



PRESIDENT

Gale D. Pearson
5473 Blair Road
Dallas, TX 75231

VICE PRESIDENT

David G. Wirtes, Jr.
1601 Dauphin Street
PO Box 66705
Mobile, AL 36604

TREASURER

Peggy Wedgworth
405 East 50th Street
New York, NY 10022

SECRETARY

Andre M. Mura
1111 Broadway Ste. 2100
Oakland, CA 94607

IMMED. PAST PRESIDENT

Christopher T. Nace
1025 Thomas Jefferson St.
NW #810
Washington, DC 20007

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary P. Collishaw
777 Sixth Street, NW #200
Washington, D.C. 20001
202-944-2841
F: 202-298-6390
mary.collishaw@ncji.org

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NCJI
NATIONAL CIVIL
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About the National Civil Justice Institute

NCJI (formerly Pound Institute) is dedicated to the cause of promoting access to civil justice through its programs and publications, which give a balanced view of issues affecting the U.S. civil justice system. Since 1956, the Institute has promoted open, ongoing dialogue among the academic, judicial, and legal communities on issues critical to protecting the right to trial by jury. To bring positive changes to American jurisprudence, NCJI promotes and organizes:

Annual Forum for State Appellate Court Judges—Since 1992, NCJI’s annual Judges Forum has brought together state appellate judges, legal scholars, attorneys, and policymakers to discuss major issues affecting the U.S. civil justice system. Lauded by attending judges as “one of the best seminars available to jurists in the country,” the Forum is unique in its mission to educate state judiciaries on the role of the U.S. civil justice system in protecting citizens’ rights.

Academic Symposia—The Institute holds periodic Academic Symposia in conjunction with law schools in an effort to produce new empirical research supportive of the civil justice system. The academic papers prepared for the symposia are published in the co-sponsoring law schools’ Law Reviews. Recent symposia include The Future of Substantive Due Process (SMU 2023); The Internet and the Law: Legal Challenges in the New Digital Age (Hastings 2021); Class Actions, Mass Torts and MDLs: The Next 50 Years (Lewis & Clark 2019); The Jury Trial and Remedy Guarantees (OREGON LAW REVIEW, Oregon Jury Project 2017); The Demise of the Grand Bargain (Rutgers and Northeastern 2016); and The “War” on the Civil Justice System (Emory Law 2015).

Appellate Advocacy Award—This award recognizes excellence in appellate advocacy in America, and is given to legal practitioners who have been instrumental in securing a final appellate court decision with significant impact on the right to trial by jury, public health and safety, consumer rights, civil rights, and access to civil justice.

Civil Justice Scholarship Award—This award for legal academics recognizes current scholarly research and writing focused on the U.S. civil justice system, including access to and the benefits of the civil justice system, and the right to trial by jury in civil cases.

Twiggs Professionalism Lecture—Founded in 2010 to honor former Institute President Howard Twiggs, this annual lecture series, held during the AAJ Convention, educates attorneys on ethics and professionalism. These lectures are delivered by prominent attorneys, law professors and jurists, and qualify for ethics and professionalism CLE credit.

Papers of the Institute—NCJI has an expansive library of research resulting from its Judges Forums, research grants, Academic Symposia, Warren Conferences, Roundtable discussions, and other sources. This research, NCJI Papers, is available via NCJI’s website. NCJI Fellows, judges, courts, and academics receive complimentary copies of NCJI’s publications.

Alliance with Academics —The Institute has developed strong relationships within the legal academic community. Currently, 81 **Academic Fellows** keep NCJI abreast of emerging legal trends.

NCJI Fellows—Attorneys who care about preserving the civil justice system are invited to join NCJI’s important dialogue with judges and legal academics by becoming an NCJI Fellow. We offer several affordable, tax-deductible membership levels, with monthly options available.