

2025 • Issue 2

# from the desk of the **SJOL**

JUDGE JOHN W. GRINSTEINER (RETIRED)

## *Welcome to the JOL Newsletter for North Dakota 2025, Issue 2:*

In this newsletter you will find a follow up to the article in the last issue on the bills before the N.D. Legislature geared toward impaired driving and traffic safety, along with related issues. In addition, I have included two articles on judicial wellness. This is a topic I have wanted to include in the newsletter for a while. With my involvement on the ND Supreme Court's Mental Health Work Group and its recent trainings for judges, along with the March 1, 2025, amendment of Administrative Rule 49 – JUDICIAL AND LAWYER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (adding judicial), the timing finally seemed right.

Talking about judicial wellness, dealing with secondary trauma or judicial isolation is not easy. Taking steps to help with the symptoms you may be experiencing can be equally or even more difficult. You love your job, worked hard to get there and the success can feel good, but you are also aware of the risk factors inherent in the profession. What can you do to be proactive in maintaining and enhancing your well-being throughout your judicial career? I have included some thoughts and resources in the articles that follow and listed additional resources at the end of this issue that may help. If something works well for you, let me know, so I can share it in the next issue of the newsletter (minus your identity of course). The State of Colorado has made a special effort in this area, setting the gold standard for promoting judicial well-being. Checkout the following website: [Home | Judicial Well-Being](#)

In addition, the NJC just announced a mindfulness four-day program, "as an opportunity to pause from the many complexities of being a judge and find some space to breathe and reflect. It is a practice of learning to pay attention to our thoughts, emotions, and physical sensations and acknowledging whatever is present and using that information to respond to the unfolding of our work and lives." Registration Link: [Mindfulness for Judges – The National Judicial College](#)

Finally, the updated 2025 crash statistics are included along with the usual case law and training sections. I believe our state is trying to take care of its judges, but nothing beats caring, kindness, and compassion between people who have shared experiences. Check in on your brothers and sisters in the robe and don't be afraid to reach out to the Outreach Liaison, me! I know full well how heavy the robes can wear at times. ■

*As the State's JOL, John brings you access to current and evidence-based practices that will assist you in your work and help promote more effective outcomes in impaired driving and other traffic related cases. With the help of the ABA's Judicial Division and its partnerships with various organizations (NHTSA, National Judicial College, NCSC, AllRise), John works to provide education, training, and technical assistance to judges and court staff throughout ND.*

## *Issue highlights ....*

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# Legislative Update

▪ Judge John Grinsteiner (retired), SJOL for North Dakota

In the early morning hours of Saturday May 3, 2025, the 69th North Dakota Legislative Assembly adjourned sine die. [69th Legislative Assembly – Regular Session \(2025\) | North Dakota Legislative Branch](#)

The above website link is very useful when looking for session information, along with individual bill and resolution information. The Bills and Resolution tab will take you to an index where all the bills are listed. Clicking on individual bills will allow you to see an overview, versions of the bill, including amendments, actions taken, video, hearings (held and scheduled), and the testimony that has been offered. The same website will provide post session information as well, such as final bill status, effective dates of legislation, session laws, title summaries, and bill history. This site is definitely worth a bookmark in your favorite browser.

In the first quarter newsletter, which was fairly early in the session, I had listed some pending bills that may have been of interest. The following is that relatively short list and the end result for each particular bill in bold. As previously stated, the list is not exhaustive and is geared toward impaired driving and traffic safety, along with related issues.

