



National Association for Court Management

Strengthening Court Professionals

National Association for Court Management 2027 CONFERENCES Call for Proposals

Overarching Theme: **Partnering for Justice: Leading and Collaborating with Trust**

MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

**Collaborating for Court Excellence:
Building Stronger Connections.**

FEBRUARY 07- 09, 2027
La Jolla, CA 92122 *

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**The Power of Partnership: Advancing
Justice Through Collaboration**

JULY 18-22, 2027
Tacoma, WA 98402 *

* Please note: While conferences are planned to be on site 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 **Partnering for Justice: Leading and Collaborating with Trust** 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, 250-350 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 2, 2026. 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

- Courthouse and Public Safety
- Cybersecurity
- Technology
- Emergency Response and Recovery
- Strategic Planning
- 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. NACM CORE® presenters must comply with the [NACM CORE® Presenter Guidelines](#). The 2027 conferences will focus on the highlighted competencies:

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

Partnering for Justice: Leading and Collaborating with Trust (Overarching Theme)

2027 Midyear Conference

The 2027 Midyear Conference will be entitled: **Collaborating for Court Excellence: Building Stronger Connections.**

2027 Annual Conference

The 2027 Annual Conference will be entitled: **The Power of Partnership: Advancing Justice Through Collaboration**

Collaboration is one of the most powerful forces shaping the effectiveness, fairness, and legitimacy of our Nation's courts. Across federal, state, and local systems, cooperative practices strengthen justice by improving efficiency, expanding access, and ensuring courts can meet modern demands. Below is a structured, evidence-based explanation of *why collaboration matters* and *how it transforms court performance*, grounded in recent judicial research and national court initiatives. Collaboration makes courts more efficient, more accessible, and more trusted. Courts today face increasingly complex cases, rising self-representation, technological change, and resource constraints. Collaboration—between judges, administrators, community partners, and even across jurisdictions—helps courts respond to these pressures with shared expertise and coordinated solutions.

1. Collaboration Strengthens Judicial Decision-Making

- Judges increasingly rely on **court-appointed neutrals** (special masters, experts, facilitators) to navigate complex, technical, or culturally nuanced cases.
- These partnerships enhance fairness, improve understanding, and “humanize” legal processes without undermining judicial authority. They produce more consistent outcomes and improved public trust.

2. Collaboration Improves Efficiency

A 2023 Federal Judicial Center survey shows that cooperation across jurisdictions:

- Reduces delays
- Improves case management
- Helps courts share limited resources (facilities, interpreters, technology)
- Improves coordination on complex litigation, jury management, and access-to-justice initiatives

3. Collaboration Expands Access to Justice

Courts partnering with community organizations — legal aid groups, social service providers, and financial counseling programs—help people resolve issues earlier and more effectively.

- Litigants without lawyers receive guidance before entering court.
- Case volume decreases because problems are solved upstream.
- Court time is used more productively.

4. Collaboration Enhances Problem-Solving Courts

Drug courts, reentry courts, and veterans' courts rely on interdisciplinary collaboration—judges, treatment providers, probation officers, counselors.

5. Collaboration Improves Court Security, Technology, and Preparedness

Joint efforts across courts help address:

- Emergency preparedness
- Shared technology platforms
- Court security protocols
- Resource allocation

6. Collaboration Supports Data-Driven Management

When judges and court professionals work together, they can:

- Align on performance metrics
- Improve caseflow
- Coordinate scheduling
- Reduce bottlenecks

All leading to predictable, transparent, and accountable court operations.

Collaboration Is Foundational

Across all levels of the judiciary, collaboration:

- **Improves fairness**
- **Increases efficiency**
- **Expands access**
- **Strengthens legitimacy**
- **Builds resilience**

In short, collaboration is not optional—it is a defining feature of a modern, high-performing court system.

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.

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