

Greetings from the Leadership Institute in Judicial Education (LIJE) and the Institute for Faculty Excellence in Judicial Education (IFEJE) at the University of Memphis. As we approach the end of another calendar year, we wanted to send our warmest wishes for the new year to you, our alumni and supporters, and to update you on our recent projects and institutes.

Workgroup Conference

In October, 40 past participants of LIJE and IFEJE convened on our campus for the highly successful “Courts as Learning Organizations: A Workgroup Conference.” The innovative workgroup process, stimulating plenaries, thought-provoking Experiential Learning Opportunities, and networking and reflection with other court professionals dedicated to promoting justice resulted in very high participant satisfaction and learning. At the conference, participants nominated and selected the topics to which they wished to apply the teachings of LIJE and IFEJE resulting in four workgroups. Each workgroup met for several hours each day, refining the topic, developing its own organization, designing a final product, and creating a presentation to share with the entire conference. The four workgroups are:

- Career Handbook for the Highly Developed Judge
- Bias and Public Trust
- Judicial Selection/Retention
- Brain Research and the Judiciary

Christine M. Durham, Chief Justice of the Utah Supreme Court, delivered our keynote address entitled “Leadership and Learning.” She shared her insights as one of the founders of LIJE and a major figure in promoting justice through professional development of the judicial branch. Plenary speakers included Dr. Robert Neimeyer, who introduced the workgroup conference concept and facilitated the selection process; Dr. Pat Murrell, LIJE/IFEJE director, who shared her ideas on the potential of the courts as learning organizations through the lens of the work of Peter Senge; and Dr. Chuck Claxton, founding director of LIJE, who pulled through the threads of organizational development. Dave Tevelin, former State Justice Institute Executive Director, shared some early history and lasting impact of LIJE/IFEJE, and Dr. Elinor Greenberg, reflected on the work of the workgroups during the conference and going forward.

In the evaluation, participants said that the Workgroup Conference provided them with:

- “Reaffirmation of my career choices and the decision to shift direction; to expand my network of colleagues around the country – they are wonderful resources!”
- “A heightened awareness of my ability to effect change and the tools and wherewithal to use this power to the overall benefit of an institution that I cherish.”
- “Re-commitment to the learning of judges, judicial officers, and other staff.”

- “Inspiration to continue my pursuit of quality judicial education for a better prepared judiciary.”

One participant summed up the experience this way: “Personally, this represented a big step forward in the journey of life. Although I enjoyed IFEJE immensely, this program has even more relevance to where I see myself headed in my professional life at this time. Both the quality of the participants and faculty and the opportunity to interact with them made the program so worthwhile that I’d travel to the middle of nowhere to attend again.”

We regret that all of you could not join us for this experience and we hope to offer another Workgroup Conference in the near future. Videos of the keynote and plenary sessions and other aspects of the Workgroup Conference will soon be available on our website. After the workgroups have completed their products, these will also be available on our website.

Impact Evaluation

Thank you to all who have completed your written surveys as part of the Impact Evaluation for LIJE. The telephone interviews will be conducted in January for those who have volunteered. Dr. Brenda Younger, the outside evaluator, will be in touch soon about the scheduling. If you have not completed your survey yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you need another copy of the survey or would like to volunteer for an interview, please email Dr. Younger at byounger@bellsouth.net.

Other Projects and Presentations

Pat Murrell, LIJE director, and Kathy Story, LIJE project coordinator, were instrumental in organizing a regional conference in October exploring aspects of the holistic law movement entitled “Lawyers as Peacemaker, Lawyers as Problemsolvers”. This was the first conference in the mid-south to bring together nationally renowned educators and practitioners devoted to therapeutic jurisprudence, humanizing legal education, collaborative law, and restorative justice. The principles and processes of LIJE informed all aspects of the conference. Participant comments included:

- “This was the best seminar I have ever attended. The things I learned today will make a tremendous positive impact in my practice, my life, the lives of those around me.”
- “Wish every attorney could attend and at least consider these things. A fresh new perspective, hopefully a glimpse of the future of the legal profession.”
- “Hopeful and inspiring presentations providing hope for the legal profession and its practitioners.”

Pat Murrell presented “Ethics Education for Judges: An Experiential Approach” at the International Organization for Judicial Training in Barcelona, Spain, in October. LIJE is a member of IOJT. Pat also presented “From who we are to what we do: Leading with awareness of self and others” for the American Bar Association Section Officers Conference 2007 Leadership Institute in September in Chicago. At the annual conference of ACLEA, the network for CLE

Professionals, in August she made two presentations, a keynote entitled "Questions to Ask when you Develop a CLE Program" and a workshop on "Recurring Themes of Adulthood: Major Motivators for Learning." Carrie Brooks served as chair of the education committee for the annual conference of the National Association for State Judicial Educators in August. At NASJE, Kathy Story co-taught the "Fundamentals" pre-conference workshop and co-facilitated "Experiential Learning in Action: The Level Playing Field."

Kudos

Congratulations to Chief Justice Christine M. Durham on her receiving the 2007 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence by the National Center for State Courts. In her introductory remarks, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg noted the work of LIJE.

Future Programs

As many of you know, our funding continues to be a challenge. The current grant from BJA for LIJE ends July 2008 and SJI funding for IFEJE ended in the summer. We are hopeful that we will receive federal funding for the 2009 budget year to continue the important and transformative work of the Institutes. In addition, we are pursuing other funding opportunities.

During this hiatus, LIJE program staff are available for local, state-wide, and regional conferences and consultation regarding faculty development, curriculum development, program evaluation, judicial wellness, leadership development, and mentoring programs for judges, judicial educators, court administrators, and other court and legal system professionals.

Best wishes,
Pat Murrell
Kathy Story
Carrie Brooks
Philip Gould