



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

## NACM 2020 CONFERENCES

### MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

*(Inter)Connected Courts:  
Ensuring Justice in  
Our Communities*

**FEBRUARY 9-11, 2020  
CHARLOTTE, NC**

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*(Intra)Connected Courts:  
Expanding Justice in  
Our Communities*

**JULY 12-16, 2020  
NEW ORLEANS, LA**

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> with annual conference proposals received by November 15<sup>th</sup>.*** 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](#). 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
- Civil Justice in the 21st Century
- Self-Represented Litigation
- Language Access

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:

- 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

## Conference Theme

For generations, courts have been an integral as well as vital component of our three branches of government. Our founding fathers devoted considerable effort and time debating the need for checks and balances. This resulted in the inherent powers courts have today. -This necessitates that judges and court personnel recognize their duty to hold themselves to the highest standards. This duty not only extends to our system of government but also in service to our customers – citizens and non-citizens alike. Society relies on our courts to be impartial, fair and accessible to all those seeking justice in settling their disputes.

The 2020 conferences theme focuses on **CONNECTED COURTS**. As an institution, courts are part of the local, state and national community. As such, courts must be connected to their communities. This necessitates that courts are part of the conversation on numerous important issues from substance abuse to mental health. So too must courts be involved on issues of reform all the while working with other branches of government and their communities to ensure access to justice is not just a platitude but is real and achievable. As a profession of court professionals, NACM promotes the sharing of best practices, innovations and insights on the management of our courts.

Our 2020 conferences will focus on the following themes:

- **Community Collaborations** – community-based initiatives such as legal clinics, amnesty programs, criminal justice forums, community engagement, etc.
- **Civics & Outreach** – court involvement in programs such as Law Day and awareness events, civic group presentations, educational programs on the role of the courts, etc.
- **Expanded Public Access** – legal assistance, self-help programs, online programs and services, user-centered design of services and facilities, etc.
- **Creative Uses of Technology & Social Media** – podcasts, webinars, community and constituent outreach efforts, online and web-based programs, etc.
- **Innovative Uses of Data** – new uses of court data through data visualization, public access, collaborative data sharing, National Open Court Data Standards, court component model, etc.
- **Promoting Employee Engagement** – training and skills development aimed at creating mindful court staff, developing leaders to be part of their community, ensuring inclusivity and diversity, etc.
- **Community-Based Programs & Services** – accountability courts, community-based supervision, access to health and other services, etc.

- ***Civil, Juvenile & Criminal Justice Reform*** – engaging in community and national dialogue on the role of the courts to address systemic issues in access to justice and treatment of different groups who interact with the judicial system.

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: Callie T. Dietz at [cdietz@ncsc.org](mailto:cdietz@ncsc.org).