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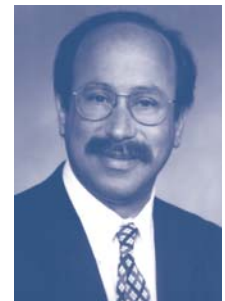
## Justice for Children: Changing Lives by Changing Systems Summit Scheduled to Improve Court Outcomes for Children

State court leaders are stepping up efforts to better protect children who have been abused or neglected.

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC), the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ), the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) are sponsoring a National Judicial Leadership Summit for the Protection of Children. The summit, scheduled for September 20 to 23 in Minneapolis, is being planned by a multi-disciplinary committee cochaired by



Blatz



Suskin

Minnesota Chief Justice Kathleen A. Blatz and Vermont State Court Administrator Lee Suskin.

(see *Justice for Children*, page 4)

## Added Court Security Track and Reduced Rates Make CTC9 a Must for Court Professionals

The Ninth National Court Technology Conference (CTC9)—September 13 to 15 in Seattle—has added a special track on court safety and security in response to state courts' needs to reexamine their security plans in the wake of recent court-related tragedies.

The new court security track will complement CTC9's three other featured tracks: implementation, court policy and management issues, and court technology and courtroom issues. Topics that will be featured in the court safety and security track include:



**Register Now  
at [www.ctc9.org](http://www.ctc9.org)**

(see *CTC9*, page 5)

# NCSC Takes Lead to Help Courts Improve Safety and Security

The recent, fatal court-related shootings in Atlanta, Chicago, and Connecticut underscore the need for improved security measures at our nation's state courts and illustrate the importance of legislators and state and local leaders concentrating more efforts and resources toward court security, according to the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

In May, the NCSC, in conjunction with the National Sheriffs' Association, sponsored a National Summit on Court Safety and Security in Washington, D.C. to develop a realistic plan to improve security in our nation's courts. The summit brought together more than 100 state court chief justices, judges, sheriffs, court administrators, and federal, state, and local policy makers. The summit followed the fatal shooting of a Chicago judge's husband and mother and the shooting deaths of an Atlanta judge, court reporter, sheriff's deputy, and immigration officer. In June, a woman was fatally shot and her attorney critically injured by the woman's ex-husband outside a Connecticut courthouse.

"We must continue to work aggressively to ensure that people can bring

their disputes to courts, that people can visit our courts, and that people can work in our courts, free from fear, free from threats, and free from violence," said Mary Campbell McQueen, president of the NCSC.

Summit participants are suggesting that a portion of Homeland Security Funds—between 1 and 3 percent—be earmarked for state court security. A major reason in support of federal funding for courtroom security is the disparity from jurisdiction to jurisdiction between local and state resources that are available to cover the costs of added security needs.

Participants also are creating a comprehensive set of recommendations regarding the content and effective approaches of the following key strategies identified during the summit:

- Create a national threat assessment and incident-reporting database to provide critical information to all stakeholders
- Create a national clearinghouse on court security to facilitate information sharing and cross-cutting research

- Develop issue-focused guidelines and best practices relevant to all court stakeholders
- Identify models of state and local court security governance structures and policies
- Create strategies for leveraging resources across stakeholder groups and at the national, state, and local levels

These recommendations will be reviewed by all summit participants during a follow-up conference in the fall. They also will be shared with the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the Conference of State Court Administrators' (COSCA) Committee on Security and Preparedness at the CCJ/COSCA annual meeting in August.

The CCJ/COSCA joint committee was formed after the 9/11 terrorist attacks to consider state court security issues. In 2003 the joint committee conducted a state-by-state survey to determine such needs and to begin identifying effective practices. The committee then compiled the survey data to frame solutions by identifying ten essential elements for courthouse safety and security planning. These ten elements served as a framework for the summit. To learn about the ten essential elements and for more information on court security, please go to [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org).

Following the summit, the NCSC, on behalf of CCJ and COSCA, presented written testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security outlining the need for a portion of Homeland Security Funds to be set aside for state court security.



Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer (Ohio) addresses the court security summit.

