State Judicial Outreach Liaisons: What Can They Do For Your State?
Lifesavers Conference | March 15, 2020
Presenters

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Judge Neil Edward Axel - ABA Judicial Fellow
Judge Michael Barrassse (Pennsylvania SJOL)

Jim Eberspacher (National Center for DWI Courts)
The JOL Program: A Quick Overview

• Developed through a cooperative agreement with the American Bar Association (ABA)
  – 2 National Judicial Fellows work directly with the ABA & NHTSA’s Impaired Driving Division
  – Regional Judicial Outreach Liaisons (JOLs) work with NHTSA Regional Offices in 8 of 10 Regions

• 12 State JOLs work with SHSOs & are funded through State highway safety funds
Regional Judicial Outreach Liaisons

- Region 1: Judge Brian L. Burgess (VT)
- Region 2: Judge John S. Kennedy (PA)
- Region 3: Judge Andrew R. Hassell (NC)
- Region 5: Judge Phyllis McMillen (MI)
- Region 6: Judge Robert S. Anchondo (TX)
- Region 7: Judge Chaney Taylor, Jr. (AR)
- Region 9: Judge Richard Vlavianos (CA)
- Region 10: Judge Mary Jane Knisely (MT)
State Judicial Outreach Liaisons

- Indiana: Judge Earl Penrod
- Kentucky: Judge Kevin Holbrook
- Maine: Judge David Kennedy
- Michigan: Judge Patrick Bowler
- Oklahoma: Judge Rod Ring
- Pennsylvania: Judge Michael Barrasse
- South Dakota: Ms. Nancy Allard
- Tennessee: Judge Leon Burns
- Texas: Judge Laura Weiser
- Virginia: Judge Gordon Wilkins
- Washington: Judge Scott Bergstedt
SJOL Expansion Project

- 12 SJOLs nationally funded by SHSO

- PROJECT GOAL: to facilitate program expansion with 10 new SJOLs

- New SJOLs to be paid by ABA with funding from NHTSA grant
  - 2-year funding
  - SHSO to fund thereafter
What Judicial Outreach Liaisons Do to Support and Improve Public Safety
NHTSA has supported the development of a network of criminal justice professionals who educate peer-to-peer on traffic safety including:

- Judicial Fellows
- Regional Judicial Outreach Liaisons (RJOLs)
- State Judicial Outreach Liaisons (SJOLs)
- Probation & Toxicology Fellows
- Law Enforcement Liaisons (LELs)
- Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRPs)

Goal: to promote proven & promising practices
Why Have a State JOL?

A State judge understands:

- The structure of the specific state courts.
- Which court handles which type of charges.
- The authority of the court to impose interventions.
- The state administrative agencies that play a role.
- The statutory schemes that support traffic safety.
- The working relationship with the Administrative Office of the Courts and with the State Judicial Educator.
- What the courts are doing and the venues for judicial education within the state.
While remaining independent and impartial, the SJOL serves as a statewide resource for the judiciary and other members of the highway safety community dealing with highway safety related court cases, particularly cases involving impaired driving.
Create a State Judicial Outreach Liaison

*Best Practices for Implementing a State Judicial Outreach Liaison Program*

How to Apply for a SJOL

Application & informational webinar can be found at:

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/conferences/specialized_court_judges/nhtsa/state-jol-program-funding-application/

Application Deadline: _______________
For More Information

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SJOLs Provide Training & Education

Develop a network of contacts to promote peer-to-peer judicial education related to:

- sentencing and supervision of DWI offenders,
- evidentiary issues,
- legal updates and
- alcohol/drug testing and monitoring technology.

- Solicit opportunities to speak at state highway safety conferences and state judicial conferences.
- Identify barriers that hamper effective training, education or outreach to the courts and recommend alternative means to address these issues and concerns.
SJOLs Promote Evidence-Based Practices

- Promote development and use of DWI Courts
- Promote evidence-based and promising court, sentencing, and supervision practices
- Promote use of ignition interlocks and improvements to ignition interlock programs
Remain informed on emerging impaired-driving issues and on possible strategies to address those issues.

Share information and coordinate with LELs, SHSOs, NHTSA Regional Offices, TSRPs, and Probation Fellows to help identify opportunities for improving the criminal justice system.

Promote electronic DWI data systems, and assist in linking court data with arrest data and other available data systems.

Coordinate with various private and government agencies to review compliance in all aspects of DWI cases.