



One very concerning finding from the National Center for State Courts national survey, “State of the State Courts - 2022”, showed that for the first time in the survey’s history, less than 50% of Americans agreed that courts “provide equal justice for all”. You will recall from your CCM course, Purposes and Responsibilities of Courts, that providing equal justice is and has been a core purpose of the courts and is an essential component of the Rule of Law.

In the past, surveys have revealed many legitimate criticisms of the courts – cases take too long, court processes are inefficient and waste too much of the participant’s time, litigation is expensive, etc. Court leaders across the country have done great work to recognize these problems and design effective responses and solutions and improve court performance. But how can or should court leaders respond when a majority of the public questions the ability of the court to perform its primary purpose?

What do you believe are the causes of this decline in the public’s trust in the courts? What can and should court leaders be doing to respond? Describe at least one action/program/activity that could be taken at your court that could help to improve the public’s trust.