# NCSC Loses Two Longtime Supporters

## Senator Howell Heflin

Howell Heflin, former Alabama senator and chief justice, died March 29. Mr. Heflin was a loyal supporter of the National Center for State Courts and a member of NCSC's Warren E. Burger Society. The Burger Society honors individuals who have demonstrated the highest commitment to improving the administration of justice through extraordinary contributions of service and support to the NCSC.

Senator Heflin was also a champion of the State Justice Institute (SJI), which works to improve the administration of justice in the nation's state courts by funding many of the

National Center's research and education initiatives. In addition to strengthening the relationship of these two institutions, Senator Heflin personally contributed to the National Center for more than 20 years.

Senator Heflin was first elected to public office in 1970 as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. During his time on the bench, he drafted the Judicial Article, which has become a model for court reform in other states. He also is credited for bringing about significant change to the federal judiciary, namely, through his legislation that revamped an antiquated bankruptcy code.

## John H. Pickering

John H. Pickering, supporter, advocate, and champion of the National Center for State Courts, died March 19 at the age of 89 in Washington, D.C. Mr. Pickering was a renowned appellate lawyer and founding partner of the Washington, D.C. firm Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering.

His dedication to the work of the NCSC spans decades. A former member of NCSC's Board of Directors and a founding member of NCSC's Lawyers Committee, on which he served as chair for five years, Mr. Pickering received numerous special-recognition awards for his volunteer service and financial support to the NCSC, including the Distinguished Service Award in 1985, the Paul C. Reardon Award in 1994, and the NCSC's Crystal Award in 1999. He was inducted into the Warren E. Burger Society in 1996. Mr. Pickering served on special committees for capital campaigns, provided pro bono legal representation, and contributed financially to the NCSC.

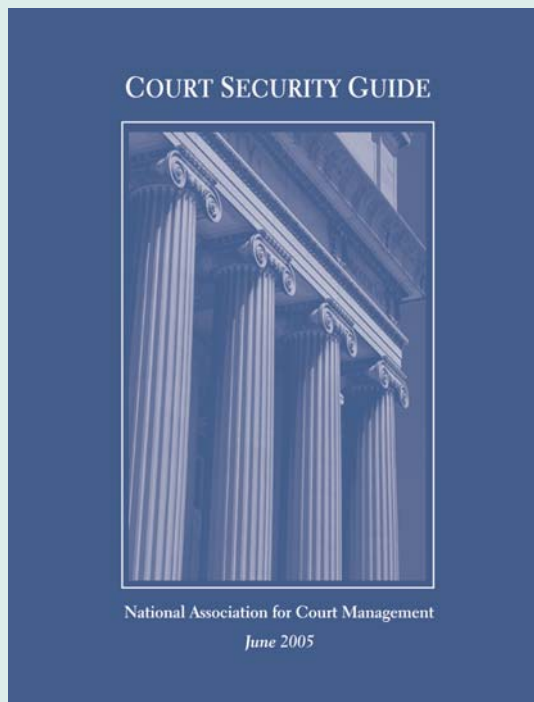
In legal circles, Mr. Pickering was renowned as a champion for civil rights, pro bono legal services for the poor and disadvantaged, and rights of the elderly.

John Pickering was truly one of the NCSC's most prominent ambassadors to the legal community.

## NACM Updates *Court Security Guide*

In response to growing concerns about court security nationwide, the National Association for Court Management has updated its *Court Security Guide*. In the ten years since the first edition was published, much has changed. There has been a national, even global, increase in concern about security due to international and domestic terrorism. Security technology has advanced dramatically. The *Court Security Guide* outlines these factors and others that must be considered and offers some possible responses.

Written as a checklist, the guide leaves it up to each court to develop its own specific blueprint to fit the local environment, culture, and needs. Areas of daily concern that are addressed include the courthouse perimeter, public and staff areas, and courtrooms. Other topics include special courthouse situations such as notorious cases and workplace



violence, as well as the basics of security plan development, audit, and review.

Anyone interested in purchasing the *Court Security Guide* may contact the Association Management Division of the National Center for State Courts at (757) 259-1841.