HB 1030: a BILL to amend several sections of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) relating to changing drug court to treatment court. A more encompassing description. **Signed by the Governor.**

HB 1059: a BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 9 of section 12.1-32-02 of the NDCC, relating to sentencing alternatives. Felony as A Misdemeanor if less than 360 days. **Failed in the Senate.**

HB 1108: a BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 25-03.1-34.2 of the NDCC, relating to interstate contracts for treatment of mental illness or a substance use disorder; and to declare an emergency. The bill allows the state department to contract with treatment or detoxification facilities in bordering states for North Dakota residents, and vice versa, with several important provisions. **Signed by the Governor.**

HB 1206: a BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 39-08-01.2 and 39-08-01.4 of the NDCC, relating to the special punishment for causing injury or death while operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or any other drugs or substances and to driving while under the influence of alcohol or any other drugs or substances while being accompanied by a minor. Minimum mandatories. **Signed by the Governor.**

HB 1298: a BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subdivision i of subsection 1 of section 39-09-02 of the NDCC, relating to speed limitations on multilane highways. This bill modifies North Dakota's speed limit law for access-controlled, paved, and divided multilane interstate highways, increasing the max speed from 75 mph to 80 mph. Creates variable speeds and also changes fines. **Signed by Governor.**

HB 1310: a BILL removing supervision fees and for cost of prosecution and defense when appointed. **Failed in the House (but see HB 1417).**

HB 1321: a BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 19-24.1-01, section 19-24.1-11, and subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 19-24.1-16 of the NDCC, relating to medical marijuana limits, increasing allowable amounts, increasing THC concentration, and extending registry expiration. **Failed in the House.**

HB 1337: a BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for mental health services for incarcerated individuals; and to provide for a report. **Failed in the House.**

HB 1347: an ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 27-05 of the NDCC, relating to district court supervised treatment programs approved by the supreme court. Defining the treatment court roles of the Courts, DOCR, and HHS. **Signed by the Governor.**

HB 1364: an ACT to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 39-08-01.5 of the NDCC, relating to the partial suspension of sentence for drug court program, mental health court program, or veterans' treatment docket completion. Removes conviction and suspension of driver's license for treatment court completion. **Signed by the Governor.**

HB 1370: a BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 39-20-05 and section 39-20-14 of the NDCC, relating to onsite screening tests and administrative hearings for refusing to submit to a chemical test, adding oral fluid to the screening (not chemical) test list. **Failed in the House.**

HB 1417: a BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 12-59-15 and 12.1-01-04, subdivision b of subsection 3 of section 12.1-22-01, and sections 12.1-32-07, 12.1-32-08, and 29-07-01.1 of the NDCC, relating to parole and probation violations and court fees; to provide for a legislative management study; and to provide a penalty. Removes indigent counsel and supervision fees and seeks a study on court fines and fees. **Signed by Governor.**

HB 1422: a BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 39-06-01 and 39-06-42 of the NDCC, relating to operating a motor vehicle while driving privileges are suspended or revoked; and to provide penalty. Appears to allow upon motion, a DUS being amended from a misdemeanor to a non-criminal \$150 fine. **Signed by the Governor.**

HB 1558: a BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subdivision to subsection 4 of section 12.1-32-07, a new subsection to section 12.1-32-08, and a new section to chapter 39-08 of the NDCC, relating to restitution for the child of a victim of criminal vehicular homicide and conditions of probation; to amend and reenact subsection 5 of section 12.1-32-06.1 of the NDCC, relating to probation and parental loss restitution; to provide a penalty; and to provide for application. **Failed in the Senate.**

HB 1566: a BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 19 of the NDCC, relating to the regulation of kratom; and to provide a penalty. **Converted to a legislative study.**

HB 1596: a BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 19-03.1 of the NDCC, relating to noncriminal marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or paraphernalia violations; to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 19-03.1-22.3, subdivision d of subsection 7 of section 19-03.1-23, subsection 9 of section 19-03.1-23, and subsection 4 of section 19-03.4-03 of the NDCC, relating to penalties for the ingestion and possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or paraphernalia; and to provide a penalty. **Failed in the Senate.**

SB 2002: a BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the judicial branch. Raises for judges and the funding (in the second year of biennium) of the first mental health treatment court (SCJD) and second veterans' treatment court (ECJD). **Signed by the Governor.**

