



National Association *for* Court Management

Original Resolution 2 – 2024

The National Association for Court Management supports discontinuing the titles “master” or “special master.”

Whereas, the titles “master” or “special master” have positive connotations indicating expertise and proficiency, they also have historically negative connotations, implying gender and racial power over individuals;

Whereas, given the dual inferences in the titles, equity is better served by adopting a more neutral term for these judicial system roles;

Whereas, “master” and “special master” are titles that poorly define an individual appointed by the court for the improved administration of justice and ignore the diverse titles and practices of these roles;

Whereas, at least five states have taken steps to cease using the title “master” or “special master”;

Whereas, in June 2022, the Academy of Court-Appointed Masters’ board voted unanimously to change the organization’s name to “Academy of Court-Appointed Neutrals” to reflect the profession’s diversity and rectify a disconnect between the profession’s name and functions;

Whereas, in October 2022, the National Association of Women Judges unanimously adopted a resolution that urges rule-makers and legislators to cease using the titles “master” or “special master” and substitute titles that more accurately reflect or define the roles;

Whereas, in August 2023, the American Bar Association adopted Resolutions 516 and 517 that, among other things, called upon rule-makers and legislators to replace “master” or “special master” with “court-appointed neutrals”;

Whereas, in April 2024, the American Judges Association unanimously passed a resolution urging rule-makers and legislators to replace “master” or “special master” with titles that more accurately reflect or define the roles;

Now, therefore, be it *Resolved* that the National Association for Court Management

(1) urges courts, rule-making bodies, and legislatures to replace “master” or “special master” with titles that more accurately reflect or define the roles; and

(2) supports using more neutral and equitable language to define and label these roles without recommending specific terminology to recognize and honor their diverse functions and titles throughout the country.