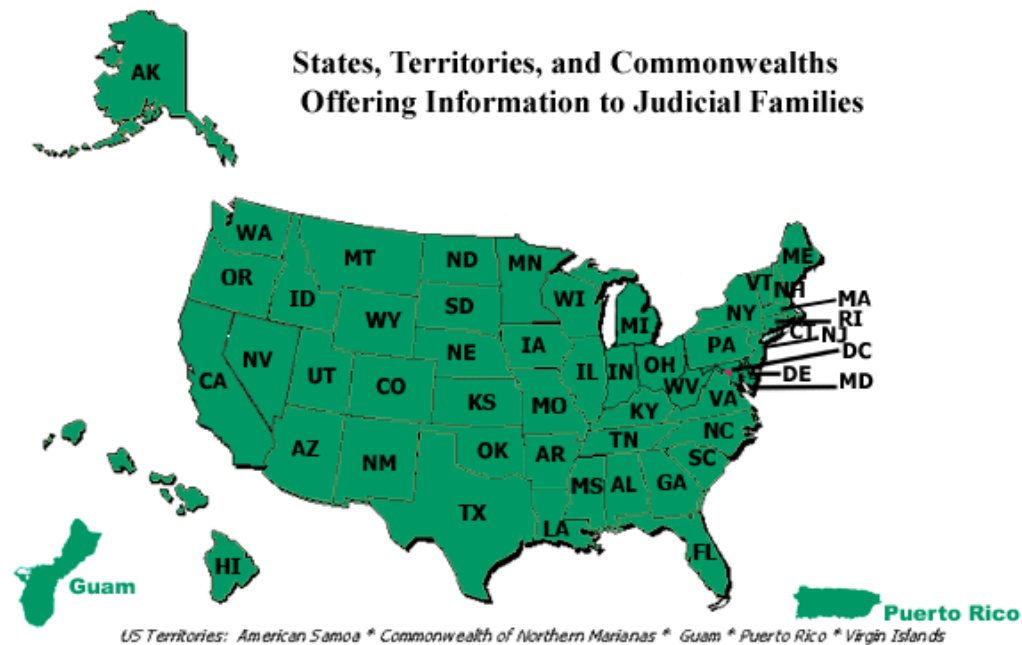


JFI State Programs 2009: an overview



States, Territories, and Commonwealths Offering Information to Judicial Families

All states are now highlighted on the map with the name of a liaison we can contact for information about judicial family programs in their state. <http://jfi.ncsconline.org/>
The National Center for State Court sponsored a college intern to update information about judicial family programs.

Four years ago, Indiana's Supreme Court established the "Judicial Balance" website edited by a former editor of the Pepperdine University School of Law website. Judicial Balance publishes bimonthly summaries of articles, books and interviews about how to achieve a balanced life.

Introducing the site, Chief Justice Randall Shepard wrote: "If there has been a tougher year to be a judge it is difficult to recall. From confirmation battles that brutalize the reputation of judicial nominees to assaults on judges who heard the Schiavo case to murders of a judge and a judge's family, the environment in which we work has posed tough and personal questions for the American bench."

The Indiana Judicial Conference Committee on Ethics and Professionalism advises the "Judicial Balance" website and suggested revisions to the Judicial Code of Conduct.

Indiana's JFI is a good example of what the Judicial Family Institute is in the process of doing: establishing new links to state web sites that are already connected to the Judicial Family Institute website and that offer programs for judicial families

Relevant issues facing spouses and family members as well as news of what is going on in other jurisdictions can be found on the JFI website. We speak the same language, voicing concerns ranging from security at home and in the courthouse to experiencing feelings of social isolation and the challenges of raising children in the public eye.

Ethics education, mentoring for new judges and their spouses, counseling on a variety of problems including alcohol and substance abuse, security strategies and stress management sessions are among the resources offered through JFI links. Following is an overview of state programs.

