

New Perspectives on Courtroom Leadership

18 – 19 March 2021 | Brisbane, Queensland

About the program

The National Judicial College of Australia will present a two-day program about highly effective judicial leadership in the courtroom. The purpose of this Program is to help participants to lead and manage their courtrooms with confidence.

This program provides:

- an engaging and enjoyable learning experience aimed at improving judicial officers' leadership and management skills
- facilitation by judges and professional experts with substantial experience in communication, courtroom facilitation and managing high emotions
- delivery of content using relevant practical tools and tips for dealing with unforeseen situations
- a high level of interactivity.

Who should attend?

This program is open to all trial judges and magistrates who have been in their role for more than eighteen months.

Program Committee

Judge Tom Altobelli, Federal Circuit Court of Australia
Justice James Stevenson, Supreme Court of New South Wales
Magistrate Jayanthi McGrath, Magistrates Court of South Australia
Magistrate Colin Strofield, Magistrates Court of Queensland
Professor Laurence Boulle, Australian Catholic University
Ms Claire Huxley, National Judicial College of Australia

This program will assist participants to:

- maintain control within the court
- enhance existing judicial leadership skills
- understand and conceptualise the judicial role of leadership
- gain applied skills and knowledge to increase courtroom effectiveness
- acquire the required confidence as the leader of the courtroom
- maximise personal resources to deal with the unexpected more effectively and efficiently.

Cost

The program fee of \$1800 (GST inclusive) includes:

- Course materials and content
- Morning/afternoon teas and lunches during the program
- Dinner on Thursday evening

Cost **DOES NOT** include accommodation and/or travel. Participants are asked to make their own arrangements.

Expressions of Interest are now being taken

Register your interest in the program at:

<https://njca.com.au/course/new-perspectives-on-courtroom-leadership/>

Key sessions and topics include

Communication in your courtroom

This session explores communication and reading people through their body language. What exactly are 'effective communication skills'? How can voice control and projection be better utilized to communicate effectively? Is using humour in the courtroom acceptable, and if so, when? How can a judicial officer communicate more simply and effectively with people who are unrepresented or have cognitive challenges?

Facilitation

Is facilitation a part of leading and managing a courtroom? As judicial officers do we ask the right questions at the right time, and how persuasive are we with questioning the parties and their lawyers? Are there parameters we should set to create a facilitatory and a participatory environment? Is there scope to get 'creative' so that problems are resolved and settlements are facilitated?

Managing high emotion in the courtroom

Courtrooms are emotional contagions. How do highly effective judicial officers stay in control and manage high-level conflict? What are the practicalities of observing others, and how do we manage the 'unexpected'. As a judicial officer is it important to reflect upon one's own judging style to help build self-awareness, emotional intelligence and self-confidence?

Program Testimonials

"Actually between very good and excellent. This is a program with a bright future and one the college should continue to develop and present. Well done all!"

"This is by far the most valuable judicial training or judicial conference I have ever been to, in 9 years on the bench. And I have been to at least 15 others. It addressed most of the most difficult day to day practical courtroom and counsel-management issues we face in our jobs. The mix of theory and practice was totally right, and I am sure I will be a better judge and a better equipped judge for it. I cannot emphasize enough how good this conference was and how valuable and helpful I found it."

Power imbalances

This session considers the sources of power and power imbalances (institutional power vs situational power). How pervasive is bullying in the courtroom? Applied behavioural techniques will be examined to help judicial officers exercise and/or regain power whilst they also maintain their dignity as a judicial officer. It is said that a 'confident' judicial officer draws upon legal knowledge and genuineness to manage courtroom challenges; however, is this enough when the environment allows for unequal representation?

Implicit bias

Experts determine that implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. This session explores common biases, as well as harmful stereotyping and indirect and direct forms of discrimination. Participants will be provided with a toolkit to help gain a deeper understanding of bias and the associated impacts.

Awareness of personal resources and managing the unexpected

This session discusses people management, managing multiple cases, applying resources with efficiency and effectiveness and managing the unexpected. How can judicial officers become more resilient? What techniques can be used to help manage viewing distressing material? The 'wellness' kit will be unpacked and explored.