



National Association for Court Management *Strengthening Court Professionals*

National Association for Court Management **2025 CONFERENCES** *Call for Proposals*

Overarching Theme: **Building Public Trust and Confidence in Our Nation's Courts**

MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

Measuring and Taking Action on Public Trust and Confidence.

FEBRUARY 09-11, 2025

Atlantic City, NJ 08401 *

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Promoting Public Trust and Confidence through Service and Collaboration

JULY 20-24, 2025

Omaha, NE 68102 *

* 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 **Public Trust and Confidence** 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, 650-800 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 close of business on October 4, 2024. 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*
- *Trauma-Informed Approaches*

Promoting Access to Justice and Procedural Fairness

- *Self-Represented Litigation*
- *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*
- *Strategic Planning*
- *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 2025 conferences will focus on the highlighted competencies:

- **Public Trust & Confidence**
- **Purposes & Responsibilities**
- Caseflow & Workflow (Including 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

Public Trust and Confidence in Our Nation’s Courts (Overarching Theme)

“Trust is the glue of life. It's the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It's the foundational principle that holds all relationships.” Stephen Covey

Public Trust and Confidence in our nation’s courts is integral to the credibility of the Third Branch of Government. To be effective at managing public trust and confidence, court leaders must be able to build and maintain an organizational culture that fosters integrity, transparency, and accountability for all court processes and proceedings.

Over the years, there have been many opinion surveys regarding people’s satisfaction with the courts. From the ABA’s 1990s survey by Skelly and Yankelovich to the surveys by both Gallup and Pew on the opinions on the US Supreme Court, none of the opinion numbers have been outstanding.

The Gallup 2022 Annual Survey on public confidence showed that public confidence in the US Supreme Court hit a historic low, with just 25 percent of Americans responding indicating a higher level of confidence in the courts. Data show that the Court is not the only institution in which the American people are losing confidence.

Pew Research also shows that favorable views of the Supreme Court have fallen to a historic low. Following a series of high-profile rulings addressing such issues as affirmative action, LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights and student loans, the share of Americans with a favorable opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court has declined to its lowest point in public opinion surveys dating to 1987. Fewer than half of Americans (44%) now express a favorable opinion of the court, while a narrow majority (54%) have an unfavorable view, according to a new Pew Research Center survey.

The State of the State Courts studies conducted by the National Center for State Courts with GBAO report a levelling out of baseline public trust measures in 2023 after dips in the previous two years. This shows some promise for the future. But courts must do more to turn these trends around. The calls for judicial/court reform continue to mount.

The 2025 Conferences will be directed to this overarching theme of Building Public Trust and Confidence in Our Nation's Courts.

NACM provides world class training and development for all levels of court leaders. Our courses and workshops target not only court administrators but all levels of court professionals as well. NACM will address the important topic of public trust and confidence through its two 2025 conferences. NACM is committed to ensuring that court services and processes continue to improve through its conferences.

2025 Midyear Conference

The 2025 Midyear Conference will be entitled: **Measuring and Taking Action on Public Trust and Confidence.**

The Midyear Conference will deal with data strategies to monitor public trust and confidence and developing action plans to improve. We welcome proposals that will address this midyear theme. The parallel topics of creating measurement dashboards, data storytelling and forging new directions for citizen engagement are also integral to this theme.

2025 Annual Conference

The 2025 Annual Conference will be entitled: **Promoting Public Trust and Confidence through Service and Collaboration**

The Annual Conference will deal with the strategies that courts must create winning customer/court user experiences and successful collaborations to better service those using our nation's courts. We welcome proposals that highlight successful collaborations dealing with public information sharing, responsiveness to multi-cultures, strategies for those with limited English proficiency, assistance to self-represented litigants, and measures promoting access, fairness as well as equal justice for all.

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 Public Trust and Confidence, Purposes and Responsibilities of Courts, Accountability and Court Performance, Public Relations and Ethics. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Technology 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 2025 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.
- The court leader's role is not just limited to working internally within the court; it also includes communicating with a wide variety of audiences about the courts and court processes.
- Accountability and Court Performance: Court leaders are accountable to both the judiciary and the public for a well-run court, which means that managers must be able to both effectively measure and manage performance.
- 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.

- 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