

NJI COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025

MASTER LIST – covers all programs in which NJI was involved in planning.

Contents

COURT REQUESTED PROGRAMS.....	1
British Columbia.....	1
Alberta.....	2
Saskatchewan	5
Manitoba.....	6
Ontario.....	7
Québec.....	8
Atlantic Provinces	11
Federal Courts.....	15
NATIONAL PROGRAMS	18

COURT REQUESTED PROGRAMS

British Columbia

TITLE: Supreme Court of British Columbia Education Seminar: New Judges Program

PROVIDER: Supreme Court of British Columbia

Date: May 20, 2025

Overview: This one-day program for new judges and associate judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia was led by senior members of the court. It provided an overview of practical considerations related to the role of a judge.

Objective: The objective of the seminar was to assist new appointees to the court in transitioning from practice to serving on the bench.

Summary: Senior judges addressed various topics of interest including managing chambers, unique challenges in family law, and strategies for managing reserves. The program ended with practical tips for judges while on the road and an opportunity for new appointees to ask questions to senior judges.

TITLE: Supreme Court of British Columbia Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Supreme Court of British Columbia

Date: May 21-23, 2025

Overview: This seminar brought together judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia for professional development training integrating presentations, discussions, and practical sessions.

Objective: The program aimed to enhance judicial knowledge and skills across a range of topics relevant to courtroom practice and judicial conduct.

Summary: Over two days, judges participated in sessions on understanding and managing self-represented and vexatious litigants, insolvency, the Hague Convention on child abduction, shareholder oppression remedy, neurodivergent children in family law cases, criminal jury instructions, and judgment writing. The seminar also addressed judicial conduct, ethics and independence. Through expert panels and peer discussions, participants reflected on best practices and current challenges for judges.

TITLE: Supreme Court of British Columbia Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Supreme Court of British Columbia

Date: November 12-14, 2025

Overview: This seminar brought together judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia for practical and reflective sessions on judicial practice.

Objective: The program aimed to strengthen judicial skills relating to case management, legal reasoning, and wellness, while fostering dialogue on emerging legal issues.

Summary: Over two days, judges participated in sessions on effective use judicial case conferences, pre-contractual dishonesty and class actions, elder law and incapacity, and criminal jury trials. The seminar also addressed forms of reasons for judgment and issues relating to judicial wellness, offering strategies to manage workload and empathic strain. Contributions from judges, academics, and mental health experts ensured a rich exchange of perspectives and provided participants with tools to support effective decision-making.

Alberta

TITLE: Court of King's Bench of Alberta Education Seminar: 101

PROVIDER: Court of King's Bench of Alberta

Date: January 28, 2025

Overview: This one-day seminar focused on challenging interactions with litigants and calculating child support. The seminar was geared towards newly appointed judges from the Court of King's Bench of Alberta but was attended by judges of all levels of seniority.

Objective: The objectives of the seminar were to enhance participants' ability to manage challenging interactions with litigants in the courtroom, and to help them deal effectively with an array of issues related to determining child support.

Summary: This program was led by experienced trial judges with input from local legal practitioners, and academics. Through a combination of substantive lectures and panel discussion, the program started by providing judges with tools to assess and understand how best to deescalate situations involving a challenging or combative litigant. Further, the program equipped participants with tools to determine how best to calculate child support in complex cases. Sub-topics for the child support session included: i) disclosure issues, ii) what happens when there are two payors, iii) taxes, credits and deductions, and iv) imputations.

TITLE: Court of King's Bench of Alberta Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Court of King's Bench of Alberta

Date: January 29-31, 2025

Overview: This seminar focused on a variety of legal and practical topics relevant to the work of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta.

Objective: The objectives of the seminar were to improve participants' awareness of current issues facing the court, to refine their skills and further their knowledge on a variety of topics.

Summary: Led by experienced judges with input from legal academics and practising lawyers, through a mix of lectures, panel discussions, and interactive activities, the seminar explored trauma-informed judging, criminal jury trials, changing social demographics, unconscious bias, section 8 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, cannabis-induced psychosis and procedural issues in family law.

TITLE: Court of Appeal of Alberta Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Court of Appeal of Alberta

Date: January 29-31, 2025

Overview: This education seminar covered a variety of topics relevant to appellate judges in Alberta.

Objective: The objectives of the seminar were to improve participants' awareness of current issues facing the court, to refine their skills, and to further their knowledge on a variety of topics relevant to their work.

Summary: Featuring subject matter experts on each topic, this two-day in-person education program considered: less commonly invoked elements of the Canadian constitution; land rights and regulations; Aboriginal law; the **Metis** Settlements Act; demographic shifts and their impact on the justice system; impaired driving; electricity regulation; and standards of review.

TITLE: Joint Education Seminar of the Court of Appeal and Court of King's Bench of Alberta

PROVIDERS: Court of Appeal and Court of King's Bench of Alberta

Date: May 29, 2025

Overview: This one-day seminar focused on Indigenous corporate and commercial law, as well as law and religion in Canada.

Objective: The objectives of the seminar were to improve participants' awareness and expand their knowledge of relevant issues faced by both levels of court.

Summary: Drawing on experts including legal practitioners and academics, the first session focused on Indigenous corporate and commercial law and included an examination of the relevance of financing and Indigenous legal orders with respect to economic reconciliation. The second session provided participants with a conceptual history of the relationship between law and religion in Canada. The session explored the changing discourse in this area from religious tolerance to religious neutrality. Participants learned about cases in which rights of religious freedom are in tension with equality rights.

TITLE: Court of King's Bench of Alberta Education Seminar: 101

PROVIDER: Court of King's Bench of Alberta

Date: October 8, 2025

Overview: This half-day seminar focused on a variety of legal and practical topics relevant to the work of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta. The seminar was geared towards newly appointed judges from the Court but was attended by judges of all levels of seniority.

Objective: The objectives of the seminar were to enhance participants' ability to manage injunction applications effectively, as well as other urgent chambers matters.

Summary: This program was led by experienced trial judges and included a combination of substantive lectures, panel discussions and practical exercises. The program began with a panel on injunctions examining frameworks and approaches which can be employed to manage injunctions effectively and efficiently. Sub-topics included: a) identifying when a matter is truly urgent, ii) determining when to adjourn to special chambers, and iii) offering potential solutions or interim relief in the meantime. The session on urgent chambers matters examined procedures specific to Calgary and Edmonton, including the process for an application to get to chambers. It also included a review of applicable legal tests. Both presentations included interactive fact scenarios, so the participants could use hands-on learning to enhance their skills.

TITLE: Court of King's Bench of Alberta Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Court of King's Bench of Alberta

Date: October 8-10, 2025

Overview: This seminar focused on a variety of legal and practical topics relevant to the work of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta.

