Election-Related Evidence in State Courts: Legal and Procedural Considerations for Judges

A free webinar for judges sponsored by the
National Civil Justice Institute

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 2:00-3:00 pm ET

This nonpartisan judicial education webinar will address legal and procedural issues courts may encounter when election-related materials are sought as evidence, as well as practical judicial considerations, including oversight of evidence, expedited proceedings, case assignment, and appropriate transparency regarding pleadings and supporting materials.

On a civil docket, election challenges are time-sensitive. Chief judges and court administrators may need to develop special case assignment and processing guidelines in election cases, and that can present challenges for public confidence, and opportunities for transparency.

Courts may also be asked to consider search warrants, subpoenas, or discovery requests involving ballots, election equipment, tabulations, and related records. These matters can present unusual legal and procedural questions because election materials are subject to specific requirements governing security, preservation, chain of custody, and access.

Faculty will examine applicable state and federal law; constitutional considerations that may arise when requests coincide with voting, counting, or certification; and procedures for protecting the integrity and chain of custody of election materials. The focus is not on election policy or the merits of election disputes, but on providing judges with a practical legal framework for handling requests for election-related evidence.

Faculty

Hon. Maureen O'Connor, Retired Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio

Hon. Stephen Shannon, Chief Judge, Fairfax County (VA) Circuit Court

Gary Restaino, Former U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona — Moderator

For state court judges only. Registration is required by October 19 at https://ncji.org/for-judges/ or

For more information, contact info@ncji.org or 202-944-2841.

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