



# National Consortium on Racial & Ethnic Fairness in the Courts

SECRETARIAT: NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS, 300 NEWPORT AVENUE, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185  
WWW.NATIONAL-CONSORTIUM.ORG

## RESOLUTION

### On the Removal of Confederate Monuments from Judiciary Spaces

**WHEREAS**, the **National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts** (“National Consortium”) was established in 1988 to support the efforts of state courts around the country to promote a court system that is fair to all and free of racial and ethnic bias, and

**WHEREAS**, the **National Consortium** membership is comprised of state and tribal court task forces, commissions, and individuals advocating for impartial and fair treatment of all court users regardless of race or ethnicity, and these members and the **National Consortium** Board of Directors are dedicated to finding evidence-based remedies to redress racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, the **National Consortium** supports proponents who advocate for the removal of Confederate monuments from courthouses and judiciary-operated facilities. These tributes were erected to honor Confederate soldiers, officers and leaders who defended state’s rights and an economic system in the South that relied on the enslavement and exploitation of black people. As such, the Confederate monuments, demonstrative reminders of racism and white supremacy, celebrate a historical political ideology of racial segregation and oppression which the National Consortium deems unacceptable and reprehensible; and

**WHEREAS**, such markers and symbols of inhumanity positioned outside courthouses and centers of government power are a constant reminder of prejudice, hate and racism against black and brown people, and therefore, are inherently incompatible with a judiciary that should be dedicated to the Constitutional assurance of justice and equality under the law; and,

**WHEREAS**, people of color have expressed outrage and offense at having to pass these monuments as they enter courthouses in their communities to obtain services as court users, or to perform their civic duty on a jury, and thereby, are confronted with the duplicitous public message that tends to both invite the public into the “Halls of Justice,” but at the same time intimidate and discourage some from their rightful entitlement to full access and fair treatment in the judicial system; and,

**WHEREAS**, public demonstrations denouncing the continued presence of racist Confederate monuments in judiciary spaces constitute legitimate public concerns, and consequently, the **National Consortium** implores the judiciary and government to exercise its authority to take such actions as are necessary to enhance the public’s trust and confidence in the judiciary, and to preserve the constitutional rights of all people to equal access and justice under the law.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the **National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts** on this **15th day of July 2020**, calls upon the leaders of the highest courts in each state, tribal nation, territory, and related commissions and task forces to:

1. review and catalog all Confederate monuments and markers displayed at courthouses and judicial offices within their jurisdiction, and document the history of those monuments; and,
2. take action resulting in the immediate removal of all Confederate monuments, memorials, flags, plaques, and other symbols and markers of racism and white supremacy, from all public spaces on, around or within all property upon which courthouses or judicial offices of any kind are located.

*Susan F. Maven*

The Honorable Susan F. Maven  
President and Moderator

H. Clifton Grandy, Esq.  
Secretary/Treasurer and Coordinator

#### PRESIDENT/MODERATOR

Hon. Susan F. Maven  
New Jersey Superior Court  
1201 Bacharach Boulevard  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401  
(609) 402-0100 Ext. 47670,  
[susan.maven@njcourts.gov](mailto:susan.maven@njcourts.gov)

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER

H. Clifton Grandy, Esq.  
Senior Court Manager, District of Columbia Courts

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hon. Veronica Alica-Galván  
King County Superior Court - Washington

Hon. Scott M. Bernstein  
Eleventh Judicial Circuit - Florida

Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby  
Chief Judge, District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Hon. Richard Blake  
Chief Tribal Judge – Hoopa Valley Tribe - California

Hon. Tanya M. Bransford  
Fourth Judicial District – Minnesota

Erica S. Chung  
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Mgr. - Washington

Gregory P. Conyers  
Director of Diversity, State Bar of Michigan

Hon. Cynthia D. Davis, (Ret.)  
Former Ex. Dir., Mississippi Judicial College

Hon. Kenneth V. Desmond, Jr.  
Justice, Massachusetts Appeals Court

Hon. Donovan J. Foughty  
Northeast Judicial District – North Dakota

Hon. Deadra L. Jefferson  
Circuit Court of South Carolina

Hon. Verna G. Leath  
New Jersey Superior Court

Lisette McCormick, Esq.  
Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender,  
Racial and Ethnic Fairness

Prof. Aura Newlin  
Northwest College - Wyoming

Hon. Richard Rivera  
Albany Family Court – New York

Kimberley Taylor Riley, Esq.  
Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator

James E. Williams, Jr., Esq.  
Chair, NC Commission on Racial and Ethnic  
Disparities

#### EMERITUS

Hon. Robert Benham – Georgia (Ret.)  
Hon. Edward C. Clifton - Rhode Island (Ret.)

Karl A. Doss, Esq. - Virginia  
Hon. Frederick P. Horn – California (Ret.)

Hon. Clarence J. Jones – Connecticut (Ret.)  
L. Dew Kaneshiro, Esq. – Hawaii

Hon. Marilyn Kelly – Michigan (Ret.)  
Hon. yvonne lewis - New York (Ret.)

Yolande P. Marlow, Ph.D. – New Jersey  
Hon. Veronica Simmons McBeth – California

Hon. Ronald T.Y. Moon - Hawaii (Ret.)  
Elizabeth Neeley, Ph.D. - Nebraska

Hon. Eduardo Padró - New York (Ret.)  
Hon. Patricio M. Serna - New Mexico (Ret.)

Hon. Max N. Tobias, Jr. – Louisiana (Ret.)

#### ADVISORY BOARD

Aime Alonzo-Serrano – New Jersey  
Hon. Margaret Chutich – Minnesota

Hon. Shauna Graves-Robertson - Utah  
Hon. Emanuella Groves – Ohio

Shirley Ann Higuchi, Esq. – Washington, DC  
Caryn L. Hines, Esq. – Maryland

Tonya K. Kohn, Esq. – South Carolina  
Hon. Melissa Long – Rhode Island