

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

Hon. M. Carol Pope, Chair

Hon. Robert J. Anderson

Hon. Andrew Berman

Hon. James K. Borbely

Hon. Elizabeth M. Budzinski

Hon. Mark H. Clarke

Hon. Joy V. Cunningham

Hon. Craig H. DeArmond

Hon. James R. Epstein

Hon. Shelvin Louise Marie Hall

Hon. Susan F. Hutchinson

Hon. Nancy J. Katz

Hon. Kathleen O. Kauffmann

Hon. Vincent J. Lopinot

Hon. Jerelyn D. Maher

Hon. Katherine M. McCarthy

Hon. Gregory K. McClintock

Hon. Michael J. Murphy

Hon. Mary K. O'Brien

Hon. William Timothy O'Brien

Hon. Stuart E. Palmer

Hon. Tracy W. Resch

Hon. Daniel B. Shanes

Hon. Scott A. Shore

Hon. Ronald D. Spears

Hon. Jane Louise Stuart

Hon. Mary Jane Theis

Hon. Lisa Holder White

October 2009

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 education needs for the Illinois judiciary and develop short and long term plans to address these needs. In Conference Year 2009, the Committee received a charge to develop and recommend a "core" judicial education curriculum for Illinois judges that identifies the key judicial education topics and issues to be addressed through the judicial education activities each year. This curriculum was to include identifying emerging legal, sociological, cultural, and technical issues that may impact decision making and court administration by Illinois judges. In coordination with the Administrative Office, the Committee was charged with assessing judicial education needs, expectations and program participation of Illinois judges, as well as reviewing and recommending educational programs offered by non-Judicial Conference organizations for the award of continuing judicial education credit.

In conjunction with the general charge for the Committee, the Court provided the following list of 2009 projects and priorities:

- Design, deliver and evaluate the 2009 New Judge Seminar.
- Design, deliver and evaluate the Mini and Regional Seminars for the 2008-2009 Seminar Series.
- Assist in the delivery and assessment of the 2009 DUI Seminar consistent with the goals and objectives contained in the training grant awarded to the AOIC by the Illinois Department of Transportation.
- Design, deliver, and evaluate the 2009 Advanced Judicial Academy, "Judging in a Democratic Society," to be held June 15-19, 2009.
- Plan and propose a schedule of Mini and Regional Seminars for the 2009-2010 Seminar Series.
- Design, plan and prepare for thirty (30) hours of continuing judicial education to be offered through two sessions at Education Conference 2010.
- Review and propose, as appropriate, amendments and modifications to the Supreme Court's Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois Judges.
- Review and submit recommendations to amend and/or expand, as needed, the content and frequency of the Faculty Development Workshop.
- Complete the writing of, and submit for editing and indexing, the Criminal Benchbook for print and digital publication and distribution.

- Undertake any other such projects or initiatives that are consistent with the Committee charge.

II. SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

New Judge Seminar

The annual New Judge Seminar was presented to 58 new judges in January, 2009. The week long program provided intensive education and training to new judges in substantive legal and procedural areas, and courtroom management. An in-depth introduction to judicial ethics and conduct was provided, and upon the Court's request, issues of judicial attendance, timeliness, and other conduct that promotes public confidence in the courts were incorporated throughout the week. The seminar received an average evaluation score of 4.8 out of 5 in terms of overall quality, as well as performance of faculty members. This is the fifth consecutive presentation to receive an overall score of 4.8/5.0.

Planning for the 2009 New Judge Seminar, to take place December 7-11, 2009 in Chicago, is currently underway. All faculty, including new members, have been approved to teach at the seminar and the week's agenda also has been approved by the Court. Consistent with the Court's priorities to identify and incorporate emerging legal issues, the curriculum will be reviewed and updated as necessary to provide the most meaningful information to the new judges, and will highlight the Court's Statement of Expectations for Illinois Judges. Faculty will continue to utilize a "skills-based" approach to assist new judges in developing the skills of successful, effective jurists while maintaining sessions on substantive law on key topics. Seminar faculty work with the new judges to identify the key information and knowledge new judges need, and focus on critical skills new judges need to develop. This curriculum approach encourages faculty to include interaction, question and answer sessions, role playing and problem solving scenarios whenever possible. The use of the Turning Point audience response system will be a new addition to the New Judge Seminar as a valuable teaching and learning tool.

