

2021 Municipal Court Judges Conference

Virtual sessions

Monday, April 26

8:00 a.m. **Welcome:**
Hon. Jason Maxwell, President, Kansas Municipal Judges Association

8:10-9:25 a.m. **Virtual Court Best Practices**
Hon. Karen Torline, Shawnee
Hon. Nick St. Peter, Chief Judge, 19th Judicial District

A review of the policies and guidelines for conducting virtual court as established by the Virtual Court Committee appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court.

The presentation will cover all aspects of virtual court, including but not limited to controlling litigants, access to open court, preferred platforms, enforcing court rules, broadband issues, and a live example of appearing in court virtually.

9:25-9:40 a.m. Break

9:40-10:30 a.m. **The Changing Landscape of Suspended Driver's Licenses**
Hon. Erich Campbell, Westmoreland
Hon. Norbert Marek, Holton

Always a staple of Traffic Court, the suspended license case has become a hot button issue in many jurisdictions and is now on the forefront of the State Legislature. Recent changes in the law have altered how license suspensions are handled and provided additional discretion to the bench. This program will highlight several changes and discuss how your Court can be instrumental in breaking the cycle of suspended driving in your community.

10:30-10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m.-Noon **Mental Health Issues**
Hon. Bryce Abbott, Wichita
Hon. Lori Dougherty-Bichsel, District Judge, Topeka
Sherrie Vaughn, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness

Litigants with mental health issues appear with increasing frequency in courts. The panel will discuss:

- *How to identify litigants who may have mental health issues and practical tips on dealing with them,*
- *How mental health court operates,*
- *The statutory requirements when dealing with litigants who have mental health issues.*

Noon-1:15 p.m. Lunch break

Monday, April 26 (continued)

1:15-2:05 p.m. ***Drivers Solutions Update***
Asia Puck, Trainer
Janelle Robinson, Supervisor
Lacey Black, Supervisor
Katelin Sprecker, Supervisor.

An overview of recent legislation regarding Drivers Solutions procedures. Time will be allotted for questions from participants.

2:05-2:30 p.m. Break

2:30-3:45 p.m. ***Nuts and Bolts***
Facilitator:
Hon. Brenda Stoss, Salina
Panelists:
Hon. Hal Flaigle, Cheney
Hon. Kevin Kimball, Burlingame
Hon. Randall Pankratz, Hesston

The panel will discuss questions submitted from conference participants regarding proper municipal court procedures.

3:45-4:10 p.m. Break

4:10-5:00 p.m. ***Legislative Update, Appellate Cases Update,
and Judges Manual Update***
Hon. Jason Maxwell, Liberal
Hon. John Barker, Abilene
Jay Emler, Chair, Municipal Judges Manual Committee

This session will provide a review of 2021 legislation, recent appellate cases of particular interest to municipal courts, and recent revisions to the Kansas Municipal Judges Manual.

Tuesday, April 27

8:00-9:15 a.m. ***Self-Represented Litigants in Impaired Driving Cases***
Hon. Neil Axel, Senior Judge, Columbia, Maryland

There continues to be an increasing number of cases involving self-represented litigants. This course will provide a number of suggestions on handling these cases more efficiently, providing not only more satisfaction for the litigants but also for the presiding judge and represented attorney. Re-examining the procedures we currently use will provide insight on handling these difficult issues.

9:15-9:45 a.m. Break

9:45-10:35 a.m. ***Collections/Closing Old Cases***
Hon. Katherine McElhinney, Olathe
Hon. Ryan Dixon, Overland Park

A discussion of best practices for closing old cases and purging old warrants. This presentation will also include relevant statutes and case law as it pertains to collections and debt set off.

10:35-11:05 a.m. KMJA business meeting

11:05 a.m. Lunch break

1:00-1:50 p.m. ***Restitution***
Hon. Scott Wright, Beloit

This session will outline:

- *Ordering restitution as a condition of probation, parole, or suspended sentence,*
- *The forms of restitution,*
- *Establishing causation of fact,*
- *Assessing the workability of a plan of restitution.*

1:50-2:30 p.m. Break

2:30-3:20 p.m. ***Judicial Ethics***
Hon. Phyllis Kotey, Florida International University

This session will focus on a variety of judicial ethics topics covered by Supreme Court rule 601B of the Kansas Code of Judicial Conduct. Judge Kotay will discuss and review provisions of the Code related to matters that include: civility in the courtroom and techniques for effectively managing judicial temperament, ethical challenges for judges participating in the new era of social networking communities, and a judge's role and obligations to pro se litigants.

(Ten minute break at 3:20 p.m.)

3:30-4:20 p.m. ***Judicial Ethics – Continued***

4:20 p.m. Conference adjourns