

***Trends in State Courts 2025* Author Guidelines**

Trends in State Courts is a National Center for State Courts (NCSC) annual publication with the purpose of helping the courts anticipate and manage change to increase public accountability, trust, and confidence in the justice system. Articles are available as a volume and singly at the NCSC [Trends webpage](#).

The 500-word abstract submission deadline is **October 14, 2024** for the 2025 edition. Early submissions are welcomed and strongly encouraged. Submit in Word to: jholtzclaw@ncsc.org.

- 1. Articles Sought.** *Trends* articles profile state court changes, innovations, and developments as well as practical examples of how courts incorporate administrative and programmatic changes. Societal, legal, administrative, financial, structural, technological, demographic, or other impacts on state courts are all topics of interest to *Trends* readers. Articles should be original works that have not been previously published or otherwise publicly disseminated. Submissions of the same article to both *Trends* and another publication are not permitted.
- 2. Readership.** State court judges and administrators are the primary *Trends* audience. Government officials, members of the bar, and academics also subscribe to *Trends*.
- 3. Peer Review.** Articles are screened through an anonymous peer review committee process. Articles are accepted or rejected based on the Review Board's recommendations, as well as on criteria determined by the editors. From time to time, the editors may solicit an article on a topic of interest. Such a request does not constitute a guarantee of publication; solicited articles are subject to the same peer review process as other articles.

You will be notified of the result of the selection committee and whether to proceed to write the full article. Authors will receive an anonymous copy of reviewer comments and suggestions. Authors should consider reviewer feedback and update the scope or direction of their articles, as appropriate.

- 4. Word count.** Full articles should be **1,500 to no more than 2,500 words**. Word limit does not include endnotes, *Trends* statement, or graphics and charts.
- 5. Title.** The title should be ten words or less in length. The topic should be clear and grab the reader's attention.
- 6. Trends Statement.** Include a *Trends* statement at the beginning of the article of two sentences and no more than 50 words total. The *Trends* statement is a brief explanation

or summary describing the change, innovation, or development highlighted in the article. It will not be included in the article's final word count.

7. **Deadline.** The article submission deadline is **January 31, 2025**. Earlier submissions are appreciated.
8. **Author Contact.** Include your name, title, organization, and contact information on a *separate cover sheet*.
9. **Style.** Trends follows the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA) in matters of capitalization and punctuation. *Trends* is not a scholarly or legal publication in the strictest sense. Instead, the editors of *Trends* aim to provide clear and concise information without legal jargon. *Trends* uses a reference list style of citation. Endnotes should refer to explanatory material and cited articles. A brief citation may be made in parentheses in the text if necessary (for example, to give credit for quoted material). A copy editor can assist with cites.
10. **Graphics and Images.** A minimum of two graphics should be provided with a caption to accompany the submission. If the graphic contains data, such as a chart or graph, include the original data from which the graphic was created, along with a sample of the graphic.
11. Additional professional-looking pictures/images, such as those showing your initiative in action or program materials, are highly encouraged (e.g., from an AOC photographer). When submitting pictures, provide in a high-resolution TIF file or .JPG at the highest resolution possible (minimum resolution of 300 dpi). *Trends* is a color publication.
12. **Submit** the article in Microsoft Word to jholtzclaw@ncsc.org.

Other Notes:

- **Editing.** All articles are subject to editing to conform to the *Trends* editorial style. No product endorsements of any kind are allowed.
- **Article Proofs.** Authors will have the opportunity to review at least one article proof. Minor variations in formatting and graphics may occur in the final publication.
- **Article Reprints.** Authors who wish to submit their article that is accepted for publication in *Trends* to another journal or publication may do so only **after** the *Trends* publication and with the express written permission of the *Trends* editors.
- **Visit** the *Trends* website at <https://www.ncsc.org/publications-and-library/trends>.
- **Contacts.** Any questions regarding *Trends* or its publication process should be directed to one of the editors:

John Holtzclaw 757-259-1823
jholtzclaw@ncsc.org

Chuck Campbell 757-259-1838
ccampbell@ncsc.org

Joy Keller 757-293-9477
jkeller@ncsc.org

NCSC looks forward to your contributions for the 2025 edition!