

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS

IMPROVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO COURTS

“Those who organized the National Center for State Courts and the many who have since guided its destiny, set their goals high. Today ... the Center is preeminent in its field. Its contribution to the administration of justice is a tribute to those who have built what we have today.”

— WARREN E. BURGER
CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES, 1986

More than 35 years ago, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger had a vision: create a national center that works with state courts to help them better serve litigants and to improve the administration of justice. Chief Justice Burger, working closely with state court chief justices and other government leaders, helped to establish the National Center for State Courts in 1971.

Since then, NCSC has provided comprehensive research, specialized educational programs, cutting-edge technology assistance, and tailored consulting services to state courts across the country. The Center accomplishes this, in part, by anticipating the trends that create the most demanding challenges facing courts and offering guidance and leadership to help them meet those challenges.

Along the way, NCSC has earned a reputation for improving court performance, assuring accountability, and building public trust and confidence in the United States justice system and courts worldwide.

A 27-member board of directors governs NCSC, a nonprofit organization that supports all levels and jurisdictions of state courts. Members of the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators, and the National Association for Court Management hold standing positions on the board, which includes representatives from some of the nation's top corporations and educational institutions, the Bar, and the state courts community.

The National Center for State Courts is supported by voluntary assessments from the state courts; seminar and conference fees; state, federal, and international grants and contracts; and private contributions from corporations, law firms, and individuals.

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The National Center for State Courts is an independent, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. To learn more about supporting NCSC, contact the Development Office at (800) 616-6110 or development@ncsc.dni.us.



14th Annual WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST AWARD for JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE 2009



“His dedication to duty was an inspiration to me, and I know to many others. (Rehnquist) reinforced my view that a certain humility should characterize the judicial role. Judges and justices are servants of the law, not the other way around.”

— CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES
JOHN G. ROBERTS JR.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence is one of our nation’s highest judicial honors. Presented annually by the National Center for State Courts, this prestigious award honors a state court judge who demonstrates the outstanding qualities of judicial excellence, including integrity, fairness, open-mindedness, knowledge of the law, professional ethics, creativity, sound judgment, intellectual courage, and decisiveness. The William H. Rehnquist Award honors judges who are taking bold steps to address a variety of issues affecting their communities.

In the fall of each year, the judge receiving this distinguished honor is recognized during an award ceremony held at the U.S. Supreme Court. The award highlights the judge’s work to provide model programs for court systems throughout the United States. Chief Justice of the United States, John G. Roberts Jr., will present the award during an evening dinner ceremony on Thursday, November 19 at the United States Supreme Court.

NOMINATING PROCESS

CANDIDATE MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Currently holds a judicial office
- Has significant experience serving state courts of appellate, general, limited, or special jurisdiction
- Demonstrates promotion and implementation of innovation in the management of state courts
- Provides leadership at the national and/or state level to improve state justice systems

Nominations may be submitted by members of the NCSC Board, Advisory Committees, or members of associations for which NCSC serves as secretariat.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST ACCOMPANY EACH NOMINATION:

- Letter setting forth up to five major accomplishments of the nominee
- A résumé for the candidate
- Only two additional letters of reference from individuals who have worked closely with the nominee and have direct knowledge of the major accomplishments

PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:

Stacey Smith
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ssmith@ncsc.org

*Nominations must be received by
Friday, June 5, 2009.*

SELECTION PROCESS

Once nominations are closed, the NCSC President’s Office will provide names of the nominees, background materials, and the names of the individuals submitting the nominations to all members of the selection committee. After careful review, one nominee is selected.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Governance and Nominations Committee of the NCSC Board of Directors serves as the selection committee for this award with the advice and consent of the Chief Justice of the United States.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST AWARD

- 2008 Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman (NY)
- 2007 Chief Justice Christine M. Durham (UT)
- 2006 Judge Edward R. Brunner (WI)
- 2005 Judge Louraine C. Arkfeld (AZ)
- 2004 Judge Leonard Edwards (CA)
- 2003 Judge Kevin S. Burke (MN)
- 2002 Chief Justice Ronald M. George (CA)
- 2001 Judge Thelma Wyatt Cummings Moore (GA)
- 2000 Judge Thomas W. Ross (NC)
- 1999 Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye (NY)
- 1998 Judge Veronica McBeth (CA)
- 1997 Judge B. Michael Dann (AZ)
- 1996 Judge Vincent Poppitti (DE)