

This means that—to the best of the knowledge of the nominee—no other substantially similar program has recently been launched by another court. In determining if a program is innovative, you must put out queries to any of the applicable AOC listserves. (A complete listing of listserves is available at Listserve Central—requires Serranus access.) Also check the Innovations Web site to see previous Kleps Award recipient programs (www.courts.ca.gov/programs/innovations) or find information about programs in the California superior courts online at www.courts.ca.gov/otherwebsites.htm.

Innovation is **not**:

- Creating a project that doesn't solve a problem or add value to the court system
- Project maintenance or upgrades to existing technology
- Excellent program—BUT nothing new or a significant enhancement of an existing program concept, design, or implementation

Innovation is **not just**:

- Being “the first”
- Following the law
- Collaboration
- Good business decisions

As an example, Law Day events have been conducted in many locations. However, a Law Day program may be eligible to apply for a Kleps Award if it is truly innovative and has substantially different components from other Law Day programs in California. As a counterexample, the implementation of online technology may not be eligible for a Kleps Award if substantially similar technology is already in place in another court.

What is meant by the “transferability” and “replicability” award criteria?

Consider to what extent other courts could mirror your program—either in total (transferable) or in a scaled-back or even broader manner (replicable).

“Transferability” means that other courts could take your program as is and reproduce it without significant changes. Consider your court's capacity and willingness to share information about the

program. Is there an electronic template that other courts can adjust for their needs?

“Replicability” means that other courts can learn from and reproduce a Kleps Award recipient program, taking into account several factors: the need for a program, program costs, staffing requirements, and program materials, among others. Are you able to easily document your program planning, evaluation, and outcomes so that other courts can reference them as a model? These are essential tools in disseminating information and supporting other courts in their efforts to replicate your program.

What is meant by the “sustainability” award criterion?

“Sustainability” refers to the program's potential to continue to exist after the pilot period and should also be considered a factor of replicability. Was your program funded from a one-time grant or award? Are resources built into your court's budget and staffing model to support program continuity? Does the program have the capacity to respond to changing financial and human resources scenarios at your court?

What is meant by the award criterion “measurable results, outcomes, or benefits”?

A separate tip sheet has been developed that gives tangible advice about program evaluation. It can be found on the Web site at www.courts.ca.gov/programs/innovations.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

Who is Ralph N. Kleps?

Ralph N. Kleps served as the first California Administrative Director of the Courts from 1961 to 1977. In 1991, the Ralph N. Kleps Awards for Improvement in the Administration of the Courts were created in his honor.

What are the Kleps Awards?

The Kleps Awards celebrate innovative programs developed by California courts that further the goals of the Judicial Council's strategic plan and that contribute to improving judicial administration.

How often are the Kleps Awards given?

The Kleps Awards is a biennial program. Nominations are accepted and evaluated every two years. The next cycle will cover 2010–2011.

What is the nature of the Kleps Awards and when are they presented?

Each awarded court receives a commemorative plaque presented in a special ceremony to be held at the court in the spring or fall of 2011. Awardees are profiled in a special AOC publication and Web site covering a wide array of innovations and featured in a video shown at the award ceremony and at a Judicial Council meeting.

How many court programs are recommended in each size category?

Traditionally, the Kleps Awards Committee recommends to the Judicial Council two programs from each of the categories and one additional recommendation that may be drawn from any of the five categories, for a total of 11. However, the committee has discretion to recommend more or fewer programs in each category, as long as the total is no more than 11.

We receive money from the AOC for our court program—does that disqualify it for a Kleps Award?

No. AOC funding does not disqualify your program. However, the court must be the driving force behind the program and must be the originator of the concept and/or implementation of the program.

Who selects award recipients?

Nominations are assessed and evaluated by a committee whose members are appointed by the Chief Justice. The Kleps Awards Committee is composed of representatives from northern, southern, and central California. All segments of the court community are represented—from large courts and small—including appellate justices, judges with administrative responsibilities, court executive officers, and court program managers.

What is the timeline and process for awards selection?

After reviewing each application, committee members will conduct site visits during the fall and winter months of 2010 and 2011 to see nominated programs in action, after which they will score and evaluate each program. In April 2011, the committee will identify Kleps-worthy programs and make formal recommendations to the Judicial Council. The Kleps nominees will then be notified after the Judicial Council approves award recommendations.

When is my Kleps nomination form due?

The 2010–2011 nomination forms will be available on May 3, 2010. It is highly preferred that nominations be submitted by e-mail. If extenuating circumstances prevent e-mailing a nomination, mailing a hard copy is permissible. The deadline for sending completed nomination materials for the 2010–2011 cycle is August 27, 2010.

Timeline and Important Dates	
May 3, 2010	Nomination form is released to the courts.
August 27, 2010	Completed nomination forms are due to the AOC.
October 2010–March 2011	Court site visits are conducted by Kleps Awards Committee members.
April 2011	Kleps Awards Committee submits recommendations to the Judicial Council.
April 2011	Judicial Council selects Kleps Awards recipients.
Spring–Fall 2011	Awards presented to recipients in local award ceremonies.

Do all award applicants receive a site visit?

No, only those applicants that initially meet each of the criteria, as outlined in the nomination materials, will receive a site visit. Early in the process, the committee will contact courts whose programs may for some reason be ineligible for consideration.

What is meant by the award criterion “a project of a California court”?

This means that a California court is the leader of the project. Even when working closely on a collaborative project with other community and justice partners, Kleps-nominated programs **must** be court driven. For example, a weeklong teacher civics education program organized by a local nonprofit that includes one day of observing the court and touring the courthouse would not qualify for a Kleps nomination.

How do I know if our program addresses one of the goals outlined in the Judicial Council's strategic plan?

You can access the current plan, *Justice in Focus: The Strategic Plan for California's Judicial Branch, 2006–2012*, at www.courts.ca.gov/reference/documents/strategic_plan_2006-2012-full.pdf. The document lists the six goals in detail.

How do I know if our program addresses one or more of the four key elements of procedural fairness—respect, voice, neutrality, and trust?

The statewide initiative on procedural fairness is aimed at ensuring fair process for and quality treatment of court users, resulting in higher trust and confidence in California's courts. Information regarding the four key elements of procedural fairness may be found in the branch publication, *Procedural Fairness in the California Courts*, available on the California Courts Web site at www.courts.ca.gov/programs/profair.

What is meant by the “innovation” award criterion?

Innovative is defined as creating or significantly enhancing a concept, goal, and/or objective that improves the performance and practices of the court relative to size, community, and available resources.