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## **\$125,000 committed by new partnership of Colorado Judicial Institute and National Judicial College**

Denver, CO – On September 29, 2008, the [Colorado Judicial Institute](#) (CJI) announced a new partnership with the [National Judicial College](#) (NJC) of Reno, Nevada to provide significant scholarship funding for the exclusive use of Colorado judges enrolling in NJC courses.

For the initial three year agreement (2009-2011), CJI has committed \$25,000 annually, totaling \$75,000. These are CJI Judicial Education Funds which are raised by CJI and held at the Denver Foundation.

NJC President and former Colorado 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge, William F. Dressel, announced that the NJC would provide a 100% match in 2009 and 2010, thereby guaranteeing, at least, \$125,000 in scholarship funds for Colorado judges to attend the National Judicial College in Reno over the next three years.



William F. Dressel, President—National Judicial College and Peter D. Willis, Vice Chair—Colorado Judicial Institute.

“This partnership will really help the Colorado judiciary - give them a fresh perspective, a different look at this profession - to better serve all of you”, stated Dressel at a meeting held at Baker & Hostetler, LLC in downtown Denver.

“This partnership is unique in that, as far as we are aware, there are no other organizations such as the Colorado Judicial Institute that has committed privately raised funds for the exclusive use by state judges for education” stated Peter D. Willis, CJI Vice Chair. He went on to describe the NJC as “the premiere continuing education provider for judges in the nation.”

“I was pleased to learn of the new scholarships that are being made available to Colorado’s judges thanks to the development of this new partnership of CJI and the National Judicial College,” Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey said. “We appreciate the ongoing support and commitments made by both of these organizations.”

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Judge Frederic Rodgers of the Gilpin County Court, who attended his first NJC class in 1971, stated, “As a young judge in 1971, seeing this quality of education and seeing this new method of learning that the judicial college pioneered, made me an avid follower of NJC.” Rodgers has attended numerous NJC courses and is currently the chair elect of the NJC Board of Trustees. According to Judge Rodgers, NJC courses “enhance the career development of every single judge who attends.”



Honorable Frederic Rodgers, Gilpin County Court and NJC Board of Trustees and Kent Wagner, SCAO Staff Development Administrator.

Scholarships will be granted in accordance with the Colorado Judicial Department and the State Court Administrator’s Office processes to ensure an equitable use of the funds across the state. The classes that individual judges will take will be determined by the most pressing needs for that judge and the judicial district in which they serve. Applications for the funds, available in early 2009, will be submitted directly to the State Court Administrator’s Office – Staff Development Office.

“This program is a long time coming. We, at CJI, have spent nearly six years raising funds to significantly expand the continuing education opportunities for the Colorado judiciary, and to have not only finalized this project with the NJC but also doubled the available funds for the first two years is an exciting development”, reported Dana Nelson, CJI Executive Director.

Celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2008, the National Judicial College offers over 65 courses annually with 2,500 judges from the U.S. and numerous other countries enrolling. The NJC has awarded more than 80,000 professional judicial education certificates and was instrumental in creating the first advanced degree programs for trial judges — the Master of Judicial Studies and Doctor of Judicial Studies — offered through the University of Nevada - Reno. The courses offered through the NJC cover a wide range of topics, from advanced evidence to general jurisdiction and trial process to effective case flow management. The over 90,000 square feet of educational facilities are technologically advanced, allowing judges and presenters to use a wide variety of techniques to create the best possible environment for effective and innovative learning. The wide variety of classes and specializations offered by the NJC can provide every judge in Colorado a class that can result in benefits for the courtroom, courthouse and the citizens of Colorado.

The Colorado Judicial Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit citizens’ organization founded in 1979. The CJI mission is: 1) to preserve and enhance the independence and excellence of Colorado courts, 2) to further public understanding of the Colorado judicial system, and 3) to ensure that the courts meet the needs of the people.

For more information on CJI, please contact 303-489-3432.