# Improve Court Performance with the Newly Released CourTools

CourTools—ten court performance measures and a guide to how to adapt them for your court—are now available at [www.courtools.org](http://www.courtools.org). CourTools outlines ten court performance measures and guides court managers on how to use them. This new measurement system, in the planning stage for more than 18 months, was designed to help improve the administration of justice.

CourTools offers court managers a specific set of core measures that

are practical and feasible to implement and that provide a balanced perspective on court operations. CourTools builds on the Trial Court Performance Standards (TCPS), which were published in 1990 after three years of work by a 12-member commission of state and local judges, court administrators, an elected clerk of court, and scholars in the area of judicial administration.

To create CourTools, the National Center integrated the major performance areas defined by the TCPS with relevant concepts from other successful perform-

ance measurement systems used in the public and private sectors. The result is a set of measures that assess the public's access to justice, the fairness and integrity of court processes, caseload management, clerical operations, the enforcement of court orders, jury utilization, the strength of a court's workforce, and the impact that resources have on a court's performance.

# CourTools



## Justice for Children

*(continued from page 1)*

The summit is possible because of a \$400,000 grant the NCSC received from The Pew Charitable Trusts. Additional support is also being provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Dave Thomas Foundation, Fostering Results, and the State Justice Institute.

The National Judicial Leadership Summit for the Protection of Children will bring invited teams of court and child welfare agency leaders from each state and territory together to determine what collaborative efforts are needed to ensure the safety of abused and neglected children, the fairness and expeditiousness of the process, and the appropriateness and permanence of placements. The state action plans prepared during the summit will be assembled into a National Call to Action. A follow-up report will be prepared and released one year after the summit detailing the

progress achieved in implementing those plans.

Each of the summit sponsors and funders has been a leader in the effort to strengthen the effectiveness, fairness, and timeliness of the child protection process and foster care system. Both CCJ and COSCA have established the need to better protect children in the court system as a priority. NCSC and NCJFCJ have conducted extensive research in the area of family courts and child protection. The Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care issued far-reaching recommendations, which, among other things, call for courts to:

- Adopt court performance measures to ensure they track cases, to increase accountability, and to inform decisions about the allocation of court resources

- Create incentives and requirements to require effective collaboration between courts and child welfare agencies
- Provide children and parents a strong voice in court and effective representation by trained attorneys and advocates
- Promote more effective standards for dependency court judges and attorneys

These recommendations have been endorsed by CCJ and COSCA and will serve as the summit's framework to help state court leaders identify the tools, procedures, programs, and resources they need to improve court outcomes for children and families.

## CTC9,

(continued from page 1)

- Cyber security
- Physical security
- Privacy and public access
- Disaster recovery and business continuity

In response to the financial constraints many courts continue to face, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has lowered the registration rates for CTC9 by \$200 from those of CTC8, held in 2003 in Kansas City, Mo. Attendees can also save an additional \$25 by booking hotel reservations through the housing bureau, which can be accessed at [www.ctc9.org](http://www.ctc9.org) (click on Hotel Reservations).

CTC9 is the largest conference in the country dedicated to court technology. More than 2,500 court professionals and over 100 exhibiting companies are participating. The conference is designed to help judges, court administrators, court technologists, clerks of the courts, and others learn about the most up-to-date technologies, as well as which ones best fit their courtroom needs and budgets.



### CTC9 keynote speakers include:

Tuesday, Sept. 13	Sen. Slade Gorton, 9-11 Commissioner on Court Security
Wednesday, Sept. 14	Stephen Goldsmith, former Mayor of Indianapolis and author of <i>Governing by Network</i> , who will present a road map for how to deliver critical public services in a newly networked world
Thursday, Sept. 15	Microsoft's Chris Capossela, VP for Information Workers, on how technology will revolutionize your work and your life

### CTC9 features:

- More than 30 educational sessions on topics from e-filing to integrated justice to how to manage a software development process for court leaders
- A portable Courtroom 21, the high-tech courtroom developed by NCSC and the College of William & Mary, which allows attendees to witness the first courtroom use of fiber optics connecting all audio, video, and computer technology
- An expanded Cyber Café—sponsored by LexisNexis
- The CTC9 International Program, with global experts and a conference-wide reception—sponsored by Maximus

For a complete educational program, hotel guide, and registration information, please go to [www.ctc9.org](http://www.ctc9.org), or call (888) 609-4023.

