



**National Association for Court Management**  
*Strengthening Court Professionals*

**National Association for Court Management**  
**2024 CONFERENCES**  
*Call for Proposals*

MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

**Leadership Opportunities and  
Challenges for our Nation's Courts:  
Engaging a New and Diverse Workforce**  
FEBRUARY 04-06, 2024  
Orange County, CA 92626 \*

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Leadership Opportunities and  
Challenges for our Nation's Courts:  
Leading Leaders into the New  
Tomorrow**  
JULY 21-24, 2024  
New Orleans, LA 70130 \*

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

Proposal Guidelines

NACM seeks proposals for sessions that align with the overarching conference theme of **New Leadership Opportunities and Challenges for Our Nation's Courts** 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 12+ 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 and Annual conference proposals** will be selected from submissions received prior to October 4, 2023. 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 minimally 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 in conjunction with this year's theme. These include:

#### **Opioids and Other Dangerous Drugs, and Behavioral Health Responses**

- *Behavioral Health Disparities*

#### **Promoting Access to Justice and Procedural Fairness**

- *Self-Represented Litigants*
- *Language Access*

- *Procedural Fairness*

### **Reducing Disparities and Protecting Victims, Underserved, and Vulnerable Populations**

- *Human Trafficking*
- *Rural Justice*
- *Guardianship, Conservatorship and Elder Issues*
- *Disparities in Justice*

### **Advancing Justice Reform**

- *Criminal Justice Reform*
- *Juvenile Justice Reform*
- *Family and Civil Justice Reform*

### **Transforming Courts**

- *Emergency Response and Recovery*
- *Cybersecurity*
- *Technology*
- *Training, Education and Workforce Development*

All NACM conferences demonstrate themes that are 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 with the addition of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The 2024 conferences will focus on the highlighted competencies:

- Public Trust & Confidence
- Purposes & Responsibilities
- **Technology**
- 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

### **New Leadership Opportunities and Challenges for Our Nation's Courts (Overarching Theme)**

The United States officially ended the Covid-19 National Emergency in the second quarter of 2023. During the almost three years of the pandemic, senior court leaders were forced to rethink the ways that our nation's courts do business. The day-to-day working world of courts was upended, and leadership was faced with a myriad of new challenges, as well as opportunities. Widespread innovations and changes were introduced without the necessary time to evaluate their impact. As a result, court leaders recognize that some changes were introduced without the engagement of judges/staff, partners, and court users. Courts need to discover a way to become more agile, while ensuring staff have the tools to work in new environments.

The whirlwind shift to remote work and new technologies brought on other leadership challenges for court organizations. Accountability and court performance became and remains an issue. In a predominately virtual world, it is easy for team members to become invisible leaving leaders to deal with engagement and performance challenges. How do courts build the workforce of tomorrow while dealing with heavy competition for skilled workers, generational frequent job changes, and the desire to maintain a diverse, technically competent workforce?

The global pandemic forced one other major change. Courts had to quickly embrace emerging and innovative technology to conduct meetings, hearings, and trials. Zoom, WebEx, and Teams became commonplace platforms in our nation's courts. Technology boundaries will be pushed even further by the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) and the concomitant strategic leadership issue of how it might be introduced into our court environments. Strategic foresighting must become a priority for our nation's courts.

While impacts to society continue to challenge our courts, our court's leaders need tools and resources to access opportunities these new changes bring. It is important to note

that when leadership is viewed as a way of being as opposed to a position you hold, individuals begin to realize they can lead from wherever they are in a court organization.

NACM provides world class training and development for all levels of court leaders. Our courses and workshops target not only court administrators but supervisory and mid-level managers as well. NACM will address these leadership opportunities and challenges through its two 2024 conferences. NACM is committed to ensuring that court services and processes continue to improve through its conferences.

### 2024 Midyear Conference

The 2024 Midyear Conference will be entitled: **Leadership Opportunities and Challenges for our Nation's Courts: Engaging a New and Diverse Workforce**

The Midyear Conference will deal with leadership opportunities and challenges to engage and retain the court's workforce. We welcome proposals that will address this midyear theme. The parallel challenges of a competitive talent landscape, a multi-generational workforce, and the need to promote diversity are also integral to this theme.

### 2024 Annual Conference

The 2024 Annual Conference will be entitled: **Leadership Opportunities and Challenges for our Nation's Courts: Leading Leaders into the New Tomorrow**

The Annual Conference will deal with leadership opportunities and challenges presented by the skill sets needed to have court leaders lead other new leaders into the future and create future ready courts. Proposals that address this theme as well as the parallel themes of repurposing courts to focus on mission, managing complex cases, and directing the technological advances that will continue to creep into the legal landscape.

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

The NACM Core Competencies will be highlighted with a primary emphasis on the curricula of Leadership, Strategic Planning, Workforce Management, Accountability and Court Performance, Caseflow and Workflow (including Technology), and Ethics. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion remain a major focus. We will also put a high priority on the State Justice Institute's Investment Areas: Promoting Access to Justice and Procedural Fairness, Reducing Disparities and Protecting Victims, Underserved, and Vulnerable Populations, Advancing Justice Reform and Transforming Courts.

Our 2024 conferences will focus on the following areas:

- **Procedural Fairness:** Courts must ensure fair processes and just outcomes for all court users. Operations that increase public trust and confidence must be a priority.
- **Leadership:** Court leaders must be energetic in their creation of a vision that results in a commitment to a common mission and the creation of a preferred future.
- **Workforce Management:** Court leaders need to manage and motivate the workforce. This requires knowledge of engagement strategies, policies, legal rulings, and human resources familiarity.
- **Programs that Promote Racial Justice** to judges and court professionals.
- **Community Collaboration** efforts to improve communication between courts, justice partners, and court users.
- **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.
- **Information Technology:** Court leaders must plan for developing and managing technology applications that support overall court operations as well as caseflow and workflow.
- **All courts at every jurisdictional level** play a vital role in Transformation and Reform.

NACM's goal is to educate attendees and the greater community of court professionals on best practices aimed at 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](mailto:jdelpreore@ncsc.org)