



JANUARY 16 - 17

2026

4TH ANNUAL

**POLITICAL ECONOMY AND
ACCESS TO JUSTICE JUDICIAL
EDUCATION SEMINAR**

Understanding and Analyzing the Economic, Moral
and Political Problems of Our Time

TIDEWATER BLDG
1440 CANAL STREET
RM 1825

SUMMATIVE REPORT

SUBMITTED BY:

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JANUARY 22, 2026

PEAJJES GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal #1

Deepen knowledge at the crosscurrents of political economy and all areas of law governed by the justice system, for appellate, district, traffic, family, juvenile, criminal, and civil court judges, presiding in the Gulf South.

Objectives:

1. Organized panel presentations that explain and model the operations of political economy in efforts undertaken by judges to address challenges in their jurisdictions, including homelessness, sex trafficking of minor, delay of process due to backlog in competency restoration, substance abuse, (im)prudent judicial administration, and underfunding of technological upgrades.
2. Identify ways to measure impact of court interventions (specialty courts) on economic, social, and mental statuses of justice-involved persons past and current structural barriers to access to justice for persons.

PEAJJES GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal #2

Facilitate practical application of knowledge gained to day-to-day court operations.

•Objectives:

- 1. Used lunch breaks, and post-session dinner discussions to identify specific ways in which knowledge gained both holistically and from individual sessions can be taken back, applied, and measured.
- 2. Sustained listserv as tool for seminar participants to continue dialogue post-seminar, share resources, and sustain and expand networking.
- *3. Commenced using social media as a messaging tool to sustain communication and advertise PEAJJES.
- *4 Strategized for incorporation of intervention, prevention, and educational program models used by current judicial participants into future PEAJJES content.

EVALUATIONS: INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS & DEBRIEFINGS

Method: The seminar featured eight (8) sessions with 1 presenter for seven (7) sessions and two (2) presenters for session. The seminar also featured a debriefing dinner for seminar participants, two (2) debriefing working lunch sessions, and one debriefing post-seminar breakfast meeting of past seminar participants. Session presenters included judges and/or judicial administrators currently presiding in Tennessee, Indiana, Louisiana, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, and the U.S. territory of Guam. QR codes were provided for participants to scan and evaluate sessions, by completing survey questions (Exhibit 1).

EVALUATIONS: SEMINAR

Method: Participants were asked to evaluate the seminar, by responding to eight (8) questions. QR Codes for each session were imaged on a single sheet of paper, which was copied and included in seminar registration packets. Seminar administrators and student ambassador reminded participants to complete evaluations at the end of each session. Participants also completed a summative evaluation, which sought insight into participants' overall experience and ideas for strengthening future sessions. "Likes", "posts" and other measures of social media interacting are currently being quantified and assessed as possible measures of efficacy (see, for example, Exhibit 2).

DISCUSSION

Twenty (20) judges registered, representing six (6) judicial district and one (1) appellate court in Louisiana; one (1) jurisdiction in Georgia; civil, criminal, and juvenile courts in Texas; and three (3) Superior courts in North Carolina. All twenty registered judges participated. In addition, three (3) judges who did not register, because they were invited as guest speakers for the seminar, participated in all sessions of the seminar for which they did not serve as presenters.

Of the twenty-three judicial participants, ten (10) attended PEAJES in 2025. Of the ten who attended PEAJES 2025, three (3) attended PEAJES since its 2022 inception.

The seminar location was Tulane's Tidewater Building, 1440 Canal Street. Sign-in sheets were maintained for each day of the seminar with reporting of attendance transmitted to the Louisiana and Texas state bars, both of which accorded CLE credits to judges licensed in these jurisdictions.

DISCUSSION

Response rates for individual session evaluations varied. Initially, despite having QR codes, participants who did not have “gmail” accounts were unable to access evaluations. Once this issue was troubleshooted, participants were urged to complete sessions they were unable to complete concurrently with the close of each session due to accessibility issues.

DISCUSSION

Individual session evaluations seek insight into participants' perspectives on guest speakers' knowledge of the subject on which they present, preparation, and presentation.

Individual session evaluations also seek insight into whether participants foresee applying what they learn to their jurisdictions.

