



THE NATIONAL  
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

# Notes from the 2021 Environmental Law Program Curriculum Development Committee April 3, 2020

---

Submitted by Brooke Sempel, program attorney

---

## Overview of the Committee

In 2021, The National Judicial College will host a program for mostly general jurisdiction judges to introduce them to presiding over environmental law cases. To help develop a curriculum, we have assembled a committee comprised of practicing attorneys and judges who will meet via the web in order to discuss the program and its content.

## The April 3, 2020 Web Meeting

On April 3, 2020, the committee met via the web for one hour with a facilitated conversation of the following questions, which formed the agenda for the discussion:

1. What do we mean by Environmental Law?
2. What are the greatest challenges judges working in Environmental Law currently face?
3. What are the hot/new environmental issues currently being litigated?

### Question One: What do we mean by Environmental Law?

The group discussed several timely topics, including who would be the targeted audience. It was determined that the course would be structured for a new judge taking on his/her first environmental case; i.e. most general jurisdiction judges come from a criminal background and have no environmental law background.

From the conversations (and the correspondence on the question sent separately), the following judicial education themes emerged:

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

**Question Two:** What do *you* think are the greatest challenges judges working in Environmental Law currently face?

[REDACTED]

**Question Three:** What are the hot/new environmental issues currently being litigated?

[REDACTED]

## Web Meeting Attendees

Hon. Merideth Wright  
Hon. Jeff Crabtree  
Justice Ron Robie

Hon. Eric Wildman  
Mr. Buzz Hines  
Mr. John Cruden

Ms. Sandra Nichols Thaim

Katheryn Yetter, senior academic director  
Brooke Sempel, program attorney