Objective: The objectives of the seminar were to improve participants' awareness of current issues facing the court, to refine their skills and further their knowledge on a variety of topics relevant to their work.

Summary: Drawing on contributions from experienced judges, legal academics, and practitioners, the seminar explored: recent updates in civil law, streamlined family law trials, challenging parenting situations (including difficult shared parenting arrangements, as well as high conflict and alienation

cases), oral judgments, unconscious bias, and the Sexual Offender Information Registration Act and other related ancillary orders. The seminar featured a mix of lectures, panel discussions, and interactive activities, including a facilitated workshop designed to equip participants with the tools and skills to better plan for, prepare and deliver an oral judgment.

Saskatchewan

TITLE: Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan

Date: September 24-26, 2025

Overview: This seminar featured practical and interactive sessions touching on a variety of topics relevant to the work of the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to provide participants with a better understanding of the law of judicial review, to deepen judges' understanding of substantive legal issues related to professional self-governance and to sentencing, and to strengthen judicial writing skills.

Summary: Featuring contributions from both experienced judicial faculty and subject matter experts, this seminar relied on lectures, case studies, and small group discussion to touch upon the three dimensions of judicial education: substantive law, judicial skills, and social context. Particularly, it addressed professional self-governance, sentencing and incarceration, and standard of review issues. Participants also engaged in hands-on workshops on writing reasons for judgment, with opportunities to apply best practices in small group exercises.

TITLE: Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan: National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

PROVIDER: Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan

Date: September 30, 2025

Overview: This half-day virtual program explored recent judicial initiatives across Canada that place reconciliation at the forefront of court practice and community engagement.

Objective: Responding to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, this program examined reconciliation initiatives undertaken by Canadian courts and considered how their lessons may inform judicial practice and community engagement in Saskatchewan.

Summary: The program featured presentations from judges from Nova Scotia and Manitoba and examined reconciliation-focused court initiatives. Participants reflected on community engagement, lessons learned, and ways reconciliation can be meaningfully advanced through the justice system.

TITLE: Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan

Date: December 2-5, 2025

Overview: This three-day seminar focused on a variety of legal and practical topics relevant to the work of the Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan.

Objective: The objectives of the seminar were to improve participants' awareness of current issues facing the court, to develop their substantive skills, and to enhance their knowledge on a variety of topics relevant to their work.

Summary: Drawing on the expertise of experienced judges and legal practitioners, through a mix of lectures, panel discussions and interactive sessions, the seminar explored effective pre-trials and settlements, pensions and benefits, artificial intelligence and judicial ethics. The session on effective pre-trials and settlements included a panel discussion led by a judge of a different jurisdiction discussing what they do out-of-province. The seminar ended with sessions on artificial intelligence, which notably examined how lawyers and judges are using new technological advancements, and a session on judicial ethics.

Manitoba

TITLE: Court of King's Bench of Manitoba Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Court of King's Bench of Manitoba

Date: October 16-17, 2025

Overview: This seminar focused on a variety of legal and practical topics relevant to the work of the Court of King's Bench of Manitoba.

Objective: The objectives of the seminar were to improve participants' awareness of current issues facing the court, to develop their substantive skills, and to enhance their knowledge on a variety of topics relevant to their work.

Summary: Drawing on the expertise of experienced judges, academics, and other professionals, this seminar began with an interdisciplinary session on substance use, mental health and their legal implications, which included presentations by a forensic psychiatrist and an emergency room physician. Participants learned about the complex intersection between drug use, mental disorder and criminal culpability. Topics included how substance use can influence a person's mental state, criminal behaviour and legal responsibility. Concurrent sessions for members of the Court's General Division included a follow-up presentation on intoxication and the finding of not-criminally responsible (NCR). Members of the Court's Family Division attended sessions on gender affirming care for trans and gender diverse youth, and legal issues relating to mature minors. The program ended with a joint session on sealing orders, media access and publication bans. This session was presented by judges of two different jurisdictions and sub-topics included the importance of the open court principle and when and how publication bans are applicable.

Ontario

TITLE: Superior Court of Justice (Ontario) Spring Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Superior Court of Justice (Ontario)

Date: May 7-9, 2025

Overview: This judicial education seminar focused on a variety of topics in civil, family, and criminal law, with a particular focus on remedies.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to enhance participants' knowledge, skills and understanding of social context in relation to a variety of topics relevant to the role of a judge of the Superior Court of Justice (Ontario).

Summary: Using lecture presentations, panel discussions, and interactive elements, this program examined: ancillary orders; unliquidated damages; property remedies under the Family Law Act; spousal support; injunctions in civil law; sentencing considerations; and the intersections of criminal, civil, and family remedies. The program concluded with updates relating to judicial security, artificial intelligence, French language services, as well as recent developments in civil, family, and criminal case law.

TITLE: Superior Court of Justice (Ontario) Family Court Branch Heidi S. Levenson Plowing Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Superior Court of Justice (Ontario)

Date: November 4, 2025

Overview: This seminar was addressed to judges of the Superior Court of Justice (Ontario) who preside over child protection cases and appeals and was held immediately prior to the court's fall education seminar.

Objective: The primary objectives of the seminar were to educate judges on issues related to evidence in the context of children and to enhance their skills managing cases in this area.

Summary: Featuring lectures, panel discussions and interactions with participants, this one-day seminar examined: the stages leading up to trial, including place of safety hearings, conferencing, assessments, and motions; a constitutional exploration of Métis identity; and a discussion on genetics-based claims to Indigeneity in the child protection context.

TITLE: Superior Court of Justice (Ontario) Fall Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Superior Court of Justice (Ontario)

Date: November 5-7, 2025

Overview: This seminar explored a variety of relevant and timely issues in all areas of jurisdiction of the Superior Court of Justice (Ontario), with a focus on intimate partner violence.

Objective: The objective of the education program was to enhance participants' awareness of key developments in civil, criminal and family law matters before the Court and to develop practical skills to address current and emerging issues for the judiciary, notably in relation to intimate partner violence.

Summary: Using lecture presentations, panel discussions, and interactive elements, this program explored: human trafficking; terms of restraint in intimate partner violence (IPV) cases; the legal and practical dimensions of IPV litigation, including tort claims, judgment writing, and the adaptation of criminal law strategies for civil and family proceedings. The seminar concluded with updates on French language rights, artificial intelligence, and recent developments in civil, family, and criminal law.

Québec

TITLE: Superior Court of Québec: Case Management

PROVIDER: Superior Court of Québec

Date: February 12-13, 2025

Overview: This education program for Superior Court of Québec judges dealt with case management practices and principles.

Objective: The program was designed to reinforce judges' legal knowledge and practical skills around case management, help them develop new reflexes when facing complex situations, and prepare those interested in joining case management teams.

