

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

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NAPCO 2027



Save the Date!

NAPCO 2027 will be held at the Margaritaville Hotel, Kansas City August 20-25,th 2027.
We look forward to seeing you all there!

SPOTLIGHT
PRODUCTIVE PAIR

Pierce County Superior and Juvenile Courts rely on a close partnership between the Presiding Judge and Court Executive Officer to manage complex operations serving nearly one million residents. This "productive pair" combines judicial leadership with administrative stability, enabling both quick responses to challenges and long-term planning. Their collaboration is especially important in managing media relations during high-profile cases.

In one widely publicized trial, they worked together to provide clear, consistent communication while protecting judicial independence. A pretrial Media Day allowed reporters to understand procedures, establish expectations, and ensure fair access. This proactive approach led to more orderly coverage and better-informed public communication.

The court has continued this model through ongoing media outreach, strengthening relationships and supporting transparency. Ultimately, the Presiding Judge–Court Executive partnership ensures consistency, clarity, and public trust in an increasingly visible court system.

Read the full article on the website here.

2026 Academy Day

Dr. Suzanne Peterson will lead Academy Day at the 2026 National Association for Presiding Court Officers (NAPCO) Conference, bringing her widely respected leadership expertise back to a national audience of judges, court executives, and administrators. Known for her research-driven insights and practical approach, Dr. Peterson delivers sessions marked by clarity, candor, and actionable strategies.

Academy Day offers a focused opportunity for court leaders to step back from daily demands and engage in deeper learning. Dr. Peterson's ability to challenge assumptions and spark meaningful discussion has made her a cornerstone of NAPCO programming.

The 2026 conference comes at a pivotal time as courts face rapid technological change, evolving public expectations, and ongoing efforts to strengthen trust. Dr. Peterson is expected to address leadership resilience, organizational culture, and the changing role of courts.

In addition to Academy Day, attendees can expect workshops, collaborative sessions, and networking opportunities. For many, Dr. Peterson's session will set the tone for a conference designed to inspire fresh thinking and real impact.

Read more about acadmey day on the NAPCO Website Here!

COMMUNICATION AND RESOURCES CORNER

Recent Webinars

- The Life and Legacy of Ernie Friesen - **Leave a comment!**
- The Importance of Character in Leading
- Humor: An Important Leadership Tool

Podcasts

- ABA releases final report of its Task Force for American Democracy
- ABA 2025 Survey of Civic Literacy

White Papers and Guides

- How Courts Can Help Solve the Access to Justice Problem
- Cybersecurity Basics for Courts

Committee Corner

If you are interested in being a committee member, please click here!

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Finance
- Marketing & Membership
- Program & Education
- Strategic Planning
- Website

NAPCO committees serve as the vehicles for conducting the work and activities of NAPCO.

The committees provide ways to learn about NAPCO, meet other Bench Officers and Court professionals, learn about the court management profession at an executive level, and share expertise.

Consider this invitation to be a fully involved NAPCO member. This is a wonderful time to engage with NAPCO. There are a number of steps you can take to become involved, starting with thinking about what you might offer to NAPCO. A variety of committees, work groups, and projects await your involvement. Fill out this form if you are interested!

The Anchor of the Courthouse: The Power of a Productive Pair

By: David Yamasaki

The article highlights the importance of cohesive leadership to help achieve success in achieving short term and long- term goals. Experience has shown that successful courts are anchored by a "productive pair," the presiding judge and the court administrator, who form a unified leadership front to navigate environmental shifts that include the expansion of hybrid hearings and the proliferation of data analytics.

Find the full article on NAPCO's website here.



NAPCO Strategic Plan – June 2026
Building the Future of Court Leadership

On August 16, 2025, NAPCO board members and others gathered in Seattle, Washington, for a strategic planning session designed to set the direction of our organization for the next three years. The session focused on strengthening NAPCO's role as a leadership association for presiding judges and court executives. NAPCO is dedicated to advancing the administration of justice through collaboration, innovation, and training. By fostering productive partnerships between Presiding Judges and Court Administrators, NAPCO equips current and future court leaders with the tools, insights, and support they need to navigate today's challenges and shape tomorrow's courts.

The three top focus areas of our Strategic Plan are Organizational Governance, Outreach and Engagement, and Committees. Efforts are underway in each of these areas so that the organization is poised to meet its goals.

Governance – The governance subcommittee has developed a recommended Governance Plan that sets forth a Governance Structure with a President and Vice President, and an Executive Committee of 7 members authorized to act on the Board's behalf between meetings, within the limits set by the board and governing documents. An Emeritus Role has been defined as one that advises and supports the Executive Committee. The terms for each position are specifically set forth in the Governance Plan. The President and Vice President shall be either a current or former Presiding Judge or a Court Administrator. Governance plan recommends that the Board consist of 18 members. Nine shall be Presiding Judges, and 9 shall be Administrators, renewable every 2 years for a total of 8 years. Terms shall be staggered to preserve institutional knowledge. shall be an Executive Director and a Secretary, both selected by the Board, who will work with the Board on the contract renewal with NCSC. Once the Governance Plan is approved by the Board, the team will begin working on the By-Law revision so that the By-Laws support the Governance Plan.

We need a section on our fiscal strategy. I can write it from the minutes, but I believe someone on the Finance Committee would be better suited to add a few sentences about the progress in this area.

Outreach & Engagement – expanding and diversifying membership, improving visibility, and deepening member connections. Judge King, I figure you can do this area

Committees – The Governance Committee has recommended a realigned committee structure to strengthen member involvement and accountability. The Recommended Committees are AI and Cybersecurity Committee (renamed from the Technology Committee and focused on AI policy, cybersecurity trends, court technology readiness); Programs Committee (oversees webinars, training, speaker selection and ongoing education; Governance and Nominations(vets and proposes new board members and officers) Finance and Audit Committee(works with CFO/Treasurer, includes oversight of budget, reporting, and audits), Membership and Outreach(recruitment, retention and engagement strategies) Conference Planning Committee(works with the President, Vice President and Executive director on the annual conference planning) Website and Communications Committee(maintains a digital presence), and a Standing Planning and Governance Committee (oversees the implementation of the Strategic Plan and possible modifications).

