice*, will be held June 13-16, 2010, at the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign. The Committee's Advanced Judicial Academy Workgroup has begun planning for this event and looks forward to an engaging and substantive Academy that will explore the theme through an examination of daily subtopics focusing on *Law and Economics, Access to Justice and Law and Social Change*. There will be an emphasis on literature and the insights it can offer as it relates to these topics.

### **Faculty Development**

The opportunity to enhance presentation and facilitative skills, while increasing one's familiarity with technologies like *PowerPoint* and *TurningPoint*, serves the needs of both the faculty and the recipient audience. In addition, knowledge of adult learning theories, the value of well-established learning objectives and their nexus to session materials and presentation formats provide potential faculty with an opportunity to understand and put into practice curricula that meet the needs of the Illinois judiciary. Faculty development seminar will be a useful opportunity for prospective Education Conference 2012 faculty and facilitators, as well as future seminar series faculty, to hone their skills. The Committee plans to offer a faculty development seminar in 2011.

### **Illinois Judicial Conference Benchbooks**

Benchbooks have proven to be a valuable resource for Illinois judges and serve as a reference, on and off the bench. The Project Benchbook Editorial Board of the Committee on Education, through its benchbook writing teams, is responsible for researching, drafting, editing and reviewing the text of the Illinois Judicial Conference benchbooks. Illinois law school professors are engaged by the Administrative Office to assist the writing teams and the Editorial Board in its efforts on four of the six benchbooks.

The first edition of the *Criminal Law and Procedure Benchbook* in hard copy and CD format was distributed in the fall of 2009 to over 400 judges, along with 2009 Updates to Civil Law and Procedure, Domestic Violence, DUI/Traffic, Evidence and Family Law and Procedure. Updates are targeted for distribution beginning December, 2010. Over 3,700 copies of benchbook materials (CD and hard copy) have been distributed to Illinois judges by the Administrative Office Resource Lending Library. Additionally, benchbooks are now available on the Judicial Portal and may be printed, copied or saved as needed by the user.

### **Non-Judicial Conference Judicial Education Programs and Providers**

The Continuing Judicial Education (CJE) Workgroup of the Committee on Education reviews proposed non-judicial conference judicial education programs and providers and makes recommendations for the approval of such programs or providers to the full Committee, which in turn makes recommendations to the Supreme Court. This year, the Court approved upon recommendation of the Committee on Education, the *Economic Institute for Judges* held on November 8-13, 2009. Proposed programs and providers were evaluated by the Committee using the criteria set forth in the Comprehensive Education Plan. Based on each program or provider's consistency with these criteria, the Committee provided recommendations to the Court. The CJE Workgroup continues to review requests for approval received from judges or entities.

### Technology

The widespread integration of *PowerPoint* and *TurningPoint* technologies into session presentations enhanced the learning experience of participants as evidenced by comments in evaluations. Other technological enhancements this Conference year affecting Committee programs included the addition of online registration inaugurated during Education Conference 2010, automated conference attendance tracking (scanning), self-service kiosks and the continued use of the faculty database maintained by the Administrative Office. The faculty database facilitates the selection of conference and seminar faculty through the maintenance of data that identifies former teaching assignments, geographic location, areas of interest, and participant evaluations.

### III. PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT CONFERENCE YEAR

The Committee expects to continue its efforts to plan and deliver future New Judge Seminars, the annual Seminar Series, the biennial training events, Education Conference and Advanced Judicial Academy, the Faculty Development seminar, and the Judicial Conference benchbook updates.

#### Education Conference 2012

A substantial amount of time, dedication and effort was devoted to the development, design and planning of Education Conference 2010 by the Committee on Education and staff of the Administrative Office. The planning of Education Conference 2012 will have similar challenges of time and commitment. Review of participant evaluations and comments, COE liaison faculty assessments, available technologies, and consideration of the informal feedback from the Committee and staff of the Administrative Office, will guide initial planning meetings and serve as a basis for the development of Education Conference 2012. An Education Conference 2012 workgroup has been established to begin planning. The workgroup is co-chaired by a Cook County judge and a downstate judge.

#### New Judge Seminar

The New Judge Seminar workgroup is actively engaged in planning the January 24 - 28, 2011 New Judge Seminar. The workgroup will continue to evaluate and refine the curriculum for future new judge seminars in order to assist new judges in their transition to the bench and to assist new judges in complying with the Supreme Court's Statement of Expectations.

**2011-2012 Seminar Series**

The Committee will plan and propose a schedule of mini and regional seminars for the 2011-2012 education year, and identify judicial faculty and other expert presenters during the events. Topics for the 2011-2012 Seminar Series, along with suggested faculty will be presented to the Court for approval.

**Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois Judges**

The Committee on Education has submitted extensive proposed revisions to the *Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois Judges*. The Committee's recommendations pend with the Court at this time.

**Illinois Judicial Benchbooks**

The Project Benchbook Editorial Board of the Committee on Education will continue to update the six Illinois Judicial Benchbooks based upon significant changes in case law, statutes or rules.

**IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee requests that its work to develop ongoing judicial education resources for Illinois judges be continued in Conference Year 2011. This work, would assist in the transition of new judges to the bench and continue providing challenging, meaningful judicial education resources to the entire Illinois judiciary through the implementation of the Court's Minimum Continuing Judicial Education provisions and through optional programs and resources.

Specifically, the Committee on Education requests the Court and the Illinois Judicial Conference continue to support its work in planning and delivering the 2010-2011 Seminar Series, Education Conference 2012, New Judge Seminar, Illinois Judicial Benchbook Updates, and the 2011 Advanced Judicial Academy.