

## **NACM 2024 Annual Conference Speech**

Thank you so much, Mr. President, for according me the esteemed privilege of being present at the NACM 2024 conference, themed "Leadership Opportunities and Challenges for our Nation's Courts."

IACA is, as many of you know, an international nonprofit organization founded in 2004 with the purpose of promoting and enhancing professional court administration and management in emerging democracies and other nations dedicated to upholding the rule of law.

IACA conducts international conferences, forums, and education and training programs aimed at serving judges, court administrators, managers, and the public in seven regions across the globe. This way, we try to promote dialogue, mutual understanding, and consensus building among diverse cultures.

We are dedicated to acquiring and disseminating knowledge to foster social harmony for the greater good, a worldwide necessity that is particularly serious in many poor countries where IACA is represented.

Considering the current circumstances, one of the primary challenges we face is maximising our impact while operating with a limited set of resources. This constraint requires that we be strategic and innovative in our approaches. We are fully committed to not only sharing valuable experiences but also disseminating best practices that can effectively enhance the local capabilities in various regions. By doing so, we aim to foster positive contributions and sustainable development, especially in areas where resources are scarce and needs are great. Our goal is to empower local communities, enabling them to thrive despite these limitations.

Therefore, leveraging ICT, IACA engages in real-time connections with different regions to exchange and absorb knowledge from varied cultures.

Last year, we conducted eight webinars that included a program with Ukraine on the administration of justice under the war of aggression that the country is suffering, the impacts of the pandemic on judicial modernisation and telecommuting in Latin America, User-Friendly Courts, and the launch of a new issue of the International Journal for Court Administration (IJCA), one of IACA's publications along with The Court Administrator (TCA).

In October, we hosted an international live conference in Buenos Aires with representation from 41 countries and over 250 participants. We also launched our YouTube Channel @IACA\_World to disseminate recordings of our live and online events.

We made the decision to kick off the year 2024 with a fresh sense of energy and a sharpened focus on our goals and ambitions.

With this aim, on March 30<sup>th</sup>, IACA and the World Bank organized the webinar "Judicial Administration, Innovation and AI Developments and Opportunities", with the participation as keynote speakers of the Chief Justice of India and the Chairmen of the Supreme Courts

of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and experts of the World Bank.

Moving forward, we are developing a webinar program focusing on combating organized crime and corruption in Latin America, a blatant regional necessity that also requires of international cooperation.

In parallel, we will continue our work to address demanding topics such as plain language in the judiciary, and forest destruction, climate change, and the role of the judiciary in this regard. We are very enthusiastic with the joint organisation by NACM and IACA, thanks to President Rick Pierce's, Kevin Bowling's and Norman Meyer's leadership, of a webinar about the NACM's Artificial Intelligence Guide that will be presented in this outstanding annual summit.

Our upcoming 2024 International Conference in Singapore, scheduled for November 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, commemorating IACA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will revolve around the theme of "Building Trust in the Judiciary" and will feature deliberations on cutting-edge topics, including our first plenary, "Artificial Intelligence, Governance and the Justice System", during which it will be addressed the NACM's AI Guide.

I view NACM's Core Competencies as a greatly relevant tool for judges, public prosecutors, and public defenders in regions where comprehensive court administration is lacking.

Thanks to NACM's generosity, it has been my privilege to participate and to address the audience in both annual conferences that were organised during my tenure as President of IACA.

I will complete the dischargement of my duties at the end of our Conference in Singapore, and then, my dear friend President-Elect Pam Harris, also Past President of NACM, will take the lead and, I'm sure, will brilliantly conduct IACA for the best of all of us.

Far beyond the completion of my term as President, I will always remain committed as a friend and an admirer of NACM, looking forward to our cooperation and to continuing to learn from your leadership, generosity, and kindness.

My heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable support, and my best wishes to you all.

Thank you so much.