EDUCATION FOR NEW JUDGES AND SPOUSES

The Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court sends a welcome letter to the spouses of new judges offering the judicial branch's assistance with the changes and new responsibilities. New judges also receive a copy of "An Ethics Guide for Judges & Their Families" by Cynthia Gray, American Judicature Society, to help in their transition to the bench.

Ohio's Judicial Family Network (JFN), a model for judicial family initiatives, provides spouses and partners with three or more formal education programs each year and a resource notebook. Leading the way, the JFN designed a blueprint for supporting judicial family life, starting with a clear, concise mission statement. The message that comes across is that the Supreme Court cares about the families of judges and is committed to supporting their needs.

The Ohio approach inspired the Tennessee Judicial Family Institute Committee to establish the Association of Judicial Spouses and Families. Tennessee also encourages the exchange of information and resources within the judicial family community and plans to make information on a variety of topics, including transition to public life, media relations and high profile cases available.

Tennessee convenes judges, spouses and other judicial family members in plenary sessions to examine such issues as family matters, security and ethics.

As in other states, the Oklahoma Judicial Conference Auxiliary supports programs for spouses of judges during annual judicial conferences.

Every other year, the Indiana Judicial Center hosts a daylong orientation program for new judges' spouses and guests. New and veteran judicial spouses and guests are invited to attend separate education programs on ethics, security, wellness

and other relevant topics. Georgia also encourages spouses and guests to sit in on programs planned for judges.

Judicial spouses in Arkansas suggest program topics for the conference as well as selecting their own program fare. When the state Attorney General's Office presented spouses with a program on identity theft, the group asked that the presentation be given to the judges.

Puerto Rico's Judicial Family Support Program, fostered by the Judicial Family Institute, provides orientation and support to members of the judiciary and their families on ethical and practical aspects of their lives as spouse, son, daughter or close relative.

At a recent JFI dialogue sponsored by the program, judges from the judicial regions of Aguadilla, Arecibo, Mayaguez, and Utuado held all-day workshops tackling such subjects as high profile cases, security for judges and their families, the media and public opinion and cyber networks.

Separate workshops were held for children and adolescents. Puerto Rico's Chief Justice reiterated support for the JFI initiative and applauded workshop recommendations.

JUDGES ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

In addition to judges and designated court officers, spouses and unmarried dependent children are eligible for counseling and consultation services through the California Judicial Officers Assistance Program. A wide range of personal issues, from marital and family problems to financial and credit concerns, to emotional problems and stress, are treated. Participants are eligible for up to five sessions per family member per incident.

The New York State Unified Court System serves judicial families in need of counseling through its Work/Life Assistance Program, an independent professional counseling service, and

What JFI State Contacts Do

- Coordinate judicial family activities in their state, territory or commonwealths.
- Update information quarterly on state programs and submit to JFI website periodically for posting at our web.
- Provide a short and concise description of judicial family state program activities.
- Identify and submit articles, documents, or other educational material to be posted at the JFI website.
- Serve as contact between JFI and the state judicial family programs.

AL- Karen Trussell
AK - Stephanie J. Cole
AZ -Theresa Barrett
AR -Pat A. Hannah
CA -Bob Lowney
CO -Mindy Masias
CT-Mary B. O'Connor
DE- Franny Haney
DC Cheryl Baily
FL- Elisabeth H. Goodner
GA- Rich Reaves
Guam- Mary C. Torres
HI- Marsha Kitagawa
ID- Patricia Tobias
IL- Monica Pruitt
IN- Anne Jordan
IA- Jerry Beatty
KN- Hon. Lee A. Johnson
KY- Dr. Deborah Williamson
LA- Tim Palmatier
ME- Tracie Lammers
MD- Frederick C. Williams
MA- Joan Kenney
MI- Dawn F. McCarty
MN- Judge James E. Dehn
MS- Kevin Lackey
MO- Beth Riggert
MT- Karen Sedlock
NE- Carole McMahon-Boies
NV- Michael Bell
NH- Barbara Sweet
NJ- Richard Young
NM- Debra Seeley, Esq.
NY - Lauren DeSole
NC- David F. Hoke
NC- Beryle Talton
ND- Hon. Gerald W. VandeWalle
OH- Ruth Ann Newcomer
OK- Cheryl Camp
OR- Mollie Croisan
PA- Stephen M. Feiler, Ph.D.
PR- Anabel Solá Márquez
RI- Joseph Baxter
SC- Rosalyn Frierson
SD- Gloria Guericke
TN- Sarah Appleby
TX- Carl Reynolds
UT- Mary Aguirre-Shahin
VT- Patricia Gabel
VA- Karl R. Hade
WA- Christine Alexander c/o Wendy Ferrell
WV- Kathleen Gross
WI- Linda Albert, LCSW, CSAC
WI- David Hass
WY- Ronda Mungar

