



Justice Speakers Institute
SPEAKING, TEACHING & TRAINING - WORLDWIDE

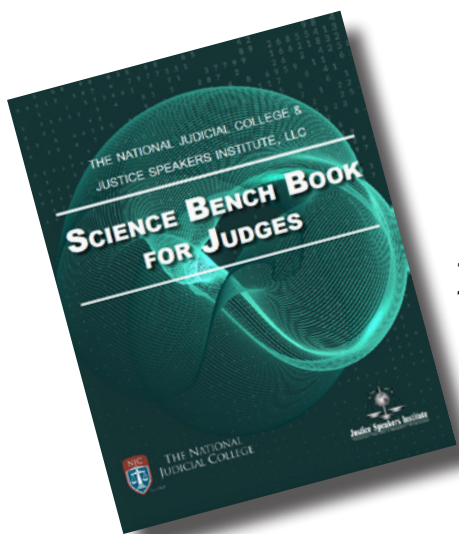
WHAT IS A “BENCH BOOK?”

A judicial bench book is an ongoing compilation of legal information that trial judges have found useful for immediate bench or chamber’s reference in civil and criminal proceedings. In essence, they are instructional manuals about specific legal topics that judges use to assist them in their rulings. They provide guidance on specific legal topics such as the rules of evidence, taking guilty pleas, standard voir dire questions for jurors, sentencing, and contempt.

Bench books are also published on more narrow technical areas of law that may come before the judge, i.e., domestic law, public health law, etc.

In appellate courts, the term may also apply to materials prepared in anticipation of hearing a particular case or set of cases. Such a bench book often contains documents related to the case and relevant legal authority. This meaning mainly applies to appellate court judges, who may prepare a bench book for each day’s argument session.

Trial bench books are often prepared under the guidance of experienced judges and lawyers and may be used on-line, downloaded to a computer or other electronic device, or printed out in loose-leaf format.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CALL JSI (248) 962-3761

DOWNLOAD THE SCIENCE BENCH BOOK AT:

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