

## **Colorado Judicial Institute's Committees**

The Colorado Judicial Institute (CJI) achieves its mission through the efforts of unique committees made up of board members and the general membership. Each committee is led by a CJI Board Member who is responsible for the projects and direction of the committee. The activities of each committee must meet at least one area of our mission.

1. To preserve and enhance the fair, impartiality and excellence of Colorado's courts:  
Public Policy, Judicial Excellence Awards, Judicial Education, Judicial Excellence for Colorado Dinner
2. To promote public understanding of the Colorado judicial system:  
Development, Membership and Young Professionals, Public Education, Public Information
3. To ensure that the courts meet the needs of the people:  
Family Law Committee, Alternative Dispute Resolution

Committee's which support CJI's sustainability:

Board Development, Development, Human Resources, Membership and Public Information

For those committees which meet in person, participating by teleconference is an option.

**ADR Committee:** CJI actively supports and promotes the expanded use of Alternative Dispute Resolution methods by the judiciary in order to help facilitate the efficient resolution of disputes. The current goal of the ADR Committee is to establish "Mediation Best Practices" which consists of creating a judicial guide for court-ordered mediation. The research compiled has been based on panel discussions at the 2016 Statewide ADR Conference, the 2016 Judicial Conference and a survey distributed to all Colorado judicial officers. This effort is supported by the Office of Dispute Resolution. The committee meets by telephone or video conferencing on a monthly basis.

**Board Development Committee:** The Board Development Committee is responsible for supporting CJI's board with geographically and culturally diverse individuals who advocate CJI's mission. The Committee is most active four months prior to the board elections in May, by recruiting, vetting and interviewing each nominee so that a slate of candidates can be recommended to CJI's membership the Annual Meeting. However, creating an effective board is a continual process that includes recruitment, engagement and development throughout the year. The Committee typically meets in person on an as needed basis.

**Development Committee:**

The mission of the Development Committee is to create a diverse stream of revenue for the sustainability of CJI. The Committee is responsible for overall development, other than the Annual Dinner, including donor cultivation, grant submittals, and fundraising. The Committee collaborates with CJI's Membership, Board Development, CLE, and Dinner Committees. The Committee meets monthly.

**CLE Committee:** CJI hosts a minimum of one CLE per year in an effort to provide continuing legal education to member attorneys, recruit new members, present networking opportunities, raise money and gain exposure for CJI. The Committee typically meets by teleconference January through March.

**Family Law Committee:** The Family Law Committee engages in activities designed to assist and inform the courts by identifying and meeting the needs of all family members. The Family Law Committee will soon launch a pilot project called the Navigator Project. The idea was to create a website that would

give the courts easy access to information that could be used by the judges in dealing with the behavioral issues being litigated. The same information would also be available for the public to use, seeking help for their children and related individuals to avoid involvement in the judicial system. The ultimate goal of the Navigator Project is to educate and serve; and provide potential clients with hope and harmony without the investment and trials of court involvement. The Committee typically meets in person once a month.

Human Resources Committee: The HR Committee addresses issues such as hiring, evaluating, development and retention of CJI's staff. The Committee periodically reviews the job descriptions for CJI employees and recommends any changes to content of those descriptions. The Committee meets on an as needed basis.

The Judicial Education Fund Committee: The Judicial Education Fund Committee accepts and reviews scholarship applications submitted by Colorado court personnel. This Committee works closely with the Judicial Educator of the Office of the Colorado State Court Administrator to identify the educational needs of the Colorado Judiciary and judicial staff. As of 2017, CJI's Judicial Education Fund has contributed nearly \$500,000 for continuing education to Colorado's judiciary. CJI has long held the position that a well-educated judiciary and judicial department staff increases efficiency, innovation and effectiveness to the benefit of the entire state. Review of scholarship submittals are distributed to the Committee by email. Meetings are convened on an as needed basis.

Judicial Excellence Awards Committee: In recognition and support of excellence in Colorado courts, CJI's Awards Committee guides CJI's annual acknowledgement of three outstanding Colorado judicial officers in the categories of district court judge, county court judge and magistrate. The committee is charged with the review of all nominations received by CJI, vetting candidates and determining the three recipients of CJI's Judicial Excellence Awards to be presented at the Judicial Excellence for Colorado Dinner. Meetings are typically convened via teleconference beginning in February running through May and often into June.

Judicial Excellence for Colorado Dinner Committee: In 2003, CJI created an event to formally recognize the recipients of the Judicial Excellence Awards as well as raise funds to support the Judicial Education Fund, Our Courts and other activities of CJI. Hosted annually, the dinner is the primary funding mechanism of CJI's Judicial Education Fund. The dinner is held in the fall and includes a nine month planning period. The Committee meets on an as needed basis during the months of January through September. The committee members volunteer their time at the dinner, assisting with meet and greet and registration.

Membership Development Committee: This Committee is tasked with recruiting new members to CJI and advancing CJI's mission: preserving and enhancing fairness, impartiality and excellence of Colorado courts and educating the public about the Colorado judicial system. The Young Professionals' Organization (YPO) falls under the direction of the Membership Development Committee, offering networking opportunities to its members.

Public Education Committee Committee: In an effort to achieve CJI's mission to educate the public about Colorado's judicial system, CJI's Public Education Committee is continually seeking ways to accomplish this goal. CJI will often partner with other organizations or lend financial support to an organization who provides public education. CJI is involved in the following programs:

- Our Courts Colorado
- 50th Anniversary Committee of Colorado's Judicial Merit Selection System
- Legal Resource Day hosted by State Judicial
- Women in Law, a Program developed by the Colorado Women Hall of Fame
- "Know Your Judge" website
- The Informed Voters Project

Public Information Committee: This Committee's responsibility is to seek opportunities for exposure for CJI – to educate the public about CJI and its mission. CJI's Public Information Committee is involved in press releases, promotional opportunities, articles and partners with nearly all of CJI's committees. The Committee meets on an as needed basis and committee members often serve on other CJI committees.

Public Policy Committee: CJI's Public Policy Committee monitors and reports on developments that could impact Colorado's judicial merit selection, retention, discipline, and performance evaluation system – including proposed ballot initiatives, legislation, and news articles and editorials. The Public Policy Committee collaborates with other CJI committees on these issues, including the Public Information Committee and the Public Education Committee. The Public Policy Committee, through CJI's designated representatives on the CBA/DBA Joint Judicial Task Force, also participates in bar association discussions of such issues.