Seminar-level evaluations seek insight into why participants registered to attend PEAJJES, the sufficiency of PEAJJES advertising, the utility of information gathered, and whether participants anticipate attending PEAJJES in the future.

DISCUSSION

Though the number of responses to individual sessions is uneven, evaluations received for individual sessions were consistently positive.

For example, one evaluator characterized Session 1 as “excellent” and expressed a desire to receive a copy of the presenter’s book.

Session 1, facilitated by Dr. Sally Kenney, a political scientist and expert on, among other topics, gender and the judiciary, judicial selection, and employment discrimination, set the tone, by encouraging judicial participants to reflect on what it means to be “policy-makers” through judicial decision-making. In this, Professor Kenney amplified basic principles of political economy that Professor Hoover reviewed in his general welcome, demonstrating how “paradigm-shifting” enables judges to see how their rulings from the bench and the interventions they make to address barriers to justice have micro and macro-level economic impact.

DISCUSSION

Of Session 1, another judicial participant expressed a desire to learn more about how the gendered micro-level economic impact of judicial decision-making that Professor Kenney highlighted extends to racial minorities.

DISCUSSION

Session 2, a case study of Judge Lynda Jones' establishment of a "homeless court" in Nashville, TN , to address myriad barriers to access to justice that unhoused justice-involved individuals face, resulted in one judicial participant expressing intent to "take this [model] to [their] DA."

This observation is especially salient, because it demonstrates both how the judicial participant foresees applying what she/he/they learned from the session and how the participant's application of what she/he/they learned draws in other key stakeholders and decision-makers within the justice system as potential collaborators in increasing access to justice for the unhoused.

DISCUSSION

Session 3 addressed the nation-wide mental health crisis and how interruption of process, due to competency issues stemming from the mental health challenges of countless justice-involved people, not only impedes access to justice but also substantially increases the cost of administering criminal justice in America. Judge Susan Blanco's innovation of "competency court"—an alternative to prosecution—in Colorado, has resulted in the cases of numerous persons with mental disorders and other cognitive deficiencies being diverted and those individuals being matched with mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, housing stability, and employment opportunities.

DISCUSSION

One participant suggested that competency courts be integrated nationwide due to mental health issues in the context of the justice system being “pervasive”.

DISCUSSION

Session 4, led by Judge Dana Kenworthy, a member of the Second District Court of Appeals for the State of Indiana, offered insight into how funding generated through Indiana's Justice Reinvestment Act (codified as [IGA | House Bill 1068 - Local or regional justice reinvestment advisory councils](#), and signed into law by (then) Governor Eric Holcomb April 8, 2021) has been used to holistically service families whose contact with the justice system commenced with an alleged delinquent act by a juvenile.

DISCUSSION

Synergy between sessions 5 and 6 prompted extensive discussion of how AI technology can cost-efficiently eliminate barriers to access to justice, especially in rural courts and juvenile courts. Judge Verity Gentry, District Judge, 11th Judicial District Court, State of Louisiana, reviewed various initiatives she has undertaken to streamline process for citizens of Sabine Parish, whose population totals approximately 22000 and whose per capita household income for 2024 was \$27968. Judge Gentry centered her presentation specifically on efforts to streamline the costs of low response to jury duty, which necessarily results in mistrial declarations. She discussed the court's adoption of certified mailing (at approximately \$8.00/ mailing) as an early intervention—a measure that generated higher juror turnout but at a substantial cost to the system. For the past two years, Judge Gentry has integrated various technologies that have facilitated providing prospective jurors sufficient notice and lessening the costs of service.

DISCUSSION

Participants returned to Judge Gentry's presentation with take-aways from session 6's presentation on AI and the specific work being done in Maricopa County, Arizona to use AI technology to meet the needs of justice-involved citizens with mental health disorders and unreliable transportation. Session 6 provided an overview of cost-savings for Maricopa County's justice system over a three-year period.

One participant observed that while AI is clearly helping rural courts in Arizona to be more efficient, concerns remain about the dangers of AI. Another participant expressed the need for more time to address issues raised in Session 6.

DISCUSSION

Asked in the summative evaluation whether they would recommend the seminar to their colleagues, 100% of participants who responded said that they would. Asked if they are likely to attend PEAJJES in the future, 100% of responding participants said they would attend PEAJJES in the future.

