**Model 1 - Expert Panel and Breakout Groups**

The following handout for participants describes a popular style of public engagement process, which may be useful in achieving the goals of your program. It is a full day program.

This process involves a preliminary panel discussion by experts that is intended both to provide information to the participants and to commence a conversation focused on pre-identified “challenge areas,” that is, areas in which public trust our criminal justice system is being challenged.

The expert panel segment of the program is followed by two sets of breakout groups (morning and afternoon). The breakout groups are designed to promote conversation among participants about these challenge areas, to identify specific issues that participants deem most critical and to consider possible strategies.
FOCUS ON [YOUR COMMUNITY]:
Building Trust In Our Criminal Justice System

WELCOME!
You are among the first in a national series of local community forums being held to deliberate on how our criminal justice system is working in your community and what we can do to promote beneficial change. The work you accomplish today will not only serve as a recommendation for [YOUR COMMUNITY] leaders to advance, but will also be used by a blue-ribbon, ABA Commission being formed to take a fresh look at crucial issues for the justice system and the legal profession.

STEP 1—CHALLENGES
After a presentation by an illustrious panel of experts, you will join breakout discussions on three key challenges. Your job will be to come to consensus on the top five issues within the challenge area assigned to your group.

You may be asked to join a challenge area that is out of your normal wheelhouse. Don’t worry about that. The challenges we face are so diverse and complex, that no one person, or one viewpoint can fully solve them. We need each participant’s fresh ideas and input.

STEP 2—VOTE
During the lunch session, each attendee will be asked to rank the top four issues which you believe should be addressed from across all three challenge areas. This is your opportunity for your voice to be heard.

STEP 3—STRATEGIES
Our final breakouts will give you a chance to be creative, to dream big and to be provocative. What can we build together to address the identified challenges? What strategies might be employed to improve the functioning and build community trust in our criminal justice system?

STEP 4—PLEDGE
Each of us will be asked to commit in our own way to continue these efforts to improve the [YOUR COMMUNITY] criminal justice system. You will have the support of the ABA and your local legal community as you move forward.

THANK YOU for your good efforts and thoughtful participation.