



Reno Municipal Court News

Reno-based National Judicial College to honor more than 20 Nevada individuals and organizations on its 60th anniversary.

On Wednesday October 18, 2023, the Reno-based National Judicial College celebrated its 60th anniversary by honoring more than 20 Nevada leaders and organizations who helped establish the college in Reno and have helped it thrive ever since.

The honorees, who received the college's Making the World a More Just Place Award, include: University of Nevada, Reno President Brian Sandoval; Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Lidia Stiglich; the late Procter R. Hug, Jr., a former chief judge of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals; former Nevada State Bar President Rew Goodenow; the late state Senator Bill Raggio, and three members of the NJC faculty who have taught at the college for more than 110 years combined.

In 2023, the NJC celebrated the 60th anniversary of its founding with six special programs from coast to coast. The first four were in Los Angeles, Miami, Seattle and New York City. The final event will be in Las Vegas on December 7. The overarching theme of the celebrations is "JUSTICE FOR ALL ... Our Pledge for 60 Years."

Prior to the Reno awards ceremony, the college presented an educational program for lawyers and judges, "Next Generation: Bench, Bar and Bots,". The program featured a panel of four state/territory supreme court chief justices, from Iowa, Nevada, New Mexico and Guam. The four also received the Making the World a More Just Place Award.

NJC President Benes Z. Aldana, former chief trial judge of the U.S. Coast Guard, said, "For over 60 years, The National Judicial College has carried out its central mission of improving the administration of justice by ensuring that judges have the knowledge, skills, and ethical grounding necessary to make fair and just decisions that uphold the law and protect the rights of all individuals. It is our strong belief that without a commitment to ongoing education and professional development, the judiciary risks losing public trust and failing to fulfill its vital role in safeguarding our democracy."

Among the recipients was our very own, Reno Municipal Court Judge **Honorable Shelly T. O'Neil!**

Reno Municipal Court Judge Shelly O'Neill is a first-generation college graduate who became one of the first 100 women admitted to the State Bar of Nevada. Her legal career includes more than a decade as chief public defender and deputy state attorney general for the Antitrust Division. She also served as a prosecutor for the City of Reno and was the general counsel to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission. For more than 15 years, she and her husband, Craig Demetras, have operated a small business law practice in Reno's Midtown district. Demetras & O'Neill is a two-time recipient of the Washoe Legal Services' Pro Bono Award for Small Firms. She has served as presiding judge of the Reno Veterans' Treatment Court (CAMO-RNO), begun in 2018.

[National Judicial College news article.](#)