Submissions and FAQ

Submissions to Trends in State Courts

The National Center for State Courts accepts submissions through Expresso and Scholastica, or, alternatively, you may email us your submission at trends@ncsc.org.

Length Requirements. Trends in State Courts is comprised of short essays that provide information concisely and clearly. To be considered for publication in Trends, the author need only submit a 500-word abstract. If your abstract is selected for publication, you will need to submit a 1,500 to 2,500 word essay on your approved topic. Use only one space between sentences and after colons. Submit the article electronically in Microsoft Word format.

Citations. Trends is not a scholarly or law-related publication in the strictest sense. Instead, we stress providing information to our readers concisely and clearly. Therefore, we do not use formal citations in Trends, and endnotes should be restricted to explanatory material, not lists of cited articles. A brief citation may be made in parentheses in the text if necessary (for example, to give credit for quoted material). Trends follows the Chicago Manual of Style when it comes to matters of capitalization and punctuation. Articles will be edited accordingly. When possible, sources should include a hyperlink.

Trends Statement. If your essay has been selected for publication you will need to include a suggested “Trends Statement” at the beginning of the article of two sentences and no more than 50 words total. The Trends Statement is a short 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.

Graphics. Data should be provided for at least two graphics to accompany the submission. Suggestions for additional graphics, such as pictures, are welcome. 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. When submitting pictures, provide the graphic in a high-resolution format, such as an .eps, or .tif file. If a .jpg is submitted, it must be generated at the highest resolution possible (a 1 to 2-megabyte file with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi). Trends is printed in color.

Author Contact. Include your name, title, organization, and contact information on a removable cover sheet.

Withdrawal. If you decide to withdraw your submission from consideration, please let us know. If you submitted your article through Scholastica or Expresso you may log into your account and withdraw the article; or you can email Trends at trends@ncsc.org.

Multiple Submissions. Please let NCSC know if you are submitting your article to multiple publications.
Frequently Asked Questions:

What is *Trends in State Courts*?
*Trends in State Courts* is a National Center for State Courts (NCSC) annual publication intended to help the courts anticipate and manage change so as to increase public accountability, trust, and confidence in the justice system. Articles are printed in a hard-copy bound volume and posted on the NCSC *Trends* website at [www.ncsc.org/trends](http://www.ncsc.org/trends). In addition to the annual hard-copy bound volume, NCSC also produces *Trends: Close Up*, a quarterly publication, and *Trends Online*, a monthly online only publication. These two publications, under the *Trends* umbrella, cover some of the topics that are still anticipated to impact the courts but are topics that did not have as great an immediacy or a smaller reach than the topics published in the hard-copy bound *Trends in State Courts*, or that have emerged as something of note between annual publications.

What type of articles is *Trends in State Courts* seeking?
*Trends* articles profile state court changes, innovations, and developments, and present 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 work that have not been previously published. Dual submissions of the same article to both *Trends* and another publication are not allowed.

Who reads *Trends*?
State court judges and administrators are the primary *Trends* audience. Members of the bar, government officials, and academics also consult *Trends*.

Why do I only need to submit a 500-word abstract to be considered for publication?

1. What is *Trends in State Courts*?

2. What type of articles is *Trends in State Courts* seeking?

3. Who reads *Trends*?

4. Why do I only need to submit a 500-word abstract to be considered for publication?
Many of the authors for *Trends* are judges and court administrators. Between their busy schedule, the unique format of *Trends*, and the requirement for timeliness of the topics NCSC does not want to burden its authors with writing something that may not fit with our current publication needs and that may not be easily submitted for an audience elsewhere.

5. **I already have the 1,200 to 2,500 words required for the article; can I just send that in?**

You can, but you will still need to submit the 500-word abstract. Authors should also remember that if their article is selected for publication, they will need to submit a Trends Statement and graphics data per the requirements listed in submissions.

6. **Does NCSC Peer Review its articles?**

Yes, articles are screened through an anonymous peer review 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.

Authors of submissions accepted for publication will receive an anonymous copy of reviewer comments and suggestions. Authors should consider reviewer feedback and make changes to article submissions, as appropriate.

7. **Are there any requirements for the article title?**

The title should be ten words or less in length, and subtitles are discouraged. The working title may be altered by the editors as they deem appropriate.

8. **What is the Submission deadline?**

Submission is rolling. To be considered for the June 2020 edition of *Trends in State Courts* the 500-word Abstract should be submitted as soon as possible.

If your article is selected for *Trends in State Courts*, the submission deadline is January 31, 2019. Earlier submissions are welcomed and strongly encouraged.

Submissions for *Trends: Up Close* and *Trends Online* are accepted on a rolling basis.

9. **Will you edit my submission?**

All articles are subject to editing to conform to the publication’s editorial style.

10. **Will I receive an article proof?**
Yes, authors will have the opportunity to review one article proof. Minor variations in formatting and graphics may occur between the electronic version and the print version of the article.

11. Can my article be reprinted in another journal or publication?

Authors who wish to submit an article that is accepted for publication in *Trends* to another journal or publication may do so only with the express written permission of the *Trends* editors. If you wish to reprint an article after publication, please contact the editors for assistance. Along the same line, NCSC will not reprint an article that has already appeared in publication elsewhere.

12. Who should I contact with questions?

**Editor Contacts.** If you have any questions regarding *Trends* or its publication process, please do not hesitate to contact one of the editors listed below. We look forward to reading your contributions for the 2019 edition!

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