

Please Tell Me About the National Judges' Education & Research Foundation!

The **National Judges Education and Research Foundation** was incorporated in the state of Nevada in April, 1984. It is organized under Section 501 (c) requirements of the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit charitable, educational and/or scientific organization. The foundation is separate from the National Judges Association, but the two organizations share several of the same goals.

The purpose of the foundation, as reflected in the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws, is to "promote and improve the Limited Jurisdiction Judge and the Limited Jurisdiction Courts through education and research by providing financial and other support to projects and groups which promulgate these objectives." (Bylaws, page 1) (The foundation does not engage in activities that could be considered lobbying, political campaigning or similar activities.)

The foundation has met these goals through raising funds for scholarships for individual judges as well as by providing informational and financial support for special events that increase understanding and awareness of the function and history of limited jurisdiction judges.

All regular members of the National Judges Association are members of the foundation, and other interested parties are invited to join for a modest annual fee. Administration of the foundation is accomplished through the Board of Trustees, which consists of nine members, of which two thirds must be judicial officers. Each trustee, elected to the board for a three year term, must be from a different state. Officers include the chair, secretary and treasurer, which are elected (by the board) to that particular office for a two year term. Trustees duties include maintaining contact with National Judges Association state directors for purposes of providing scholarship information and assistance, and attending the annual meeting of the foundation, held in conjunction with the annual education conference of the NJA.

Scholarship funds are awarded based upon board policy adopted in June, 2000. Foundation funds available in a twelve month period shall be determined to be no more "than one half of those funds in the foundation treasury at the end of the conference immediately prior to that time. Two thirds of the designated funds shall be dedicated to general scholarships; the remaining one third of the funds shall be for provision of foundation (conference fee) scholarships." (Minutes, Meeting of the Board of Trustees, June 4, 2000, page 2) General scholarships include the Suzie Christensen scholarship (\$800 tuition, \$200 conference fee or lodging) and the Stan Barnhill & Jim Welsch scholarships (\$750 each). Anyone receiving a foundation scholarship will not be eligible for another for five years. Only active judges are eligible for consideration, and applications for foundation scholarships will not be considered if received after March 10th for that year's conference.

For applications or more information, please contact any member of the Board of Trustees or the treasurer:

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