



# Best Practices in training of judges and prosecutors

Category of practice: **Innovative Curricula or Training Plan in any Given Area**

Type of practice: **Best Practice**

Country: **England and Wales**

**April, 2014**

Title of practice	Delivery of Training to Judges and Prosecutors in Conjunction with Other Professions
<i>Key features:</i>	<p>Whenever it becomes clear that the work of judges and prosecutors cannot be examined separately, as it may intermingle with a variety of other professions, both legal and non-legal, some training institutions highlight the added value of the training provided to a combined audience.</p> <p>It is claimed that this approach is very successful, based on the added value for each target group of participants who are able to see how a given process develops from another profession's viewpoint. This enables all the players within and outside the judicial field to demonstrate understanding and a higher level of awareness towards the justice administration as a whole.</p> <p>In <b>England and Wales</b>, at the Judicial College judges and specialist non-judge members (medical and financial specialists) train together in the Social Security and Child Support Tribunal, while also delivering training in tandem. This enables the training providers to use case-specific examples from these areas of work, so that a realistic and detailed discussion, both legal and subject-specific, can occur.</p> <p>The complex factual matters for which specialist knowledge is required may be explained and interpreted by the specialist members, while the judges bring their legal knowledge to the case studies, so new law can be explored, discussed and integrated into the specialist issues.</p> <p>The real effectiveness is thought to be in fostering a greater rapport between judges and the non-legal members, and a better understanding of and respect for the skills that each professional discipline has and brings to the tribunal. This feeds into good tribunal experiences on both sides of the table, as good teamwork will lead to better outcomes, both in terms of the</p>

	<p>efficiency of hearings and the user experience. This is now considered to be the appropriate way to train where possible, indeed, where different professional disciplines engage in a tribunal hearing together it seems odd now to envisage wholly separate training.</p>
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<p><i>Other comments</i></p>	<p>Training institutions may wish to consider the transferability of the system described above, which can be qualified as a <b>BEST PRACTICE</b>, in particular circumstances if they are empowered to organise training events addressed to other professions other than their own or in partnership with other national institutions.</p>

Source: Pilot Project - European Judicial Training: "*Lot 1 – Study on best practices in training judges and prosecutors*", carried out by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)