

What is the aim of the conference?

The conference is designed to bring together people interested in communication in the court room. The four main themes of the conference are as follows.

The ability of a judge or magistrate to communicate in court can be affected by a variety of factors including power relationships in the court room, litigants' expectations and cultural differences. What are the core skills a judge or magistrate needs for communicating successfully in the court room? What strategies are available to manage emotion and tension in the court room?

Emotionally disturbed persons can pose special problems for judges and magistrates in controlling the court. Emotional disturbance can be due to mental illness, substance abuse, medical conditions or situational stress. How can judicial officers identify emotional disturbance and its causes? The definition of mental illness. Dealing with difficult people - the do's & don'ts.

Communicating with juries requires particular skills on the part of a judge. What is involved in delivering clear and understandable instructions to the jury? What can a judge do to assist juror comprehension? How much do juries understand in practice and what goes on behind the scenes when the jury retires?

In sentencing a person convicted of a crime, should the sentencing remarks of a judge or magistrate be structured and phrased in a particular way? Do judicial officers fall into speech patterns which are foreign to ordinary members of the public? How should the reasons and sentence be communicated to the offender, the media, the public and the victim?

Who should attend?

The conference program is designed to be of interest to the judiciary, legal practitioners, court officers and court support workers, health and welfare professionals involved in court proceedings, academics, media representatives and people interested in issues relating to communication in court.

Registration

Mail or **fax** or **email** this registration form to :

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

Fax: 02 6125 6651 Email: ea@njca.anu.edu.au

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Preferred first name for name tag: _____

Organisation: _____

Postal Address: _____

Telephone: (work) _____

Email: _____

Dietary Requirements: _____

Registration fee (inclusive of GST) \$220.00 This form will become a Tax Invoice once payment has been made.

1. Please debit my credit card for \$220.00

Visa Mastercard

[] [] [] []
expiry date / /

OR

2. I have transferred \$220 by direct deposit to NJCA account

Reference: (participants surname)
Commonwealth Bank BSB: 062 901 Account No:
10093138

OR

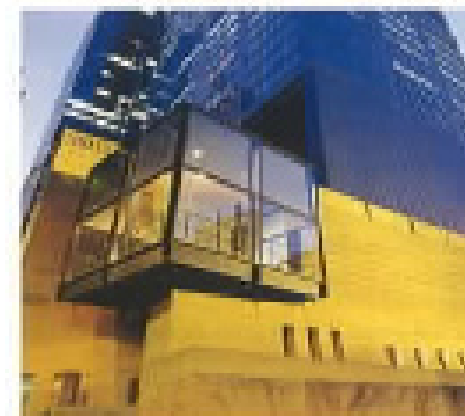
3. I have posted a cheque for \$220.00 payable to the National Judicial College of Australia to PO Box 8102 ANU, A.C.T. 2601

National Judicial College of Australia
www.njca.com.au
ABN: 20100577544

National Judicial College of Australia

Communication in the Court Room Conference

Saturday
10 November 2007



Museum of Sydney
cnr Phillip and Bridge Streets, Sydney NSW

Program Saturday 10 November 2007

8.30 **Registration**

8.55 **Opening**

Magistrate George Zdenkowski
NSW Regional Convenor of the National Judicial College of Australia

9:00 **Session 1 — The skills judges use to communicate in court**

This session will look at the core skills that judges and magistrates use to communicate in court. How can they ensure that people listen? The use of language and managing emotion in the court room.

Speakers:

Ms Jo Kalowski

*Communication and negotiation expert
JOK Pty Ltd, Sydney*

Justice Judy Ryan

Family Court of Australia, Sydney

Chair: Judge Margaret Sidis

District

Court of New South Wales

10.00 questions/discussion

10:30 Morning Tea



11:00 **Session 2 — Communication in court with emotionally disturbed persons**

Displays of emotion in the court room may have a variety of causes including situational stress, mental illness, substance abuse or a physical medical condition. This session will focus on identifying emotional disturbance and effective skills for judges and magistrates in dealing with difficult people.

Speakers:

Professor James Ogloff

*Department of Psychological Medicine
Monash University, Victoria*

Deputy Chief Magistrate Jelena Popovic
and Magistrate Clive Alsop

Magistrates Court of Victoria

*Chair: Magistrate Hugh Dillon
Local Court, New South Wales*

12.00 questions/discussion

12.30 Lunch

1:30 **Session 3 — Communication with juries**

In a jury trial the judge has an obligation to deliver clear and understandable instructions to the jury. Do jurors understand judges' directions? Is the manner and style of the judge and his or her natural skill as a communicator important? In charging a jury, what can a judge do to assist juror comprehension?

Speakers:

Justice Virginia Bell

Supreme Court of New South Wales

Mr Malcolm Knox

Journalist and author ('The Secrets of the Jury Room'), Sydney

Chair: Judge John Nicholson

District Court of New South Wales

2.30 questions/discussion

3:00 Afternoon Tea

3:30 **Session 4 — The sentence of the court**

Judicial officers have an obligation to impose a sentence within legal constraints and to explain the reasons for their sentence. A sentence is not meaningful to the offender, the victim, the media and the public unless it can be understood. Misunderstanding can lead to confusion and resentment which in turn may undermine confidence in the courts. How can the structure of a sentence be adapted (and appropriate language adopted) to improve comprehension of the sentence by all concerned?

Speakers:

Judge John Robertson

District Court Queensland

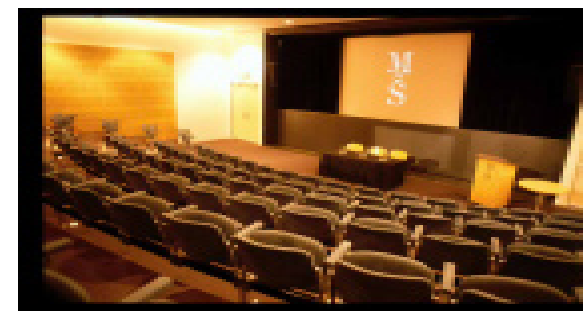
Major Cheryl Hall

Senior Court Chaplain, Salvation Army NSW

*Chair: Magistrate George Zdenkowski
Local Court of New South Wales*

4.30 questions/discussion

5:00 Close



AGL Theatre - Museum of Sydney