2019 MIDYEAR CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 10-12, 2019 ~ LITTLE ROCK MARRIOTT
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS DEADLINE TO
SUBMIT PROPOSALS: September 10, 2018
NOTIFICATION PERIOD: October, 2018

Conference Theme: *"Advancing Today's Courts to Meet the Challenges of Tomorrow"*

Proposal Guidelines:

The conference will feature 4 plenary sessions and up to 20 breakout workshops. NACM seeks proposals for sessions that align with the conference theme while also providing attendees with informative, engaging and interactive educational content, and practical takeaways that will benefit court professionals.

Proposal Submission, Review, and Selection

NACM will only accept proposals submitted via NACM's Online Session Proposal Form. All proposals must be received by September 10, 2018. NACM may elect to extend this deadline and/or may choose to solicit proposals from potential presenters who did not submit them.

Each proposal will be evaluated for:

- knowledge and experience of presenter(s);
- alignment of topic to conference theme and the likely relevance of the topic to the audience;
- the degree to which a realistic and achievable approach has been proposed;
- opportunities for audience engagement;
- content being educational, and not commercial, in nature; and
- the level of interest generated by the topic.

Please review the NACM Speaker Expectations, Information, and Tips prior to submitting your proposal.

NACM supports the work of the State Justice Institute (SJI), and those submitting proposals should look for ways to advance SJI's FY 2018 Priority Investment Areas.

Deadline to submit proposals: September 10, 2018

Conference Theme:

NACM's 2019 Midyear theme of *"Advancing Today's Courts to Meet the Challenges of Tomorrow"* focuses on current and new solution-based technology, programs, and services in today's courts. Alternatives to incarceration, treatment for mental health challenges and substance abuse addiction, especially opioids, human trafficking, bail reform, immigration and domestic violence are just a few of the critical issues facing courts. As society changes, courts must adjust their delivery methods for dispensing justice fairly and impartially. Meeting tomorrow's challenges requires a trained workforce of court professionals who use innovative solutions, evidence-based and best practices, and community-based programs and partnerships.

When we think of *advancing today's courts to meet the challenges of tomorrow* we must be mindful of court professionals' important role in ensuring access to justice. Courts must also serve and meet the needs of children, minority communities, the hearing impaired, self-represented litigants, non-English speaking persons, and those with disabilities and cognitive impairments. Public perception of the courts is but one of the driving forces. So, too, is a court's inherent responsibility for procedural fairness and justice in meeting the needs of our customers. Courts can and must improve access to justice by using technology and innovative solutions.

Advancing today's courts to meet the challenges of tomorrow further involves taking the initiative to address how courts do business. Centralizing court services will enable a better user experience for the public when engaging the courts. Preferred topic areas include, but are not limited to:

Utilizing Technology to Advance Courts

- Technology can improve access to justice on several fronts: case processing, document and data storage, jury management, fair practices regarding legal financial obligations, remote interpretation, and accessibility to courts for all persons.
- Technology can provide ease of use and convenience to users to resolve court matters through remote appearances, online dispute resolution, electronic access and case filing and more.
- Courts are recognizing the need to have open source data that will enable courts to share information with other justice partners and stakeholders.

- Court consumers expect technology solutions such as electronic notifications, extraction and redaction of records, and teleservices.

Improving Access to the Courts

- The challenge courts face today is ensuring the public feels heard, respected, and confident they are receiving justice. The court can accomplish this by implementing policies and practices that promote procedural fairness in courtrooms and courthouses.
- Courts need tools and strategies to create a user-friendly court environment without compromising access to justice and the actual delivery of justice.

Improving the Court's Response to Substance Abuse and Mental Illness

- Courts interact with individuals with addictive habits that permeate society and public health. The growing numbers of cases that involve opioid addicted persons are rising. Courts, in conjunction with other national efforts, can identify solutions for such persons interacting with the courts on a regular basis.
- Courts must undertake efforts to improve court and community responses to those with mental illness.

Developing Court Leadership

- Leaders must be prepared to lead and have a clear vision for the future of courts. Information sharing, exploring new ideas, training and being hands-on is essential for court leaders to aide in the advancement of courts.
- The court leader's role as liaison with court customers, stakeholders and strategic partners is necessary to advance the courts forward.

NACM will give special consideration to proposals that address one or more of the above topics while focusing on the use or development of practical tools that enhance leadership in the courts. NACM will also give special consideration to the State Justice Institute's Priority Investment Areas which include: Opioids and the State Courts Response; Human Trafficking Issues and the State Courts; Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Elder Issues; Juvenile Justice Reform; Reengineering to Improve Court Operations; Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices; Civil Justice in the 21st Century; Self-Represented Litigation; and Language Access.