

Speaker Selection for Judicial Family Life Programs

Panel Discussions

- o Select panelists who have a positive outlook.
- o Choose people who can be especially good role models for other spouses, judges, and other judicial family members.
- o Ideally choose two each of spouses, judges, and young adults who have grown up in a judge's home.
- o Incorporate geographical and rural/urban representation on the panel.
- o Include spouses representing a variety of participation in the judge's public life activities. Those who take an active and time-consuming role in their judge's local public life and typically attend judicial conferences bring helpful ideas. Others are rarely involved, but also have valuable insights and practices to share.
- o Include panelists with different personality types and different experiences.
- o Include both men and women on panels.
- o Make panels bipartisan.
- o Include racial, ethnic, or religious minority voices on the panel when possible.
- o Include spouses with a variety of work, volunteer, and home schedules.
- o Include panelists of different ages.
- o Balance points of view about the topic[s] among panelists.
- o Over time and repeated use of the format, vary panelists.

Draw on Expertise of Staff and Other Experts

Depending on the topic[s], the following experts might be invited to sit in, to answer questions, and/or to make part or most of the presentation:

- o State or federal judicial ethics staff member or another expert on judicial ethics to attend any presentation on ethics and avoiding family conflicts of interest.
- o Program director for the judges and lawyers assistance program on alcohol, other drug abuse, depression, aging, gambling, and health issues at educational or "support" programs on stress. They might also distribute brochures telling about available services.
- o Security experts on staff or a sheriff or state police officer who is calm, positive, and non-catastrophizing when addressing home and travel security.
- o University speakers on ethics, privacy, stress management, etc. They may speak as a public service and also grow in their appreciation for the judicial system.
- o Myers Briggs ® or other Jungian personality type experts to test participants and to speak in programs having to do with personality type and understanding others.

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