

Minnesota Association for Court Management

The Minnesota Association for Court Management (MACM) was originally organized in 1907 as the Association of Clerks of the District Court of Minnesota. From those early days of elected clerks, MACM has evolved into an organization comprised of court personnel committed to the improvement of the judicial system. MACM has over 250 members consisting of court administrators, managers, supervisors and other court professionals from across the state.

MACM is committed to the enrichment of its members through professional growth and development opportunities, promoting advancements and innovation in court administration, and partnering with other professionals working to improve the Justice System in Minnesota.

MACM's Legislative Committee is actively involved in the legislative and rule-making processes, proposes and monitors legislation that could impact the courts, and serves as a resource to legislators weighing program and fiscal impact of proposed legislation.

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MACM website:

<http://www.mnmacm.org>

The staff of the Minnesota Judicial Branch process about two million cases each year while consuming less than 2% of the state budget.

For more information

you may also contact your

local county court administrator



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**LEGISLATIVE
BRIEFING**

MACM

**Celebrating Over 100 Years
of Service**

The Judicial Branch has targeted three strategic priorities for progress and innovation

1. Access to Justice:

- Demonstrate the need and build support for obtaining resources needed to insure the provisions of and access to justice;
- Continue efforts to fully integrate MNCIS and to maximize its use through continual training;
- Implement technological initiatives aimed at reducing workloads for court administration staff;
- Provide centralized Self Represented litigant Services to Minnesotans; and
- Plan for access and service delivery levels in the context of anticipated future fiscal constraints.

2. Administering Justice For Effective Results:

- Integrate judicial problem-solving approach for dealing with alcohol and other drug offenders;
- Provide early resolution of family law cases; and
- Evaluate and expand the Family Appellate Mediation Pilot Program.

3. Public Trust, Accountability, and Impartiality:

- Continue the performance standards implementation initiative;
- Continue efforts to implement education and development opportunities for Judicial Branch employees;
- Recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Race Fairness in the Courts Study; and,
- Encourage and facilitate communication and collaboration between the Minnesota Judicial Branch and Minnesota Tribal Courts.



2011 Legislative Session Challenges

- * Additional budget reductions will force the Branch to reassess our ability to process the 53 case types brought to the courts.
- * Continued efforts internally and with Justice System partners to identify ways to provide effective and cost efficient services.
- * Commitment to adequately fund the judicial branch in order to maintain core justice operations, as provided for in the Constitution and necessary to guarantee public safety;
- * The Judicial Branch legislative request for additional funding for FY 12-13 is limited to new money needed to pay for increases in health insurance costs and legislatively-mandated increases in pension contributions;
- * Providing adequate services to the public in light of staff shortages and case processing delays;
- * Maintain self-help resources for self-represented parties.

Minnesota's Third Branch of Government

- Article 1, Section 8 of the Minnesota Constitution states: Every person is entitled to... obtain justice freely and without purchase, completely and without denial, promptly and without delay...
- Administering justice is a **core government function**.
- The judicial branch mission is to provide justice through a system that ensures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.

Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea:

“The courts are where the people come when the things that are most important to them - their family, their freedom, their property - the things they treasure most, are threatened. They come to us, and they come looking for justice. We must help our fellow citizens see that the justice system is at the heart of what our founders meant when they wrote in our state constitution that: ‘Government is instituted for the security, benefit and protection of the people.’¹ The reason the justice system is one of the first promises made in our constitution is that we are essential to preserving our democracy, securing the rule of law, and ensuring the public safety.”

1. Minn. Const. art. I, § I.

