

2012 REPORT

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

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2012 REPORT

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 design educational programs to meet those needs. In conjunction with the general charge to the Committee, the Court provided the following list of Conference Year 2012 projects and priorities:

- Complete the 2011 Illinois Judicial Benchbook projects.
- Initiate 2012 Illinois Judicial Benchbook projects, including a pilot project with a vendor known in the industry for the provision of legal resources to offer at least one benchbook in electronic format that may be searched (cases, statutes and key legal terms), downloaded and printed.
- Deliver and evaluate two presentations of Education Conference 2012.
- Deliver and evaluate the 2012 DUI/Traffic regional seminar.
- Assess Education Conference 2012 evaluations.
- Initiate planning for Education Conference 2014.
- Plan, if deemed viable by the Committee, one mini-seminar in addition to the 2013 DUI/Traffic regional seminar, as part of the 2012-2013 Seminar Series.
- Plan the January 2013 New Judge Seminar.
- Initiate planning for the June 2013 Advanced Judicial Academy.
- Continue the commitment to recruit diverse faculty reflective of the geographic, racial, ethnic, gender and cultural differences in the Illinois judiciary.
- Undertake any such other projects or initiatives that are consistent with the Committee charge.

The Committee achieved each of the above Conference Year 2012 projects and met 2011 priorities set by the Court. In Conference Year 2012, the Committee, in partnership

2012 REPORT

with the Administrative Office, will continue to deliver judicial education programs for new and experienced jurist that reflect upon substantive and procedural issues, as well as ethical and professional subject areas of significance to members of the Illinois judiciary.

The 2012 Conference Year began with the presentation of Education Conference, presented January 30 – February 3, 2012 and April 16 – 20, 2012, and planning for Education Conference 2014 will begin August 2012. Early in 2012, the Committee engaged in planning for the January 2013 New Judge Seminar, two spring 2013 regional seminars, the 2013 Advanced Judicial Academy and the September 2013 Faculty Development Workshop.

II. SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

New Judge Seminar

New Judge Seminar is a weeklong seminar for judges who have recently transitioned to the bench. Over the course of a week, judicial ethics and conduct, as well as a diverse range of emerging legal and procedural subject matters are presented and discussed by experienced judicial faculty. Faculty presentations will continue to focus on the need to assist new judges in developing the skills of successful, effective and knowledgeable jurists. This curriculum approach encourages faculty to include question and answer sessions, role playing and problem solving scenarios whenever possible. Informational kiosks continue to be a popular option. These brief, practical information sessions allow judges to gain insight on topics not otherwise addressed in seminars. In 2011, New Judge Seminar was presented twice – January 2011 to 82 new judges and received an overall rating of 4.7 out of 5.0, and

2012 REPORT

December 2011 to 30 judges, receiving an overall rating of 4.8 on a 5.0 scale. The next New Judge Seminars will be held in January 28 – February 1, 2013 and December 9 – 13, 2013.

Faculty Development Workshop

Faculty development provides an opportunity for prospective Education Conference faculty to meet in person, in small groups and engage in a day and half of sessions meant to improve facilitation and presentation skills. Workshop presentations and discussions are designed to highlight adult learning theories, effective presentation design and content, and demonstrate the effective use of technology. The last workshop was held September 15-16, 2011, was attended by 110 faculty and received an overall rating of 4.6 on a 5.0 scale. The next workshop will be held September 2013.

Faculty Recruitment

The Administrative Office maintains a database of members of the Illinois judiciary who have indicated their interest in serving as faculty, or members of a Benchbook writing team. Faculty and benchbook volunteer forms are posted on the Supreme Court's website under judicial education, on the judicial portal, and provided at each judicial education event. Judge's interested in serving as faculty, or as a member of the benchbook writing team should submit a volunteer form to the Administrative Office which maintains a database of volunteers for the Committee and its Workgroups to consider when contemplating potential faculty for various judicial education events.