### Lead Sponsors



## Court Technology Bulletin Turns into Blog

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has launched a new online "blog" version of the *Court Technology Bulletin (CTB)*, which can be found at [http://www.ncsconline.org/d\\_tech/courttechbulletin/html.asp](http://www.ncsconline.org/d_tech/courttechbulletin/html.asp). The *CTB*, first published in 1978, has been a leading source of information on the application of technology to the court community.

But in keeping up with the times, the *CTB* has gone "hi-tech" by supporting RSS newsfeeds and e-mail summaries that can be sent as requested to subscribers free. RSS is an Internet technology that allows courts to set up automatic feeds to their Web sites from the *CTB* blog. In addition, the blog serves as a valuable resource to find links to NCSC technology-related information, such as the Technology Vendor List and functional standards.

Judges and court staff interested in learning ways to do their jobs more efficiently through technology and who want to stay informed on subjects such as courtroom technology, e-filing, technology management, GJXDM, new product announcements, conferences and education, and even software use tips are encouraged to visit the *Court Technology Bulletin*.

## Former NCSC President Becomes Scholar- in-Residence

Roger K. Warren, immediate past president of the National Center for State Courts and a 20-year veteran of the California trial courts, has been appointed the new Scholar-in-Residence of the California Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

“Judge Warren’s unique blend of state judicial service and national leadership in court administration will be of great value to the AOC during this time of historic court reform in California,” said William C. Vickrey, administrative director of the California courts. The Scholar-in-Residence Program was established five years ago to allow recognized experts in the justice system to work with the AOC to improve the administration of the courts. Warren’s primary focus will be on strengthening and integrating effective knowledge management and information sharing at the AOC and effective dissemination to the courts and other AOC customers.

Warren stepped down as NCSC president in August 2004 after serving for eight years. Mary Campbell McQueen, former state court administrator of Washington State, was named the NCSC’s new president.

## 2005 Summer/Fall Conference Schedule for Court-Related Associations

The following national associations will be holding their annual conferences this summer and fall and selecting new officers.

National Association for Court Management: July 10-14, San Francisco, CA

Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators: July 31-August 3, Charleston, SC

Conference of Court Public Information Officers: August 1-3, Kansas City, MO

National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks: August 7-12, Key West, FL

National Association of State Judicial Educators: August 21-24, Savannah, GA

American Judges Association: September 18-23, Anchorage, AK

National Conference of Metropolitan Courts: October 5-8, New Orleans, LA

National Association of Women Judges: October 19-23, Houston, TX

Look for news from these conferences in future issues of *Center Court*.

## Law Firm Helps NCSC Reform Kosovo’s Justice System

A private law firm is broadening its reach by helping the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) strengthen the rule of law in Kosovo. Piper Rudnick Gray Cary (DLA Piper), a U.S.-based global law firm, is working with the NCSC and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop that country’s justice system.

This joint undertaking, launched in February, includes drafting new laws, revising existing legislation, and providing training, primarily in criminal law and procedure. DLA Piper will contribute approximately 4,000 attorney hours in 2005. In addition to providing direct help with legislative drafting and developing policy papers, DLA Piper has been working with NCSC on putting in place a coherent legislative process that will ultimately enable Kosovars to write laws that are harmonized, realistic, and implementable.

“This specific partnership, a donation by a private law firm, brings needed expertise and resources to Kosovo,” said Ken Yamashita, USAID/Kosovo Mission director.

Project leadership said the transition of judicial functions in Kosovo is a priority in

coming months, and the assistance offered by DLA Piper, under the aegis of the NCSC project, will be a valuable resource in moving this process forward.

“NCSC’s Justice System Reform Activity in Kosovo is a very broad project,” commented Dan Deja, the project’s chief of party, “the added resources and expertise that DLA Piper bring to our efforts will significantly enhance our ability to achieve our goals. This is a great opportunity for the citizens of Kosovo.”