One participant described PEAJJES as “phenomenal” and indicated that the seminar is “the best [they’ve] attended.” Another characterized the speaker line-up as “phenomenal” and, when characterizing the seminar as “unforgettable” specifically asked that the first day be broken up into two.

CHALLENGES

From the vantage point of its primary organizer/administrator, PEAJJES 2026 had little challenges. Tulane's downtown campus provided ample space in close proximity to university preferred hotels/hotel partners. The Drury Plaza Hotel provided lodging accommodations for PEAJJES 2026, just as they did in 2025. If PEAJJES continues to operate in 2027, the downtown campus will remain the location for seminar activities, with the seminar taking place the weekend before MLK Holiday. The Drury Plaza will remain the official contracted seminar hotel.

One participant observed that he/she/they "think[s] Tulane should have a coordinator devoted solely for this seminar to make sure the ball is not dropped on pre seminar preparation." This comment, which suggests that the participant experienced an adverse issue prior to the seminar, is surprising to the primary organizer/administrator, because no issues were reported. The comment is also an outlier within the collective of responses in summative evaluations that spoke to participants' holistic experiences.

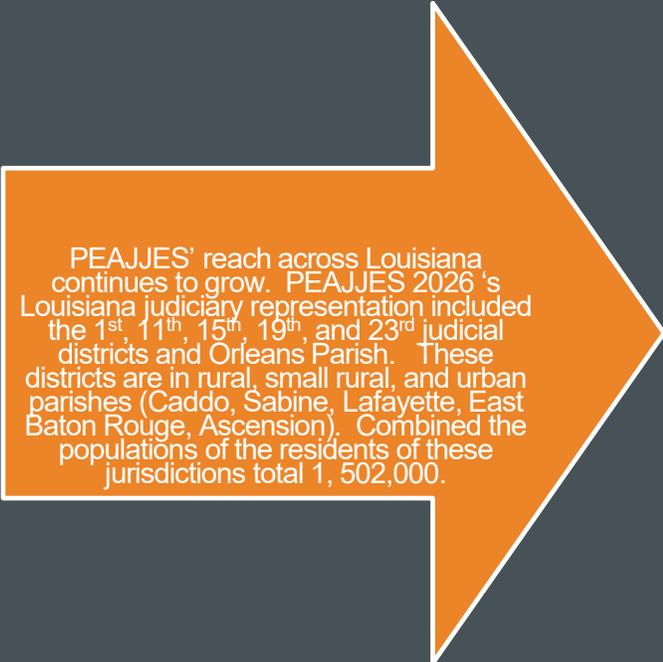
CHALLENGES NEGOTIATED

2026 evidenced continuing progress resolving past issues with the concept of “political economy” serving as the conceptual anchor of the seminar. Professor Hoover’s welcome succinctly framed the relationship between political economy and judicial decision-making that the seminar probes; and Professor Kenney’s presentation offered participants specific and diverse examples of the broad (macro) and specific (micro) impacts of judicial decision-making and extrajudicial work. A judicial participant in his/her/their second year of attending noted that sessions feature topics that “impact all courts” and lauded the seminar’s “intimacy”.

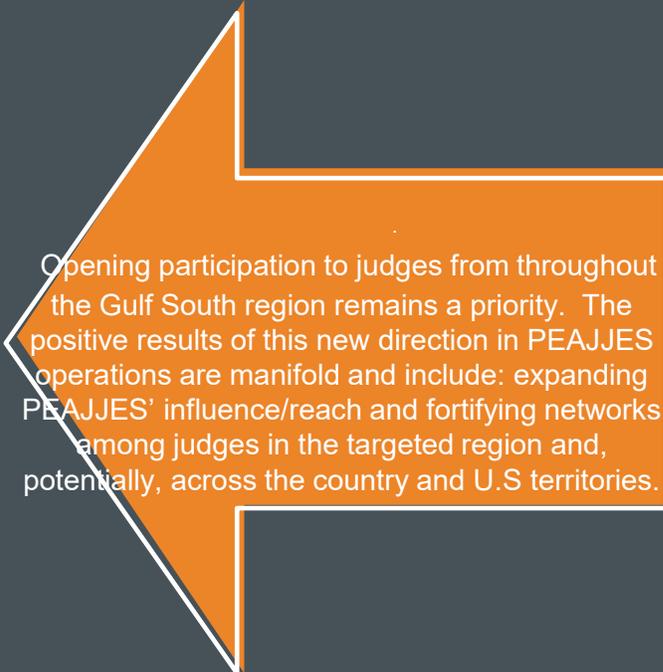
FUTURE SEMINARS

Evaluations point to a continuing need for the Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar. Participants found the seminar content applicable to their day-to-day work, indicated that they do not have access to PEAJJES information through other judicial conferences, and expressed a desire to attend future seminars.

