



The Resource Page

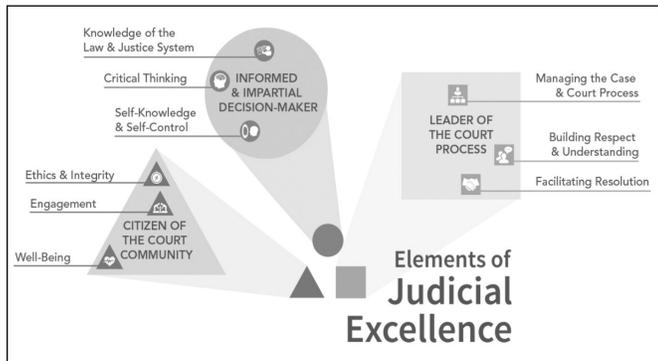


NEW PUBLICATIONS

JENNIFER K. ELEK, DAVID B. ROTTMAN, SHELLEY SPACEK MILLER, AND LYDIA HAMBLIN, *ELEMENTS OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE: A FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF STATE COURT TRIAL JUDGES* (34 pp.) (2017).

<http://www.ncsc.org/judicialexcellence>

The National Center for State Courts has a new publication for state trial judges on how to develop excellence in nine key areas. *The Elements of Judicial Excellence* grew out of an intensive consultation process with the Illinois courts. Illinois judges identified their best judges—and National Center staff did extensive interviews with 103 of those judges to get a preliminary list of the characteristics associated with judicial excellence and then to identify the quali-



ties potentially amenable to development. Researchers further refined their data and conclusions with focus groups and a survey.

The resulting framework is broader than knowledge of the law and court rules. Top judges also identified the need to have broader knowledge about the court community, stakeholder agencies, and other resources that can contribute to better problem solving or decision making. Participants also said that procedural-fairness skills and the ability to handle the emotions encountered while judging should be developed.

The framework of areas for judicial development has nine elements:

- 1. Ethics & Integrity:** Understands the ethical challenges faced by judges and how to properly address them to uphold the actual and perceived integrity of the judiciary.
- 2. Engagement:** Engages in the work of the assignment and supports colleagues in executing the mission of the court. Embraces performance feedback and seeks out opportunities for professional development.
- 3. Well-Being:** Engages in self-care practices to manage stress and maintain physical and psychological health.
- 4. Knowledge of the Law & Justice System:** Understands the legal and operational matters relevant to the assignment. Builds knowledge from relevant disciplines and understands their implications in daily work.
- 5. Critical Thinking:** Uses analytical and problem-solving skills to evaluate the available information and take the best action possible in a timely manner.
- 6. Self-Knowledge & Self-Control:** Understands how one's personal perspective, values, preferences, mental state, and way of thinking can impact decision-making and others' perceptions of fairness. Develops and applies strategies to manage emotions and address biases in judgment and behavior.
- 7. Managing the Case & Court Process:** Directs docket and courtroom operations by planning and coordinating schedules, managing case processing timelines, and facilitating information exchange between parties in a case, court staff, and other stakeholders.
- 8. Building Respect & Understanding:** Interacts effectively with all those who work in or appear before the court in a manner conducive to a fair process and just outcomes. Listens attentively to others and provides clear and effective communication to ensure a shared understanding of the issues in the case, court processes, and decisions.

- 9. Facilitating Resolution:** Engages with parties and stakeholders to build consensus on matters that will allow for forward case progress and a focus on reaching a resolution.

For each of those areas, the *Elements of Judicial Excellence* provides a summary of the advice given by the respected judges who were interviewed, examples of what respected judges do in each area, and relevant resources.



FOR YOUR IPHONE OR IPAD

BRYAN A. GARNER, *GARNER'S MODERN ENGLISH USAGE* (4th ed. 2016). The App Store (\$24.95).

For iPhone and iPad users, you now can have the best modern book on English usage at hand at all times. That's because the full text of the 1,100-page Oxford University Press book is now available as an iPhone or iPad app. The grammar nerd in you wants it. The writer in you needs it.

The book's 8,000 entries cover word usage, punctuation, pronunciation, and writing. Is it pled or pleaded? (Answer: pleaded is preferred but pled has recently gained ground in American English.) How is fulsome properly used? (Answer: the traditional meaning is "abundant to excess" but incorrect usage as "very full" has become common.) Do good writers really care about when to use that and when to use which? (Answer: yes!)

Garner includes lots of writing advice within the book. An entry on "Sentence Length," for example, gives the average sentence length for leading publications. Garner then advises that varying the length of your sentences is important too. And the book has a linguistic glossary that's probably the most complete one available for grammatical, rhetorical, and other language-related terms.

The app contains all of the book's content—plus quizzes you can take. They include links to the applicable entry for each missed question.