NCSC is in the midst of a five-year, \$14 million initiative to help Kosovo build sustainable, local justice-sector institutions run by Kosovars from a U.N.-run emergency operation. It is currently the largest program of the NCSC’s International Programs Division.

“We are delighted to play a role with the USAID and the National Center for State Courts in this law reform effort during such a critical time for Kosovo,” said Sheldon Krantz, managing partner of DLA Piper’s international pro bono initiatives.

# ICM Welcomes Eight New Fellows . . .

The Court Executive Development Program (CEDP) welcomed a new class of Fellows of the Institute for Court Management (ICM) at a ceremony held at the U.S. Supreme Court last May.

CEDP, the flagship program of ICM and the only program of its kind in the United States, provides a rigorous, high-quality professional education to those who pursue careers in the judicial branch of government. These eight individuals have satisfied the requirements of all four phases of CEDP, including a comprehensive research paper evaluating a key court function or activity in their home jurisdictions.

There are currently more than 1,000 ICM Fellows in 48 states and 12 foreign countries.



*ICM's Class of 2005: Front row (left to right)—Sondra Battle (Maryland), Lynn Sudbeck (South Dakota), Faye Gaskin (Maryland), Jeanette Wiesenhofer (Arizona), Dale Kasperek (Virginia). Back row (left to right)—William Carr (New Jersey), Larry Myers (Missouri), John Triplett (Idaho).*



*ICM faculty member Dan Straub conducts class during the last week of CEDP's Phase II 2005. This year's class ran from June 6 to 24.*

## And Wraps Up CEDP Phase II for 2005

Another requirement of CEDP is Phase II: Management in the Courts and Justice Environment, a three-week course held each summer at the headquarters of the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg, Va. Participants sharpen their conceptual and interpersonal skills while exploring the roles and purposes of courts, the internal and external environments in which they operate, and modern leadership and management theory and practice as applied to court management.

For more information about ICM and CEDP, go to [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org) and click on Education-ICM.

## NCSC Honors Those Who Work to Improve Justice System

Each year the National Center for State Courts presents **Distinguished Service Awards** to court professionals and individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving the justice system.

The 2005 Distinguished Service Awards are being presented this year to the following:

- Justice Linda Cople Trout of the Idaho Supreme Court
- Judge Michael McAdam of the Kansas City Municipal Court
- Kathy L. Mays, former director of Judicial Planning of the Supreme Court of Virginia
- Suzanne James, court administrator for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland
- Robert Peck, president of the Center for Constitutional Litigation
- Retired Judge Gregory A. Mize of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia
- Cathlin Donnell, an attorney and communications professor from Colorado University, who died in October 2004 and was presented the award posthumously

The **Warren E. Burger Award**, which bears the name of the former chief justice of the United States who helped found the National Center in 1971, is presented annually to a person who has made significant contributions to court administration, management, education, training, research, or consulting. **Dr. Carol Weaver**, associate professor of adult education at Seattle University, is the recipient of the 2005 Burger Award.

## Contact Us

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Research projects presented in [Center Court](#) can be found on the National Center for State Courts' Web site at [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org). Locate reports by topic in **CourTopics** or go to the Research Division section and click on Publications.



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## Upcoming ICM Courses

### September

- 19-21 Fundamental Issues of Caseflow Management, Seattle, WA  
(satisfies Phase I requirement of CEDP, CMP)
- 28-30 Jury Management, Phoenix, AZ

### October

- 19-21 Managing Human Resources, Salt Lake City, UT  
(satisfies Phase I requirement of CEDP, CMP)
- 24-26 Court Performance Standards, Salt Lake City, UT  
(satisfies Phase I requirement of CEDP, CMP)

### November

- 2-4 Managing Court Financial Resources, Denver, CO  
(satisfies Phase I requirement of CEDP, CMP)
- 14-18 Court Management Program (CMP) Concluding Seminar, Williamsburg, VA

### To Be Announced

Court Interpretation: Introduction to Issues, Challenges, and Best Practices  
(Webinar)

**For more information, or to register, please call (800) 616-6206 or (757) 259-1809, or click on Education-ICM on the NCSC Web site at [www.ncsconline.org](http://www.ncsconline.org).**

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