SB 2111: a BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-07 and subsection 4 of section 54-23.3-01.1 of the NDCC, relating to supervised probation for class B misdemeanors. Only place with community corrections other than DOCR. **Failed in the Senate.**

SB 2128: a BILL relating to transparent sentencing of criminal offenders and minimum mandatory penalties for fleeing, assault, and preventing arrest. Truth in Sentencing Bill. **Failed in the House.**

SB 2365: a BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-12-30 of the NDCC, relating to twenty-four seven sobriety program fees. **Failed in the House. ■**

# How Judges Can Respond to Secondary Traumatization

- Judge John Grinsteiner (retired), SJOL for North Dakota
- Brian L. Meyer, Ph.D., LCP, Psychology Program Manager, Central Virginia VA Health Care System, Richmond, VA
- the Honorable Casey L. Clevenger, ABA Missouri State JOL, American Bar Association Judicial Division

Let's start with the problem. Aside from time pressures and workload, what are some of the frequent stressors judges are faced with when handling court cases? Judges hear traumatic stories of crimes, violence, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, kidnapping, serious injuries, and deaths. They see pictures of those crimes and the people who have been harmed. They are exposed to the worst impulses, behaviors, and beliefs in people and see the effects on the most vulnerable among us. Hearing and seeing others' traumatic events can lead to secondary traumatic stress.

Secondary traumatic stress (STS) is the emotional duress that results when an individual hears about the firsthand trauma experiences of another. Its symptoms mimic those of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately, we are not able to unhear or unsee the things we see and hear in the courtroom. In addition, it's often the traumatic events that are hard to forget, often entering our thoughts and even dreams. Secondary traumatization is a normal response to an abnormal level of exposure to traumatic events. The following can be risk factors: personal history of trauma or something related to the case, overidentification with court participants, empathic style, insufficient recovery time between trauma exposures, reactive to children's vulnerability, isolation at work, and lack of systemic resources.

All kinds of symptoms that can be attributed to STS: numbness, anxiety, depression, increased substance use, irritability, anger, hypervigilance and insomnia. Those impacted by STS may experience worsening eating habits (overeating, junk food), ruminative thinking, fears for their own safety and that of loved ones, and feeling cut off from or distrustful of others. Remember that it is not unusual to experience one or more of these symptoms from time to time. Normally, these periods do not last more than two weeks.

I may be preaching to the choir, telling you things you likely already know or have experienced, but let's link some data to what we may already intuitively know.

In October, 2017, nearly 800 judges participated in a National Judicial College survey. They were asked "Have you suffered secondary traumatic stress from being a judge?" 45% answered yes.<sup>2</sup> I suspect that number would be much higher today. The main study: Jaffe et al., 2003 found that out of 105 judges, (54% male and 46% female) 81% had criminal court duties, 54% had domestic court duties, and 30% had juvenile court duties. Of those 105 judges, 63% reported one or more symptoms of STS. Female judges reported more internalizing symptoms and judges with more than six years of experience were more likely to report more externalizing/hostile symptoms.

What can we do about it? Conduct periodic self-assessments and/or use evidence-based assessment instruments such as the Professional Quality of Life Scale<sup>3</sup> or the Secondary Traumatic Stress Scale<sup>4</sup>. The best self-assessment evaluators tend to be your spouse/partner (Jaffe et al., 2003). Close family members and close friends can also help. Ask them if you've changed/if you show signs of STS. I noticed changes in myself, which I confirmed by my wife and a couple of golfing buddies, after a particularly gruesome murder trial I presided over. The pictures were awful and there were a couple of images that I just could not get out of my mind, even several weeks after the trial. After figuring out that the changes in myself and STS signs might be connected to that trial, I knew I needed to find a way to process and deal with the thoughts and feelings that followed.