Summary: Through this program, judges improved their understanding of the case management role, explored models for holding effective hearings and periodic case management conferences, and examined the challenges posed by self-represented litigants and difficult, complex or high-profile cases. The program also examined available management tools, judicial protocols, and possible interventions by the Court of Appeal. It combined lectures with practical discussions and opportunities for judges and experts to share their experiences.

TITLE: Joint Spring Education Seminar of the Courts of Appeal of Québec and for Ontario

PROVIDERS: Courts of Appeal of Québec and for Ontario

Date: May 21-23, 2025

Overview: In this joint seminar for judges of the Québec and Ontario appellate courts, participants explored a broad range of subjects relevant to the performance of their judicial duties.

Objective: The seminar used various learning methods to help participants gain new knowledge on a range of topics while acquiring new skills and tools they can apply in their daily practice. Participants were also made aware of the social context surrounding some of these subjects.

Summary: This joint seminar focused on the three dimensions of judicial education, namely acquiring substantive knowledge, developing skills and competencies, and gaining awareness of the social context relevant to various legal issues. The joint seminar covered a variety of important topics such as emerging issues confronting appellate judges in family and criminal law; commissions of inquiry; the past, present and future of criminal law in Canada; and the challenges faced by traditional journalism. In addition, they provided the Québec and Ontario judges with an opportunity for small-group discussions about the

internal workings and best practices of their respective courts. An interview with an expert in effective listening concluded the joint education seminar.

TITLE: Superior Court of Québec: Divisional Meeting (Montréal)

PROVIDER: Superior Court of Québec

Date: May 28-30, 2025

Overview: In this meeting, participants explored a broad range of subjects relevant to the performance of their judicial duties.

Objective: The seminar used various learning methods to help participants gain new knowledge on a range of topics while acquiring new competencies and tools to apply in their daily practice. Participants were also made aware of the social context surrounding some of these subjects.

Summary: This divisional meeting focused on the three dimensions of judicial education, namely acquiring substantive knowledge, developing skills and competencies, and gaining awareness of the social context relevant to various legal issues. The first day included sessions aimed at identifying, understanding and debunking stereotypes and biases about judges' roles and functions. On the second day, the members of the Court who hear civil matters examined a number of current topics in Québec family law: the new parental union regime, the Unified Family Tribunal, and article 2858.1 of the Civil Code of Québec as it concerns myths and stereotypes around sexual or spousal violence. Meanwhile, criminal law judges attended sessions on myths and stereotypes pertaining to sexual offences. The entire court then attended a closing presentation on understanding and managing stress.

TITLE: Superior Court of Québec: Divisional Meeting (Québec)

PROVIDER: Superior Court of Québec

Date: May 28-30, 2025

Overview: This education program for Superior Court of Québec judges covered various aspects of judicial practice, including drafting, managing reserve judgments, social issues, and relationships with Indigenous peoples.

Objective: The program was designed to reinforce judges' professional skills, promote exchanges among colleagues, and raise their awareness about current issues such as Indigenous realities and the use of social media.

Summary: This divisional meeting focused on the three dimensions of judicial education, namely acquiring substantive knowledge, developing skills and competencies, and gaining awareness of the social context relevant to various legal issues. It gave judges an opportunity to examine their role and their practices through peer discussions, presentations on legal and social issues, and activities to promote well-being and collegiality. Participants explored issues related to evidence and the use of social media, discussed how to manage reserves, and deepened their understanding of Indigenous realities in Québec.

TITLE: Superior Court of Québec: Annual General Meeting

PROVIDER: Superior Court of Québec

Date: October 1-3, 2025

Overview: This meeting allowed participants to explore a broad range of subjects relevant to the performance of their duties as Superior Court of Québec judges.

Objective: This seminar featured various learning methods (lectures, polling questions, breakout discussions) to help participants gain new knowledge on various topics, develop new competencies and acquire tools they can apply in their daily practice. Participants were also made aware of the social context surrounding some of these subjects.

Summary: This annual general meeting focused on the three dimensions of judicial education, namely acquiring substantive knowledge, developing skills and competencies, and gaining awareness of the social context surrounding various legal issues. The first day covered a variety of important topics including cybersecurity in the digital age, citizens' expectations of and experiences with the justice system, and self-represented litigants. On the second day, participants attended a session on managing situations involving people with difficult personalities or experiencing challenging situations. They then separated into two groups: one for judges who hear civil matters and the other for judges who hear criminal matters. Both groups examined best practices for case management, the first as applied to civil cases and the second to criminal cases. All judges of the court attended a final presentation on the most effective ways to revise and edit one's judgments.

TITLE: Court of Appeal of Québec: Annual General Meeting

PROVIDER: Court of Appeal of Québec

Date: October 14-17, 2025

Overview: This education program, held as part of the annual general meeting of the Court of Appeal of Québec, used the theme "The Craft of Judging" to explore the judicial role, with a focus on the intellectual, human and contemporary dimensions of judging.

Objective: The program's objective was to provide judges with a space to reflect on their practices, promote dialogue between colleagues, and tackle current issues like well-being in the workplace, cognitive biases, artificial intelligence and strategic litigation, while also featuring a creative perspective through the examination of editorial cartoons about judges.

Summary: Through a combination of lectures, collaborative workshops and interactive discussions, judges examined their practices, interpersonal communications and ways of adapting to current challenges. Participants explored various subjects, including mental health in the workplace, AI use in the judiciary, cognitive biases and litigation strategies. Overall, the program promoted a multidisciplinary and humanist approach to the judge's role.

TITLE: Superior Court of Québec: Judicial Settlement Conferencing

PROVIDER: Superior Court of Québec

Date: November 4-6, 2025

Overview: This three-day skills-based program served as an introduction to settlement conferences. It allowed participating judges to familiarize themselves with the process governing settlement conferences and, more importantly, to learn and apply effective techniques for conducting such conferences.

Objective: This program aimed to help judges develop useful skills for conducting settlement conferences, including identifying parties' issues and interests, managing the process effectively and fairly, taking different approaches to negotiation, recognizing ethical issues, applying ethical principles, and helping parties overcome resistance.

Summary: This seminar used case studies to help judges develop and practise skills relevant to settlement conferences. Through presentations by experienced judges, interactive demonstrations and breakout exercises, the first part of the seminar familiarized participants with the process for presiding over settlement conferences and reviewed useful techniques and strategies. The second part of the seminar centred on role-playing exercises, allowing judges to apply these techniques while obtaining feedback from the instructors. The last part of the seminar examined ethical issues related to settlement conferences through case studies that were discussed in breakout groups and plenary sessions.

TITLE: Superior Court of Québec: Division of Family Property – Family Patrimony

PROVIDER: Superior Court of Québec

Date: December 1, 2025

Overview: This education program for Superior Court of Québec judges dealt with the division of property—in particular the family patrimony—in family law.

