

# Minnesota

The *National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges* (NCJFCJ) continues to provide quality education to judges and other judicial professionals despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19. Through webinars, Zoom calls, and other virtual methods, the NCJFCJ maintained its role as the national leader in judicial education and continued to provide the knowledge and skills that improve the lives of families and children who seek justice.

- In 2021, the NCJFCJ fulfilled 10 requests for technical assistance.
- In 2021, the NCJFCJ trained 332 judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals working to protect **Minnesota's** children, families, and victims in our communities.
- Members of the **Tribal State Partnership Team** for the **St. Louis County/Duluth Indian Child Welfare Act Court** participated in collaborative conversations on improving outcomes for American Indian children and families.
- The NCJFCJ is funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to provide targeted support to the **Dakota 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; onsite court observation; strategic planning activities; peer-to-peer learning; and individualized training.
- As part of the Implementation Sites Project, the NCJFCJ provides targeted training and technical assistance to the **Second Judicial District Court of Ramsey County** (under the leadership of **Judge DeAnne Hilgers**) and the **White Earth Tribal Court** (under the leadership of **Judge David DeGroat**) to improve practice in 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 partners with the **University of Minnesota Duluth** and statewide stakeholders in carrying out the State and Tribal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Implementation Grant to create an ICWA implementation plan to be applied statewide and improve ICWA compliance. This work includes research, analysis, and technical assistance.
- **Minnesota** judicial system professionals received training on considerations when a party seeks to dismiss a civil protection order.
- **Minnesota** judicial system professionals participated in the NCJFCJ's Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth Virtual Information Expo, a national educational summit. They received information on innovations and best practices on trauma-informed preventions and interventions and on reaching and effectively serving children and youth who have experienced trauma and victimization.
- A **Minnesota** judicial system professional received training on opioids and the challenges associated with intervention, treatment, and prevention.
- **Minnesota** judicial system professionals received training on considerations when a party seeks to dismiss a civil protection order.
- The NCJFCJ has four Judicial and Associate Members in **Minnesota**.
- **Justice Anne K. McKeig** of **St. Paul** is a Board Director of the NCJFCJ.

## National Impact

In 2021, the NCJFCJ fulfilled more than **529** requests for technical assistance and trained more than **5,749** judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals across the nation.

## Areas of Focus

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**  
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
- **Linking Systems of Care for Children & Youth**  
Promoting healing for victims of crime through trauma-informed prevention and intervention services
- **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 & Its Link to Violence**  
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

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