



# WASHINGTON STATE MINORITY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

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Jeremy Walker  
Minority Bar Associations

Judge Karl Williams  
District and Municipal Court Judges Association

February 23, 2023

Washington State Minority & Justice Commission  
1112 Quince St SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

**Re: Save the Date for the 2023 National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (NCREFC) Annual Conference hosted by the Washington State Minority & Justice Commission in Seattle, May 21-24, 2023**

To Our Fellow Servants in Equal Justice Initiatives:

On behalf of the Washington State Minority & Justice Commission (MJC), we are delighted to announce that we will be hosting the [2023 Annual NCREFC Conference](#) in Seattle, May 21-24, 2023, at the Hilton Motif Seattle Hotel. *Please find enclosed a preliminary agenda for the conference.*

The theme of this year's conference is ***"Justice: Promises to Keep."*** Conference participants will include judges, attorneys, legal professionals, advocates, and guests from Washington state and across the country. We will explore the root causes of racial and ethnic bias and disparities in state courts and judicial systems through an analysis of past and current legal failures; highlight solutions to ensure courts keep the promise of justice for all; and promote the conference's guiding principles of learning from the past to build a better future and actively opposing and eliminating racism at the individual, institutional, and structural levels.

The NCREFC was founded in 1989 by the Washington State Minority & Justice Commission, through the leadership of the late Justice Charles Z. Smith, and three other similar commissions and task forces from New Jersey, New York, and Michigan. The NCREFC has grown to 37 member-states, all dedicated to the mission of eliminating racial and ethnic bias in local judicial systems. Every year, the Annual Conference brings together member-states and partners from across the country to examine the treatment of racial and ethnic minorities in their courts, share their collective knowledge, and provide technical expertise on the subject of racial and ethnic fairness.

The Minority & Justice Commission is honored to host the Annual Conference this year. Washington state last hosted the Annual Conference in 2008. Since that time, the MJC has led groundbreaking racial equity and racial justice initiatives in the courts, including numerous statewide research and reform projects on the issues of legal financial obligation (LFO) practices, pretrial release, and jury diversity, and hosted symposia for the

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Washington Supreme Court on such topics as reparations for African Americans, the increased incarceration of women and girls of color, and bias within artificial intelligence.

As the host this year, the MJC is asking for support from our equal justice allies and partners in making this conference a success. That support can be attendance at the event, assistance promoting the event, and other support. Please save the date and expect updates from the planning committee on how you can help make this year's conference a success.

If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Cole at [carolyn.cole@courts.wa.gov](mailto:carolyn.cole@courts.wa.gov).

Sincere Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VERONICA GALVAN', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

VERONICA GALVÁN  
Judge, King County Superior Court  
Co-Chair, Washington State Minority & Justice Commission  
National Consortium Board Member

Enclosed: National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts 2023 Conference and Annual Meeting Preliminary Agenda