



MICHIGAN CONTINUING **JUDICIAL** EDUCATION CONFERENCE

November 6 - 7, 2025 | VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center | Muskegon, MI

2025 MCJE Conference – Session Descriptions & Objectives

Thursday, November 6

12:00 - 12:15pm

Registration & Check-In

12:15 - 12:45pm

Lunch

Room B

12:45 - 1:00pm

Welcome

Room C

Judge Thomas Boyd
SCAO Administrator

1:00 - 2:15pm

Building a Culture of Wellbeing – Part I

Room C

Shenandoah Chefalo
Founder & Lead Strategist
Chefalo Consulting

2:15 - 2:30pm

Break

2:30 - 3:45pm

Building a Culture of Wellbeing - Part II

Room C

Shenandoah Chefalo

Description Parts I & II: Treatment court teams operate under intense pressure, often navigating chronic stress and secondary trauma that can erode team cohesion and effectiveness. This interactive session explores how judges can lead the charge in building a culture of wellbeing through trauma-informed systems change and organizational resilience. Through hands-on activities and facilitated group discussions, attendees will examine the building blocks of culture change and learn how to lead from the inside out. Judges will leave with practical strategies, including three things to do right now, to begin shifting team dynamics, strengthening wellbeing, and modeling the change they want to see.

Session Objectives:

- **Explore the Building Blocks of Culture Change.** Engage in group dialogue to identify the key elements of organizational culture and how trauma-informed systems support resilience.
- **Lead with Courage and Compassion.** Participate in hands-on exercises that demonstrate how modeling person-first values and managing teams under chronic stress can transform court culture.
- **Apply Practical Strategies Immediately.** Walk away with three evidence-informed actions that can be implemented today to begin cultivating a healthier, more resilient court culture.

3:45 - 4:45pm

Judging Fairly, Healing Fully: The Court's Role in Ending Stigma

Room C

Judge Linda Davis (ret)

Executive Director

Face Addiction Now

Description: Language shapes perception, and in treatment courts, it can either reinforce stigma or promote healing. This session empowers judges to lead the charge in creating a culture of acceptance by modeling behavior that prioritizes dignity and person-first values. Through real-world examples, group discussion, and hands-on reflection, attendees will explore how words matter in the courtroom and beyond. Judges will leave with practical strategies to engage their full team in adopting person-centered language and fostering a shared commitment to fairness, respect, and recovery.

Session Objectives:

- **Recognize the Power of Language.** Understand how everyday language choices can perpetuate or dismantle stigma, and why words matter in building trust and accountability.
- **Model and Lead Culture Change.** Explore how judges can model behavior that fosters a culture of acceptance and encourages team-wide adoption of person-centered practices.
- **Reinforce Person-First Language.** Learn and apply three actionable strategies to engage your full team in using person-first language and reinforcing a shared commitment to healing-centered justice.

4:45 - 6:00pm

Judicial Reception

Room B

Friday, November 7

7:45 - 8:30am

Breakfast

Room C

8:30 - 10:00am

The Ethics & Science of Addiction Treatment: Medication, Recovery, & Justice

Room C

Dr. James Twesten O'Toole

Family Medicine, Addiction Medicine

Trinity Health Medical Group Recovery Medicine West Michigan

Description: This session bridges the gap between medical science and judicial practice in the treatment of substance use disorders. Judges will explore the ethical and clinical foundations of evidence-based addiction treatment, including the role of medications for opioid and alcohol use disorders. Through interactive discussion, attendees will examine how justice systems can support recovery while upholding fairness, dignity, and public safety. The session will also address common myths and considerations and strategies for integrating medical expertise into court decision-making.

Session Objectives:

- **Understand the Science Behind Addiction and Treatment.** Gain insight into the neurobiology of addiction and the clinical effectiveness of medications in supporting recovery.
- **Understand Medication for Opioid Use Disorders.** Examine the ethical responsibilities of the court in supporting evidence-based treatment while balancing justice and public safety.
- **Apply Science to Judicial Practice.** Learn practical strategies for incorporating medical knowledge into court decisions and fostering collaborative, recovery-oriented justice.

10:00 - 10:15am

Break

10:15 - 11:45am

**A View from the Bench: Applying Ethics, Best Practices,
& Behavioral Responses in Michigan Courtrooms**

Room C

Honorable Tina Brooks Green

Michigan State Judicial Outreach Liaison

Description: Treatment court judges play a pivotal role in shaping participant outcomes through ethical decision-making and behaviorally informed responses. This session offers a Michigan-specific lens on applying incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments to services in ways that align with best practices and uphold judicial integrity. Through interactive discussion, judges will explore how to balance accountability with compassion, tailor responses to individual needs, and lead teams in delivering justice that heals.

Session Objectives:

- **Apply Ethical Principles to Behavioral Responses.** Examine how ethical frameworks guide the use of incentives, sanctions, and service adjustments in treatment court settings.
- **Integrate Best Practices in Michigan Courtrooms.** Explore evidence-based strategies for tailoring responses to participant behavior while maintaining consistency and fairness.
- **Lead Therapeutic Justice with Impact.** Learn practical approaches for guiding multidisciplinary teams in delivering individualized, therapeutic adjustments that support recovery and reduce recidivism.