Judicial temperament is a psychological construct... capturing part of what we look for in a judge... separable from intellect, training, and ideology.
Human temperament

**Temperament**
- Dispositional traits going to negative emotionality, positive emotionality, and effortful control

**Environment**
- Family dynamics, life experiences, social and cultural norms

**Dispositional adult traits**
- Those personality traits that root in temperament and represent its full adult instantiation

Other core aspects of the adult individual
Judicial temperament

The judge’s dispositional traits
Negative emotionality (anger, contempt, frustration, fear, anxiety), positive emotionality (pleasure, satisfaction, joy, excitement), kindness (compassion, empathy, agape) and emotion regulation (flexibility and range)

The judge’s work environment
Nature of court and specific assignment; pace; stress features; culture; supports; isolation; security ...

The judge’s behaviors
Demeanor, verbal and written expressions, interpersonal interactions, health-related actions

Goodness of fit
Other core aspects of the judge

Possibility
Condensed water vapor can, depending on local conditions, form a white billowy cloud, a mackerel sky, or a dense ground fog, but it cannot become an asteroid.

Jerome Kagan & Nancy Snidman
Judicial temperament

The judge's dispositional traits
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Goodness of fit

Other core aspects of the judge
Judicial temperament is a psychological construct...

... capturing part of what we look for in a judge

... separable from intellect, training, and ideology

Judicial temperament is a relatively stable set of personal traits that, in dialectic with judicial environments and demands, drive behaviors that affect how justice is delivered and perceived.