After assessing and identifying STS factors that are negatively affecting a person, finding healthy and productive interventions is the next step. Some things that can help is to engage or re-engage your

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<sup>1</sup>National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), 2017

<sup>2</sup>Judicial Edge, October, 2017

<sup>3</sup>ProQOL and ProQOL 5 English\_Self-Score (pdf download)

<sup>4</sup><https://neurolaunch.com/secondary-traumatic-stress-scale/> and [https://www.naadac.org/assets/2416/sharon\\_foley\\_ac15\\_militarycultureho2.pdf](https://www.naadac.org/assets/2416/sharon_foley_ac15_militarycultureho2.pdf)





support network, re-balance work and life, and reduce exposure to work-related and trauma-related books, movies, internet content, and news. We all have things that soothe us. Maybe it is a good workout, reading a good book at the coffee shop, taking a vacation or simply being outside in the sunshine. Whatever healthy outlet works for you is the prescription. Remember that you can't pour from an empty cup. Charging your own battery is vital.

While that may sound simple, it is not. There are obstacles to judicial self-care. Neither secondary traumatization nor self-care are taught in many law schools. Judges are reluctant to admit to their own suffering and judges may feel they need to be perfect role models. Judges are reluctant to engage in lawyer assistance programs because they may know other participants including lawyers who come before them (Chamberlain & Miller, 2009). In addition, there is the very real judicial isolation that is seldom talked about nor realized until it is experienced (Jaffe et al., 2003).

What can you do? Develop a self-care action plan. Identify your triggers and how you will handle them. Plan how you will leave work at work and set aside at least one hour daily for self-care. What gives you joy? What gives you meaning? Lastly, recognize when you may need outside help and don't be afraid or

embarrassed to ask for it. Seek consultation from a peer. Use the employee assistance program or other state assistance programs, such as for attorneys. Get professional help if necessary. Finally, don't forget that your court reporter/recorder, clerk, and other staff hear and see the same things. Check in with them as well and give them the same encouragement as this article gives you.

We have a duty to the people who come before us, our colleagues, our loved ones, as well as to ourselves, not to be damaged by the work we do. I wish peace on your hearts!

#### **Some helpful resources include:**

1. *Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others* by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky.
2. *Transforming the Pain: A Workbook on Vicarious Traumatization* by Karen Saakvitne and Laurie Pearlman
3. *The Resilient Practitioner: Burnout and Compassion Fatigue Prevention and Self-Care Strategies for the Helping Professions*, 3rd Edition by Thomas Skovholt and Michelle Trotter-Mathison. ■

# That Feeling of Isolation

▪ Judge John Grinsteiner (retired), SJOL for North Dakota

The most recent version of the Preamble to the North Dakota Rules of Judicial Conduct has an effective date of 7/1/2012. It reads as follows:

[1] An independent, fair and impartial judiciary is indispensable to our system of justice. The United States legal system is based upon the principle that an independent, impartial, and competent judiciary, composed of men and women of integrity, will interpret and apply the law that governs our society. Thus, the judiciary plays a central role in preserving the principles of justice and the rule of law. Inherent in all the Rules contained in this Code are the precepts that judges, individually and collectively, must respect and honor the judicial office as a public trust and strive to maintain and enhance confidence in the legal system.

[2] Judges should maintain the dignity of judicial office at all times, and avoid both impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in their professional and personal lives. They should aspire at all times to conduct that ensures the greatest possible public confidence in their independence, impartiality, integrity, and competence.

[3] The Code of Judicial Conduct establishes standards for the ethical conduct of judges and judicial candidates. It is not intended as an exhaustive guide for the conduct of judges and judicial candidates, who are governed in their judicial and personal conduct by general ethical standards as well as by the Code. The Code is intended, however, to provide guidance and assist judges in maintaining high standards of judicial and personal conduct, and to provide a basis for regulating their conduct through disciplinary agencies.<sup>5</sup>

North Dakota's Code of Judicial Conduct can be found here: [North Dakota Court System – North Dakota Code of Judicial Conduct](#). There are four major canons dealing with independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary. In addition, a judge's personal and extrajudicial activities should be conducted to minimize the risk of conflict with the duties of judicial office. In other words, it's not just what you do or say when you are wearing the robes, its 24/7.

