



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

IN YOUR  
STATE



2024

# New Jersey

- In 2023, the NCJFCJ fulfilled two requests for technical assistance.
- In 2023, the NCJFCJ trained 39 judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals working to protect **New Jersey's** children, families, and victims in our communities.
- The **Newark NCJFCJ Child Abuse and Neglect Mentor Model Court** is recognized for its efforts to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children, juvenile offenders, and their families.
- With funding support from the NoVo Foundation, the NCJFCJ provides training and technical assistance to the **New Jersey multi-site court collaboration**, including **Atlantic, Camden, Ocean, and Passaic Counties** to identify and promote promising practices in juvenile and family courts to address child sex trafficking.
- **New Jersey** judicial system professionals participated in the NCJFCJ's Child Abuse and Neglect Institute (CANI). 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.
- Judges and justice system professionals from **New Jersey** received specialized child welfare, domestic violence, and juvenile justice training on current and cutting-edge topics and research during the NCJFCJ's Annual Conference and National Conference on Juvenile Justice.
- The state of **New Jersey** contributes juvenile court data to the National Juvenile Court Data Archive, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). This national project of the NCJFCJ provides detailed and accurate information on the activities of the nation's juvenile courts to juvenile justice professionals, policy makers, researchers, and the public.
- The landscape of juvenile justice in **New Jersey** is detailed through the Juvenile Justice Geography Policy Practice and Statistics website (JJGPS.org), a project of the NCJFCJ's research division, the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ). JJGPS is an online resource that tracks juvenile justice reform in each state, allowing for comparisons within and across states.
- The NCJFCJ has 163 Judicial and Associate Members in **New Jersey**.
- **Judge David B. Katz** of **Newark** is the Immediate Past President of the NCJFCJ.
- **Judge Rodney Thompson** of **Trenton** is a NCJFCJ Board Director. **Judge Carmen A. Ferrante (Ret.)** of **Totowa** is an NCJFCJ Past President. Judge **Sallyanne Floria (Ret)** of **Cedar Grove** served as 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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