



*A collaboration and partnership of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
and the Center for Court Innovation*

# Announcing THE 2021 3<sup>RD</sup> COHORT

## JUDICIAL ENGAGEMENT NETWORK'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for the 2021 national cohort of fellows for the Judicial Engagement Network (JEN) Fellowship Program. The JEN is a unique project led by judges for judges seeking to improve court and community responses to domestic violence. We are seeking applications for projects focused on creating systems change in communities and courts to address the intersections of domestic violence and the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, racial injustice and bias within systems, or institutional barriers to access to justice. Technical assistance, resources, and support to JEN are provided by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the Center for Court Innovation (CCI).

### **WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM?**

The JEN Fellowship Program allows judges to enhance their skills as judicial leaders within the court and in their communities. The JEN Fellowship Program will develop a sustainable network of committed judges who have demonstrated the skill and the passion to seek positive changes within their courts and their communities. It also provides judges an opportunity to further develop their leadership skills around specific projects to enhance their communities' response to domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, abuse in later life, and stalking, while also preparing to serve as mentors to new judges locally and nationally.

## Project Overview

Each applicant will propose a new or existing project within the scope of the Fellowship program to address an issue that requires judicial leadership and community engagement. Throughout the 2021 program (*January 1 - December 1, 2021*), participants will connect with and support their fellow judges in the JEN Fellowship Program based on the project each judge proposes and the skills each judge brings to the group. Fellows will have an opportunity to be connected with a JEN judge to support their project work. Webinars on promising practices will be provided on relevant topics related to the needs of the Cohort and the applicable project work. The cohort will also have the opportunity to convene virtually through regular learning community calls, which will allow participants to share successes and challenges, and be provided with peer-to-peer support throughout the process.

## COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM

We understand that during this unprecedented time of constant change due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities and courts, the demands on your time may be greatly increased. Therefore, the Fellowship program is designed to allow for flexible opportunities for engagement in the program activities and various methods to receive feedback and assistance from the JEN Peer Support and the JEN Technical Assistance Teams. The JEN Fellowship Program is designed to support the selected project work by providing opportunities and resources that will enhance leadership skills to ensure successful outcomes for courts and communities.

## EXPECTATIONS/COMMITMENT FOR FELLOWS:

- ✓ Fellowship orientation (virtual event January 26, 2021)
- ✓ Participate in leadership training (*including 2020 and 2021 Cohorts - live or virtual and scheduled based on availability of the fellows*)
- ✓ Engage with designated mentor (via various methods including a *monthly check-in via phone/email/Fellows-portal chat*)
- ✓ Participate in fellowship program calls (to be scheduled based on availability of the fellows)
- ✓ Provide monthly project status update (*via the fellowship forum*)
- ✓ Webinars (*live and/or recorded*)
- ✓ Contribute to Fellowship Program Resources (may include the following):
  - Presentation materials
  - Website highlights
  - Document development

## **FELLOWS PROGRAM BENEFITS**

The JEN is making a commitment to you too! As a Fellow in the Fellowship Program, you will receive a number of benefits:

- Access to consultants, experts, and committed judges
- Opportunity to engage with JEN judges for support
- A commitment and investment in your work and cultivating your leadership skills
- Potential future mentorship opportunities

We believe all of our Fellows will gain knowledge and insight to help them grow as leaders in their communities. If you are interested in becoming a JEN Fellow, please complete the application package.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The following factors related to the applicant's responses will be considered in the selection process:

- Applications for projects focused on creating systems change in communities and courts to address the intersections of domestic violence and the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, racial injustice and bias within systems, or institutional barriers to access to justice;
- Applicant's experience related to proposed project; and
- Action Plan of project goals in relationship to the Fellows program timeline (see *application package for Action Planning form*).

## **OVW PURPOSE AREAS**

Although not required, if applicable, consider how the project would further the work related to at least one of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program or Families in the Justice System Program purpose areas. These purpose areas take a coordinated approach to helping families victimized by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as they navigate the justice system, and are aimed at improving judicial handling of these cases, including centralized courts and dockets, judicial education programs, and protection order issuance and tracking. For detailed information about these program purpose areas, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs>.

## **How to Apply**

Please submit the **attached application, bio/resume, and action plan** to Heather Hull, NCJFCJ Program Specialist, via email at [hhull@ncjfcj.org](mailto:hhull@ncjfcj.org). The deadline for Fellowship applications is November 20, 2020.

## **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court**

The mission of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is to provide all judges, courts, and related agencies involved with juvenile, family, and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of the families and children who seek justice.

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (“NCJFCJ”) is committed to diversity in every aspect of its composition and in performing its mission. Diversity in the judiciary is vital to upholding public trust and confidence in the legal system. Diversity in this context refers to communities and individuals who are identified by race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion, age, or disability status.

## **Center for Court Innovation**

The fight against racism is inseparable from the Center for Court Innovation’s mission to create a fair, effective, and humane justice system. The Center is committed to anti-racism and fights racism in all forms.

## **Resources for Applicants**

For more information on the JEN Fellowship Program including descriptions of previous fellowship projects please go to <https://judicialengagementnetwork.org/>



*A collaboration and partnership of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
and the Center for Court Innovation*

## JEN Fellowship Program Application Submission Deadline: November 20, 2020.

First Name

Last Name

Title

Email Address

Court Address (including City, State, Zip)

Phone Number

Court Name

**Court Type** (Courts must be within the United States (federal, state, local, tribal, or territory) Please check all that apply to your court.

General Jurisdiction

Limited Jurisdiction

Criminal Division

Civil Division

Domestic Relations

Delinquency

Dependency

Probate

Other (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe Your Court**

- State Court
- Territory Court
- County Court
- Municipal Court
- Tribal Court
- Federal Court

**Describe Your Community**

- Urban
- Rural

1. Current Docket (*describe all your current case types*)

2. Length of Time on Bench:

3. What is your experience (judicial activities or administrative functions) or role in handling domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, abuse in later life, stalking and/or trafficking cases?

4. What judicial leadership, administrative, domestic violence, etc. courses have you completed?

5. Describe the project you would like to pursue and develop as part of this Fellowship Program and why.

6. In addition to the narrative description above, please complete the provided Action Planning Form.

Attached

7. What is your experience related to your proposed project?

8. Describe your project focus area in relation to creating systems change in communities and courts to address the intersections of domestic violence and the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, racial injustice and bias within systems, or institutional barriers to access to justice.

9. Although not required, if applicable, how would your project further the work related to at least one of the purpose areas of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. See purpose areas detailed in previous section.





JUDICIAL  
ENGAGEMENT  
NETWORK

Strong Families | Safer Communities

## *Fellowship Program 2021 Action Planning Worksheet*

I. What system change do you wish to achieve?

II. If preliminary efforts have already started, what work has been achieved so far?

III. If this is a new initiative that has not yet begun, what planning steps will you take to start?

1)

2)

3)

IV. Who else needs to be involved to achieve your goals?

V. What technical assistance and resources would be most helpful in your planning or current phase of your project work?

VI. How will you know if you are successful (possible ways to measure)?

*This project was supported by Grant No. 2019-TA-AX-K026 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed by program faculty and in program materials, including curriculum outlines, PowerPoint slides, handouts, contents of folders and websites, and other program documents, are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.*