I started with the rules of conduct because they govern our actions as judges – all of our actions. They are designed to create and maintain an independent and impartial judiciary. They set the necessary level of integrity that is needed to maintain the belief and trust in our system of justice. For those of us who have worn the robes, we know that this can come at a cost. When I retired, an attorney sent me a message that read, in part, "I have to imagine the robes can wear heavy at times."

While there seems to be a conscious effort to raise awareness regarding secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout, the feeling of isolation is not often discussed. This can be particularly hard hitting for judges when new and just taking the bench. It was for me. Becoming a judge is isolating. Many of us came from an office where you're interrupted frequently throughout the day with phone calls from clients, opposing counsel, and questions from colleagues, staff, or others. Once on the bench, it can be a little shocking to find yourself with no contact with others, outside of direct support staff, for days. Judges tend to be creatures that keep to themselves and do not often socialize with other judges. When you combine that with the limitations placed upon friendships and involvements with attorneys you may have socialized with for years, it can be a lonely undertaking.

Remember, it's not just about being fair and impartial – it's about making sure you maintain the appearance of impartiality, too. The following are the voices of state and federal judges, taken from notes of Dr. Isaiah M. Zimmerman's work with the judiciary as a consultant and psychotherapist.

"Before becoming a judge, I had no idea or warning, of how isolating it would be." "Except with very close, old friends, you cannot relax socially." "Judging is the most isolating and lonely of callings." "The isolation is gradual. Most of your friends are lawyers, and you can't carry on with them as before." "When you become a judge, you lose your first name!" "It was the isolation that I was not prepared for." "After all of these years on the bench, the isolation is my major disappointment." "I live and work in a space capsule—alone with stacks of paper" "Your circle of friends certainly becomes much smaller."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>North Dakota Court System – PREAMBLE

More often than naught, it's the maintaining the appearance of impartiality that can add to a judge's isolation. You have to be vigilant and maintain an appropriate distance and demeanor in your actions. In addition, your immediate family is also drawn into the somewhat ambiguous image and behavior restrictions. There is this feeling and perception that you must always act like a judge. Personally, I hesitated to even tell people what I did for a living because it either resulted in legal questions or people simply walking away from me. They were uncomfortable and that made me uncomfortable, which caused avoidance of personal situations and even more isolation.

Getting involved in the community can also be hard because, although judges can be natural leaders, you don't want to create conflicts of interest down the road, causing more work for your colleagues through recusals. In addition, what little time is left after working heavy caseloads feels like it should be spent with your family or on your own self-care.

Identifying the problem always seems easier than finding the solution. How can this feeling of isolation be helped? Hanging on to good friends, as you would

likely recuse from any legal actions involving them anyway, is a good start. Finding a trusted colleague is something that worked for me. This happened to be another judge, but it could have easily been a staff attorney or law clerk. I know that I have had some excellent ones over the years. One can also benefit from a group of friends completely outside the legal arena. It helps keep one grounded and as noted before, you are likely (or should be) recusing yourself from any actions involving them.

Finding healthy and productive interventions can help. Some things to consider are to engage or re-engage your support network, and to re-balance work and life. We all have things that soothe us. Maybe it is a good workout, reading a good book at the coffee shop, taking a vacation or simply being outside in the sunshine. Whatever healthy outlet works for you is the prescription. Remember that you can't pour from an empty cup. Charging your own battery is vital to being and staying a good judicial officer. Lastly, remember to look out for one another. Reach out, both when you need encouragement and when you think someone else could use it. Often times, picking up someone else's spirits also picks up your own! ■



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<sup>6</sup>"Isolation in the Judicial Career," by Isaiah M. Zimmerman who is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Washington, D.C. He is on the faculty of the National Judicial College, the Washington School of Psychiatry, and the Medical School of George Washington University.

