



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

IN YOUR  
STATE  
**2024**



# Nevada

- In 2023, the NCJFCJ fulfilled 19 requests for technical assistance.
- In 2023, the NCJFCJ trained 238 judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals working to protect **Nevada's** children, families, and victims in our communities.
- The NCJFCJ presented the Child Abuse and Neglect Institute (CANI) in **Reno**. The CANI brought together an outstanding group of expert judicial faculty and other subject matter experts to engage participants through exemplary instruction, case scenarios, and other active learning strategies. Some of the core topics of CANI include: the leadership role of the judge in child abuse and neglect cases; a review of federal laws and policies that drive the child abuse and neglect process; the Indian Child Welfare Act; reasonable efforts in judicial decision making; judicial ethics; and emerging issues in child welfare.
- The NCJFCJ is funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to provide targeted support to the **Elko County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Team**, which is implementing the *Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Guidelines* and other key recommended practices. The NCJFCJ provides targeted support through court assessments; on site court observation; strategic planning activities; peer-to-peer learning; and individualized training.
- Working with the **Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children Youth and Family Services**, the NCJFCJ has developed the **Nevada Center for Juvenile Justice Innovation**, an evidence-based program resource center to support the adoption of best practices in Nevada's juvenile justice system.
- As part of Nevada's ongoing efforts to improve the handling of guardianship cases, the NCJFCJ partners with the **Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts** to develop training for judicial officers and lay guardians on less restrictive alternatives to guardianship, rights of the protected person, monitoring of guardianships, and guardianship procedures. The National Center for State Courts is another partner on this project, and it is collecting data on how the district courts manage guardianship cases and make recommendations for improvement.
- The NCJFCJ hosted the six Judicial Engagement Network (JEN) fellows who make up the fourth class of the JEN Fellowship Program at its **Reno** office. The JEN Fellows worked on their projects, received peer to peer support, engaged in strategic planning, discussed judicial leadership and system change, and prepared for project sustainability beyond the Fellowship Program.
- The **Washoe County NCJFCJ Mentor Child Abuse and Neglect Model Court** and the **Clark County Mentor Child Abuse and Neglect Model Court** are recognized for their efforts to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children, juvenile offenders, and their families.
- The NCJFCJ has 116 Judicial and Associate Members in **Nevada**. The **Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence in Reno** is an Organizational Member of the NCJFCJ.
- **Patricia Cafferata of Reno** is a Board Director of the NCJFCJ. **Melissa "Missy" Young**, Chief Information Officer at Switch in Las Vegas, serves on the NCJFCJ's Amicus Council. **Joseph Asher, Michael J. Brown, Patricia Cafferata, Sandy Gamba, Paul Georgeson, Jeanne Karadanis, and Melissa "Missy" Young** are Sustaining Members of the NCJFCJ. Judge **Jennifer Klapper of Tonopah** was a 2023 Days on the Hill Delegate.

## National Impact

In 2023, the NCJFCJ work impacted approximately **4 million** families across the nation. The team fulfilled about **550** requests for technical assistance and trained approximately **7,500** judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family-court related professional across the nation.

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- **Diversity, Equity, and Justice**  
Diversifying the bench to better represent the children and families served
- **Domestic Child Sex Trafficking**  
Improving outcomes for vulnerable and victimized children through judicial education and action
- **National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence**  
Enhancing judicial skills to promote victim safety and batterer accountability
- **Juvenile Justice GPS**  
Providing juvenile justice policy, practice, and statistics by state
- **Trauma-Informed Courts & the Adolescent Brain**  
Promoting trauma-responsive courts and practices informed by science
- **Child Abuse & Neglect Institute**  
Improving outcomes for abused and neglected children through dependency court best practices
- **Military-Connected Families**  
Enhancing judicial skills to best serve military-connected families
- **Tribal Courts & ICWA**  
Promoting collaboration between tribal and state courts
- **Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts**  
Enhancing effectiveness in addressing youth and substance abuse
- **Animal Cruelty**  
Understanding the link between animal abuse and other forms of violence
- **Implementation Sites & Project ONE**  
Approaching families holistically and improving outcomes for children in care
- **Self Care and Wellness**  
Promoting judicial self-care and wellness for centering oneself for leadership
- **Court Leadership**  
Equip judges, court professionals, & community members with knowledge & skills to improve the justice system

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