

## Judge Bonnie Sudderth

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**From:** Nathan Hecht  
**Sent:** Friday, October 7, 2022 4:55 PM  
**To:** Judge Bonnie Sudderth  
**Subject:** RE: Thank You and A Question

Sorry for the delay, Bonnie. We had oral argument this week, and I'm just digging out.

I would be grateful if you'd offer yourself as a resource to TCJ & OCA, and please tell NJC that's what we're doing.

Many thanks.

Nathan

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**From:** Judge Bonnie Sudderth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2022 4:03 PM  
**To:** Nathan Hecht [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Thank You and A Question

Chief,

I wanted to report back that I finished the NJC Climate Science conference in September.

At the September conference I shared with the organizers what you had communicated to me, i.e., that you preferred that my role be to act as a resource to our state judicial education agency on this subject.

The NJC will be following up either this month or next asking us what we are planning to do in our states to help educate our judges on climate science litigation.

Two questions: (1) How would you like me to respond? and (2) Do you want me to reach out to TCJ and OCA and offer myself as a resource in the event that they want to put on a program related to this in the future, or would you prefer that I just stay in the background? I'm happy to do either, as you direct.

*Bonnie Sudderth*

J.D., LL.M.  
Chief Justice, Second Court of Appeals  
Fort Worth, Texas



**Texas Bar College**  
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**From:** Nathan Hecht [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2022 11:10 AM  
**To:** Judge Bonnie Sudderth [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Thank You and A Question

Thanks for going to the NJC, Bonnie. Keith Fisher has been singing your praises.

A little history. In January 2020, there was a big climate/conservation/environment conference in Honolulu. Hawaii CJ Recktenwald was a principal host, and CA CJ Cantil-Sakauye was a speaker. After that, CJ Recktenwald proposed a new joint committee of the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA), After study, CCJ approved the proposal this past January. The study report is attached.

I think the NJC program grew out of that. The main idea is to provide state courts more resources in handling energy, environmental, and natural resources cases. Now with your work at NJC, I hope you can aid that. I don't think we yet need to undertake a judicial effort, but it would be helpful for you to be a resource to TJC and OCA, as well as the two law schools, and maybe others. So much work like this suffers from being done in silos without communication. CCJ/COSCA would like to make all the states aware of efforts and resources that the National Center for State Courts can organize and support, and if appropriate, fund. I hope you can be part of the communication/resource process. I don't want to burden you, but I think that would be a great start.

Thanks for your willingness to attend.

■ Nathan

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**From:** Judge Bonnie Sudderth [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 10:02 AM  
**To:** Nathan Hecht [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Thank You and A Question

Chief Justice Hecht,

First, I want to thank you for sending me to the Leadership and Climate Science course at the NJC in Reno earlier this month. I was an excellent conference. I learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed the process.

I have a question, though. A big aspect of the conference is an expectation that the participants will use the information learned and develop and promote a judicial climate science curriculum or course offering in our state. In the interim between the first session (in March) and the second session (in September), we are tasked with developing a plan with the idea of implementing an educational course in our state. So, my question is: what is your vision for me in this regard? After I finish up this conference in September, do you want me to spearhead some sort of effort to offer a judicial educational in climate science to the Texas judiciary? Or do you just want me to be a resource if a judicial education agency wants assistance in developing such a course? Either way, do you have a preference as to which agency or agencies I should approach to either promote such a project or to simply let them know that I am a resource if they should desire to provide this educational opportunity? As I see it, the obvious possibilities would be the TCJ or the OCA, and quite, possibly, UT Law or A&M Law (both of which have quite active Environmental Law sections that offer similar courses to attorneys and law students).

Please let me know your thoughts on this. And thank you again for this opportunity.

*Bonnie Sudderth*

J.D., LL.M.  
Chief Justice, Second Court of Appeals  
Fort Worth, Texas



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