

Registration

The program is open to all judicial officers in Australia.

The registration fee paid by your Court covers fees paid to the writer presenters, employment of keyboard staff, course materials, accommodation and all catering.

Please send your preliminary registration by Phone, Fax, Email or Mail

Phone: 02 6125 6655

Fax: 02 6125 6651

Email: ea@njca.anu.edu.au

Mail: The Director,
National Judicial College of Australia
PO Box 8102, ANU, ACT 2601

Further detail and an invoice will be sent to you on receipt of your preliminary registration.

Register me for the Judgment Writing Program

Surname: _____

First Name: _____

Title: _____

Court: _____

Postal Address: _____

Telephone: (work): _____

Email: _____

www.njca.com.au
ABN: 20 100 577 544



NATIONAL
JUDICIAL
COLLEGE
of Australia

Judgment Writing Program

Scarborough
Western Australia

1 to 3 October 2009



JUDGMENT WRITING PROGRAM

Purpose of the program

Judicial officers rarely have the opportunity to reflect on their approaches to writing judgments. Their experience prior to appointment often does not train them how to write judgments. After appointment the opportunity for obtaining feedback from colleagues and others is limited.

This program provides the opportunity for judicial officers to reflect on issues such as:

- the relationship between the act of writing and the analysis of a case;
- whether particular ways of structuring a judgment promote:
 - comprehension in the reader;
 - the analytical process of the writer;
- the principles that might be followed in deciding whether to include or exclude material;
- the 'style' that a judicial officer applies in his or her writing;
- the 'audiences' for a judgment;
- how judicial officers can use their time effectively in preparing for and writing judgments;
- what judicial officers can learn about these issues from professional writers.

For many participants, this program will be the first opportunity to get feedback from others (their peers and professional writers) on their judgment writing.

The intent of the course is not to advocate a rigid style of judgment writing but to assist each participant to review his or her work with a new and more critical eye.

The Program also includes a session on the preparation and delivery of oral judgments.

Outline of the program

The Program is an intensive residential program over 3 days in October 2009. The combination of lectures and small group work, in which participants apply principles from the lectures in revising their own writing, ensures comprehension of concepts and retention of skills. Redrafts of judgments are discussed in small groups led by a writer and a judicial co-presenter.

What previous participants have said

Participants in previous NJCA judgment writing programs commented:

- This program is outstanding. Not only have I learnt a great deal of useful information, it has energised me in my attitude to my work.
- The sessions gave me great insight into how I had adopted a style without considering whether it was good, bad or indifferent – & how to change for the better.
- I found the lectures to be stimulating and of great value in identifying the stages of writing. I had not previously considered judgment writing in the context that it shared the problems associated with other styles of writing.

Professional writers

The professional writers leading the program will be:

Professor James Raymond is a Legal Writing Consultant based in New York. Formerly Director of English Composition, University of Alabama (1973-2001), Jim has for many years led programs on judgment writing for the Canadian Institute of Judicial Education, the New Zealand Institute of Judicial Studies, US State judicial education bodies, and for courts in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. He has been presenting programs for Australian courts since 2001. In 2008 he led programs for the National Judicial College of Australia, NSW and Victorian courts and the Federal Magistrates Court.



Jane Westaway is a New Zealand novelist, reviewer, feature writer and editor whose work has won journalism and book awards in New Zealand. Jane has co-presented judgment writing programs with Jim Raymond for the New Zealand Institute of Judicial Studies, the Federal Court and for the NJCA.



Dr Eva Hornung is an Australian author whose novels and short stories have won many awards (1997 The Australian/Vogel Literary Award, 1999 Nita May Dobbie Literary Award, Queensland Premier's short story award 2004). Eva has taught writing skills in creative writing

workshops and as a visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide. Eva has co-presented programs with Jim Raymond for the National Judicial College of Australia, NSW Courts, the Federal Court and the Federal Magistrates Court.



Professor Michael Meehan is an award winning novelist presently a Professor in the School of Communication and Creative Arts at Deakin University. For many years he has been Chair of Adelaide Writers' Week, Australia's largest writers' festival. Michael is also the author or co-author of a number of non fiction publications based on Australian law and is a contributor to the Oxford Companion to the High Court.

Ms Ginger Briggs is a Melbourne based writer with extensive experience as a trainer in writing and editing. Ms Briggs has presented in Judgment Writing Programs conducted by the Judicial College of Victoria and the NJCA.



Professor Chris Wallace Crabbe is a poet and essayist. After teaching writing for many years as a Professor of English, he is now an Emeritus Professor in The Australian Centre, University of Melbourne. He has presented in Judgment Writing Programs conducted for Victorian courts and for the NJCA.

Judicial co-presenters

Judges work with the professional writers to facilitate the groupwork during the program. In past NJCA Judgment Writing programs the judicial co-presenters have been drawn from federal and State courts around Australia.