

Winter 2026 Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction Seminar Agenda



ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE OF THE COURTS
RESPECTED AND INFLUENTIAL VOICE OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

Tuesday, January 27th

9:00 AM-10:00 AM	NJLJ Education Committee Meeting	
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	NJLJ Board Meeting	
10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Check-In/Badge Pick Up	
1:00 PM-1:15 PM	Opening Remarks	
1:15 PM-2:15 PM	More Carrot, Better Outcomes: Treatment-Court Insights for Everyday Cases	Justice Linda Bell and Judge Kendra Bertschy
Session Description	<p>This session gives limited-jurisdiction judges a realistic playbook for applying treatment-court principles—accountability, engagement, and behavior change—within the fast pace of misdemeanor, DUI, and domestic-violence dockets. Guided by two experienced judges, the program focuses on approaches that require no new resources and fit seamlessly into traditional calendars. Participants will learn how to maintain neutrality while using brief, effective interactions that boost compliance and procedural fairness. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for immediate implementation.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify which treatment-court principles translate well to a high-volume docket – and which do not• Discuss how to implement treatment court principles without losing neutrality, fairness, or efficiency• Share quick-win tools to integrate into your everyday docket	
2:15 PM-2:30 PM	Break	

2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Tips and Strategies for Conducting Video hearings in Nevada Limited Jurisdiction Courts	Judge Ryan Toone
Session Description	<p>This session will provide attendees with tips and strategies for conducting video hearings. We will review applicable rules, discuss guiding principles, and explore best practices for video hearings.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand Nevada rules and guiding principles for video hearings • Have the tools and knowledge to conduct a video hearing that maintains procedural fairness • Develop strategies to deal with challenging situations in video hearings 	
3:30 PM-3:45 PM	Break	
3:45 PM-4:45 PM	Everything You Need to Know About Warrants	Judge Gino Briscoe
Session Description	<p>This session will enable you to rediscover why we have warrants, how the process of creating a warrant is conducted, who can create a warrant, what it takes to fulfill the constitutional obligation of a warrant, the different types of warrants and their exceptions, and who has the authority to approve a warrant.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify who has the legal authority to author, approve, and execute search warrants • Distinguish among the different types of warrants and recognize applicable constitutional and statutory requirements • Apply relevant case law and understand recognized exceptions to the search warrant requirement, including the respective roles of law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges 	
5:30 PM-7:30 PM	Reception and Dinner	

Wednesday, January 28th

7:30 AM-8:45 AM	Breakfast	
9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Reducing Secondary Trauma and Burnout for the Helping Profession - An Introduction	Jackie Harris, LMFT and Tyler J. Winkler, Esq.

Session Description	<p>The CE-CERT model (Components for Enhancing Career Experience and Reducing Trauma) is an evidence-informed, synthetic model for reducing secondary trauma for all members of the helping profession, including those in the judiciary. This introductory session will give an overview of CE-CERT and provide information on the five model components - Experiential Engagement, Reducing Rumination, Developing Conscious Narratives, Reducing Emotional Labor and Activating Parasympathetic Recovery.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify each of the five skills components that comprise the CE-CERT model. • Define the relationship of each of the five skill domains (emotional engagement, reduced rumination, conscious narrative, emotional labor, parasympathetic recovery) to an individual's own sense of well-being and emotion regulation during times of job strain or secondary trauma. • Formulate in writing a personal action plan for implementing at least two of the skill domains in their own personal, clinical, or administrative practice that will be applied within two weeks of their return to their customary job role 	
10:00 AM-10:15 AM	Break	
10:15 AM-10:45 AM	Chair Yoga	Heather Dornberger
Session Description	<p>This chair yoga session supports judicial wellness by offering gentle, accessible movement and breathwork to counteract the physical and mental strain of long hours, high-stakes decision-making, and sedentary work. Participants will be guided through simple, chair-supported postures that reduce tension, improve posture, and promote calm focus—tools they can easily integrate into the workday.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase physical ease and mobility through chair-supported movements that relieve common areas of judicial stress, including the neck, shoulders, and lower back. • Enhance mental clarity and focus by practicing breath–movement coordination and brief grounding techniques. • Identify simple chair-based strategies that can be used during the workday to reduce stress, reset posture, and support sustained well-being on the bench. 	
10:45 AM-11:00 AM	Break	
11:00-12:00 PM	Self Represented Litigants: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	Judge Christopher Tilman, Judge Kalani Hoo, and Judge Jennifer Klapper
Session Description	<p>Join us for an interactive discussion on self-represented litigants.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key resources and protect the rights of self-represented litigants • Apply best practices for managing cases involving self-represented litigants • Address criminal case considerations and ensure fairness and due process 	

