



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

IN YOUR
STATE



2024

Pennsylvania

- In 2023, the NCJFCJ fulfilled eight requests for technical assistance.
- In 2023, the NCJFCJ trained 145 judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals working to protect **Pennsylvania's** children, families, and victims in our communities.
- The NCJFCJ's research division, the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Located in **Pittsburgh**, the NCJJ is the oldest juvenile justice research group in the U.S., having conducted national and sub-national studies on crime and delinquency since 1973.
- With funding from the Office for Victims of Crime, the NCJFCJ provides training and technical assistance to the **WRAP Court** in **Philadelphia** to enhance juvenile and family court responses to human trafficking.
- As part of the Implementation Sites Project, the NCJFCJ provides targeted training and technical assistance to the **Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Family Division**, under the leadership of **Judge Dwayne Woodruff**, to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, reduce the number of children in foster care, and improve outcomes for children in care.
- The Judicial Engagement Network (JEN) Fellowship Program allows judges and judicial officers to enhance their skills as judicial leaders within the court and in their communities on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking issues. A judge from **Norristown** was in the fourth class of JEN Fellows and graduated from the JEN Fellowship Program.
- The NCJFCJ presented the Attorney Training on Early Precourt Legal Advocacy in **Pittsburgh**. The training provided instruction to judge and attorney teams on various models of pre-petition legal advocacy for parents in child abuse and neglect cases and how to implement them.
- Multidisciplinary professionals from **Pennsylvania** participated in the Office on Violence Against Women's Campus Training and Technical Assistance Institute (TTI). These Institutes occur five times per year and are designed to provide college and university campuses with information, training, and resources to enhance their capacity to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campuses.
- Judicial system professionals from **Pennsylvania** attended the Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases (EJS) workshop. Participants engaged in practical courtroom exercises and learned about victim and perpetrator behavior and fairness and culture issues in domestic violence cases.
- The NCJFCJ has 36 Judicial and Associate Members in **Pennsylvania**.
- **Judith T. Horgan** of **Pittsburgh** is a Sustaining Member of the NCJFCJ and an NCJFCJ Amicus Council Member. **Judge Tiffany Sizemore** of **Pittsburgh** is a NCJFCJ Board Director. **Judge Kim Berkeley Clark** of **Pittsburgh** is a 2023 Days on the Hill Delegate. **Judge Dwayne Woodruff** of **Pittsburg** was a NCJFCJ Board Director.

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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