FUTURE PLANNING



PEAJJES' reach across Louisiana continues to grow. PEAJJES 2026 's Louisiana judiciary representation included the 1st, 11th, 15th, 19th, and 23rd judicial districts and Orleans Parish. These districts are in rural, small rural, and urban parishes (Caddo, Sabine, Lafayette, East Baton Rouge, Ascension). Combined the populations of the residents of these jurisdictions total 1, 502,000.



Opening participation to judges from throughout the Gulf South region remains a priority. The positive results of this new direction in PEAJJES operations are manifold and include: expanding PEAJJES' influence/reach and fortifying networks among judges in the targeted region and, potentially, across the country and U.S territories.

FUTURE PLANNING

On January 20, 2026, a debriefing and future planning meeting took place among judicial participants who attended PEAJJES 2024 and 2025. During this meeting, we sketched plans for PEAJJES 2027, pending available funding. (Exhibit 3) . If funded, PEAJJES 2027 will bring the concept of justice and the varying functions of judicial-decision-making into relief to contemplate what happens when these functions fail or are at risk of failing in a constitutional republic.

FUTURE PLANNING

Sessions will offer participants frameworks for exploring these questions in relation to broad ethical and philosophical themes, such as judicial independence and public confidence, as well as in relation to issues that impact the material conditions of people's daily lives, including wage stagnation, affordable housing shortages, healthcare accessibility, and public safety.

FUTURE PLANNING

The future of PEAJJES depends on available funding. If funded, PEAJJES will continue to take place annually the weekend before the MLK holiday. Advertising will start in January and will continue to target appellate, district, family, juvenile, civil, traffic, municipal, and criminal court judges throughout the Gulf South and extend to the ex-Confederate states. Social media will be used to advertise and spotlight the successes of PEAJJES 2025. Student ambassadors will sustain and update PEAJJES's virtual presence through Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Working lunches, debriefing dinners, and post-seminar debriefings will continue to provide mechanisms for collaboratively extracting the practical applications of theory for judicial decision-making and for future planning.

PEAJJES will continue to utilize the network of judges who participated in past seminars to build interest, with registration capping at 30 participants. PEAJJES will use social networking to sustain a year-round presence.

FUTURE PLANNING

PEAJJES administrator has sufficient data to generate a Note about PEAJJES' reach, impact, and efficacy. This Note will be completed and shared with The Murphy Institute in Summer 2026.

Publication of the Note will be sought with a relevant law journal, such as *The Louisiana Bar Journal* or *Judicature*.

Timestamp	Username	The present	The present	The format	There was	I will be able	Additional Comments:
2026/01/16 10:50:48	lyndafjone	5	5	5	5	5	Excellent. I would like a copy of her book list.
2026/01/16 10:52:19		5	4	4	5	5	
2026/01/16 11:04:03		5	5	5	4	5	I wish she made more of a link between the problems women face and minority
2026/01/16 11:14:04		4	4	4	4	4	
2026/01/16 11:25:47		5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/16 11:27:34		5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/16 12:34:26		4	4	5	5	5	
2026/01/16 1:18:53 P		5	4	5	5	3	
2026/01/16 3:23:58 P		5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/16 4:21:47 P		3	3	3	5	4	
2026/01/16 4:22:35 P		5	4	5	5	5	
2026/01/16 5:02:49 P		5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/16 5:49:32 P		5	5	5	5	5	5 second year attending and even better than last year
2026/01/16 5:50:29 P		5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/17 8:48:21 A		5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/17 11:02:52		5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/17 12:15:42		5	3	5	5	4	

EXHIBIT 1, IN GLOBO

as face. It seems her point was that the two groups are similarly situated

Timestamp	The present	The present	The format	There was	I will be able	Additional Comments:
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5	I want to take this to my DA
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/1	5	5	4	3	5	
2026/01/1	5	4	5	5	3	
2026/01/1	5	5	5	3	5	
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/1	4	4	4	4	4	
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5	5 Very engaging presentation thank you
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5	5 Very informative