2012 REPORT

2011 – 2012 Seminar Series

The Committee on Education seminar series is generally composed of one day mini seminars and two day regional seminars hosted in either Chicago or Springfield. The seminar series offers judges the opportunity to present a broad range of topics of major significance to members of the Illinois judiciary worthy of in-depth review and discussion. In this regard, the Committee presented the annual two day DUI/Traffic Issues regional seminar May 15-16, 2012, attended by 37 judges with an overall rating of 4.9 on a 5.0 scale.

Illinois Judicial Benchbooks

The Illinois Judicial Benchbooks have proven to be valuable educational resources for judges in chambers and on the bench. Benchbooks are updated annually, or new editions are proposed, as recommended by the Project Benchbook Editorial Board of the Committee on Education. The following benchbooks are available on CD, the *Illinois Judicial Portal*, or in hardcopy: *Civil Law and Procedure*, *Criminal Law and Procedure*, *Domestic Violence*, *DUI/Traffic*, *Evidence* and *Family Law and Procedure*. Benchbooks are evaluated on a volunteer basis through narrative feedback requested from users and distributed with each benchbook. While benchbook hard copies are still distributed in great volume, over 3,000 copies annually, there is an increased interest in electronic formats.

2012 REPORT

Non-Judicial Conference Judicial Education Programs and Providers

Requests for approval of non-judicial conference judicial education credit hours should be submitted prior to the event. Forms are available on the Supreme Court website under the hyperlink for judicial education. While Illinois judges achieve thirty hours of judicial education credit through attendance at the biennial meeting of Education Conference, when requests for approval of non-judicial conference judicial credit hours are made, the Committee on Education, through its workgroup, reviews each request on its merits and based upon criteria set forth in the *Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan*, makes recommendations to the Court to approve either the program or provider.

III. PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT CONFERENCE YEAR

The Committee proposes to continue activities in Conference Year 2013 related to the activities noted below:

2012 - 2013 Seminar Series

During the 2012-2013 Seminar Series, the Committee will present a regional seminar, March 6-7, 2013 in Springfield on the topic, *Upholding Rights While Enforcing Legal Obligations: An Appropriate Judicial Response to Financial Matters in the Courtroom*, and the annual two day regional DUI/Traffic Issues seminar in the Spring of 2013. The Spring 2013 DUI/Traffic seminar will expand upon previous seminars to include a systemic approach to the management and sanctioning of DUI offenders, and other collaborative strategies.

2012 REPORT

2013 New Judge Seminar

New Judge Seminar will be presented January 28 – February 1, 2013 and again I in December 9 – 13, 2013 in Chicago. The 2013 seminars will add two new sessions, technology and the judiciary, and mental health. In addition, the Committee will continue to engage in the evaluation, review and planning of New Judge Seminars to ensure the delivery of seminars consistent with the Court's *Statement of Expectations*.

2013 Advanced Judicial Academy

The biennial *Advanced Judicial Academy* will be held June 10 - 13, 2013 at the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign, which provides a casual learning environment that promotes collegiality while achieving the goal of continued judicial education. The *Academy* theme will be explored over three and half days through daily subthemes and an optional writing workshop that contemplate the disciplines of law, ethics, history and the social sciences. Judges are nominated to attend the Academy by their chief circuit judge or in the case of appellate judges, the presiding justice, or Chair of the Executive Committee in Cook County.

2013 Faculty Development Workshop

Faculty development will be planned for September 2013 in anticipation of Education Conference 2014. The workshop will provide an opportunity for 2014 Education Conference faculty to meet informally as colleagues, and as a plenary or small group to discuss upcoming presentations, facilitation and presentation skills, and substantive materials.

2012 REPORT

Education Conference 2014

In August 2012, the Committee will begin planning for the delivery of Education Conference 2014. The Committee will also seek during its planning phase to be responsive to participant evaluations and other informal feedback.

Illinois Judicial Benchbooks

The Committee will continue efforts to update and revise the six Illinois Judicial Benchbooks based upon significant changes in legal authorities, while balancing the need to produce a user friendly judicial resource.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

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