

2024 COURSES

January 2024

2024 New Judges Seminar

The annual New Judges Seminar was held virtually and in-person over eight days in early January 2024. During the seminar, over 100 newly elected and appointed judges attended sessions designed to help them make the transition from practicing attorney to judge. The New Judges Seminars emphasize the teaching of skills unique to judging and include substantive and procedural law sessions geared to each court type.

February 2024

Political Contributions and Limitations in the Unified Court System

This ethics program is intended to provide judges and court employees with a comprehensive understanding of political contributions and limitations contained in the rules of the Chief Judge and the Chief Administrative Judge, as well as opinions of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics. The program will pay special attention to the rules, guidelines and opinions on campaign contributions, as applicable to sitting judges, including those who are candidates within their “window period” for re-election or election to a higher office, and non-judicial employees, including personal appointees, who are subject to specific limitations on campaign contributions.

March 2024

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (MHL 9.60) Training Series: Part III – Anatomy of an AOT Case and Hearing

Part 3 of this series is designed to expose judges to issues they will likely see during the following phases of an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) case: pre-petition, pleadings, hearing, and post-judgment. In addition, the speakers will discuss the roles of local government, the NYS Office of Mental Health, and Mental Hygiene Legal Service in an AOT case.

Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Diverse Youth in Court, Part 1

Part 1 of this five-part series will provide an overview of the issues impacting transgender, nonbinary, and gender diverse (“TNGD”) youth. Among other topics, this program will set the stage for the series, review current data and demographics regarding TNGD youth, and provide a discussion of pressing national legal issues concerning the rights of TNGD youth.

April 2024

The 2024 Court Attorney Referee Seminar

This two-day, comprehensive seminar provided the referees with training in courtroom practices and procedures as well as ethical obligations and requirements. In addition to covering civil, family, matrimonial, and surrogate issues Court Attorney Referees frequently encounter, the seminar provided training on evidentiary issues, decision and order writing, dealing with attorneys, unrepresented litigants, and the public, and countering implicit bias.

Quarterly Review and Discussion of Bail Legislation and Related Issues, Part 1

Part one of this series will provide an overview of the standards set forth in Criminal Procedure Law § 500.10 and applicable case law. Further, a panel of experienced judges will discuss judicial discretion in the context of deciding bail applications. Finally, there will be an opportunity for the program attendees to openly discuss judicial discretion as it relates to deciding whether to fix bail, impose non-monetary conditions, or release individuals on their own recognizance.

[Black and Brown Girls and the Juvenile Justice System](#)

The negative treatment of Black and Brown girls in and by the juvenile justice system is deeply rooted in the history of our nation. Effectively addressing the issues of Black and Brown girls, who enter the juvenile justice system at a significantly higher rate than girls of other socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, requires a comprehensive and holistic approach. The program speakers discussed the roots/origins of the treatment and punishment of Black and Brown girls in the United States and offered strategies and best practices for obtaining better outcomes.

May 2024

[The Child Victims Act Seminar](#)

The goal of this virtual seminar is to provide a current statewide Child Victims Act (“CVA”) training program for Justices, judicial hearing officers, referees, and ADR neutrals in 214-g Parts (see CPLR 214-g and 22 NYCRR 202.72). This seminar will provide an overview of the CVA, including recent developments in the law. Among other topics, the speakers will examine unique legal issues pertaining to the CVA as well as challenging discovery and trial issues that frequently occur in CVA cases, discuss the complexity of the dynamics surrounding child sexual abuse and how the victim’s trauma impacts court proceedings, and provide insights on the challenges inherent in mediating a CVA case.

[NCSI Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Strategic Initiative: Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Delivery & Disputes Workshop](#)

The National Courts and Sciences Institute (NCSI), in collaboration with the New York State Judicial Institute, presented the two-day Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare Delivery & Disputes Workshop. The workshop addressed several topics, including, but not limited to, court governance of AI in healthcare and other legal disputes, privacy and health record disclosure issues, evidentiary issues (e.g., expert testimony).

June 2024

[Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Diverse \(“TNGD”\) Youth in Court: Part 2, Youth in Out-of-Home Care Systems](#)

This program will continue the discussion of TNGD youth in court with a focus on youth involved in foster care and juvenile justice systems and youth experiencing homelessness, as well as youth engaged in survival sex who are considered victims of trafficking under federal law. It will cover information such as the overrepresentation of TNGD youth in out-of-home care systems, pipelines that lead youth to homelessness and criminalization, regulatory and policy-based protections from discrimination for TNGD youth in out-of-home care, and strategies judges can use to address common challenges like lack of supportive placements and affirming providers.

[2024 Appellate Judges Seminar](#)

This is a joint appellate training seminar for judges of the New York Court of Appeals and the four departments of New York’s Appellate Division. The goal of this seminar is to enhance the judges’ appellate decision-making skills and expose them to emerging issues and trends in the law as well as provide them with tools to address the myriad issues affecting the appeals they regularly see.

