



Vision & Mission

Together, we promote just, free, and safe communities by driving innovation and advancement in courts and justice systems.

Organizational Values

We value a commitment to:

1. The dignity and worth of all people and the pursuit of **equal justice for all**
2. **Accessible, fair, and impartial courts** focused on the communities they serve
3. An **independent judiciary** that upholds and protects the rule of law
4. **Innovation** that drives court excellence
5. **Nonpartisan, data-driven research** that promotes effective court performance

Strategic Agenda Priorities 2026-2030

Public trust is integral to the courts' core responsibility of resolving disputes. As often noted, the court process must not only be just, it must also have the appearance of being just. Unfortunately, recent public opinion polls and focus groups indicate a massive gap between how courts see the services they deliver — and how large segments of the public experience those services. We know from listening to members of the public that trust and confidence in the courts is enhanced through procedural fairness, timely resolution of cases, connecting courts to the local community, and highlighting ethics, accountability and transparency. NCSC's Strategic Agenda for 2026-2030 highlights our commitment to helping courts promote and maintain public trust and confidence.

Strategic Priority Areas

SUPPORT FAIR & IMPARTIAL COURTS

A fair and impartial judiciary is accountable and transparent, and indispensable to preserving and protecting justice, the Rule of Law, and the individual rights of all. To ensure its ability to act fairly and impartially, courts must have adequate resources to address the public's needs, the best tools and resources to ensure the effective and timely resolution of legal matters, the right data to solve problems, and the professional know-how and support to deliver on these expectations.

PURSUE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

This priority area addresses barriers that prevent individuals and communities from obtaining access to the justice system. Among the many strategies, this includes developing resources, tools, and consultation to assist courts in providing meaningful access to justice; best practices for effective, scalable authorized justice practitioner models; and continuing to develop plans to remedy the access gap created by legal deserts.

FOSTER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & STRATEGIC PARTNERS

This priority area recognizes how the role of courts is expanding beyond solely adjudicating legal disputes to proactively and collaboratively addressing related community problems that individuals touching the justice system have. This dynamic encourages courts to convene justice system partners and explore collaborative community solutions.

PROMOTE SAFE & SECURE COURTS

Access to safe, secure courts promotes public confidence in the stability of government and protects public servants working in our courts. Crises create a fundamental danger for the rule of law. This priority area recognizes the need for comprehensive strategies to address and improve responses to a wide range of emergencies, (e.g., threats to the public, judicial and court staff and cyber-attacks, pandemics, riots at courthouses, and natural disasters). Expanding continuity of operations plans (COOPs) and collaborating with government emergency planners ensures adaptable & resilient procedures during crises.

USE TECHNOLOGY TO ADVANCE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

This area recognizes the significant impact that artificial intelligence (AI) and other technological innovations such as virtual reality, biometrics, robotics, predictive analytics, and blockchain-based smart contracts could have on court operations and outcomes. Working with its partners, NCSC will continue its leadership role in providing advice and guidance on the best use of these tools and the ethical and practical considerations they inevitably raise.