

# PURPOSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COURTS CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

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## State Association Ranking

From the perspective of your state association which of these five Curriculum Guidelines should be developed first?

Highest ranking = 1  
Lowest ranking = 5

**Your Score**  
1-5

**Group Score**  
1-5

### Curriculum Guidelines

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<b>1</b>	<p><b>Why Courts Exist</b></p> <p>Courts and only courts can definitively resolve society's inevitable conflicts. When they resolve disputes between individuals; between individuals and the government, including those accused by the government of violating the law; between individuals and corporations; and between organizations both public and private, they do so in ways that preserve the court's independence and impartiality, enduring purposes, and continuing responsibilities. The courts mediate society's interest in opposite but true mandates, in particular the tension between social order and individual freedom.</p>		
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Courts as Institutions</b></p> <p>Impartiality and independence demand courts that are separate from the executive and the legislative branches. But court purposes reflect a rich historical legacy that dictates both distinctive boundaries and interdependency. Competent court leaders understand separation of powers, judicial independence, and the inherent power of the court. Alternative organizational arrangements to maintain the courts boundaries and to permit their effective management are likewise known. Direction provided by the <b>Trial Court Performance Standards</b> guides day to day court management.</p>		
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Rule of Law, Equal Protection, and Due Process</b></p> <p>Effective court leaders understand and help courts deliver on the promise of the rule of law, equal protection, and due process. They know the theory, the history of the common law, and important concepts such as venue, justiciability, rule of law, equal protection, and due process and their practical implications. All types of cases, their processing, and typical forms and procedures are understood.</p>		
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Accountability</b></p> <p>Courts must be accountable. Accountability provides the rationale for court control of the pace of litigation, the tracking of case disposition times, and adherence to law and judicial decisions in individual cases. The judiciary establishes and maintains its boundaries, but it also assesses and reports on its performance, its use of public resources, and its conformance with its assigned responsibilities and the law.</p>		
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Interdependence and Leadership</b></p> <p>The "contriving" American constitutional structure gives the judiciary's relationship with its co-equal partners a distinctive flavor. Court leaders must be both independent and cooperative. They must be above the fray even as they build and maintain boundaries and seek and achieve public trust and confidence. Court leaders have passion for justice and court purposes and responsibilities, and bring pride to everyday routines and jobs. They require ethical conduct and ensure that the court's integrity is pure.</p>		

# PURPOSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COURTS CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

## Personal Learning Need And Interest; And Importance Ranking

Highest ranking = 1  
Lowest ranking = 5

Your personal learning need and interest  
**1-5**

Importance to your court organization  
**1-5**

### Curriculum Guidelines

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