June and July 2024

[2024 Judicial Summer Seminars](#)

The Judicial Summer Seminars bring judges from throughout the state together to attend innovative and thoughtful educational courses on recent developments in the law and emerging issues impacting the law. The seminars also focus on issues and trends particular to the state’s courts.

September 2024

[2024 Mandatory SCAR Hearing Officer Training Seminar](#)

Small Claims Assessment Review (“SCAR”) Hearing Officers are appointed by the Chief Administrative Judge, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law § 731, to conduct informal evidentiary hearings on petitions to review assessments of certain owner-occupied property, where the property owner and a representative of the assessing unit appear and give evidence. This mandatory training seminar examines the role and responsibilities of SCAR Hearing Officers and provides practical guidance for conducting timely review of real property assessments.

[Quarterly Review and Discussion of Bail Legislation and Related Issues, Part 3](#)

A panel comprised of judges from around the state will discuss how bail review requests are being handled in their respective jurisdictions. The panel will also review the pertinent statutory provisions, the standard of review and some examples of actual bail review motions.

October 2024

[Child Welfare Symposium: Intersection of Children, Youth and Families in the Family Court: What have we learned?](#)

This two-day program included perspectives from an official of the U.S. Department of Health's Office of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families and several jurists from around the country who discussed, among other topics, reducing trauma, child removals, national perspectives on keeping families together, the evolution of attorney for the child representation, and ensuring equity in child protection. This program was especially timely given the recent child welfare legislation in New York State.

[Addressing Post-Election Challenges and Litigation 2024: An Overview and Discussion of the Relevant Laws and Rules](#)

When legal challenges arise post-election, judges must have ready access to reliable information on New York's election laws to address these challenges in an accurate and efficient manner. In this program, an expert panel addressed fundamental post-election issues, including counting of ballots and certification. The panel also discussed the role and authority of the New York State Board of Elections. This program also provided a

brief overview of a judge's duties when legal challenges occur on Election Day.

[The JI's Constitutional Law Lecture and Discussion Series: Today's Supreme Court: The Decisional Impact of Its 6-3 Composition](#)

The first lecture of this series focused on the current state of the U.S. Supreme Court. Dr. Vincent M. Bonventre of Albany Law School examined, among other topics, significant Supreme Court decisions and trends since the 2020-2021 term (when Justice Barrett replaced Justice Ginsburg on the Court).

November 2024

[A Discussion of Family Court Issues: Perspectives from the Justices of the Third Department](#)

This program provided an in-depth discussion on current issues in Family Court, featuring insights from Justice Elizabeth A. Garry and Associate Justices Hon. Christine M. Clark, Hon. Stan L. Pritzker, Hon. Michael C. Lynch, and Hon. Mark L. Powers of the NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department, along with Hon. Richard Rivera, the Statewide Coordinating Judge for Family Court Matters. The session covered critical legal topics, including Lincoln hearings, confidentiality in child testimony, delegation of parenting time, orders on default, the right to counsel, paternity testing, and the role of domestic violence in custody determinations. Attendees gained valuable judicial perspectives and practical guidance on navigating emerging challenges in Family Court.

[Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Diverse Youth in Court, Part 3: Family and Community Acceptance: Preventing Rejection and Improving Wellbeing](#)

LGBTQ+ youth who are rejected by family and their community face higher risks of discrimination, negative public health outcomes, homelessness, crossover justice system involvement, and commercial sexual exploitation compared to their non-LGBTQ+ peers and LGBTQ+ youth who are accepted by family and their community. This program examines families' progress toward acceptance and the services available in New York as well as work around youth and family acceptance from a national perspective, and the laws that require child welfare agencies to provide services to promote acceptance to families and protect youth and families from discrimination.

[JI National Adoption Month Program – Adoption Unfiltered: Dealing with Complex Family Matters](#)

This day-long program provides an in-depth exploration of modern adoption practices, with a focus on adoptee-centered perspectives and inclusive family dynamics. Led by adoptees Sara Easterly and Tony Hynes, birth parent Kelsey Vander Vliet Raynard, and adoptive parent Lori Holden, the session challenges outdated ideas about adoption, emphasizes the importance of attachment, humanizes birth parents, and introduces the Inclusive Family Support Model. Through case study discussions, attendees will gain practical insights into the

complexities and challenges of contemporary adoption. The afternoon session will delve into the role of legal agreements, offering a comprehensive understanding of their impact on adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive parents alike. This program will equip participants with the knowledge to navigate and support adoption in a more informed, adoptee-oriented way.

December 2024

Fundamentals of CPLR Article 78 Practice and Procedure

This program provides an overview of CPLR Article 78, examines foundational principles of Article 78 practice, and provides an analytical framework for working through and managing Article 78 proceedings.

Quarterly Review & Discussion of Bail Legislation and Related Issues, Part 4: Looking Ahead

Part 4 of the Quarterly Review & Discussion of Bail Legislation and Related Issues Series looks beyond New York State to examine pretrial justice from a national perspective. Lisel Petis, Senior Fellow, Criminal Justice & Civil Liberties R Street Institute, explored data and successful models in other states to address how bail discussions are likely to progress moving forward.