



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

IN YOUR  
STATE



# Pennsylvania

# 2022

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 six requests for technical assistance.
- In 2021, the NCJFCJ trained 204 judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals working to protect **Pennsylvania's** children, families, and victims in our communities.
- With support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the NCJFCJ and its partners provide training, technical assistance, and evaluation to the **Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF)** through the Quality Improvement Center on Domestic Violence and Child Welfare (QIC-DVCW) to gather, develop, test, and disseminate data on interventions to improve outcomes for families experiencing domestic violence involved in the child welfare system; promote and strengthen collaboration among stakeholders; enhance identification of domestic violence; improve processes for decision making; and identify opportunities to enhance capacity to respond to domestic violence.
- 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.
- **Pennsylvania** judicial system professionals received training on opioids and the challenges associated with intervention, treatment, and prevention.
- The Judicial Engagement Network (JEN) Fellowship Program allows judges to enhance their skills as judicial leaders within the court and in their communities around domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking issues. A judge from **Pittsburgh** is a Fellow in the second class of the JEN Fellowship Program, which was extended into 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The NCJFCJ continues to work with **Philadelphia** to customize and pilot the Model Custody and Visitation Guide (Guide) and workshop curricula that the NCJFCJ developed under the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women's (OVW) Meeting the Needs of Self-Represented Domestic Violence Survivors in Custody and Visitation Cases Project (SRL Project).
- The NCJFCJ has 39 Judicial and Associate Members in **Pennsylvania**.
- **Judge Lori A. Dumas** of **Philadelphia** is an NCJFCJ Board Director and a 2021 Days on the Hill Delegate. **Judith T. Horgan** is an NCJFCJ Board Director and Sustaining Member.

## 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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