Objective: The objective was to strengthen judges' knowledge of family patrimony rules, develop their skills in property assessment and partition, and equip them with practical tools for sound management of family law cases.

Summary: Participants started by reviewing the basic rules governing the family patrimony, then moved on to its composition and how to establish its net partitionable value as well as applicable deductions. Through presentations, interactive demonstrations and case studies, participants strengthened their professional reflexes and deepened their understanding of the issues around family patrimony partition. The program closed by considering issues relating to the management of family patrimony at all stages of a case.

Atlantic Provinces

TITLE: Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador

Date: May 27-30, 2025

Overview: This seminar covered a combination of topics relating to substantive law, social context, and judicial skills relevant to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to: enhance participants' understanding of the Canadian Judicial Council complaint process; develop their skills in identifying matters that could involve parliamentary privilege; enhance their understanding of relationships involving coercive control, and the admission of evidence in those matters; increase their competence in dealing with bankruptcy matters; and enhance their skills in managing child protection matters.

Summary: Led by experienced judges and drawing on the expertise of legal academics, this program used a combination of lectures, discussion, and interactive elements to examine the following topics: judicial conduct, evidentiary issues in cases involving coercive control, bankruptcy, case management in child protection matters, and parliamentary privilege. Sessions included an interactive discussion on various aspects of judicial ethics, including an examination of the way that the importance of public confidence in the judiciary informs the procedure by which the CJC handles complaints against judges; a primer on the topic of parliamentary privilege; an update on bankruptcy issues; and a review of practical strategies for effective resolution of child protection matters.

TITLE: Supreme Courts of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Education Seminar and Annual Meetings

PROVIDERS: Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island

Date: May 28-30, 2025

Overview: The seminar covered a combination of substantive, social context, and practical topics relevant to the work of the supreme courts of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Senior judges, academics, and professionals engaged in the community addressed these topics through presentations, panel discussions, and practical exercises with participants.

Objective: The seminar notably aimed to equip judges with a better understanding of the impact of artificial intelligence on litigation in their courts. It also sought to promote the adoption of best practices for communicating with people with personality disorders within the courtroom, enhance participants' knowledge of various substantive issues in criminal and family law.

Summary: On the first day, participants heard from an expert on AI and the law, who emphasized the challenges posed by the use of deepfakes. The participants also attended a session on the best practices for communicating with people with personality disorders within the courtroom. The second day began with a presentation on the tensions between custom and modernity in the overall architecture of the judicial system. The seminar continued with concurrent sessions in family, civil, and criminal law before closing with a presentation on the science of maintaining a healthy brain.

TITLE: Court of Appeal of New Brunswick Education Seminar: St. Andrews Lectures 2025 XVIII

PROVIDER: Court of Appeal of New Brunswick

Date: June 5-6, 2025

Overview: This education seminar for members of the New Brunswick judiciary focused on key developments in criminal law, evidence, and sentencing. The seminar notably included sessions on evidentiary challenges, criminal liability for joint ventures, sentencing principles, polygraph evidence and an update on recent Supreme Court of Canada decisions.

Objective: The seminar aimed to enhance judges' ability to deal effectively and fairly with challenging issues in criminal law, including questions relating to evidence, sentencing, and Charter rights.

Summary: The seminar brought together leading criminal law experts from the bench, Crown, and defence to explore emerging criminal law issues, using experiential learning and case-based discussions, to encourage critical analysis. The seminar examined key evidentiary issues, including spontaneous

utterances, false confessions, and lay opinion, as well as criminal liability under sections 21(1) and 21(2) of the *Criminal Code*. Participants discussed sentencing principles such as parity, proportionality, and Charter-based sentence reductions. The program also evaluated the role and admissibility of polygraph evidence. Additionally, it addressed emerging and complex topics, including fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, intimate partner violence, and the use of interpreters in legal proceedings. Finally, the seminar provided updates and insights into recent and upcoming Supreme Court of Canada decisions relevant to criminal law.

TITLE: Prince Edward Island All Courts Education Seminar

PROVIDERS: Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island and Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island

Date: June 11-13, 2025

Overview: Led by experienced judges and drawing on the expertise of academics, and legal professionals, the seminar focused on various substantive topics relevant to the work of the three levels of court on Prince Edward Island.

Objective: The seminar aimed to improve judges' knowledge relating to sexual assault law, conditional sentencing orders, appellate cases of importance across the country, and jurisprudential trends within Prince Edward Island's courts.

Summary: The first day of the seminar focused on the procedural and substantive complexities of sexual assault law and conditional sentencing orders. Participants then heard an update on the work of the province's Domestic Violence Court. The second day began with a presentation on health and well-being, before the seminar concluded with a series of case law updates from across Canada and Prince Edward Island.

TITLE: New Brunswick Court of King's Bench Robert Tuck Educational Conference 2025

PROVIDER: New Brunswick Court of King's Bench

Date: August 27-29, 2025

Overview: The seminar focused on various legal and practical topics relevant to the work of the Court of King's Bench of New Brunswick.

Objective: The objectives of the seminar were to improve participants' awareness of current issues facing the Court and to expand their substantive skills and knowledge on various topics.

Summary: Led by experienced judges and drawing on the expertise of legal academics and other professionals, the seminar included sessions on settlement conferences, concise judgment writing, judicial well-being, the use of technology to support efficient judicial work, effective legal research, and caselaw updates. The seminar featured a mix of lectures, panel discussions, and interactive activities.

TITLE: Atlantic Courts Education Seminar for Federally Appointed Judges

PROVIDER: Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal, Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, Court of Appeal of New Brunswick, Court of Appeal of Newfoundland and Labrador, Court of King's Bench of New

Brunswick, Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island and Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador

Date: September 24-26, 2025

Overview: This program focused on a variety of substantive, skills-based, and social context topics relevant to federally appointed judges in Atlantic Canada. Sessions included a combination of presentations and panel discussions led by judges, academics, and members of the scientific community.

Objective: The program aimed to enhance judicial skills in managing challenging courtroom dynamics, deepen knowledge of gender- and family-based violence and evidentiary law, and provide updates on legal developments across multiple areas. It also sought to support judicial well-being by examining the impacts of technology on the role of the judge.

Summary: Participants examined strategies for managing challenging courtroom dynamics and approaches to preventing gender- and family-based violence. The program also addressed developments in family and criminal law, alongside a full day devoted to evidentiary issues, including exclusionary rules, expert and similar fact evidence, digital evidence, and children's testimony. The seminar concluded with case law updates across multiple areas and a session on judicial wellness, focusing on the impact of technology on judicial work.

TITLE: Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador

Date: December 3-5, 2025

Overview: This seminar covered a combination of topics relating to substantive law, social context, and judicial skills relevant to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, including issues relating to civil liability law and technology, sexual assault law, family law, courtroom communication and management, and vicarious trauma..

