



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

IN YOUR
STATE



2024

Virginia

- In 2023, the NCJFCJ fulfilled 11 requests for technical assistance.
- In 2023, the NCJFCJ trained 281 judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals working to protect **Virginia's** children, families, and victims in our communities.
- 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 **Henrico County** was in the fourth class of JEN Fellows and graduated from the JEN Fellowship Program.
- As part of the Implementation Sites Project, the NCJFCJ provides targeted training and technical assistance to the **Chesterfield Juvenile and Domestic Relations Circuit Court**, under the leadership of **Judge Scott Landry**, and to the **Roanoke City Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court**, under the leadership of **Judge Heather Ferguson**, 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 NCJFCJ's Civil Protection Order Project discussed a variety of issues with courts in **Virginia**, including gathering litigant feedback, self-help services, and firearms and surrender compliance hearings.
- The NCJFCJ presented a training on the role of the judge in probation transformation at the Judicial Conference of Virginia for District Courts in **Norfolk**. Participants received instruction on practical strategies and recommendations to assist judges in implementing probation transformation practices in their jurisdictions.
- Multidisciplinary professionals from **Virginia** 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 **Virginia** 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.
- A judicial system professional from **Virginia** attended the NCJFCJ's Judicial Engagement Network (JEN) Leadership in Practice Summit. The Summit focused on highlighting strategies currently implemented by jurisdictions to promote, implement, and sustain positive systemic changes that improve court and community responses to intimate partner violence in civil and criminal settings.
- The NCJFCJ has 90 Judicial and Associate Members in **Virginia**.
- **Judge Gayl Branum Carr** of **Fairfax** is the President of the NCJFCJ and she served as a 2023 Days on the Hill Delegate. **Judge H. Lee Chitwood** of **Pulsaki** is a Board Director of the NCJFCJ. **Judge Roy B. Willett (Ret.)** of **Roanoke** is an NCJFCJ Past President.

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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