

NASJE Northeast Regional Meeting
August 11, 2008

Merry Hofford is the Northeast Regional Representative on the NASJE Board of Directors. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In addition to representatives from five northeastern region states (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia and New York,) the meeting was enriched with representatives from several national organizations (National Judicial College, the Williams Institute, Justice Solutions and the National Judicial Education Program,) and judicial educators from states outside the region including Wisconsin, New Mexico, Utah and the Caribbean. Following a round of introductions, each of the 19 participants shared some special tidbits from their work. They were all quite interesting and are mentioned very briefly below. Please contact the person listed after each item for more information.

- ◆ The D.C. Superior Court recently held a very interesting historic re-creation of the trial of Charles Guiteau, assassin of President James Garfield. Called "*Technology in the Courtroom: Could it Change the Course of History?*" the program featured the closing argument as presented originally, and a new closing argument showcasing sophisticated technology including a cutting-edge PowerPoint presentation and forensics evidence that would be utilized today. (Merry Hofford)
- ◆ Delaware is hosting the Conference of Chief Justices' Mid-Atlantic Conference at the University of Delaware October 27 & 28. Please come! (Franny Haney)
- ◆ New Mexico has an extensive program for training municipal court judges who are not attorneys. They frequently use resources shared by other states. (Zella Cox)
- ◆ The Judicial Education Project has available many model curricula for training judges and judicial branch personnel on victims' rights and the impact of different crimes on victims. (Trudy Gregorie)
- ◆ "Loves Me, Loves Me Not" is a myth-exploding Law and Literature class developed by a retired judge and his marriage therapist wife to address some of the unique marital issues that affect judges. (Charles Schudson)
- ◆ The ASTAR Program focusing on science and technology has been very well-received by Maryland judges who this year studied evaluating expert witnesses, ballistics evidence, statistics and the Frye v Daubert decision. (Debra Koehler)
- ◆ Red Cross Training for court staff in Delaware has been very successful, giving people confidence to use CPR, AED and first aid techniques when needed. (Kirsten Morris)
- ◆ D.C. Superior Court Judges focused on science and technology as the theme for their annual Judicial Management Conference held this year in Pennsylvania. Two other community-wide Family Court Conferences this year address Juvenile Justice and Empowering Families. (Crystal Banks)
- ◆ The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law offers *free* workshops for judges on sexual orientation law. Their staff demographer has data on family configurations in every state. (Bronni Borer)
- ◆ The National Judicial Education Program has developed a *free* 12 module web course for judges and court personnel on "Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Adjudicating this Hidden Dimension of Domestic Violence Cases." (Lynn Hecht Schafran)
- ◆ The National Judicial College has initiated an outreach project to develop web-based judicial training programs in several areas including Drug Courts and Traffic DUI Cases that are much more efficient than bringing people to Reno. (Melody Luetkehans)
- ◆ Additional alternatives to traditional judicial education being developed by the National Judicial College include a series of short computer-based courses on Supreme Court Decisions, Ethics, Self-Represented Litigants and Capital Cases. NJC is also seeking courts to participate in a Caseflow Management Project to include a local needs assessment and technical assistance. (Joy Lyngar)
- ◆ Training for the Family Court in Trinidad and Tobago is highlighting domestic violence issues. (Marissa Robertson)
- ◆ In the coming year, the Utah Judicial Institute will focus on mental health, cross cultural and bias training. (Mary Shahin)

- ◆ The National Multicultural Institute in Washington, D.C. is an excellent resource. They are assisting with faculty development and case scenarios for judicial education in Kosovo. (Trudy Gregorie)
- ◆ The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has made foster care cases their #1 priority. A highly recommended, very powerful speaker in the area of adolescent behavior disorders, brain based research and resiliency is Horatio Sanchez of Resiliency Inc. Other recommendations from Pennsylvania include UVA Law School Professor Charles Goetz on “Law and Economics,” Ohio Judge Lee Sinclair on “Security and Violence in the Courts,” and journalist and NPR news analyst Juan Williams who has published several books on blacks in America and the civil rights movement as well as a biography of Thurgood Marshall. (Stephen Feiler)
- ◆ The Director of Special Projects at the National Judicial College provided a list of very interesting national and international programs and projects including the Complex Litigation Resource Guide; the Neuroscience for Judges Project; 4th Amendment Programs for Trial Judges, Limited Jurisdiction Judges and Appellate Judges; a curriculum on Evidenced-based Practices in Sentencing; and a number of programs International programs both in the United States and abroad. (William Brunson)

Thanks everyone – see you next year!