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to: enhance participants' understanding of the implications of the recent *R v Kinamore* decision in sexual assault law; develop their understanding of privacy rights and the collection of personal data; increase their awareness of the impact of vicarious trauma on their ability to perform their judicial role; help participants deliver more timely judgments; strengthen judicial skills in dealing with civil law matters, family law matters involving retroactive support, and matters involving underrepresented litigants.

Summary: Led by experienced judges and featuring presentations from legal academics, this program used a combination of lectures, discussion, and interactive elements. Sessions included a primer on the principles of the "right to be forgotten" and the intersection of privacy law and data collection; an interactive session on strategies for effectively managing cases involving underrepresented litigants; an analysis of the recent Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Kinamore* and the resulting impact on sexual assault law; an interactive session designed to improve judges ability to manage claims for retroactive child or spousal support; an update on evolving remedies in civil liability matters; an interactive discussion on methods for dealing with vicarious trauma; and practical strategies for using oral judgments more effectively to provide timely decisions.

Northern Courts

TITLE: Northern Courts Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Supreme Court of Yukon, Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Court of Justice

Date: April 27-30, 2025

Overview: The joint seminar of the Supreme Court of Yukon, Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut Court of Justice addressed a variety of topics relevant to the work of their courts, including reconciliation and judicial outreach, criminal law, evidentiary principles, ethics, mortgage foreclosure practices, and family law. The program incorporated education in substantive law, judicial skills, and the social context of judging in the North.

Objective: The objectives of this program were to enhance judicial understanding of substantive criminal law and evidentiary requirements, strengthen ethical decision-making, and provide practical strategies for managing complex civil and family law matters. The program also sought to foster reconciliation by engaging with Indigenous perspectives on justice.

Summary: Led by judges and drawing on expertise from academics, lawyers, and Indigenous community members, the seminar provided participants with a range of perspectives on law, ethics, and the social context of judging in the North. Participants examined reconciliation frameworks and judicial outreach, examined substantive and procedural criminal law matters, in the context of both jury trial and judge alone trials, explored evidentiary and ethical issues, and considered approaches to managing civil and family law matters. The program also provided opportunities for cultural learning and community engagement through a cultural experience outside Whitehorse that included ceremony, teachings on Indigenous justice, and community-led activities.

Federal Courts

TITLE: Tax Court of Canada Court Meeting and Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Tax Court of Canada

Date: June 18-19, 2025

Overview: This seminar featured practical and interactive sessions to strengthen the knowledge and skills needed by judges of the Tax Court of Canada to communicate fairly and effectively in the courtroom.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to provide participants with the relevant social and scientific context, as well as best practices, to strengthen their capacity to communicate fairly and effectively in the courtroom—particularly when interacting with self-represented appellants and when working with or through interpreters.

Summary: Led by experienced judicial faculty and drawing on the expertise of subject matter experts, this seminar relied on lectures, case studies, and small group discussions to examine relevant questions for members of the court, including the science behind cognitive biases, best practices for effective courtroom management and clear communication, and ethical and social considerations when working with self-represented appellants and interpreters.

TITLE: Federal Court Annual Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Federal Court

Date: October 15-17, 2025

Overview: This seminar focused mainly on recent legal developments in the core areas of the Federal Court's jurisdiction.

Objective: The seminar aimed to improve participants' practical skills with respect to courtroom management, enhance their substantive knowledge of current issues in evidence, administrative, and intellectual property law, and improve judicial wellness through a better understanding of the neuroscientific components of mental health for demanding professions.

Summary: The seminar began with a presentation and panel discussion on improving the ways that the court deals with proceedings involving self-represented litigants. Participants then delved into the intersection between evidence law and judicial review, with a focus on evidence management at trial. The seminar continued with an expert panel on remedies in intellectual property law and a review of some of the Court's most important decisions over the previous year. The second day began with a presentation on AI-generated and deepfake evidence, and how the judiciary has responded to their introduction in court proceedings. The seminar concluded with a presentation on the neurobiology of wellness in the context of the judicial profession.

TITLE: Joint Federal Court of Appeal and Manitoba Court of Appeal Education Seminar

PROVIDERS: Federal Court of Appeal and Manitoba Court of Appeal

Date: October 15-17, 2025

Overview: The seminar focused on various legal and practical issues relevant to the work of the Federal Court of Appeal and the Manitoba Court of Appeal.

Objective: The objective of the seminar was to increase participants' substantive knowledge, skills and understanding of social context when dealing with a variety of issues relevant to their work as judges, while also promoting their personal wellness.

Summary: Led by judges and featuring contributions from subject-matter experts and academics and presented through a combination of presentations and interactive discussions, this seminar included sessions on Indigenous and Aboriginal law; class actions; administrative law; intellectual property and artificial intelligence; and the interaction between sections 15 and 25 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. It also included collaborative discussions on court practices and the role of international norms in Canadian public law.

TITLE: Tax Court of Canada Court Meeting and Education Seminar

PROVIDER: Tax Court of Canada

Date: December 3-4, 2025

Overview: This seminar featured practical and interactive sessions relating to substantive and procedural tax law issues, as well as judicial wellness. The topics covered included the law of evidence, assumptions, and the burden of proof.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to deepen judges' understanding of legal issues specific to the Tax Court of Canada—particularly in relation to the law of evidence and the principles of assumptions and burden of proof—and to provide strategies and resources to support mental wellbeing.

Summary: Led by experienced judicial faculty and featuring contributions from subject-matter experts, this seminar relied on lectures, case studies, and small group discussions to delve into relevant questions for members of the Court, including issues related to the law of evidence, and to provide judges with tools to support mental wellbeing.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

TITLE: Judging in Your First Five Years: Criminal Law

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: January 20-24, 2025

Overview: This intensive five-day program for recently appointed judges was designed to build their competence in managing criminal trials, from the pre-trial stage through to sentencing. As sexual assault trials pose some of the greatest challenges for the judicial role, the seminar used a sexual assault fact scenario to anchor the issues and allowed participants to practise the relevant skills, with social context training integrated throughout.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were: (1) to deliver training in substantive and procedural law and the law of evidence, including the statutory regimes governing third party records, sexual history evidence and records in the possession of the accused; (2) to equip participants to adjudicate *Charter* applications by the accused, manage direct examination and cross-examination, deal with self-represented accused, make credibility assessments, and ensure the sufficiency of their reasons for judgment; and (3) to situate the law governing sexual offences and intimate partner violence more broadly in their respective social contexts.

Summary: The program was led by a multi-disciplinary faculty of experienced judges, practitioners, and academics and was addressed to judges having between one and five years of experience. The program included a mix of presentations and breakout exercises based on a sexual assault fact scenario from the pre-trial stage through to sentencing, with emphasis placed on the skills of trial management. Throughout the seminar, participants also learned about myths and stereotypes in sexual assault cases, the statistical realities and social dynamics of intimate partner violence, testimonial accommodations for vulnerable witnesses, and the experiences of Indigenous women and girls in the criminal justice system.