12:00 PM-1:15 PM	Lunch	
1:15 PM-2:45 PM	Evictions and Civil Removals: Legal Frameworks and Practical Considerations	Judge Randall Soderquist, Judge Jessica Goodey, and Commissioner David Brown
Session Description	<p>This presentation will give an overview of the eviction process, both summary and formal, as well as provide an update on recent changes to the laws.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the summary eviction process, including all relevant laws and procedures • Understand the formal eviction process, including all relevant laws and procedures • Understand the removal/squatter process 	
2:45 PM-3:00 PM	Break	
3:00 PM-4:30 PM	Evidentiary Foundations Required to Establish Sufficient Foundation	Judge Robert DeLong, Judge Bryan Drake, and Judge Erica Flavin
Session Description	<p>Learn to identify and address challenging evidentiary foundational issues commonly raised in the following types of cases:</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify common evidentiary foundational issues that arise in theft, stalking/harassment, domestic battery, traffic stop/drug, and DUI trial cases • Evaluate authentication and admissibility requirements for evidence such as video surveillance, text messages, photographs, and chemical test results • Apply practical strategies to address foundational challenges and rule on evidentiary objections consistent with applicable law 	

Thursday, January, 29th

7:30 AM-8:30 AM	Breakfast	
8:45 AM-9:45 AM	The Ethical Judge: Standards, Pitfalls, and Best Practice	Judge Elana Graham
Session Description	<p>In this interactive panel discussion, Justice of the Peace Elana Lee Graham will guide attendees through key standards, pitfalls, and best practices in judicial ethics using Nevada's Judicial Canons as the framework. Through focused prompts and real-world scenarios, panel members will explore how the canons apply in daily judicial decision-making, address common challenges on and off the bench, and highlight practical strategies for maintaining impartiality, integrity, and public confidence in the judiciary.</p>	

Session Description	<p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become more familiar with Nevada Judicial Canons and how they guide ethical decision-making for judges in both routine and complex situations. • Recognize common ethical pitfalls faced by Nevada judges, including issues involving impartiality, public perception, and campaign activity. • Apply best practices and practical strategies for maintaining integrity, avoiding appearances of impropriety, and reinforcing public confidence in the judiciary through everyday judicial behavior. 	
9:45 AM-10:00 AM	Break	
10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Enhancing Judicial Response to Domestic Violence: Nevada Statutes, Courtroom Realities, and Best Practices.	Judge Amy Wilson
Session Description	<p>Domestic violence is a significant problem in Nevada. Our state consistently ranks high for domestic violence. Domestic violence cases present complex legal, safety, and procedural challenges that require skilled and trauma-informed judicial handling. This session provides Nevada Limited Jurisdiction Judges with a focused review of the state's domestic violence statutes, commonly filed motions, bench scripts, and recurring legal issues. Participants will examine best practices for assessing lethality, managing high-conflict hearings, ensuring due process while prioritizing safety, and rendering rulings that lead to effective long-term outcomes. Through discussion of case examples and practical tools, judges will gain strategies to improve courtroom efficiency, reduce recidivism, and support victim and community safety while maintaining judicial neutrality and fairness.</p> <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the scope and severity of domestic violence in Nevada, including the state's consistently high national ranking and the implications for judicial practice and community safety. • Identify key Nevada domestic violence statutes, definitions, and legal standards including common motions and evidentiary issues that arise in criminal domestic violence proceedings. • Apply trauma-informed and evidence-based judicial practices to increase safety, improve litigant participation, and enhance the quality of judicial decision-making. • Evaluate high-risk factors and assess lethality indicators to inform judicial rulings and conditions while maintaining due-process protections. 	
11:30 AM-1:00 PM	NJLJ Business Meeting and Elections	
1:00 PM-4:30 PM	Off Site Social Activities	
5:30 PM-8:00 PM	NJLJ Awards Banquet	

Friday, January, 30th

7:30 AM-8:30 AM	Breakfast	
9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Judicial Demeanor	Judge Thomas Armstrong
Session Description	<p>Session Description</p> <p>This session highlights the importance of judicial demeanor in limited jurisdiction courts, where high-volume dockets and self-represented litigants are common. Judges will explore practical ways to maintain professionalism, authority, and public confidence in everyday courtroom interactions.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify how judicial demeanor affects fairness and courtroom control• Apply effective communication strategies in high-volume, limited jurisdiction settings• Recognize behaviors that may undermine public trust and adjust courtroom practices accordingly	
10:00 AM-10:15 AM	Break	
10:15 AM-11:15 AM	Managing Jury Trials	Judge Kevin Higgins
Session Description	<p>Session Description</p> <p>This session offers a practical overview of jury trials in Nevada’s limited jurisdiction courts, focusing on key statutory requirements, courtroom and jury management, and common challenges. Judges will gain guidance on conducting efficient, fair jury trials and effectively managing a jury to minimizing error and addressing issues unique to limited jurisdiction proceedings.</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the statutory and procedural requirements for jury trials in Nevada’s limited jurisdiction courts• Apply best practices for jury selection, trial management, and jury management• Recognize common jury-trial pitfalls and implement strategies to avoid reversible error	
11:15 AM-11:30 AM	Conference Closing	