

2012 JBE Annual Report

Nebraska Judicial Branch Education 2012 Year End Report

It is essential to the public that judges and judicial branch employees continue their education in order to maintain and increase their professional competence, to fulfill their obligations under the Nebraska Code of Judicial Conduct, and to ensure the delivery of quality judicial and probation services to the people of the State of Nebraska. JBE provides high quality education for judges and staff of the courts and probation throughout the state of Nebraska.



History of Judicial Branch Education in Nebraska

Beginning in 2005 the Supreme Court mandated that all judges obtain 10 credit hours of education each year, and that all court staff, clerks of the district court and probation employees receive at least 8 hours of annual education. We have now phased in requirements that all employees of the district courts state wide obtain 8 hours of education. With this expanded pool of employees JBE is now responsible for providing education to 1667 judges and court staff. JBE is funded with \$1.00 from court filing fees which provides approximately \$390,000 of annual income to fund education for all judges and staff. As detailed in this report utilizing distance learning and seeking grant funding has enabled us to produce quality education for all judges and staff.

2012 Education

2012 was year filled with many different education sessions with topics ranging from domestic violence to public health to racial and ethnic fairness. In April the County Judges met in Omaha for their annual meeting. Domestic violence was their key topic and with just over 40 judges in attendance, the meeting was a success. In May of 2012 JBE was able to fund the attendance of approximately 50 court & probation staff at the National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, this was a great opportunity to hear nationally renowned speakers discuss diversity and racial fairness in the court systems.



JBE also sponsored a one-day meeting for members of the Appellate courts. Judges and Law Clerks participated in presentations regarding DNA, Eyewitness Identification and privacy regarding the Internet.

The District Court Judges met in June in Nebraska City for their annual meeting. JBE obtained a grant from the University of Pittsburgh and the CDC to address Public Health and the role that the court plays with regard to public health issues. This was a very informative session.



In August the Supreme Court Justices' and Appellate Court Judges and law clerks were given the opportunity to watch a live webcast of the 14th Annual Supreme Court Review presented by Dean Erwin Chemerinsky. The Reading Room in the Law Library was a perfect setting for this webcast. The production was provided as a complementary session by Practising Law Institute which works closely with the Nebraska MCLE system.

September and October brought meetings for the Clerk Magistrates and also the Annual Judges meeting. This year tribute was paid to Judge John Irwin who has worked tirelessly to promote Judicial Education and professionalize the work of JBE. Many thanks to Judge Irwin who resigned as Chair of the JBE Advisory Board this year. Welcome to Judge Mike Pirtle of the Nebraska Court of Appeals who takes over for Judge Irwin.



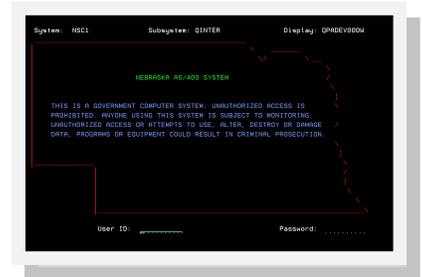
Staff Education

2012 marked the first year in which all employees including those in the District Courts were required to complete education, this has been a big undertaking to make sure all employees receive education. Distance learning has allowed us to deliver quality education to 1700 employees.



Webinar Training and Web Site

Once again the webinars have proven to be a valuable source of education for many members of the court. JBE uses video conferencing to hold the live webinar on a twice monthly basis. The webinars are recorded and then archived onto the JBE website. The use of video conferencing has allowed JBE to offer a vast array of education to all members of the court without the expense of having staff travel for training. In 2012 a portion of the JBE Leadership Series consisted of 6 webinars whose topics expanded on the previous webinar, topics included how to be a better leader, imposing discipline and acting in an ethical manner. Each of the webinars in the series received high evaluation marks. Also in 2012 the highly anticipated “Ask a JUSTICE BA” series was launched.



This webinar gave court staff the opportunity to comment and ask questions of the JUSTICE BA, this again was very well received and we are looking forward to holding more of these webinars in 2013. We continue to expand our catalogue of on line courses. JBE uses the same course development website as many colleges & universities. Allowing the production of college level courses targeted to specific groups, and allows us to provide education at a very low cost. We are very excited about the launch of basic courses regarding the JUSTICE system. JUSTICE BAs are working with JBE to design distance learning JUSTICE courses. These courses provide video tutorials and are followed up by online activities and quizzes. The courses are meant to assist new employees prior to their formal training in JUSTICE. This has been a great tool for court supervisors in training new employees.

What is Ahead: Probation Education

2013 brings a busy year for Probation Education. New Probation Officer Training has added 1 additional week to their normal training cycle, there is now 6 weeks of training for their initial training. The new officers will also come back to Lincoln for a 3 week follow up training, the follow up training will be held a few months after they have gone through the initial training. This new training will hopefully help answer questions and give guidance to the officers after they have been on the job for awhile. Probation is continually adding and updating the education that officers receive to stay on top of current issues that probationers may be facing. In addition to New Officer Training, there is Substance Use Disorder education, education concerning juvenile matters as well as training for the support staff in the local offices.

Educating those Working With the Courts: JBE is investigating hosting the re-vamped guardian ad litem training for those working in Juvenile Courts as well as the possibility of hosting education for providers of services to probation.

2012 JBE Quick Facts

- ◇ JBE tracked education for 1,667 individuals
- ◇ www.nebraskajbe.org had 115,869 hits in 2012.
- ◇ JBE hosted 39 webinars in 2012
- ◇ 2,472 people watched the live webinars while 3,151 watched the recorded version
- ◇ 1,850 individuals completed a distance learning course (based on the number of course completion certificates received)

JBE Advisory Board

Thanks to all serving on the JBE Advisory Board for a very productive year:

Justice William Connolly, Nebraska Supreme Court

Judge Michael Pirtle, Nebraska Court of Appeals

Judge John Colborn, Lancaster County District Court

Judge Alan Brodbeck, Holt County Court

Judge Linda Porter, Separate Juvenile Court Lancaster County

Judge Lauren Van Norman, Nebraska Workers Compensation Court

Vickie Prince, Clerk of the District Court

Barb Pousson, Judicial Administrator

Kathy Habben, Court Reporter

Jodi York, Chief Probation Officer



Special thanks to Kathy Habben for her numerous years of service to the committee, she will be missed. Kathy's position will be filled by Kristine Riekenberg as of January 1, 2013.