

A BLUEPRINT FOR JUDICIAL INNOVATION

And Making Your Vision a Reality



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If you are a judge in a democracy, in this democracy, in our American democracy, innovation is at the heart of the job. It is what we should do. It is what we must do now more than ever.”

JUDGE CARLTON REEVES United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi
From his morning keynote address at the 2024 Advancing Innovation Summit on judicial leadership, hosted by IAALS and BJI

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Judicial leadership is crucial to addressing the challenges faced by our legal system. Through education, collaborative problem-solving, and innovative approaches to reform, IAALS and BJI are supporting and empowering responsive and resilient judicial leaders who thrive amid challenges, respond to crises, and drive change at the speed and scale needed in the face of mounting challenges facing the legal system.

We need immediate, transformative action and visionary leadership at the highest levels to bring about a justice system that rises to meet modern needs and expectations. This need was the focus of the Advancing Innovation summit and the resulting Blueprint for Judicial Innovation. The strategies outlined here provide a roadmap to support judicial leaders in their efforts to innovate for a justice system the public can trust.

Read the Blueprint for
Judicial Innovation here:



STRATEGIES FOR INNOVATION

- ▶ Normalize change
- ▶ Question assumptions and reevaluate goals
- ▶ Pilot new ideas
- ▶ Don't fear failure
- ▶ Find your people
- ▶ Gather evidence and data
- ▶ Gather diverse perspectives
- ▶ Engage skeptics and resisters
- ▶ Make it simple
- ▶ Keep momentum
- ▶ Identify and support strong leaders
- ▶ Be strategic about timing
- ▶ Create a process and be persistent
- ▶ Communicate clearly and effectively
- ▶ Educate
- ▶ Build buy-in
- ▶ Work with the community and stakeholders
- ▶ Understand barriers
- ▶ Identify diverse funding sources
- ▶ Invest in judicial wellness
- ▶ Celebrate success
- ▶ Just start

RESOURCES JUDGES NEED TO INNOVATE

- ▶ Engaged people and empowered leadership
- ▶ Supportive partners and collaborators
- ▶ Information and knowledge
- ▶ Funding
- ▶ Time
- ▶ Culture of creativity and iteration
- ▶ Legal and regulatory framework
- ▶ Technology infrastructure
- ▶ Communication with the public
- ▶ Vision





MAKING IT HAPPEN

Judges across the country must recognize the critical importance of judicial leadership and innovation. But a vision of a better system for all will not materialize on its own. It requires deliberate action, courageous leadership, and sustained commitment. Leaders within the judiciary can make change a reality in the following ways:

ACTION 1

Embrace Your Role as an Innovator and Leader

Own the Mantle

Assess and Develop Your Competencies

Model the Change

ACTION 2

Translate Vision into Action

Choose a Starting Point

Use Data and Diverse Perspectives

Communicate and Build Buy-In

ACTION 3

Develop Your Network and Share Knowledge

Find Your People

Engage Collaborators

Use IAALS and BJI

ACTION 4

Tackle Challenges Strategically

Acknowledge Obstacles

Seek Resources Proactively

Address Resistance Constructively

ACTION 5

Prioritize Well-Being

Sustain Yourself and Your Team

ACTION 6

Just Start

Embrace Action



ABOUT ADVANCING INNOVATION: A NATIONAL SUMMIT ON JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP

The National Summit on Judicial Leadership, co-hosted by IAALS and the Berkeley Judicial Institute, brought together judicial leaders at an in-person, invite-only event in September 2024. The program featured keynote addresses from judicial leaders and change experts as well as interactive opportunities for peer collaboration that enabled judges to learn from one another; discuss the challenges and opportunities they face; and understand the knowledge, skills, and abilities critical to transformative leadership.

The summit empowered robust and resilient judicial leaders to thrive in the midst of challenges, respond to crises, and drive change at the speed and scale needed to tackle the mounting challenges facing the legal system. By allowing judges to step out of their silos and focus energy on collaborative problem-solving, the summit inspired a new wave of innovations taking root in courts across the country.

Learn more about the summit, webinar series, and blueprint at:
iaals.du.edu/events/advancing-innovation-judicial-leadership.

How can we help? Consulting Inquiries: iaals@du.edu