

Oklahoma Municipal Judges Association

201 N.E. 23rd Street ~ Oklahoma City, OK 73105 ~ (405) 528-7515

TO: All Municipal Judges and Associate Municipal Judges

FROM: Lisa Otipoby-Herbert, Municipal Judge
President of Oklahoma Municipal Judges Association

SUBJECT: 2024-2025 Membership in Oklahoma Municipal Judges Association (OMJA)

Greetings Municipal Judges of Oklahoma:

It is again time to register for membership in OMJA. Our workshop evaluations indicate the OMJA program is getting better every year, which is one good reason for you to either renew your membership in OMJA for the coming year, or join us if you are not yet a member.

What does OMJA do?

The Oklahoma Municipal Judges Association exists to help municipal judges with the exacting duties of municipal court management. OMJA is run entirely by its member judges. Collectively, we have the ability to provide each other with a wealth of experience and expertise. OMJA is dedicated to sharing that expertise for the benefit of municipal officials.

Network. It is imperative that municipal judges pool their expertise. Our Board of Directors is selected to give a voice to municipalities of all sizes. Since OMJA's sole source of funding is membership dues, our services are necessarily restricted to our members. A contract with the Oklahoma Municipal League provides headquarters and administrative services.

Education. OMJA sponsors two educational opportunities a year: the spring conference and the OMJA annual fall meeting. These programs offer CLE credit for attorneys and fulfill the statutory requirement for judicial CLE. The programs concurrently address concerns of non-lawyer judges. The networking opportunities provide an opportunity for judges to meet speakers, fellow registrants, and to compare issues and ideas with other municipal judges. The program speakers are often selected from the faculty of the National Judicial College, colleges of law, or from the ranks of our own seasoned members.

As you all may be aware, the legislature passed Senate Bill 462 during the 2023 legislative session. This legislation does the following:

1. Requires all municipal judges must complete 12 hours of required municipal related continuing education through the Oklahoma Municipal Judges Association prior to July 1st, 2026.
2. Upon completion of the training that is conducted by the Oklahoma Municipal Judges Association, you will receive a certification of training certificate.
3. The training is approved by the Oklahoma Bar Association for continuing education credit.
4. The certificate must be filed with the county clerk of the jurisdiction in which the municipality is located.
5. The municipal judges association holds training twice a year, however additional training dates may be added prior to the effect date.

6. As of July 1st 2026, if you have not completed your training and your certificate is filed with the county clerk, your municipality will be limited to a maximum of \$50.00 fine for any charge, traffic or criminal.
7. This is a one-time training, and certificate pursuant to the legislation, similar to new city officials and new police chiefs training also required by statute for elected municipal officials and municipal police chiefs.

A membership form is enclosed for your review. We hope you join us as a member of OMJA.
