

Introduction

Good morning, everyone!

I am pleased to be here to deliver the 6th annual State of the Profession Address for the National Association for Court Management.

Every year we come together to reconnect and celebrate the achievements made in our profession. We will also take this time to look ahead at emerging issues that many of us will continue to tackle as the landscape continues to change.

I truly believe that NACM exemplifies the saying that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts,” because the talents, skills, and ideas that every member contributes is what makes this organization special and allows us to continually move forward.

NACM is not about any one member but rather what we can all accomplish together.

In that spirit, I have asked several of our members and colleagues to help me tell the story of NACM and our progress in this past year.

Partnerships

First, it’s about partnerships.

The partnerships that NACM has developed with other organizations such as NCJFCJ/SJI/NCSC broadens our contribution to the field of court management.

This has been a personal passion of mine as I’ve led the organization this year and had the privilege of working with some great partners that I’d like to introduce. Let’s hear from Joey, Jonathan, and Jesse about why partnerships are important in the field of judicial administration and why it’s important to partner with NACM.

Speakers: Joey Orduña Hastings, Jonathan Mattiello, Jesse Rutledge

Second, this year, we have seen attacks on judicial officers across the country as well as attacks on court information databases and network infrastructures. The security of courts, judicial officers, and personnel continues to be a major area of concern, as well as new areas that are coming to light in recent days, like technical security.

We have all heard stories of breaches in court security; some very close and personal, as I have witnessed, and it should make us all be more diligent and passionate about this area.

My colleagues, Hector and Aaron will share the primary challenges that courts should be thinking about to successfully secure our courts and processes.

Speakers: Hector Gomez, Aaron Williamson

DEI

Third, (pause) this might be the most important thing I say today. (pause)

When I first joined NACM, I ran into an Asian woman, her name is Winnie Webber, who may not remember me, but she had a great impact on me.

She said, “welcome to NACM, learn all you can, but you will probably not see someone that looks like you”. She was right then, but fortunately for both she and I, things have changed.

As a gay, Asian, married man, I have charted new waters that would not have been possible, if not for the support of an organization that takes this to heart.

There has been a lot said about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in private industry, public sector, and beyond.

Well, it’s one thing to talk about it. It’s another thing to do something about it.

Standing here in the state of Florida, where these principles have been challenged, I am proud to say that NACM has stayed the course, and produced a guide that pursues the ideals, dreams, and promises of what diversity, equity, and inclusion really means.

I have been personally challenged this year to evaluate my own biases. So, I challenge all of you to make it your mission to make DEI a mantra in your organizations.

We will remain committed to this mission to make sure that DEI is a central principle of our organization, and we will continue to support all local and regional efforts to promote these ideals.** (Applause)

But, **let's remember**, DEI is a **journey**, not a **destination**. My friends Roger and Edwin express why this is important in the field of judicial administration and I encourage you to listen to their call to action in this area.

Speakers: Roger Rand, Edwin Bell

Access to Justice

Fourth, as Court professionals, we all have a passion to help people go through the process with dignity and respect and allow them the opportunity to be heard.

Although the Court system is not necessarily known for being “timely or efficient”; during the pandemic, access increased by leaps and bounds as we rushed to keep courts running and maintaining access to the rights and processes afforded to everyone entering our courts.

As court professionals we should make sure that we continue to maintain these advancements and expand upon what we've accomplished in this area. To that end Jeff, Renee, and Kevin will discuss why this must remain a priority for our profession.

Speakers: Jeff Chapple, Renee Danser, Kevin Bowling

Public Trust and Confidence

Finally, the justice system as a whole is impacted by the trust and confidence that the public places in us. This is one of the core tenants of our profession that our country relies on. Restoring the public's trust is a challenge that we must meet head on and without delay.

Access to justice is just one pillar of building trust and confidence in the courts that has been seriously eroded in recent years.

Sometimes our differences and challenges get in the way of building the confidence required for us to serve our constituents well. We must stand on our foundations to meet the challenges and stay committed to our principles.

My friends and colleagues, Janet, T.J., and Stacey will talk about the importance of clinging to this commitment as we move into the future.

Speakers: Janet Cornell, T.J. BeMent, Stacey Fields

Conclusion

I want to thank each of our friends for contributing their time, knowledge, and experience to this year's address and representing the talent that exists in NACM and throughout the judiciary in our country.

We did it together this year focusing on these top priorities:

1. Partnerships
2. Safety, Security, and Privacy
3. DEI
4. Access to Justice, and
5. Public Trust and Confidence

I hope you can see, as I have, the amazing work that we have done together this past year. I hope that you leave this year's conference inspired and ready to help each other tackle whatever comes our way.

I'm so happy about how the membership, the Board, and the committees have stepped up to meet the challenges in all these areas. While we haven't solved all the problems, but **we've made progress**, and for that I'm truly grateful.

Thank you.