

# ICM Opens Online Campus”

The Institute for Court Management (ICM) has enhanced its presence on the World Wide Web with an addition to its revised site devoted to distance learning opportunities—the Distance Learning Center (DLC). This new online campus will allow access to many of ICM’s educational programs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

“The DLC is integral to ICM’s future yet it supports the distance education activities of the entire Center and will draw upon the expertise of various divisions to design programs on work they are engaged in,” said Chuck Ericksen, executive director of ICM.

The DLC currently houses four “virtual buildings”:

- **Education Forum:** This building houses a collection of articles, essays, and white papers by National Center staff, court consultants, and others on topics of current relevance to the courts in five different “reading” rooms: Ethics Corner, Judicial Selection Room, Rural Courts Room, Therapeutic Jurisprudence Room, and the Trial Court Performance Standards Room. New articles will be

added to these rooms as we receive them, and new rooms will be opened for articles and essays on a wide variety of topics of interest to the courts.

- **Interactive Programs:** Users will find links to multimedia, interactive programs here. The site currently features an interactive *Introduction to Trial Court Performance Standards*.
- **Videoconferences:** ICM and other divisions can beam live conferences to numerous sites from the National Center’s Education and Technology Studio. Two videoconferences are planned for this year, so far—*How to Tell Good Science from Bad Science* (April 6) and *Managing Notorious Trials* (May 8).
- **Live Events:** This building hosts chat rooms, net meeting sessions, and other live education events.

Visitors to ICM online are invited to review the history of ICM as well as information about the Court Executive Development Program, an online calendar of national educational programs, faculty biographies, and information about the new Court Management Program at [www.ncsc.dni.us/icm](http://www.ncsc.dni.us/icm). 

## Judges Call for Change in the Judicial Selection Process, *continued*

ducted in many states, judicial election campaigns pose a substantial threat to judicial independence and impartiality, and undermine public trust in the judicial system,” he said. “Unregulated issue advertisements and independent expenditures by special interests present a particularly grave and immediate threat.”

In recent years, judicial elections have begun to resemble contests for other legislative and executive positions, becoming increasingly partisan, expensive, and negative. To address those and other concerns, the Call to Action highlights the following four areas in need of significant change:

- Partisan elections and terms of elective offices
- Judicial election campaign conduct
- Voter awareness and participation in judicial elections
- Campaign finance in judicial election campaigns

While some of the reforms would require statutory or constitutional changes, many could be implemented by state courts or bar associations.

“We are aware of the difficulties inherent in regulating election campaigns, even those involving the judiciary,” said Texas Supreme Court chief justice Thomas Phillips, one of the major proponents of the Call to Action. “But we reject the notion that nothing can be done. We believe that norms can be established through both positive law and informal standards that will both aid candidates and their supporters and enhance public confidence in the administration of justice.”

The 17 participating states at the summit were California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. The Joyce Foundation and the Open Society Institute funded the summit. 