



Contact: Lorri Montgomery
Director of Communications and Public Relations
The National Center for State Courts
757.259.1525

Director of Judicial Branch Education becomes Fellow of Institute for Court Management

Williamsburg, VA – (May 3, 2019) Ms. Christine J. Christopherson, Director of Judicial Branch Education with the Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation in Lincoln, NE, became a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management (ICM) having successfully completed the rigorous requirements of ICM's Fellows Program. Ms. Christopherson and 12 other court professionals from the United States took part in graduation ceremonies conducted at the Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, D.C.

The ICM Fellows Program is the only program of its kind in the United States. This professional certification program was established nearly 50 years ago, in part, by Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger in his call for improving the management of state court administration. The intensive four-phase educational program better prepares court professionals for management and leadership positions. Since the first class of graduates in 1970, over 1,300 court professionals in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and 12 foreign countries have become ICM Fellows.

Becoming an ICM Fellow is a process of continual professional development that includes four steps.

- The first step for a candidate is to achieve Certified Court Manager status through successful completion of six in-depth courses: caseload management; court performance standards; fiscal management; human resources; purposes and responsibilities of courts; and technology management.
- The second step is to achieve Certified Court Executive status through completion of additional coursework that includes: court community communication; education, training and development; essential components; high performance courts framework; leadership; and visioning and strategic planning. Students must also complete the Distance Learning Phase, an online component that prepares participants for the work necessary to complete the Court Project Phase.
- The third step is completion of the Court Project Phase which entails a court research and improvement project. Participants must design and complete an independent master's-level research project that relates to evaluating and implementing a key court activity in their home jurisdiction.
- The fourth step and the culmination of this professional development process is the Presentation Phase and Master Class. Participants must demonstrate their leadership skills by developing and clearly articulating the results of their findings and recommendations before a respected panel and their classmates.

The National Center for State Courts, founded by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in 1971, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership, research, technology, education and training to the state courts.

###