Timestamp The present The present The format There was : I will be able Additional Comments:

2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5 This is great!
2026/01/1	5	4	5	5	5
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	4
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5
2026/01/1	5	5	5	5	5 Every state should have this specialty court r
2026/01/1	4	4	4	2	3

mental health and competency issues are pervasive and delay process substantially there are also due process co

nsiderations

Timestamp	The presenter appeared to be well-informed on	The presenter's style of presentation	The format of this presentation was w
2026/01/16 3:07:25	5	5	5
2026/01/16 3:25:39	5	5	5
2026/01/16 3:48:07	4	4	4
2026/01/16 4:11:26	5	5	5
2026/01/16 4:24:09	5	5	5
2026/01/16 5:02:29	5	5	5
2026/01/16 5:05:46	5	5	5
2026/01/16 5:53:56	5	5	5
2026/01/17 10:39:4	5	5	5

There was sufficient I will be able to apply Additional Comments:

5	5
5	5
4	4
5	4
5	5
5	5
5	5
5	5
5	5 I would like more information about the book motivational interviewingâ€”helping people change and growâ€”
4	3

Timestamp	The presenter appeared t	The presenter's style of	The format of this presentation wa	There was sufficient ti	I will be able to apply what
2026/01/16 2:21:	5	5	5	5	4
2026/01/16 4:23:	4	4	4	4	4
2026/01/16 5:02:	5	5	5	5	3
2026/01/16 5:05:	5	5	5	4	4
2026/01/16 5:54:	5	5	5	5	5
2026/01/17 10:41	5	5	4	5	4
2026/01/17 11:51	4	4	4	4	4

Additional Comments:

The judge needs an award for innovation and perseverance shocking that a court system is so underfunded

Timestamp	The presen	The presen	The format	There was : I will be ab	Additional Comments:
2026/01/17 5:50	5	5	5	5	5 AI is helping rural courts to be more efficient but this presentation reveals the d.
2026/01/17 10:00	5	3	4	3	4
2026/01/17 10:00	5	5	5	5	4 Aaron Judy was engaging and allowed time for questions. Justice Torres did not
2026/01/17 11:00	5	5	5	5	5 I really enjoyed meeting Bob!
2026/01/17 11:00	5	5	5	4	5 Was entertaining and informative but needed more time
2026/01/17 11:00	5	5	5	5	5 Need more Ai sessions
2026/01/17 11:00	5	5	5	5	5

angers of AI unregulated very important presentation

allow time for questions and was not engaging.

Timestamp	The presenter ap	The presen	The format	There was	I will be able to apply wh	Additional Comments:
2026/01/17 5:56:4	5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/17 11:03:	5	5	5	5	5	5 Interesting take on Judicial independence
2026/01/17 12:00:	5	5	5	5	5	5 Really nuts and bolts!
2026/01/17 12:24:	4	4	4	4	4	
2026/01/17 12:27:	5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/17 1:19:3	5	5	5	5	5	

Timestamp	The present	The present	The format	There was	I will be able	Additional Comments:
2026/01/17 5:57:	5	5	5	5	5	Informative and frank very good presentation
2026/01/17 12:00:	5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/17 12:40:	5	5	5	5	5	Extremely engaging and the topic was useful. Topic created a lot of self reflective
2026/01/17 1:18:	5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/17 1:19:	5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/17 1:21:	4	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/17 1:25:	5	5	5	5	5	
2026/01/19 3:05:	5	5	5	5	5	This was phenomenal

on.

Additional Comments:

This is my 2nd year and I look forward to next year. This is a phenomenal experience. Very intimate and very necessary discussions around topics that impact all
Outstanding experience. Please break up the first day. Otherwise, it was an unforgettable seminar.

Another phenomenal line up of speakers and topics. I also enjoyed listening to fellow judges with shared experiences. Thank you!

I think Tulane should have a coordinator devoted solely for this seminar to make sure the ball is not dropped on pre seminar preparation .

