

**Judges and the Press**  
**October 10, 2025**  
**Program Chat**

This is an anonymized version of a robust ZOOM chat conversation. Please watch the October 10 program for context; there is so much more available on all the topics below.

BJI is grateful to the program participants for their contributions to the program.

***--Seeking inspiration from judges working to make the courts more understandable?***

Check out:

- Judge Ahmad's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@Courtroom1401DaleyCenter>
- Judge Trina Thompson's PowerPoints <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Trial-Schedule-A-v.-B-1.pdf>
- Judge Scott Schlegel's Substack <https://substack.com/@judgeschlegel>

***--Nevada's Experience/Our Nevada Judges***

In Nevada, it took a Supreme Court writ to clarify press access to courtroom. Network with [Our Nevada Judges](#), they revolutionized access to courtrooms Falconi decision:

<https://law.justia.com/cases/nevada/supreme-court/2024/85195.html>

Reaching out to Our Nevada Judges was recommended on things like redacting names, blurring images, working through these tough issues around access and privacy.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/OurNevadaJudges/videos>

***--In helping the press and the public, "Know Thy Audience"***

The value in explaining things in lay (not legal) language ( hint: you cannot get too simple or straightforward) - the definition of judicial independence differs depending on whether you are talking to a lawyer (separation of powers) or to the person on the street (judges can do whatever they want to do)

What does the press really want to know - how many angels can dance on the head of that pin?; what is the "outcome/effect" of a decision or ruling?; how can I explain a

particular concept, event or procedure so that my audience (readers, viewers, listeners) understand?; how can I get the basic information (and what is basic?) in the easiest, fastest and most accurate way possible.

**--Tips for engaging people in the courthouse:**

- a visit to new jury panels would provide access to hundreds of thousands of (voting) constituents with very little effort
- walking down the hall to the jury assembly room

**--Should (how should) the judicial branch expand its presence on social media?**

The Executive Office of the Nova Scotia Judiciary maintains an account on "X" (formerly Twitter); it's used to publicise the release of written decisions and the broadcasting (via the court's [website](#)) of high-profile cases.

<https://www.courts.ns.ca/resources/news>

**--Public Information Officers**

Where PIOs exist in the courts, their value was lauded.

**--Attacks on the judiciary**

- Dealing with attacks on judges/judiciary, make sure you are in contact with bar groups such as [ABOTA](#), which have committees prepared to make rapid responses to undue challenges to the independence of the judiciary.
- Stay connected to [Keep Our Republic](#), to see some of the podcasts (articles, interviews, and more) Judge Fogel and other retired Article III judges are doing.

**--Civics Education efforts** (there are so many more!)

- Washington has a [Judges in the Classroom curriculum](#) and has recently launched Lawyers in the Classroom. Washington State Courts - Educational Resources
- [Bolch Judicial Institute](#) has great resources, including [podcasts and videos](#).
- Berkeley Judicial Institute interviews judges involved in civics outreach (BJI and the judges involved encourage "borrowing" ideas for our [Judges in the Community](#) series.
- The National Constitution Center also has the [Scholar Exchange](#) with lawyers or judges teaming with an NCC professional to teach high school (or lower) classes a wide variety of civic issues.

**--Other programs noted during the discussion as sources of inspiration:**

[Advancing Innovation: A National Summit and Webinar Series on Judicial Leadership](#) | IAALS

**--Media and the Courts Handbook**

There was considerable chat around media etiquette in the court, prompting one participant to suggest a Media and the Courts handbook

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**Program Information**

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/bji/events/judges-and-the-press-what-courts-could-be-doing-now-to-promote-public-understanding/>

About Our Faculty:

Hon. Maryam Ahmad: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/maryam-ahmad-2020/>

Hon. Kimberly Mueller: <https://www.fjc.gov/history/judges/mueller-kimberly-jo>

Hon. Trina Thompson: <https://www.fjc.gov/history/judges/thompson-trina-lynn>

Hon. Jeremy Fogel

(ret.): [https://www.law.berkeley.edu/our-faculty/faculty-profiles/jeremy-fogel/#tab\\_profile](https://www.law.berkeley.edu/our-faculty/faculty-profiles/jeremy-fogel/#tab_profile)

Aaron Katersky: <https://tinyurl.com/abc-aaronkatersky>, Program Moderator

**More on the program series**

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/bji/judges-and-the-press/>

**More on BJI**

Check out our website:

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/bji/>

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Contact us:

[bjj@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:bjj@law.berkeley.edu)