

FILED

SEP -8 2023

BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re the Matter of

The Honorable Virginia M. Amato
Judge of the King County District Court

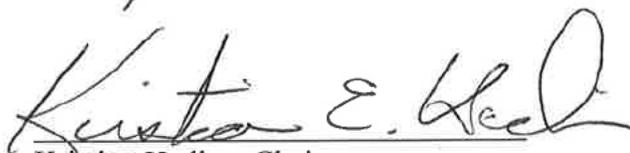
CJC NO. 10627-F-199

**CERTIFICATE OF
COMPLETION AND ORDER**

The Commission on Judicial Conduct, pursuant to CJCRP 29(b), has considered information submitted by Judge Virginia Amato. Based on the information considered and attached and incorporated herein, the Commission hereby certifies that Judge Amato has satisfactorily completed the terms and conditions of the Agreement section II(D) and (F), of the Stipulation, Agreement and Order of Admonishment filed June 24, 2022.

So ordered.

Dated this 8th day of Sept., 2023.



Kristian Hedine, Chair
Commission on Judicial Conduct

Aimee Baldoz

From: Reiko Callner
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:50 AM
To: Amato, Virginia
Cc: Aimee Baldoz
Subject: RE: Completion certificate

Received, thank you. I will submit your email and certification of course completion to the members at their next meeting, September 9, and recommend that they certify your completion of the terms of the stipulation. We will confirm their decision to you after the meeting. I've copied our case manager, Aimee Baldoz on this email.

-Reiko

From: Amato, Virginia <vamato@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:14 AM
To: Reiko Callner <rcallner@cjc.state.wa.us>
Subject: RE: Completion certificate

Ms. Callner –

As we previously discussed, at the beginning of every month since the complaint was filed, I have read the Code of Judicial Conduct. I hope that this and the Certificate fulfill my obligations to the Committee.

Virginia M. Amato, Judge

King County District Court
340 East Main Street
Auburn, WA 98001

From: Reiko Callner <rcallner@cjc.state.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 10:05 AM
To: Amato, Virginia <vamato@kingcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Completion certificate

[EXTERNAL Email Notice!] External communication is important to us. Be cautious of phishing attempts. Do not click or open suspicious links or attachments.

Received, thank you.

In conversation on the phone, you let me know you were reviewing the Code monthly and that you were finding that helpful (generally a good practice). Could you please put that in writing so we can present that to the membership at the next meeting, together with this confirmation?

J. Reiko Callner shelter
Executive Director
Commission on Judicial Conduct
www.cjc.state.wa.us

From: Amato, Virginia <vamato@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 4, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Reiko Callner <rcallner@cjic.state.wa.us>
Subject: FW: Completion certificate

You don't often get email from vamato@kingcounty.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Attached please find the completion certificate for the class I completed with the National Judicial College that was approved by the chair of the Judicial Conduct Commission. I believe that this and my prior statement regarding my reading of the Code completes my requirements.

Virginia M. Amato, Judge

340 East Main Street
Auburn, WA 98001
206-263-3345

From: virginia [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 4, 2023 12:46 PM
To: Amato, Virginia <vamato@kingcounty.gov>
Subject: Completion certificate

[EXTERNAL Email Notice!] External communication is important to us. Be cautious of phishing attempts. Do not click or open suspicious links or attachments.

THE NATIONAL  JUDICIAL COLLEGE

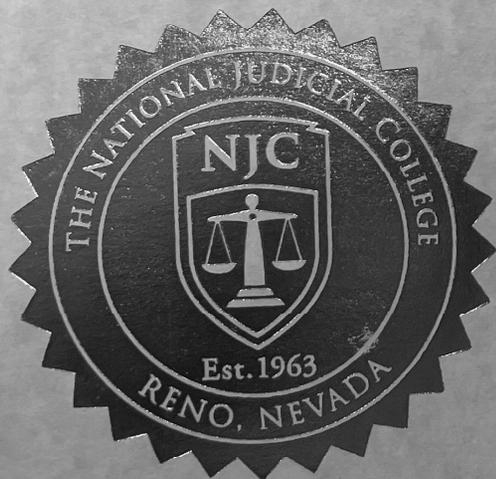
Est. 1963

Making the world a more just place by educating and inspiring its judiciary

This certificate is awarded to
Virginia M. Amato
Participant
In recognition of faithful completion of
Ethics and Judging: Reaching Higher Ground: Web-Based

In witness whereof this certificate has been signed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the President of The National Judicial College at the University of Nevada, Reno.

July 21, 2023



Edward R. Blumberg, Esq., NJC Board of Trustees

Benes Z. Aldana, NJC President



[Back to Course Listing](#)

Ethics and Judging: Reaching Higher Ground (JS 601): Web-Based

Tuition

760

[Register](#)

 Online

 June 5, 2023 to July 21, 2023

Online: Faculty-Led

As a judge, you have the responsibility of upholding the Model Code of Judicial Conduct. Are you? During this course, you will explore the foundation of ethics, review and apply the Code to behavior both on and off the bench, and develop a framework to improve cultural competence.



1 credit

towards degree programs



Tuition

Course \$760

What will I learn?

During this course, you will learn to:

- Identify and distinguish between proper and improper court-related behavior.
- Identify and distinguish between proper and improper action in dealing with pro se/unrepresented litigants.
- Identify and distinguish between proper and improper action in dealing with ex parte communication.
- Identify and distinguish between proper and improper action in dealing with ex parte communication.
- Identify and explain how your perceptions of immigrants, different cultures, and gender may impact your court proceedings.
- Nullify the effect of any bias and prejudice in order to maintain the integrity of the court for all participants.
- Identify and rectify areas of bias in your courtroom.

Why should I take this course?

This faculty-led online course will use guided analysis with experienced faculty to teach you to identify and distinguish between proper and improper court-related behavior, communication between lawyers and litigants, and interactions with pro se/unrepresented litigants. This course will also explore how inherent bias may impact court proceedings, and how to mitigate those effects in your courtroom, and how to deal with immigrants or court participants from different



Who should attend?

This course is valuable to both beginning and experienced judges.

Who are the members of the faculty?

Faculty are highly experienced trial judges who bring a wealth of personal experience to their teaching.

How is this course taught?

Discussion assignments, writing assignments, reading, video and weekly live calls with faculty ensure this course is highly interactive, demanding, and educational. It is anticipated that you will spend between three and four hours on lessons per week, with a total of six weeks of instruction (week four is a break week). On Thursday of each week of the course, the faculty will deliver a live hour-long web conference at 11 am Alaska / 12 pm Pacific / 1 pm Mountain / 2 pm Central / 3 pm Eastern.

Whom should I contact for more information?

For more information, please contact the Registrar's Office at (800) 255-8343 or registrar@judges.org.

This course qualifies for 1 credits toward the Master of Judicial Studies Degree Program and Judicial Studies Doctoral Program at the University of Nevada, Reno upon successful completion of the course and passing the course exam. In addition, this course qualifies for The National Judicial College Certificate in Judicial Development program Administrative Law Adjudication Skills, Appellate Judicial Skills, Dispute Resolution Skills, General Jurisdiction Trial Skills, Leadership Enrichment & Jurisprudence Skills, Special Court Trial Skills and Tribal Judicial Skills disciplines. JSP students are required to take a total of 8 NJC elective credits. In order for this elective course to be added to the student's UNR transcript, it will need to be paired with JS 602 for 1 credit.