



National Association for Court Management
Strengthening Court Professionals

NACM 2021 CONFERENCES

MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

Justice for All: Courts at the
Crossroads:
Surviving the Global Pandemic
FEBRUARY 14-16, 2021
JACKSONVILLE, FL *

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Justice for All: Courts at the
Crossroads:
Achieving Racial Justice
JULY 11-15, 2021
SAN DIEGO, CA *

* Please note: While conferences are planned to be onsite in conference facilities, world events may dictate moving to a virtual format.

Proposal Guidelines

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. Details on the conference layout and theme follow below:

Midyear - The midyear conference will feature up to 4 plenary sessions and 10+ breakout workshops. The final number of sessions and breakouts is dependent on the length of sessions selected and site logistics. Generally, 250-300 participants attend the NACM Midyear Conference.

Annual - The annual conference will feature up to 6 plenary sessions and 30+ breakout workshops. The final number of sessions and breakouts is dependent on the length of sessions selected and site logistics. Generally, 600-800 participants attend the NACM Annual Conference.

Proposal Submission, Review, and Selection

NACM will only accept proposals submitted via [NACM's Online Session Proposal Form](#). Proposals will be accepted for both the midyear and annual conferences on a continuing basis. **Midyear proposals** will be selected from submissions received prior to **October 2** with **annual conference proposals** received by **December 1**. NACM strives to notify presenters of their acceptance within 30-45 days of the close of the proposal period. NACM may elect to extend these deadlines and/or may choose to solicit proposals from potential presenters outside of this proposal process.

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.

Presenters must review the [NACM Presenter Expectations, Information & Tips](#) prior to submitting their proposal.

NACM supports the work of the State Justice Institute (SJI) and those submitting proposals should look for ways to advance [SJI's Priority Investment Areas](#) especially those highlighted in the list below. These include:

- Opioids & the State Courts Response
- Human Trafficking Issues & the State Courts
- Guardianship, Conservatorship & Elder Issues
- Juvenile Justice Reform
- Reengineering to Improve Court Operations
- Fines, Fees & Bail Practices
- Family and Civil Justice Reform
- Self-Represented Litigation
- Language Access
- Emergency Preparedness and Cybersecurity
- Court Pandemic Response and Recovery

All NACM conferences demonstrate themes built off the [NACM Core](#). If a core competency breakout workshop is proposed, workshop material should have the NACM Core Competency as the primary focus of the presentation and should address one or more of the learning objectives in the Core curriculum. These include the 13 competencies noted below; however, this conference will focus on the highlighted competencies:

- Public Trust & Confidence
- Purposes & Responsibilities
- Caseflow & Workflow
- Operations Management
- Public Relations
- Educational Development
- Workforce Management
- Ethics
- Budget & Fiscal Management
- Accountability & Court Performance
- Leadership
- Strategic Planning
- Court Governance including Judicial Independence

Conference Theme

The 2021 conference theme of Justice for All: Courts at the Crossroads stems from two major events with far-reaching implications for society and by extension our courts—the coronavirus pandemic and nationwide protests over racial injustice.

The pandemic has forced many court professionals to turn to new technology and other measures in innovative ways that are sure to evolve, improve and continue; but not without issues. These unprecedented times have taught us a valuable lesson in emergency preparedness.

Likewise, the protests have prompted concerned individuals to closely examine the extent to which we, as a nation, are fulfilling our pledge to provide “Justice for All,” the bedrock of our legal system, as well as the need to promote diversity and inclusion in our systems.

The Founding Fathers could not foresee the pandemic or other major events that have beset our nation over the centuries; but they wisely created a system of

governmental checks and balances that have stood the test of time. They understood that courts are a vital component of our three branches of government, and knew that impartial, fair and accessible courts are critical for a free and well-functioning society. This is as true today as it was then.

In the present hour, two pressing questions are before us: How do we continue to move forward in a way that upholds the vision of our Founding Fathers while faced with a major health crisis affecting virtually every facet of daily life, and how do we address the grievances of a significant portion of Americans who feel they are not being treated fairly or equally?

The National Association for Court Management promotes the sharing of best practices, innovations and insights on the management of our courts. NACM has the resources, tools and commitment to develop solutions.

The NACM Core Competencies will be emphasized with the curricula of Purposes and Responsibilities of Courts, Public Trust and Confidence, and Governance as the focus. We will also put a high priority on the State Justice Institute's Investment Areas: Court Pandemic Response and Recovery; Reengineering to Improve Court Operations; Fines, Fees, and Bail Practices; Family and Civil Justice Reform; and Emergency Preparedness and Cybersecurity.

Our 2021 conferences will focus on the following themes:

- Creative Uses of Technology and Social Media to ensure court users their day in court and right to a jury trial in an era of social distancing.
- Promoting Employee Engagement in a Remote Working Environment.
- Socially Responsible Behavior and Ethical Considerations in the wake of a Global Pandemic.
- Civil, Juvenile, Family and Criminal Case Reform to address systemic issues and barriers in access to equal justice and treatment for those who interact with the courts.
- Programs that Promote Racial Justice to judges and court professionals.

- Community Collaboration to improve communication between courts, justice partners, and court participants.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as core values for all judges and court staff promoting accountability for interactions and thought that benefit the court, the community and the profession.

NACM's goal is to educate attendees and the greater community of court professionals on best practices aimed to creating public trust and confidence in the courts. Through innovation and technological improvements, sharing of ideas, strategic partnerships and community engagement, our courts can provide meaningful access to justice.

Questions

Questions should be directed to the NACM Education Consultant at the National Center for State Courts: Jude Del Preore at jdelpreore@ncsc.org