

JUDGMENT WRITING PROGRAM

Venue

The Program venue and accommodation are at the beachfront of Adelaide's popular seaside suburb, Glenelg. Glenelg is 20 minutes from the Adelaide central business district and 15 minutes by taxi from Adelaide Airport.



Registration

The program is open to all judicial officers in Australia. The registration fee covers fees paid to the writer presenters, employment of keyboard staff, course materials, accommodation and all catering.

Registrations can be sent by Email, Fax or Mail

Email: jw@njca.anu.edu.au

Fax: 02 6125 6651

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



NATIONAL
JUDICIAL
COLLEGE
of Australia

Judgment Writing Program

Adelaide

15-17 August 2012



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 August 2012. 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 past NJCA judgment writing programs commented:

- "A most challenging & productive program. I have no doubt that I have benefited greatly from it"
- "A brilliant course"
- "Most helpful conference I have attended"
- "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."
- "The entire program was faultless and world class"
- "One of the best organised and most useful programs I have attended as either a lawyer or a judge"
- "This has been a brilliant course which has dramatically & fundamentally changed my approach, structure & method of writing judgments."

Professional writers

The professional writers leading the program will include:



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 2011 he led programs for the National Judicial College of Australia, NSW and Victorian courts, Bar Associations and Tribunals.



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.



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.

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 the Supreme Court of Queensland, the Family Court of Australia, the Federal Court of Australia, the NSW Supreme Court and the County Court of Victoria.