# Recent Court Opinions of Note

("A little late-night reading") – Alexander J. Bott, UND School of Law

The court opinions are a special contribution of my friend and colleague Earl G. Penrod, Senior Judge, Indiana Judicial Outreach Liaison, and Judge in Residence, National Judicial College

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## Consensual Encounters, Terry-Stops, and Arrests

The Ohio Court of Appeals 5th District upholds the trial court's denial of the defendant's Motion to Suppress by finding that the encounter between the police and the defendant was consensual, and the defendant was properly convicted of impaired driving. The Court notes that Ohio law provides for three types of encounters between law enforcement and individuals: consensual, Terry stops, and arrests. A consensual encounter occurs when a police officer approaches a person in a public place, engages the person in conversation, and requests information. The person is free to refuse to answer and walk away. Unlike a Terry-stop, which requires reasonable suspicion, and an arrest that requires probable cause, a consensual encounter is NOT a seizure, and the officer does not need a legitimate basis to engage in the encounter. In this case, the officer had observed the defendant driving in the vicinity but had never initiated a stop. Instead, the officer walked up to the defendant's vehicle after the defendant parked in a parking lot. The officer engaged in nonthreatening communications, did not block the defendant's vehicle, did not activate police lights, and did nothing to indicate the defendant was not free to go. All of the factors supported the trial court's determination that the encounter was consensual. An interesting side note is that the Court of Appeals upheld the defense counsel's Motion to Withdraw pursuant to *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967) based on the counsel's determination that appealing the denial of the Motion to Suppress was frivolous.

*State v. Edmonson*, 2025 Ohio App. LEXIS 167 (January 23, 2025)

## Validity of Fourth Amendment Search not impacted by State Law Violation

The Oklahoma Court of Appeals holds that the Motion to Suppress was properly denied in this case because the police had a legitimate basis for the stop in that the defendant was speeding. Also, the officers had sufficient probable cause to search the vehicle as there was a strong odor of marijuana, a drug dog alerted to the passenger compartment of the vehicle, and the defendant admitted to having marijuana in the vehicle. The Court of Appeals rejected the defendant's sole argument that there was no probable cause for the stop because the officer who made the stop for speeding was outside the officer's jurisdiction, which, pursuant to Oklahoma law, meant the officer was not authorized to stop for speeding. The Court of Appeals cites with approval the U.S. *Supreme Court* case of *Virginia v. Moore*, 553 U.S. 164 (2008), in which the U.S. Supreme Court held that the reasonableness of a search is NOT dependent upon the law of arrests in a particular state. That is, if the police do nothing in contravention of the Fourth Amendment, violating state law by the police does NOT mean the search necessarily violates the Fourth Amendment.

*Thompson v. State*, 2025 OK CR 4, 2025 Okla. Crim. App. LEXIS 4 (February 23, 2025)



# Useful Resources and Links

**1. National Center for State Courts (NCSC)**

[Judicial Wellness](#)

[Secondary Trauma and the Courts](#)

**2. American Bar Association (ABA) – Judges Helping Judges**

[Resources for Judges](#)

**3. Judicature – State of Judicial Wellbeing**

[The State of Judges' Well-Being: A Report on the 2019 National Judicial Stress and Resiliency Survey](#)

**4. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) – Judicial Wellness**

[Judicial Wellness-Connection-Leadership Initiative](#)

**5. National Treatment Court Resource Center (NTCRC) – includes several resources**

[Self-Care Resources](#)

**6. State of Colorado**

[Colorado Judicial Well-Being Online Resource](#)

**7. State of Florida**

[Florida Judicial Wellness Program](#)

**8. State of New Mexico**

[New Mexico Judicial Wellness Program](#)

**9. State of Wyoming**

[Wyoming Judicial Well-Being Resources](#)



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

Judicial Division

# Upcoming Trainings/Events/Webinars

\*This is not an exhaustive list and is geared toward impaired driving

## The North Dakota Impaired Driving Conference

Register here: [Click to Register](#)

Date & Time: June 17–19, 2025

Location: Radisson Inn–Bismarck, ND

Registration is free and approved for CJs

## The 2025 National Interdisciplinary Cannabis Symposium

Register here: [2025 National Interdisciplinary Cannabis Symposium | Cannabis Symposium](#)

Date & Time: September 19, 2025, 5 p.m. – September 21, 2025, 5 p.m.

