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"The Resource Page" (2010). *Court Review: The Journal of the American Judges Association*. 313.
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CONFERENCES

CTC 2011

Court Technology Conference

Long Beach, California

October 4-6, 2011

<http://www.ncsc.org/conferences-and-events/ctc-2011.aspx>

The National Center for State Courts sponsors a court-technology conference very other year, and October 2011 in Long Beach, California, is the next stop. The 2009 conference featured 125 exhibitors, 50 educational sessions, and more than 1,000 attendees to share notes with. While the 2011 program isn't set yet, programs last time around included things like: how to use an electronic trial-notes system; using social-networking tools to serve the public; providing cost-effective but high-quality computer networking at remote judicial sites; remote, centralized language interpreting; how to get eCourt project funding; court technology on a tight budget; and tips for improving court websites.

As the 2011 program takes shape, you'll find information about it at the website noted above.

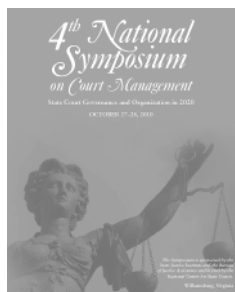
Fourth National Symposium on Court Management

Sponsored by the State Justice Institute, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the National Center for State Courts.

<http://www.ncsc.org/conferences-and-events/4th-symposium/agenda.aspx>

In times of tight budgets, it's hard to get a chance to attend a national conference that has good speakers who are exploring new ideas. But you can catch whatever portions you'd like on video

from the National Symposium on Court Management held October 27-28, 2010. The first of these periodic symposia was convened in 1981. The 2010 gathering focused on managing courts in times of budget challenge, discussing key questions like: What are the essential functions of courts? How can courts best organize themselves to achieve those functions?



- Dr. John Martin of the Center for Public Policy Studies in Boulder, Colorado, addressed trends that are shaping the state courts from 2000 to 2020.
- Dan Hall, vice president of the National Center for State Courts, reviewed the key principles of judicial administration that should guide presiding judges, trial-court administrators, and state-court administrators.
- Administrators and judges from Arizona, Minnesota, and Vermont explained changes that are being made to "reengineer" the delivery of justice in rural, suburban, and urban settings.
- Chief justices or state-court administrators from Ohio, Texas, and Utah, as well as court administrators and presiding judges from five other states, discussed a new set of principles for court governance.

All of the presentations, along with papers and some PowerPoint slides, are available to you on the web. Also included on the website are the results of a survey of 1,766 members of 11 national organizations—including the American Judges Association—regarding the well-being and growth of the state courts. Take a look to see what folks like us had to say about how courts should be governed, how well courts are doing, and what the future holds for us.



PUBLICATIONS

Special Issue on Judicial Selection The Advocate (Litigation Section, State Bar of Texas)

http://www.litigationsection.com/downloads/Advocate_Vol_53_Winter_2010.pdf

If you've read the overview Mary Celeste has provided in the latest AJA White Paper (page 82), your next stop for the latest thoughts on judicial selection can be found in a special issue of the publication of the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas, which is just out and available on the web. The articles are mostly short and easy to read; they give a great overview both of judicial-selection reforms and questions raised about them.

Many of the nation's top experts are represented. For example, Prof. Charles Gardner Geyh, an expert on judicial ethics, provides a few thoughts about *White, Caperton, and Citizens United*. David Rottman, a researcher at the National Center for State Courts who has closely followed the work of judicial campaign oversight committees, explains how such committees might be used to that pressure judicial candidates not to stray too far from accepted norms. Prof. Anthony Champagne, a political scientist, provides a perspective of judicial elections based on empirical research.

Other article topics include whether campaign contributions are compromising judicial independence, how judicial-selection reform may impact minority voters, whether partisan elections are the best means to hold judges accountable, how federal judicial selection really works, and how other nations pick judges. In all, there are 16 articles. If you're interested in this subject at all, you'll find this special issue of interest.

