



**North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice  
Committee on Public Trust and Confidence**

**Meeting Minutes / November 17, 2015**

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	November 17, 2015
<b>TIME</b>	10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
<b>LOCATION</b>	NCJC, 901 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh NC, 27607

**Attendees**

**Chair:** J. Bradley Wilson

**Members:**, Sheriff Earl Butler, Douglas Clark, Frank Emory Jr., Juan Flores Jr., Representative Ken Goodman, Frank B. Holding, Jr., John Hood, A. Dale Jenkins, Senator Floyd B. McKissick Jr., Dean Michael R. Smith (Ex-Officio), Robert C. Stephens, and Representative Sarah Stevens (Ex-Officio).

**NCCALJ Staff:** Will Robinson and Emily Portner

**Reporters:** Jon Williams (Chief Reporter), Andrew Atkins, and Mildred Spearman.

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee members unanimously approved the minutes from the October 8, 2015 meeting.

**Presentations**

The Honorable Louis Trosch, district court judge for the 26<sup>th</sup> judicial district, provided a presentation about implicit bias, *Let's Talk: Implicit Social Cognition (the Pros and Cons of Autopilot)*. The presentation focused on how the brain functions to formulate implied biases and how unconscious action based on those biases impacts decision-making in all areas, including the judicial process.

Dr. David Rottman, principal research consultant for the National Center for State Courts, provided a presentation on *Public Trust and Confidence in the State Courts: Levels, Causes, and Responses*. The presentation focused on how Americans view their state courts, what promotes trust in state courts, lessons learned on building trust, and strategies for measuring public trust.

Laura Klaversma, court services director for the National Center for State Courts, provided a presentation on *High Performance Court Framework and CourTools*. Designed by the National Center for State Courts, CourTools establishes a set of 10 balanced and realistic performance

measurements that courts can use to clarify performance goals, develop a measurement plan, and document success. North Carolina has adopted and uses some of the CourTools measures.

### Scoring of Possible Topics

Members of the committee submitted priority rankings of suggested topic ideas prior to the meeting. NCAOC's Research and Planning Division tallied the rankings and created a document that identified the top priorities identified by the members. The committee chair suggested that the members review the document and provide feedback about the priorities, with a likelihood that the committee will focus only on the top six topics. The top six topics were access to information, judicial selection / campaign finance, efficient scheduling of cases, survey, elimination of bias, and equal access to the courts. Because other committees may be considering some of these issues, the chair will work with other committee chairs to determine which topics of mutual interest should be considered by the respective committees.

### Survey Update

Will Robinson provided an update on the status of the survey requested at the previous meeting. The Commission was able to insert a few questions into recent polls conducted by Elon University and High Point University. Will Robinson and Emily Portner worked with the National Center for State Courts to develop survey questions for inclusion in the polls. Emily Portner will provide more information about the survey and the responses at the December 15, 2015 meeting.

### Administrative Matters

The full Commission will meet on January 29, 2016. The committees should continue their work with the goal of identifying preliminary recommendations by June 2016. Public hearings are expected to be held in August, and the committee will be expected to attend and discuss the preliminary recommendations and findings, and also to get feedback from the public.

### Next Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2015

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** North Carolina Judicial Center, 901 Corporate Center Drive, Raleigh NC, 27607