

F. Judicial Programs

In New Jersey, the commission participates in two annual programs for judges. The first is a mandatory training session for new judges, including a seminar on professionalism. It deals with the responsibility of judges to set an example, to fairly and firmly deal with errant lawyers, control the courtroom, and observe the highest standards of professional behavior. The second program is the annual New Jersey Judicial College, a two and a half day educational program that all trial and appellate judges must attend. The commission has participated on a number of occasions (through a seminar on a professionalism topic). The commission also provides speakers for annual training seminars for local (municipal court) judges.

The North Carolina commission is the home to a Judicial Response Committee, which is comprised of highly respected members of the legal community and responds to unwarranted attacks in the media on the judiciary.

The Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Professionalism has a judicial committee, consisting of the five judges who are members of the Commission. Members of this group have developed a judicial education program entitled Promoting Professionalism On and From the Bench. This presentation features a discussion of hypothetical situations where attorneys are behaving unprofessionally but not necessarily unethically. The goal of the program is to encourage judges and magistrates to be more proactive in addressing unprofessional behaviors they see inside and outside of the courtroom. The program features realistic scenarios and allows judges and magistrates to vote electronically (and anonymously) as to how they would react to each hypothetical situation. Promoting Professionalism On and From the Bench has been presented at state-wide meetings sponsored by the Ohio Judicial College for trial court judges, appellate court judges, and magistrates.

In Illinois, a representative of the Commission has been invited to take part in a judicial civility program at the semi-annual Education Conference for all members of the judiciary.