TITLE: Dealing Effectively with Judicial Review: Joint CIAJ and NJI Program

PROVIDERS: Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and National Judicial Institute

Date: January 28-30, 2025

Overview: Offered jointly by the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and the National Judicial Institute, this program was designed to deepen trial judges' understanding of the fundamental principles relating to applications for judicial review. The program familiarized participants with a practical framework which promotes the effective adjudication of these applications.

Objective: The objectives of this program were to (1) reinforce participants' substantive knowledge of judicial review; (2) to equip them with an analytical framework to tackle these applications in an effective manner; (3) to provide them with a greater understanding of jurisprudential developments and debated issues in this field.

Summary: Leading experts from the bar, bench, and academia led a variety of lectures and practical workshops that examined preliminary issues in a judicial review application, procedural fairness and substantive review, and remedies. Panelists also discussed the role of reviewing courts when dealing with matters involving indigenous legal issues, as well as future challenges in this field.

TITLE: Business, Corporate and Commercial Law Seminar

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: February 5, 2025

Overview: This seminar explored topics in business, corporate, and commercial law in Canadian common and civil law. The seminar focused on the practical fundamentals of managing civil matters while exploring emerging trends and issues in the field.

Objective: The objective of the seminar was to increase the participants' knowledge of business, corporate and commercial law and strengthen their ability to deal fairly and effectively with these matters.

Summary: Led by experienced judicial faculty and academics, this interactive seminar explored select topics on Indigenous corporate commercial law, considered recent developments in private international law, addressed the duty of good faith in contract performance in common and civil law, and reviewed relevant appellate court decisions. The seminar concluded with a session on the evolving nature of directors' duties.

TITLE: Insolvency Seminar

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: February 6, 2025

Overview: This seminar addressed issues relevant to judges who hear insolvency matters.

Objective: The objective of this seminar was to enhance judges' knowledge of the law of insolvency and to improve their ability to deal effectively with insolvency proceedings.

Summary: Developed and led by experienced judicial faculty with the assistance of academics and legal practitioners, the program reviewed key jurisprudential developments, addressed court sanctioned releases in the insolvency context, discussed debtor-in-possession financing, and concluded by providing participants with practical advice for managing key elements of insolvency proceedings.

TITLE: Family Law Seminar: Evidence and Procedure

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: February 12-14, 2025

Overview: This seminar focused on evidentiary and procedural issues affecting children in the family law context, particularly with respect to matters involving family violence, relocation, child support issues, and indigenous child welfare.

Objective: This program was intended to provide family court judges with the substantive knowledge and skills to effectively manage issues with a significant impact on children. It was also intended to strengthen their skills in managing complex matters involving family violence or refusal of contact, assessing challenging child support issues, and managing child protection cases, particularly those involving Indigenous families.

Summary: Led by experienced family law judges, academics, and practitioners, this seminar explored a variety of evidentiary and procedural topics relevant for judges hearing family matters. It addressed

topics that included special considerations in matters involving family violence, relocation and abduction by parents, complex child support issues, child welfare matters. It also included practical guidance for conducting judicial interviews of children.

TITLE: Leadership Seminar for Chief Justices, Chief Judges and Associates

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: February 19-21, 2025

Overview: This addressed the topic of strong and effective leadership while attending to the particularities of the role and the work of chief justices and judges, and the fundamental challenges associated with the role.

Objective: The purpose of this was seminar was to give participating chief judges and chief justices an opportunity to reflect and exchange with their peers from across the country on what it means to be an effective judicial leader, while providing them with concrete guidance to transform insights into action.

Summary: This interactive seminar for court leaders examined the varied responsibilities of chief judges and chief justices. It sought to provide participants with the knowledge and skills to fulfill those responsibilities effectively, including acting as judicial managers, building collegiality, ensuring quality and efficient work, fostering judicial wellness, preserving judicial independence, upholding public confidence in the justice system, and remaining sensitive and responsive to evolving social contexts.

TITLE: Indigenous Law Seminar

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: February 26-28, 2025

Overview: This seminar introduced judges to Indigenous legal traditions through immersive experiences, academic panels, and practical exercises. The program included engagement with Indigenous communities, law professors, and judicial peers, and featured land-based learning, narrative analysis, and ceremonial practices.

Objective: The program aimed to deepen judges' understanding of Indigenous legal orders and enhance their ability to engage respectfully and effectively with these traditions in judicial contexts.

Summary: Over three days, judges engaged with Indigenous laws through cultural protocols, academic panels, and practical exercises. The seminar encouraged reflection on legal pluralism and provided tools for respectful engagement with Indigenous legal traditions in courtroom settings.

TITLE: Emerging Issues Online Seminar: What Does Trauma-Informed Justice Mean for Judges?

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: March 25, 2025

Overview: This online seminar examined recent efforts by justice system actors to adapt legal processes to reflect contemporary understandings of trauma.

Objective: The purpose of this online seminar was to improve judges' understanding of trauma, allow judges to familiarize themselves with trauma-informed practices in the justice system and consider their implications for the judiciary.

Summary: This interdisciplinary online seminar brought together leading subject matter experts and international and Canadian judges to examine recent efforts by justice system actors to adapt legal processes to reflect contemporary understandings of trauma. It covered the following topics: the science of trauma; the impacts of trauma on victims, witnesses and other justice system participants, including judges; tools available to judges to make courtrooms more trauma-informed; benefits and challenges of trauma-informed approaches in different contexts.

TITLE: Criminal Law Seminar

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: March 26-28, 2025

Overview: Designed for judges who hear criminal matters, this annual seminar brought together a faculty of seasoned criminal law experts to canvass recent developments in the field, provide guidance on essential trial management skills, and enhance awareness of social context issues surrounding the criminal justice system.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to provide an update on the latest significant criminal law developments, enhance trial management skills, and engage with social context issues, notably around addiction.

Summary: This year's seminar opened with sessions focusing on substance addiction, drawing on first-person, scientific, and legal perspectives. Expert panels then led sessions on party liability, the legal landscape in the aftermath of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *R. v. Kruk*, and homicide trials. The seminar continued with interactive sessions on conflicts and recusals, unethical behaviour in court, and ineffective assistance of counsel. The seminar closed with sessions on confidential informants and an extended case law update.

TITLE: Access to Justice for Children: Implementing Child Rights

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: April 2-4, 2025

Overview: This three-day seminar focused on why child rights matter in all areas of law, what it means for children to have the right to participate in decisions that affect them, how to implement child rights in the courtroom, and how to incorporate child rights effectively into judicial decision-making.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to provide participants with practical strategies for implementing child rights in the courtroom and ways of integrating children into meaningful judicial decision-making, where possible and appropriate.

