



The Resource Page



American Judges Association, Effective Adjudication of Domestic- Abuse Cases (A Web-Based Training Program for Judges)

<http://education.amjudges.org>

The American Judges Association is launching a web-based, comprehensive training program for judges regarding the handling of domestic-violence cases. The program includes presentations by leading experts in the area, with separate modules on:

- The dynamics of domestic violence,
- Civil-protection orders,
- Child-custody cases,
- Evidentiary issues, and
- Sentencing.

Each module has clearly identified learning objectives, video scenarios and presentations, interactive exercises to check comprehension of key points, and resources to explore for further information. There are courtroom-based scenarios, dynamic panel discussions, and additional interactive content. The program should be of interest both to new and experienced judges; the program truly features outstanding experts that judges otherwise might not have the time, opportunity, or funding to be able to hear.

The program was developed with grant assistance from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, plus help from Futures Without Violence and the National Center for State Courts. This program has been a major project of AJA for the past two years, and we believe this web-based curriculum is the best educational product ever put together for judges on domestic violence. Short of attending an intensive, three- to five-day training program, nothing like this has ever been put together. *And it's totally free to you and your colleagues.*

The program was nearing release as we went to press—check the website address above to see whether it's now up

and running. You'll either find access to the full program or a notice that it will be coming shortly. Please check it out, and let other judges know of this great resource provided by the American Judges Association.



SPEAKERS

JUDICIAL AMBASSADORS: An Outreach Program of the American Psychological Association's Committee on Legal Issues

<http://www.goo.gl/OpAZyE>

As part of an ongoing effort to build and maintain effective relationships between the psychological and judicial communities, the American Psychological Association (APA) Committee on Legal Issues maintains an outreach program called Judicial Ambassadors. The Judicial Ambassadors program seeks to bring psychologists and court professionals together in a variety of contexts to facilitate the following goals:

- To make psychological research more accessible to and useful for courts and judges;
- To work with court officials to develop collaborative research and continuing education programs;
- To increase psychologists' understanding of court operations and legal practice;
- To improve psychological research about legal issues; and
- To facilitate courts' ability to apply psychological theories and models in court-related research.

Judicial Ambassadors are drawn from APA's membership (which includes more than 125,000 psychologists) based on their scientific expertise in the subjects of interest to the court. The Judicial Ambassadors program also has funding to help make experts available to interested judicial organizations for a variety of purposes, including designing and

implementing educational programs and workshops, assisting courts with technical projects or program evaluations, and participating in advisory committees.

For more information about the Judicial Ambassadors Program, you can contact Donna Beavers, Office of General Counsel, American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002, email: dbeavers@apa.org.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Conference of State Court Administrators, 2012-2013 Policy Paper: Evidence-Based Pretrial Release

<http://goo.gl/pk0Wxm>

The Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) has issued its 2012-2013 policy paper, which urges greater use of evidence-based assessments of pretrial risk of flight and threat to public safety. COSCA has approved white papers on about an annual basis for the past 15 years, highlighting topics believed to be of general interest throughout the United States.

According to the paper, the United States in 2010 had the world's highest total number of pretrial detainees, and pretrial detention has costs for both the public and for detainees. The paper suggests that the use of a validated pretrial-risk-assessment tool fits well within an otherwise effective case-management system. The report concludes with several recommendations, including collaboration between state-court leaders and others (including law enforcement and experts) to support risk-based release decisions of those arrested, reduced reliance on offense-based bail schedules, and the increased collection and use of data. The Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) endorsed this COSCA policy paper in a CCJ resolution that separately urges reduced reliance on bail schedules and increased use of evidence-based risk assessments.