Since its founding in 1971, our mission at the National Center for State Courts is to promote the rule of law and improve the administration of justice in state courts and courts around the world.

What is the National Center for State Courts?
We are a nonpartisan, research-based organization that helps courts operate efficiently - and stay in front of trends.

Is NCSC part of a government agency?
No. We are a nonprofit organization.

How is it governed?
We are directed by a 27-member board made up of chief justices, court administrators, judges, lawyers and other court advocates.

How does the National Center help the courts?
We conduct research and consulting for courts, and advise them on challenges they face. We offer educational courses to court professionals, and we serve as a voice for the needs and interests of the courts.

In what areas does the National Center work with courts?
Some areas include: caseload and workflow management, civil justice reform, domestic violence, elder abuse, judicial bias and ethics, jury studies, juvenile justice, language access, security, and social media and technology.

What are some of NCSC’s current projects?

**The Opioid Crisis**
The National Judicial Opioid Task Force examines the impact the epidemic has on courts and how courts can best respond. This work includes creating an online resource center; developing education materials for judges and court staff; and identifying best practices for court-and community-based interventions for people with opioid use disorders.

**Fines, Fees, and Bail**
Courts are not revenue centers, but multiple fees added onto court fines to generate revenue creates financial hardships for the economically disadvantaged. The Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators, along with NCSC, formed a task force that is drafting guiding principles, and developing tools to help courts focus on governance, interbranch relations, and performance management.

**Guardianship**
NCSC’s work on improving the management of adult guardianship cases and preventing the exploitation of elders has increased collaboration between state courts and their federal partners, and it informed those who wrote the federal Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act.

**Community Engagement**
NCSC works with court systems around the country to strengthen their relationship with community members who feel disengaged from the justice system.

**Civil Justice**
The Civil Justice Improvements Committee developed 10 recommendations addressing the civil justice system’s shortcomings, primarily cost and delay. The recommendations are being tested in courts across the country.

Some of our other projects include work in the following areas:

- Analysts in our Research Division compile a vast public database called the Court Statistics Project – with information from all 50 states and 5 territories.
- Our International Division works at any given time with courts in about 25 countries – from Nicaragua to Nigeria and from Bolivia to the Bahamas.
- Our Institute for Court Management team teaches courses to certify court managers and other court professionals – with 2,503 professionals enrolled in ICM courses in 2017.
- Our Association Services Division coordinates annual and bi-annual conferences for court-related associations.
- Our Court Services Division provides specialized assistance to courts in areas such as, technology, security, workloads, and court operations.