At the end of most days, informational "kiosks" are held to provide practical information in short sessions that the new judge might not find elsewhere. Topics include Wedding Issues, SOJ Motions, Completion of Travel Vouchers, How to Avoid Reversal, and Sealing Court Files.

2008-2009 Seminar Series

The 2008-2009 Seminar Series, composed of six mini and regional seminars, three of which were presented twice, provided highly regarded educational opportunities to the over 300

Illinois judges who attended. Appendix 4 provides the list of seminars, the full attendance report, and the overall evaluation scores for each seminar, which were excellent and ranged from 4.3 to 5.0 out of 5. These seminars were offered in locations throughout the state and covered a wide range of subject matter, allowing for relevant and meaningful learning opportunities to judges with various levels of experience and all areas of bench assignment.

2009-2010 Seminar Series

The Court has approved initial plans developed and submitted by the Committee on Education for several upcoming seminars. The 2009-2010 Seminar Series will be condensed into three seminars due to the expansive and comprehensive educational opportunities that Education Conference 2010 will provide to the Illinois judiciary. In October, 2009, the mini seminar, Handling Mental Health Commitments, will be conducted in Springfield. In November, 2009, the regional seminar, Challenging Issues for the Juvenile Court Judge, will be delivered in Springfield. It is anticipated the grant- funded DUI seminar will be offered in the Spring of 2010.

Advanced Judicial Academy

The design and delivery of the Advanced Judicial Academy, “Judicial Decision Making in a Democratic Society” was a success. Evaluation scores for the overall seminar quality were 4.5 out of 5. The week long seminar was held at the University of Illinois Law School in Champaign, and 78 judges from Illinois had the opportunity to participate. Nationally-renowned experts from various disciplines engaged and challenged the judges to consider and increase their understanding of the internal and external factors that influence their judicial decision making. Turning Point, a recently acquired technology that captures audience responses and immediately provides a visual report through PowerPoint using audience response cards, was used extensively at this event with very favorable feedback from the faculty and participants. The entire week of the Advanced Judicial Academy was recorded, and will be available on DVD for viewing by Illinois judges who were unable to attend.

Faculty Development

The provision of quality training opportunities to enhance the teaching skills of the judicial faculty members, who continue to make the educational seminars a success, remains a priority of the Committee on Education. Fifty-eight Illinois judges appointed to teach at upcoming seminars attended a Faculty Development seminar on May 28, 2009, in Oak Brook, focusing on adult learning and communication strategies. In addition, many attended

workshops to learn and/or improve their skills in producing and using PowerPoint presentations as teaching tools. For many of these judicial faculty members, the upcoming seminars will be their first teaching experience for the Illinois Judicial Conference, and the Committee on Education looks forward to supporting them through this rewarding experience.

The Illinois Judicial Benchbook Series

The Project Benchbook Editorial Board of the Committee on Education continued their work on the drafting, reviewing, and updating of the Judicial Benchbooks. The Illinois Judicial Benchbooks have proven to be valuable educational resources for judges' use, especially for quick reference at the bench or in chambers. Feedback has been extremely favorable from the judges who have taken advantage of this excellent product. Illinois Judicial Benchbooks have been completed on the following topics: Domestic Violence, Civil Law and Procedures, DUI/Traffic, Evidence, and Family Law and Procedure. These benchbooks have all been made available in hard copies, as well as CD's, and have been very popular among the many judges who have ordered and received them. In all, over 2,700 copies have been distributed by the AOIC. Updates are currently underway for these benchbooks, and the Committee's goal is to continue providing updates on an annual basis. At the time of this writing, the Illinois Judicial Benchbook on Criminal Law is near completion. A total of 566 requests have been submitted by Illinois judges for this resource.

Resource Lending Library

Usage Report for State Fiscal Year 2009

During State Fiscal Year 2009, 459 judges requested one or more items from the library, exclusive of the newly available five Judicial Benchbooks. Items consisted of permanent use items or items on loan. Of this number, 30% (138) were from Cook County, 69% (312) were from downstate, comprising 99% (450) patronage from trial judges, and 1% (9) patronage from appellate and supreme court justices. Nine-hundred twelve permanent use items were shipped to 447 judges, including, but not limited to, seminar reading materials, manuals and other materials. The total number of loan and permanent use items distributed to judges in State Fiscal Year 2009 was 924.