Summary: Through a combination of lectures, panel discussions and other interactive learning activities, participants heard from a variety of judges, academics and other professionals on topics which included

the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, children’s participation rights in proceedings, and hearing and weighing children’s evidence.

TITLE: Communicating Effectively in Your Courtroom

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: April 2-4, 2025

Overview: This seminar focused on judicial communication skills in the courtroom.

Objective: The objectives of this program were to improve judges’ communication skills with the people who appear before them and allow them to better manage the courtroom.

Summary: Presented by experienced judicial faculty and communication experts, this seminar used a highly interactive skills-based approach to teach and practise communication skills in the courtroom. Throughout the seminar, short lectures emphasized core communication skills, and highlighted skills necessary to recognize and counteract implicit bias and communicate effectively with individuals who have experienced trauma. These lectures were supplemented by intensive small group work, where judges were given an opportunity to practise these skills and receive personalized feedback from their peers and the faculty. Workshops dealt with a wide range of courtroom scenarios including sexual assault proceedings and dealing with self-represented litigants.

TITLE: Seminar for New Federally Appointed Judges: Joint CIAJ and NJI Spring Program (Civil and Common Law)

PROVIDER: Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and National Judicial Institute

Date: April 6-11, 2025

Date: October 19-24, 2025

Overview: All federal judges appointed over the past year attended these two seminars. One was held in the spring and the other in the fall. They were organized jointly by the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and the National Judicial Institute.

Objective: The purpose of these seminars was to guide participants in their new role as judges, to encourage them to maintain and enhance their knowledge of the law, and to develop their judicial skills.

Summary: The seminars were led by experienced judges with the help of expert academics and lawyers. A variety of learning methods—including lectures, courtroom role-playing videos, and small-group discussions—were used to impart knowledge and develop the skills judges need to perform their new duties effectively. Some of the sessions were designed for all judges, while others were specifically for common law or civil law judges, for judges of the Federal Court and the Federal Court of Appeal, and for judges from the Tax Court. All participants attended sessions on judicial independence, ethics, judgment writing, civility and effective communication in the courtroom, unconscious biases, strategies to ensure equal access to justice for persons with disabilities, and the relationship between the judge’s role and the social context, with particular emphasis on sexual assault, racial discrimination, and cases involving Indigenous people. They also attended sessions on family law, injunctions, oral judgments, judicial review of administrative decisions, the law of evidence, civil procedure, self-represented litigants, case

management, and courtroom management. Participants also had the option of attending three sessions on well-being and stress management on the bench. Sessions specifically for common law judges focused on criminal law topics, from jury selection to sentencing to specific issues in sexual assault trials. Civil law judges also explored issues relating to criminal law and penal law, while also diving into applications for care and learning more about the practical aspects of being a judge. Federal Court judges attended sessions on Federal Court jurisdiction, citizenship, immigration and refugee law, Aboriginal law, and intellectual property. Finally, Tax Court judges attended sessions on net worth assessment techniques, case and trial management, and opinion and hearsay evidence.

TITLE: Supreme Court of Canada 150th Anniversary Symposium

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: April 10-11, 2025

Overview: This symposium marking the 150th anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada examined the role the Court plays in today's justice system.

Objective: The purpose of the symposium was to examine the challenges faced not only by the Supreme Court of Canada but also by other apex courts around the world, exploring how these courts take up their responsibilities while promoting the rule of law and public confidence in the justice system.

Summary: The symposium addressed the following topics: the role of an apex court in a constitutional democracy, justice issues involving Indigenous peoples, the court's federalism jurisprudence, bijuralism, and emerging legal issues in a cosmopolitan legal world. These topics were be considered while attending to the bilingual character of the Supreme Court's work as well as interactions between common law and civil law traditions and the place of Indigenous legal orders in Canada and in other legal systems.

TITLE: Criminal Jury Charge Workshop

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: April 23-25, 2025

Overview: This hands-on, intensive seminar provided participants with the opportunity to practise drafting jury instructions in all stages of a jury trial, from jury selection and opening remarks, through the presentation of evidence, to the final charge and responses to questions from the jury.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to provide participants with the skills needed to prepare legally correct, yet concise, plain language jury instructions in criminal law cases.

Summary: This hands-on seminar on jury instructions was organized around a detailed criminal jury trial scenario. Issues that were addressed included: the conduct of a challenge for cause, directions to jurors who seek to question witnesses, correcting counsel's missteps, preparing a *Vetrovec* caution, and instructing the jury about third-party suspects. Problems during jury deliberations were also discussed. The seminar was led by experienced judges, and delivered using a combination of brief lectures, panel presentations, table exercises, and small group discussions.

TITLE: Oral Judgments

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: April 23-25, 2025

Overview: This three-day seminar was focused on oral judgments. Developed in collaboration with experienced judges, academics and other experts, this program assisted participants in organizing, preparing, and delivering an effective oral judgment.

Objective: The objectives of the seminar were to improve the skills of participants when it comes to structuring a judgment logically, preparing effectively before and during hearings, making and explaining credibility findings using oral reasons, and delivering a clear and concise oral judgment.

Summary: This seminar applied an experiential skills-based approach to teach participants how to render oral judgments effectively. Throughout the seminar, short lectures from experienced judges and communication experts emphasized the core skills involved in structuring and delivering effective oral judgments. These lectures were supplemented by intensive small group work, in which judges practised skills and received individualized feedback both from their peers and from trained facilitators. The program ended with participants delivering a full oral judgment, upon which they received feedback from assigned facilitators.

TITLE: Justice in Motion: NJI's National Seminar in French

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: June 11-12, 2025

Overview: This national seminar on criminal justice was planned by French-language judges from across Canada. Members of the judiciary reflected on judicial practices, French-language case law and current issues for litigants.

Objective: The seminar aimed to promote dialogue between the different French-language legal traditions in Canada, enrich judges' knowledge of criminal justice matters, and encourage discussion around current topics such as reconciliation, artificial intelligence, the open court principle, and myths and stereotypes in sexual assault cases.

Summary: A series of presentations, panels and interactive workshops provided judges with the opportunity to explore various criminal justice issues. Topics included judicial practices to promote reconciliation, case management powers in the age of artificial intelligence, the open court principle, the role of special advocates, and myths and stereotypes relevant to sexual assault law.

TITLE: Judging in the Digital Age (Joint CSCJA and NJI Program)

PROVIDER: Canadian Superior Court Judges Association and National Judicial Institute

Date: June 25-27, 2025

Overview: This seminar offered a theoretical and practical exploration of the intersection between technology and law.

Objective: In this two-and-a-half-day seminar featuring a variety of learning methods, participants gained new knowledge and developed new skills relating to justice and technology. The objectives were for participants to understand the impact of technology (especially artificial intelligence) on law and the judicial system, and to learn how to integrate it into their practice and use it in the courtroom.

