

Institute for Faculty Excellence in Judicial Education

Quotes

The following quotes are from judges and judicial educators who have completed the institute and some of whom have served as faculty. These quotes are part of the impact evaluation that was completed in December, 2003. There are two categories of quotes, the first being comments made about the personal impact the institute has had on the individual and the second, comments made about the impact the institute has had on the state or court system as a whole. The complete impact evaluation report is on this web site under “Impact Evaluation”.

I. Personal Impact

Judge Deborah A. Agosti (Nevada): “I consider teaching a crucial part of my duties as a judge. I found my teaching techniques much improved and I continue to incorporate those techniques as I develop and present material.”

Judge Phil D. Schaefer (Michigan): “The Institute for Faculty Excellence opened the door to the next stage of my life, giving me a license to explore, to be creative. The Institute re-energized my life ...and soul. I have developed a wholesome lifestyle that addresses diet, exercise, and meditation. This program has enriched my life as a judge and as an educator by introducing me to perspectives and challenges that I never knew existed.”

Judge James Hoolihan (Minnesota): “The Institute was a transforming experience for me. Not only did it provide me with the theoretical background that has increased the effectiveness of my personal teaching, it has greatly enhanced my self-confidence in my capacity and abilities to teach. I am now Chair of the Minnesota Judicial Education Committee and serve on the Minnesota District Judges Education Committee.”

Judge David L. Mower (Utah): “This was a renewing and rejuvenating time for me. It led me to focus my thinking about the judiciary’s role and what I might do to advance and improve it.”

Judge Susan Fayette Hutchinson (Illinois): “The Institute truly enlightened me, made me a better judicial educator, and gave me new techniques that would allow me to reach out to all the participants.”

Judge Karen Arnold-Burger (Kansas): “The Institute opened a new world up for me, giving me the most unique opportunity I have ever had to look at our judicial system and decide what I thought needed to be changed and then given the tools and professional support to accomplish it. I can’t tell you how much attending the Institute has done for me both personally and professionally. You taught me to follow my passion and it has made me a better judge.”

Judge Paul Lipscomb (Oregon): “The materials presented at the Institute have made me more in touch with the priorities in my life; I am more consistently “authentic” and my actions are better aligned with my values. I am happier, more successful, and truly believe that as our Presiding Judge, I have been able to have a more positive impact on my fellow judges and on my community.”

Judge James Dehn (Minnesota): “My participation in the Institute brought my teaching skills to a level that I did not believe possible. My teaching was not only inspired with a renewed vision and passion but this program has brought passion to my personal life as well.”

Judge Celeste F. Bremer, Ed.D. (Iowa): “As a result of the Institute and my exposure to the techniques used there I pursued and was recently awarded my Doctorate in Education. I found this life changing and most affirming. The Institute was deeply moving,

causing reflection about my passion for teaching. It is quite literally a mind-boggling program. The project for IFEJE just demonstrated what can be done if one comes to understand there are no limits, although the project was just one element related to the Institute experience that caused a paradigm shift in my approach to teaching, learning, and interacting with the public, attorneys, and colleagues.”

Judge Amy Davenport (Vermont): “The Institute changed the way I do my job. It has also changed the way I participate in administrative work. Using the Institute principles has resulted in collaboration and productivity at an extraordinary level.”

Judge Gary Meyer (Minnesota): “The Institute encouraged me to follow my passion, something I would never have done otherwise.”

II. State- or Court-Wide Impact

Ohio. “As a result of the IFEJE training program I was able to lead a comprehensive curriculum planning effort for judicial education throughout the state of Ohio, develop innovative courses to teach judicial ethics, and better fulfill my responsibilities as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Ohio Judicial College.”

“The Institute’s work has had a positive and profound impact on the quality of judicial education for countless Ohio judges.”

“The 5.5 hour CLE ethics/professional course for judges and magistrates has been presented throughout the nation, including Hawaii, to audiences as large as 700. I estimate that over 3,000 judges have attended this program. Last fall I presented the program to a group of Canadian judges in Nova Scotia.”

North Dakota. “Under the exceptional guidance of Dr. Pat Murrell and the Institute, the team from North Dakota developed, refined, and implemented a consolidated educational plan for all personnel of the judiciary for the state...”