Non-Judicial Conference Judicial Education Programs and Providers

Several programs and education providers were added to the list of non-Judicial Conference judicial education opportunities available for attendance by Illinois judges and for

the awarding of continuing judicial education credit. These 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 programs reviewed by the Committee, which were subsequently approved by the Court, are listed in Appendix B. A workgroup of the Committee continues to receive and review requests for approval of programs and providers submitted by judges and sponsoring organizations.

Technology

The integration and expanded use of technology has been a priority for the Committee on Education in its preparation and delivery of educational opportunities. The use of a detailed database of previous judicial faculty members and new teaching volunteers has allowed for the selection of those judges who are experienced and skilled in educating their colleagues to continue teaching. It also allows the Committee to continually refresh the faculty pool with new faces and those with passions for continuing education. While all seminars have incorporated the use of technology to some degree, *Cyber Issues: Traditional Rules and Modern Technology*, a regional seminar presented twice, focused exclusively on the increasing use of technology and its impact and intersection with the law. Seminar resource materials and the *Judicial Benchbooks* are available on CD, in addition to hard copy form. Communications among planning workgroups are facilitated through e-mail list serves, and future seminars will have on-line registration. In addition, the *Judicial Resource Lending Library* is anticipated to be available online in the near future.

III. PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT CONFERENCE YEAR

The Committee requests that its work to develop ongoing judicial education resources for Illinois judges be continued in Conference Year 2010. 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 that the Court and the Illinois Judicial Conference continue to support its work in planning and delivering the 2009-2010 Seminar Series, the Education Conference 2010, the New Judge Seminar, the updating of the Illinois *Judicial Benchbooks*, and the revision of the Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois Judges. In addition, the Committee asks for approval to begin preliminary planning for *Advanced Judicial Academy 2011*.

Education Conference 2010

A substantial amount of dedication and effort have been devoted by the Committee to the coordination and preparation of Education Conference 2010, which will be held in Chicago, February 1-5, 2010, and April 19-23, 2010. A fifteen member workgroup, divided into four smaller topical sections covering each core curriculum area, has completed the essential “behind the scenes” work developing the curriculum and recruiting faculty to teach 50 different courses. A review of the Education Conference 2008 evaluations, brainstorming among the Committee and the AOIC, and the results of a survey distributed to a sample of Illinois judges seeking feedback on proposed session topics were all invaluable in selecting the topics for Education Conference 2010. The Court has approved a full schedule with 50 different sessions, several of which will be offered twice. The schedule has been carefully organized to accommodate the varying needs and interests of our state's judiciary. This schedule will offer increased flexibility in scheduling and reaching the 30-hour education requirement. Judges will have the option of beginning on Monday with “pre-conference” sessions, and may choose up to two “early bird” sessions during the week.

An impressive group of almost 100 judges representing diversity in culture, gender, age and experience, geographical location, and assignment have been appointed by the Court as faculty for this extensive and comprehensive educational event. Each faculty group has been provided with a description of their session that was prepared by the workgroup, as well as assigned liaisons from the Committee and the AOIC to assist in the development of each session. The planning of each session and the corresponding written materials are currently underway. Appendix C provides a preliminary list of the session titles in each track.

New Judge Seminar

The Committee on Education plans to design and deliver a New Judge Seminar in January, 2011 for all judges taking the bench in the prior year. The Committee will continue to evaluate and refine the curriculum to ensure the smoothest possible transition for new judges to the bench. It is our hope that the Illinois Judicial Benchbooks will be utilized as reference material throughout the seminar, as well as original written materials and judicial resources for use on the bench.

2010-2011 Seminar Series

The Committee will plan and propose a schedule of Mini and Regional Seminars for the 2010-2011 Seminar Series. Consideration will be given to the content of Education Conference 2010 to provide unique and relevant opportunities for learning that may devote more significant

lengths of time to a particular topic. Faculty will be recommended by the Committee to the Court for approval, considering experienced faculty, as well as new judicial faculty volunteers.

Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois Judges

The Committee on Education is in the process of reviewing the Illinois Supreme Court's Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois Judges. Revisions and updates are being completed in order to submit a recommendation to the Court that will incorporate up-to-date information consistent with current practice and new policies.

Illinois Judicial Benchbooks

The Project Benchbook Editorial Board of the Committee on Education will continue its ongoing work on the publication and updating of the six Illinois Judicial Benchbooks for use as valuable judicial reference resources.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is making no recommendations to the Conference at this time.