



Court Leadership And Professional Competencies

Issue # 13

Six Professional
Competencies

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A Sampling of
Professional:

Abilities

Competencies

Practices

Success Skills

Mindsets

Knowledge

Actions

Behaviors

Strategies



Many court leaders have been exposed to training on proficiencies from the National Association for Court Management, or workshops from the National Center for State Courts' Institute for Court Management or even university courses on judicial administration. This series reviews different KSAs from a variety of sources.



This issue borrows from a publication of Stanford University noting six professional competencies.

Six Professional Competencies

- 1. Communication**
 - Speaking, presenting, and writing effectively
 - Having interpersonal authenticity and awareness
 - Using storytelling, narrative, and engaging presentations
- 2. Teaching and Mentoring**
 - Teaching and training with collaborative techniques
 - Seeking input and feedback from others
 - Providing mentoring and growth-related relationships
 - Working to develop the next generation
- 3. Professionalism**
 - Applying professional ethics and concepts
 - Using analytical and critical thinking
 - Seeking stress management and work/life balance
- 4. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
 - Engaging with other perspectives
 - Using inquiry
 - Building positive connections
- 5. Leadership and Management**
 - Influencing and inspiring others with vision and curiosity
 - Knowing one's own strengths
- 6. Career Development**
 - Exploring career pathways
 - Leveraging networking and building relationships

About These Competencies

The KSA components are interrelated, nonlinear, and applicable to lifelong professional development.

Learning these KSAs involves a process not dictated by a specific degree or discipline.

Competencies may be acquired from experience, coursework, research, study, and volunteer experiences.

Examine:

What can I learn and apply from these KSAs?

Where can I find instances and opportunities to expand on the use of any of these KSAs?

The Six Professional Competencies, Stanford Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education, [The Six Professional Competencies](#) | Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education , Accessed 12/1/2025

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