Missouri. “As a result of the Institute experience I have traveled the entire state of Missouri teaching state trial and municipal judges about racial biases in judicial decision making and have developed a program for new judges that addresses issues of diversity”.

Kansas. “By using my position as a judge and the project developed as a result of the Institute to educate parents about underage drinking I feel I have made a difference in my community. At a national level, the Judicial College continues to receive at least one request weekly from judges/courts from all over the country who are seeking copies of this program.”

Minnesota. “Those who attend the Aviation Law class I have taught for the past 15 years at the local university have greatly benefited as a result of my exposure to the Institute for Faculty Excellence in Judicial Education” and “my presentation on rebalancing in the areas of physical, mental, emotional, and spirituality for both new and experienced judges, presented in Minnesota and throughout the country, use transformational learning tools to help people make lifestyle decisions that I believe aid them in doing their jobs with less stress and contribute to their living well and longer.””

“...the teaching skills and confidence I gained through the Institute have enabled me to teach at a national level from Washington D. C. to the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. More importantly, my desire to make a difference is being realized” at a national level.

“As a result of the Institute experience I established a panel of other judges who are hearing impaired. The hearing-impaired program was presented throughout the state of Minnesota. As a result, Minnesota courtrooms have become better equipped with audio systems and court personnel have a greater awareness and sensitivity to hearing limitations

and what to do about it. The difference this has made in the state of Minnesota cannot be quantitatively measured.”

Wisconsin. “As a result of my experience with the Institute, the county in which I preside has a self-help center that assists literally thousands of people with self-presentation in family court matters. It has received national recognition and I have been asked to assist in setting up similar centers in other parts of the country... “In 18 months of operation, our self-help center has responded to more than 50,000 inquiries both online and in person.””

Colorado. “We have promoted the use of the educational concepts that we learned at the Institute for use in judicial education throughout the Colorado judicial branch.”

Kansas. “I believe there has been a significant long-term impact in Kansas. I have introduced judges to a topic that they felt was outside of their realm or area of responsibility and shown them ways to measure their own biases.”

“I developed and implemented a judicial education and testing program for nonlawyer judges and was assigned the duty of educating, evaluating, and approving judges who meet the state educational requirements for certification.”

Arkansas. This project resulted in a booklet (available in English and Spanish) that has been made available statewide to persons involved as defendants in child abuse and neglect proceedings. A video has also been produced, based on the booklet, by the State Administrative Office of the courts for statewide distribution. Both the booklet and video are widely distributed and we receive frequent requests for copies.

New Jersey. “Based on the study completed in my project, the New Jersey Council of Juvenile and Domestic Court Judges undertook a further assessment and presented its findings to the Conference of Presiding Judges for the Family Division”... “Currently, the original report and the follow up report which I authored for the NJCJFCJ is the basis of a

recommendation to create career Family Part Judges” ...and will be submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts for possible implementation.””

Vermont. “the impact of IFEJE is felt every day by the litigants and lawyers who flow through my court room.”

California. “I have been teaching extensively in the California Judicial College and have been training other teachers as well. The IFEJE principles and methodologies are an integral part of my approach”.

West Virginia. “I have used the IFEJE principles in preparing training materials for the magistrate court. This has included materials prepared for domestic violence procedures and legislative and basic procedural changes. These projects will have substantial impact on the court system and the general public for years to come.”

Iowa. The Institute project led to my work on mentoring and has been recognized at the state level. In addition, I have authored an article on mentoring for newly appointed judges, in press – spring ‘04.

Utah. The bench book created for juvenile court judges in Utah was published and distributed throughout the state. I also give judicial educational presentations on a regular basis.

Illinois. The project resulted in the development of a protocol and curriculum for a weeklong education program for judges who have been on the bench for more than five years and has been presented at the Illinois Advanced Judicial Academy. We have more judges than we can accommodate who want to attend. In addition, other states have requested the program plan and it has been provided to Russian judges.”

Indiana. “I have been appointed by the Chief Justice of Indiana to serve on the Education Committee of the Indiana Judicial Center and have been active in developing a Master’s Certificate Program for Indiana Judges.”

Michigan. We are creating a multi-county treatment center for substance abuse recovery of juveniles. “My video, produced as a result of the Institute project, has been supplied to numerous courts who have then placed children in our program.”