The seminar was one of the best I've attended. Beyond the practical knowledge obtained, the professional connections made during the conference will be a cr
Thank you for this opportunity,

ontinuing resource and benefit to myself and my court. I cannot say enough good things about the presentations, the conference, and Judge Lewis. Thank you fc

or letting me attend and for inspiring me.



Nghana Lewis • You



3d • Edited •

The 4th Annual Political Economy and Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar (PEAJJES) took place this past weekend and was, as in past years, a tremendous success! Launched at Tulane University in 2022 with generous support from The Murphy Institute, PEAJJES brings judges together to collaboratively explore issues at the intersection of policy and access to justice. PEAJJES 2026 “shined a light” on work judges are doing in jurisdictions throughout the country (Tennessee, Indiana, Colorado, Arizona, Louisiana) and US territories (Guam) to foster judicial economy and the rule of law in response to challenges that justice-involved citizens experience, including: housing instability, human trafficking, delay of process caused by backlogs in competency proceedings, and understanding how to leverage AI innovation to facilitate cost efficient access to process in rural regions. Shout out to our outstanding judicial participants and guest presenters, and, as always, special thanks to The Murphy Institute for supporting cultivation and implementation of shared knowledge and practical know-how through PEAJJES’ learning community. To learn more about PEAJJES, visit www.peajjes.com.



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Dr. Maniko Barthelemy and 10 others

1 comment

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238 impressions

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Judge Sandra Cabrina Jenkins • 1st
Judge

21h

Congratulations on yet another great conference!

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EXHIBIT 2, in globo

RE: Thank you!

From Honorable Robert J. Torres <rjtorres@guamcourts.gov>

Date Tue 2026-01-20 4:48 PM

To Aaron Judy (ETI) <Aaron.Judy@Maricopa.Gov>; Political Economy and Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar <peajjes@tulane.edu>

External Sender. Be aware of links, attachments and requests.

Nghana

I also want to thank you for the invitation to present at PEAJJES. The mission of strengthening Justice Systems through Innovative, Interdisciplinary & Interactive Judicial Training is laudable and your hard work will pay dividends .

It's amazing that you have the 5th Seminar's topic on the website already . You are on top of it . Addressing the varying functions of judicial-decision-making and what happens when these functions fail or are at risk of failing in a constitutional republic is timely .

Aaron:

Thank you for your contribution which added real depth to the seminar. The engagement generated, including your breakout discussions afterward, speaks volumes about how resonant the AI session was with the judges. I'll certainly take you up on your offer to stay connected as this work continues.

senseramente,

JRJT

From: Aaron Judy (ETI) <Aaron.Judy@Maricopa.Gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 4:21 AM

To: Political Economy and Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar <peajjes@tulane.edu>

Cc: Honorable Robert J. Torres <rjtorres@guamcourts.gov>

Subject: Thank you!

Dear Honorable Judge Lewis and Ms. Williams,

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to the Political Economy and Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar. It was truly a rewarding experience, and I received a lot of positive feedback and engagement afterward, including some impromptu breakout consultations in the adjacent rooms. If I can be of any assistance to you or anyone else in the group in the future, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you once again.

Warm regards,
Aaron



Aaron L. Judy, GISP

Chief of Innovation & Emerging Technologies

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Tulane University
5th Annual Political Economy & Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar (PEAJJES)

CONTRACTS, SOCIAL ORDER, AND THE RULE OF LAW: THE VARIED FUNCTIONS OF JUDICIAL DECISION-MAKING

The concept of justice is central to the work of judges not only because of the roles judges play in administering justice but also because of the roles judicial decision-making plays in shaping the social, economic and political lives of citizens and the social, economic, and political structures that engender just and orderly societies. The 5th Annual Political Economy and Access to Justice Judicial Education Seminar brings the concept of justice and the varying functions of judicial-decision-making into relief to contemplate what happens when these functions fail or are at risk of failing in a constitutional republic. The seminar offers participants frameworks for exploring these questions in relation to broad ethical and philosophical themes, such as judicial independence and public confidence, as well as in relation to issues that impact the material conditions of people's daily lives, including wage stagnation, affordable housing shortages, healthcare accessibility, and public safety. *To register, visit www.peajjes.com. For more information, email peajjes@tulane.edu, or call (985) 497-5508.*

PEAJJES 2027 will take place January 15-16, 2027. The full seminar schedule is forthcoming.

EXHIBIT 3