the statewide Lawyer Assistance Trust. Court employees and their families dealing with personal problems or requiring help with care for a child or an adult relative may contact the counseling service directly through a toll-free number and at no cost. The New York State Lawyer Assistance Trust provides financial support to statewide and local lawyer assistance programs, which in turn provide services to legal professionals and their families experiencing alcohol and substance abuse problems.

Judicial Assistance Services of Washington state also offers judicial families confidential assistance with mental, emotional, drug, alcohol, family, health and other personal problems. Services include assessment, referral, and short- and long-term counseling.

ETHICS EDUCATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Washington state has an online ethics program, available free to judges, judicial families and the public. This ethics educational tool facilitates information in a question and answer format covering topics such as campaigning, fundraising and charitable activities.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

Nevada gives classes on managing stress to judges and judges' partners. One course has participants take a stress inventory, scheduling separate follow-up sessions on interpreting the results. Afterwards, judges and partners discuss stressor definitions, recognition and modification. In a second course, the focus is on one-to-one conversations with judges about stressors they encounter, followed by a presentation on the results of those conversations to a joint audience of judges and partners, plus a lengthy guided discussion.

MENTORING

Under the Tennessee Judicial Family Institute's new-judge mentoring program, a judge is assigned to mentor each new arrival to the bench. New judges are encouraged to engage in the mentoring process for at least one year following election or appointment to the bench.

Ohio's Judicial Family Network (JFN), a leader in judicial family initiatives, tapped an associate professor at The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business to help develop a mentoring program for

spouses and partners of new judges.

The Washington Chapter of JFI is gauging interest in a mentoring program for judicial spouses. The idea is to provide assistance and information on issues important to judicial spouses, including ethics, security and the stress facing families new to public life.

SECURITY

The Michigan Judicial Family Resource Page posted a pamphlet "101 Ways To Save a Judge," coupled with a list of things to do, or avoid doing, to enhance personal security. Many of the suggestions listed are common sense ones and can be used by anyone concerned with their personal safety. Among them is; "Do not reserve your parking space with a sign that says 'Judge' or your name," and "Do not answer your door (any door) without knowing who is on the other side. (by way of a peephole or by audible recognition)."

Meanwhile, the Arkansas Supreme Court created an Administrative Office of Courts Task Force on Court Security with Pat Hannah representing JFI and judicial spouses.

In a timely bow to the perils of the Information Age, the Judicial Council of California has prepared Privacy Protection Guidance for judicial officers. The California Court Security Education Committee is also developing new security DVDs for court staff.

ECONOMIC CRISIS AND STATE JUDICIAL PROGRAMS

The economy is going through a down cycle, and what goes down, will eventually go up. Yet, the financial crisis affecting state and local governments has hurt judicial programs. Maryland and Delaware, for instance, are no longer offering education for spouses. A smart move is to turn to the JFI website to make the most of the downturn.

The sample programs show that one size does not fit all. But checking different state models may inspire and can help tailor a format for your particular jurisdiction. The JFI website contains guidelines about planning methods and the programs each jurisdiction emphasizes.

The Judicial Family Institute urges members to keep in mind that an abundance of state resources is just a click away.

Excerpts from States Program Committee Report 2009. Committee: Mary Moyer, Ruth Ann Newcomer, Mary Torres, and Isabel Picó- Vidal