

BERKELEY JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

Promoting Judicial Collegiality

May 14, 2021

Notes from the chat

Watch (or re-watch) the program; this list captures comments that came through the program chat.

Have more ideas? Let us know, bjj@law.berkeley.edu

More about our faculty

- Judge Bernice Donald

<https://www.fjc.gov/history/judges/donald-bernice-bouie>

- MN District Court Judge Kevin Burke (ret)

<http://justicespeakersinstitute.com/kevin-burke/>

Assessments mentioned:

- FIRO-B assessment,

<https://www.psychometrics.com/assessments/firo-b/>

- Meyers-Briggs test, <https://www.truity.com/test/type-finder-personality-test-new>

Reading mentioned:

- Hon. Bernice Donald, *Judicial Independence, Collegiality and the Problem of Dissent in Multi-Member Courts*

<https://www.nyulawreview.org/issues/volume-94-number-3/judicial-independence-collegiality-and-the-problem-of-dissent-in-multi-member-courts/>

- Noah Feldman, SCORPIONS

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8316125-scorpions>

Scorpions: <https://www.amazon.com/Scorpions-Battles-Triumphs-Supreme-Justices/dp/0446580570>

Promoting New Judge Collegiality (and having them help you)

- Get the new judges involved in the work of the court as quickly as possible. Look at traditions and determine if they foster collegiality.
- Make sure new judges aren't isolated
- Make sure the voices of new judges are heard and respected

Promoting Court Staff Collegiality

- Staff watch what judges do. Judges need to model behavior for them. Building public trust and modeling behavior are important.
- One thing that has been fun is working together to show appreciation for the clerk's office - buying a trove of different ice cream novelties and personally visiting workstations to let folks pick their favorite, hosting (and attending) a pizza party, or setting up an impromptu pie or ice cream social. Showing appreciation for those who support us feels good but when we do it as a team, it also helps to bind us together.

General tips for increasing collegiality

- Go around and introduce yourself. Ask for advice. Take the opportunity to talk to others.
- BRAG about colleagues in public
- Have retreats.
- Connect (conference calls, zoom, in person)
- Read/consult/learn from court experts, like Professor [Terry Maroney](#)
- SCHEDULE social gatherings (don't just intend that they will happen)
- Create a book club
- Create a wellness committee. One needs to be well physically, mentally, and emotionally, and we need to look after each other.
- Break bread together - before or during Bar Conventions or Circuit Conferences, schedule a judge & spouse dinner
- Attending a judge meeting...make a reservation for a group, then invite people you don't know well to join. (Be your own social ambassador.)
- Plan group bike rides, hikes, Zumba and yoga classes.
- Create environments where you can be social with court employees.

- Celebrate things like birthdays and weddings, and make people feel cherished.
- Don't always email---know when to call.
- Learn to craft a good email...work to communicate.
- Reach out to colleagues to say things like good job in a difficult case. (Call, write a note, send an email.)
- Connect to people who don't think just the way you do.

Dealing with Stress

Dacher Keltner BJI conversation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IGCpph-TeKmDg0oXtoJT8xtrn1olotLJ/view>

Wellness resources:

- [Greater Good in Action](#)—discover new practices
- [AWE walk](#)
- [Basic Body Scan with Tara Brach](#)
- [Mindfulness and Judging Resources for Judges](#)

Upcoming Collegiality Opportunity:

Berkeley Judicial Institute Happy Hour
Thursday June 17th 4:00pm PT

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-judicial-institute/events/>

(Let us know if there is something you know we should be celebrating!)

More about our work at BJI

- Check out our website:

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-judicial-institute/>

- Join our mailing list:

<https://berkeley.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=168ed8a936d1cd49fa6241ef3&id=041630a10f>

- Contact us:

bjj@law.berkeley.edu

- Connect with us on Twitter:

[@BklyJudicial](https://twitter.com/BklyJudicial)

- Follow us on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/berkeley-judicial-institute-bjj>