

types of specialized courts in their respective areas. Law professors and other scholars can be invited to be the speakers. Scholars knowledgeable about administrative and other specialized courts might be located at nearby universities and colleges. The office of the Coast Guard Chief Judge can provide information on whether there is a local Coast Guard judge. NAWJ members serving on special courts could be approached for contacts regarding the schedules and availability of judges on their courts. Examples of those courts include the U.S. Tax Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

PROSPECTIVE TOPICS

General

- The variety of the types of Courts
- The variation and similarity of types of hearings, their scope, methodology and place in the judicial process, including comparisons between the different types of administrative tribunals, as well as comparisons with Article III and state judicial courts.
- The selection process
- Independence and challenges to decisional independence in the administrative structure

Specific

The Military Judge could describe the military justice system, and the jurisdiction and functioning of her/his court, along with its interface with state and other federal criminal systems, and a comparison with state criminal courts.

Each of the administrative or special court judges could discuss:

- the type of cases they hear
- the procedural structure of their tribunal, such as

- * whether the Court is centralized or specialized
- * whether their decisions are final, or recommendations
- * whether the Court is within an agency, or is separate from the agency it reviews
- * whether the parties before the Court are usually represented, and the role of the judge when the Government and/or applicants are not represented
- * evidentiary rules
- * the appeal process
- * the judicial selection process

- an example of an interesting case which has come before the tribunal

The reviewing judge could present a brief description of the role of the Court in reviewing the administrative tribunal, and an opinion about the role of administrative courts which her Court oversees.

The academic could briefly describe the reasons for establishing administrative courts, and current issues faced by the administrative judiciary.

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH

In preparing for the program, the District leadership could explore what state administrative tribunals and military courts exist in the District, and try to obtain a list of all the women judges on those courts. The District could then make an effort to invite them all to join NAWJ, and could start by inviting them all to attend the program about the administrative and military judiciaries. Current members of NAWJ would be a starting point for the research. Contacting the Coast Guard Chief Judge would be the best way to find out if there is a local CG judge.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES



NAWJ.org

ADMINISTRATIVE, MILITARY & SPECIALIZED COURTS

A PROGRAM MANUAL

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THIS PROGRAM MANUAL IS DESIGNED FOR NAWJ DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND CONFERENCE PLANNERS, TO HELP THEM DESIGN A PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES EDUCATION ON THE OFTEN UNKNOWN AND UNFAMILIAR ROLE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND MILITARY JUDICIARY, AS WELL AS THAT OF CERTAIN SPECIALIZED COURTS, WHICH ARE NOT PART OF THE REGULAR COURT SYSTEM.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

There are three primary objectives for this program.

1. Familiarizing the general judiciary and others about the work of the administrative judiciary, to increase knowledge, correct misconceptions, explain resource limitations, and engender respect.
2. Providing District Directors who need ideas for interesting programs with a prepackaged program that can be adapted to various locations within their Districts.
3. Attracting more members to NAWJ from the Administrative and other special courts, by identifying state and local administrative, military and special court judges, in preparation for the respective programs.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- NAWJ members, prospective members, and conference attendees
- Students
- The general public

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program examines the role of administrative, military and other local, State and Federal specialized courts. Tribal courts could be included.

NEED

The role of the administrative judiciary is not well known. Judges in the general judiciary lack familiarity with the scope, jurisdiction, and procedures of administrative hearings. Even judges in the general judiciary who must review appeals of administrative decisions often lack information about the administrative process, and the types of resources limitations and institutional pressures faced by administrative judges.

The program is designed as an event intended to attract NAWJ members and prospective members from throughout each of the Districts. Members and prospective members are scattered over a wide geographic area. Programs are needed that appeal to members in different parts of the District. The program can be put on in a variety of locations within a District, or can be adapted for a regional or annual conference. There is enough material for a 1-day conference, or the topics could be condensed for a short evening program or panel discussion as part of a larger conference.

There are a large number of administrative judges throughout the United States, who are probably unaware of NAWJ, and who would be interested in joining. In addition to the state and federal administrative courts located in different parts of the United States, there are certain specialized courts that operate apart from the regular court system at both the State and Federal levels. Judges serving on military courts and tribal courts can be located in many states. During the process of locating local speakers, District leadership may locate judges who are unfamiliar with

NAWJ who might be interested in membership. The work of the Districts in locating those administrative judges in different parts of the country could work to the mutual benefit of judges who would be interested in joining NAWJ but who are unaware of its existence, and of NAWJ, by gradually tapping a large potential membership pool.

PANEL MEMBERS

Typical panel

- State administrative judge
- Federal administrative law judge (Social Security ALJs are stationed throughout the U.S.)
- Federal administrative judge (Immigration judges are stationed in 54 locations in the US) (Federal judges in many agencies travel frequently to conduct hearings around the US)
- Military judge (the Navy-Marine, Coast Guard, and Army Judges are stationed throughout the U.S. The AF judges are in 3 locations.)
- A Federal or state judge who hears appeals from administrative tribunals
- an academic who studies the work of administrative tribunals

Locating speakers

Judges on administrative and other specialty courts, as well as judges on general courts who hear appeals from administrative courts, practicing attorneys, and professors and legal scholars could be invited to participate as speakers and contributors. These would include NAWJ members and prospective members. Members of the NAWJ Resource Board can be approached for suggestions of nearby attorneys who specialize in administrative or military cases. Program planners in different localities should research the different