Summary: The first day was devoted to artificial intelligence and justice and was inspired by UNESCO's *AI and the Rule of Law* initiative. This special day of education was designed in conjunction with Mila – Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute. In the morning sessions, participants acquired basic knowledge of artificial intelligence and saw how it is used in legal and judiciary settings today. The afternoon focused on the intersection between artificial intelligence and substantive law, particularly the impacts of artificial intelligence on copyright law and civil liability. Days two and three addressed other important topics such as digital evidence, the Canadian Judicial Council's guidelines on social media, technological tools available to judges (including *Judicloud*) and how to minimize the privacy risks posed by connected digital devices.

TITLE: Your Supernumerary Years and Beyond

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: June 25-27, 2025

Overview: This seminar was designed for judges approaching or considering retirement, including those electing supernumerary status. The program considered a wide range of issues relevant to their transition from the bench to retirement. Sessions were led by experienced jurists, lawyers, and other experts, offering both practical guidance and reflective opportunities.

Objective: The seminar aimed to prepare judges for the transition to retirement or supernumerary status by examining legal, financial, and personal considerations, and ensuring they are aware of their ethical obligations upon retirement.

Summary: Led by experienced and retired judges, academics, and other experts this seminar canvassed issues faced by members of the judiciary in their years as supernumerary judges and into retirement. Using lectures, panel discussions, and interactive activities, the program addressed topics such as physical and mental well-being and judicial ethics.

TITLE: Evidence Workshop

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: July 14-18, 2025

Overview: This intensive, practical program provided judges with essential updates on the law of evidence in criminal, civil and family matters and focused on key skills required to resolve evidentiary issues.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to increase participants' substantive knowledge of the law of evidence and develop the practical skills they need to resolve evidentiary issues correctly. Participants were provided with opportunities throughout the program to address situations and scenarios that frequently occur in court.

Summary: In this interactive, skills-based workshop, judicial participants identified, learned about, and applied fundamental principles of the law of evidence. Participants used diverse fact patterns to strengthen skills analyzing evidentiary issues and applying the law to those issues. Leading judicial and academic experts presented updates on major areas of the law of evidence and facilitated small group work sessions based on a hypothetical fact scenario and live simulations of evidentiary arguments. Participants also had the opportunity to discuss difficult evidentiary questions that they faced as judges with judicial colleagues from across Canada.

TITLE: Criminal Jury Trials Seminar

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: October 8-10, 2025

Overview: This seminar focused on criminal jury practice and law, from pre-trial conferencing to the taking of the verdict, as well as a variety of evidentiary and substantive law issues trial judges will likely encounter.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to provide judges with comprehensive training on the evidentiary, procedural, and substantive law challenges that arise in criminal jury trials, from pre-trial conferencing through to the taking of the verdict, and to prepare trial judges for addressing related evidentiary and substantive law matters they are likely to encounter, including issues related to consent and vitiating in sexual assault cases.

Summary: Criminal jury trials pose unique procedural, evidentiary, and substantive law challenges. Led by experienced judges, and delivered using a combination of brief lectures, panel presentations, table exercises, and small group discussions, this seminar covered a variety of topics including effective pre-trial management, preparing for the jury trial, running an efficient jury selection, instructing on party liabilities, the admissibility of evidence for limited purposes, preparation and delivery of jury instructions, including instructing a jury on myths and stereotypes, jury instructions on selected defences, and post-charge jury instructions.

TITLE: Hearing and Deciding Charter Issues

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: November 18-21, 2025

Overview: This seminar provided judges with the knowledge, practical skills, and tools to properly manage and resolve common issues relating to the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Objective: The objectives of this seminar were to provide participants with an enhanced understanding of the principles underlying the Charter, make them aware of key jurisprudential developments relating to the interpretation and application of the Charter, and to develop their skills managing Charter proceedings in criminal and civil matters.

Summary: Through a combination of lectures, presentations, small group work, and other interactive learning activities, participants worked through a fact scenario with the assistance of faculty and facilitators to address topics that included protection against unreasonable search or seizure; arbitrary

detention; right to counsel; the right to life, liberty and security of the person; the right to a trial within a reasonable time; reasonable limitations on Charter rights; procedural issues; and remedies. This hands-on seminar helped participants enhance the skills needed to address common Charter issues arising in their courtroom.

TITLE: Transitioning to the Appellate Court

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: November 24, 2025

Overview: This program for recently appointed appellate court judges examined fundamental challenges faced by members of appellate courts.

Objective: This program was designed to offer recently appointed appellate court judges the opportunity to explore the key features of the work that appellate courts do, share best practices for working on a collegial court, and examine some of the fundamental legal and practical issues that commonly arise for members of the appellate bench.

Summary: Sitting on an appellate court requires different knowledge, skills and ways of working than sitting on a trial court. The responsibilities of appellate court judges are in some ways more limited and in others more expansive than those of trial court judges and is also inherently collegial. This seminar examined some of the fundamental legal and practical issues that commonly arise for members of the appellate bench, including determining and applying the standard of review, preparing effectively, judgment writing, including the practice of dissenting, collaborating with colleagues before, during and after the hearing, and giving and receiving criticism.

TITLE: Appellate Courts Seminar

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: November 25-26, 2025

Overview: This national seminar addressed issues of substantive law, judge-craft and social context that were relevant to the work of appellate court judges.

Objective: The objective of this seminar was to improve the knowledge, skills, and social context understanding of appellate court judges.

Summary: The seminar focused on three broad themes: threats to the judicial independence and the rule of law; recent legal developments relevant to appellate court judges, and issues in sexual assault law appeals. It included a survey of leading cases decided by appellate courts across the country in the last 2 years, as well as a detailed examination of the evidentiary challenges tied to the use of generative artificial intelligence, including so-called deepfakes.

TITLE: Judicial Faculty Development Seminar

PROVIDER: National Judicial Institute

Date: December 9-11, 2025

Overview: This practical seminar was addressed to judges who are involved in the planning and delivery of judicial education. It was intended to promote the integration of best practices in the planning, design, and delivery of professional development programs for judges.

Objective: The purpose of this seminar was to equip judges with the knowledge, skills, and social context awareness to contribute meaningfully to the design, development, and delivery of effective and engaging judicial education programs.

Summary: This course focused on challenges and opportunities for judicial education given the realities faced by today's judiciary. Through a mix of presentations, practical problems and interactive exercises, participants learned about: best practices in adult education and experiential learning as they apply to the judiciary; overarching objectives judicial education should pursue in light of current judicial learning needs; the integration of digital resources and blended learning techniques into educational programming; judicial education relating to social context; and pedagogical tips and tricks to ensure that judges get the most out of in-person education. Throughout the program, participants were given the opportunity to discuss and apply what they learned in small group workshops.