



**2019 American Judges Association /  
American Judges Foundation Midyear Meeting**  
*What Specialty Courts Can Offer All Judges*

**Savannah Marriott Riverfront**  
**April 11-13, 2019**  
**Savannah, Georgia**



**American Judges Association**  
Make Better Judges.

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# Schedule

## National Judicial College Pre-Conference Course

**Wednesday, April 10 – Thursday, April 11**

**Topic:** *Advanced Bench Skills: Procedural Fairness*

"Every day, when you take the bench, you have the opportunity to ensure that litigants leave your courtroom with greater respect for the justice system — whether they have won or lost their case. As a judge, you have the responsibility to ensure that the four key principles of procedural fairness (voice, respect, neutrality, and trust) are exhibited in your courtroom. With busy dockets and an increase in self-represented litigants, how can you be both efficient and effective in demonstrating these tenets?"

This program will be held in conjunction with the National Judicial College. For more information please visit this link: <https://www.judges.org/2019courses/>.

*\*Discounts and scholarships available for AJA members.*

### American Judges Association/ American Judges Foundation

#### ***What Specialty Courts Can Offer All Judges***

**Thursday, April 11**

#### **Registration**

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

#### **Executive Committee Meeting**

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

#### **Welcome Reception**

(cash bar)

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Casual attire

**Friday, April 12**

#### **Registration**

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

#### **AJF Trustees Meeting**

7:15 AM – 8:45 AM

#### **Committee Meetings**

7:30 AM – 8:45 AM

(see schedule in your packet and attend any in which you are interested)

#### **Welcome Remarks**

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM

Robert J. Torres, Jr., AJA President  
Eddie DeLoach, Mayor of Savannah  
Stephen Dillard, Chief Judge, Georgia Court of Appeals

#### **Education Session**

9:15 – 10:25 AM

**Topic:** *Effective Judicial Practices and Court Interventions for Defendants with Substance Use Disorders*

**Panelists:** Terrence Walton, Chief Operating Officer, National Association of Drug Court Professionals | Richard Vlavianos, Judge, Superior Court of San Joaquin County, California

*The presentation will focus on applying evidence-based principles that are effectively used in drug courts that can be applied more broadly to individuals living with substance use disorder (SUD) on traditional criminal calendars. It will outline*

*effective courtroom and counseling approaches to identifying and addressing SUD-related public safety and health risks—especially in light of the opiate overdose epidemic and continuing methamphetamine problem.*

#### **Break**

10:25 AM – 10:40 AM

#### **Education Session**

10:40 AM - Noon

**Topic:** *Legal and Ethical Issues in Addressing Behavioral Health Disorders in Court*

**Panelists:** Carson Fox, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Drug Court Professionals

*The presentation will summarize the legal, constitutional, and ethical issues that judges may face when presiding over cases involving substance use or mental health disorders, including those involving medications, coerced 12-Step group attendance, and mandated treatment. Using recent criminal and civil case law, this session will highlight commonly-arising dilemmas and provide suggestions for navigating the sometimes-murky issues that develop when law and behavioral health interact.*

#### **AJA/AJF Luncheon**

Noon – 1:15 PM

**Topic:** *Therapeutic Jurisprudence Initiatives*

**Speaker:** Michael J. Barrasse, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania and Chair, Board of Directors, National Association of Drug Court Professionals

# Schedule cont.

*This address will describe NADCP's Advancing Justice Initiative that promotes evidence-based decision-making for people living with behavioral health disorders at all intercept points in the criminal justice system. In addition to drug courts, this session will highlight law enforcement deflection and diversion efforts, evidence-based pretrial release, in-custody treatment, and prevention efforts for children of justice-involved veterans.*

## Education Session

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

**Topic:** *The Trauma-Competent Judge*

**Speaker:** Brian Meyer, Ph.D., LCP, PTSD-Substance Abuse Specialist, H.H. McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center and Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

*The presentation will help judges and their staff to become more aware of and responsive to behaviors in their courtrooms and in the community that may be precipitated by trauma-related experiences and disorders. It will assist judges who want to ensure that proceedings do not unnecessarily trigger trauma reactions or otherwise exacerbate mental health distress. This session will provide a road map for judges becoming more than trauma-informed and instead becoming trauma-competent.*

## Break

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

## Education Session

3:15 PM – 4:45 PM

**Topic:** *Dealing Effectively with Mental Health in the Courtroom*

**Speakers:** Leslie Abernathy Maddox, Judge, Forsyth County State Court, Cumming, GA | Stephen Goss, Judge, Court of Appeals of Georgia | Richard Vlavianos, Judge, Superior Court of San Joaquin County, California

*Is this mental illness? If it is, as a judge, how do I address it? This panel will facilitate a discussion of how common mental health issues are presented before our trial courts and focus on the best practices in addressing those situations. After attending this session judges will be better able to identify potential mental health issues in their courts. Judges will also have additional helpful tools and resources to draw from as they navigate through the challenges of mental health. Judges will be better prepared to make professional relationships and connections in their community that will support those who have or are impacted by mental illness.*

**Saturday, April 13**

## AJA Office

7:30 AM – Noon

## Committee Meetings

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

## Board of Governors Meeting

9:00 AM – Noon

## Meeting adjourns

Noon



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