






**FUNDING CRISIS
IMPACT ON THE NATION’S TRIAL COURTS
REDEFINING THE NEW NORMAL**

Reduced hours of operation/closures	15 Courts *
Salary freeze/hiring freeze	29 Courts
Salary reduction	9 Courts
Early retirement/incentive programs (more retirees/fewer workers) institutional knowledge	6 Courts
Staff layoffs	14 Courts
Furlough of judicial officers, with reduction in pay	9 Courts
Furlough of clerical/administrative staff, with reduction in pay	16 Courts
Delay in filling judicial vacancies	26 Courts
Reduced use of retired judges (senior/recall)	15 Courts
Delay in filling vacancies in the clerk’s office	34 Courts
Delay in filling vacancies in judicial support positions, i.e., court reporters, law clerks, judges’ secretaries	32 Courts
Increased fees and fines	22 Courts
Construction projects delayed (room shortages)	
Creative staffing/courtroom arrangements	
Security reductions	
Jury trials deferred (civil cases)	
Libraries closed	
Travel and training restrictions	
Reduced funding to specialty courts	
Reduced use of ADR/CDR	
Technology projects delayed	





* Courts = States








COURTS ARE BEING FORCED TO LOOK AT SERIOUS ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES OR RADICALLY RE-ENGINEER SERVICES

-  Reduce scope of responsibilities
-  Re-engineer for improved efficiency (reinvent our business processes)
-  Reduce level of service across the board

IMPACT ON BUDGET SHORTFALLS






-  Many states won't fill judicial vacancies
-  Many states anticipate staff reductions (direct adjudication and judicial support)
-  Increased backlogs in civil, criminal and family
-  Adverse impact on clerical operations (including writs, orders and judgments)

CONCERNS ABOUT ACCESS





-  Many states reducing hours of operation
-  Increasing filing fees (costs)
-  Resources diverted from civil adjudication (jury trials suspended)
-  Increased number of self-represented litigants
-  Lengthier time for cases to be heard (prioritization scheme – criminal, child welfare)



CHANGES TO COURT ORGANIZATION / RE-ENGINEERING

-  Consolidation of courts
-  Altering venue and jurisdictional lines
-  More flexibility in managing resources
-  Standardizing financial, administrative and clerical functions
 - Automation
 - Centralization
 - Outsourcing
 - Regionalization
-  E-Everything

BACK TO BASICS

-  Case administration: individual case attention
-  Governance: transparency / accountability
-  Fundamental functions / dispositional alternatives
-  Funding principles
 - Needs-based budget centered on workload, assessment models and essential core functions
 - Performance measures need to be employed
 - Allocation should be left to judiciary
 - Judiciary use of sound financial principles
 - Long-range plan for facilities
 - Long-range plan for technology