Location: Denver, 2255 E Evans Ave, Denver, CO 80210 USA

**The Green LAB is available for a separate price of \$100 and will be limited to the first 50 registrants.**

## NJC Self-Study Free Course

This self-study course has four modules which do not have to be completed at one time. The course has a suggested completion time of 90–120 minutes.

### Title: Search & Seizure in Impaired Driving Adjudication

**Description:** The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing individuals the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures is the most implicated constitutional protection in impaired driving adjudication. Further, states are permitted to provide greater individual protections beyond those guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment. As a result, issues of search and seizure are typically the most litigated legal challenges raised in impaired driving cases and judges must remain current on the multiple facets of this challenging aspect of the law.

[Click to Register](#)

## ABA JOL Webinars

### ► ON-DEMAND

Title: "Behind the Uniform: Military Personnel and Impaired Driving."

Speaker: Colonel Tara Osborn, U.S. Army (Ret.), Moderator: Hon. Kate Huffman

Link: <https://www.americanbar.org/events-cle/ece/ondemand/443751095/>

### ► ON-DEMAND

Title: "But It's Just Weed! Understanding the Effects of Cannabis Use on Justice-Involved Adults and Adolescents."

Speaker: Dr. Kara Marciani, Moderator: Hon. Kate Huffman

Link: <https://www.americanbar.org/events-cle/ece/ondemand/444312633/>

### ► ON-DEMAND

Title: "Borderlands: America's 21st Century Range Wars"

Speakers: Hon. Rod Ring, Robert O. Saunooke, Prof. John D. Loftin, Mod: Prof. Danielle Finn

Link: [Borderlands: America's 21st Century Range Wars \[CC\] \(americanbar.org\)](#)

# North Dakota 2025 Fatal Crash Statistics as of 4/15/2025



## Fatalities: 17

Crashes: 16

Operators Tested Positive BAC: 0

Operators Tested Negative BAC: 3

Operators Not Tested: 0

Fatalities from Alcohol Crashes: 1

No Seat belt (for seat belt eligible vehicles) 7

Speed-related fatalities: 0

Pedestrian fatalities: 3

Motorcycle fatalities: 1

Fatal Crash Involved Lane Departure: 8

Fatal Crash Involved a Younger Driver(s) 14-20 years old: 3

Fatal Crash Involved an Older Driver(s) 65+ years old: 4

Fatal Crash Involved a Train: 0

Fatal Crash Involved a Commercial Motor Vehicle(s): 4

Holiday Fatalities: 0

For a full look at the Fatal Crash Stat Board and how the numbers compare to 2025 and 2024, visit: [2025 Fatality Spreadsheet.xlsx \(nd.gov\)](#). It should be noted that there are currently crashes under investigation and are not yet categorized. You can also find a link to the 2023 North Dakota Crash Summary here: [NDDOT\\_2023CrashSummary\\_Final\\_WEB1.pdf](#)

## STAY TUNED!

Hon. John Grinstein  
North Dakota JOL



I stand as a resource for each of you, so don't hesitate to reach out. If you have an issue that is somehow connected to impaired driving (think seven degrees of Kevin Bacon), I'll do my best to help. If it's not, I'm still happy to listen and help if I can. I know how isolating the position can be, so you have a friend in me, especially if you need someone to talk to! Our conversations are always private unless you explicitly instruct otherwise. Until next time, peace on your heart and strength for your fight no matter how big or small!

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