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PRESS RELEASE

National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Annual Conference Goes Virtual

2025 Conference to be Headlined by Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal- Winning Author Isabel Wilkerson

PROVIDENCE, RI- The Rhode Island Judiciary announced on March 17, 2025 that the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (NCREF) Annual Conference will be presented virtually in 2025. This year's conference theme is *Resilience Through History: Reflecting on 150 Years of Progress and Setbacks in Racial and Ethnic Fairness*.

Due to recent federal funding freezes and changes in policy impacting federal and state grant disbursements, a three-day in-person conference is cost-prohibitive. The 2025 virtual event will offer similar programming with greater accessibility. By reducing barriers associated with in-person conferences, including travel time and costs, the hope is that conference participation will surpass previous event attendance.

The virtual conference will be a full day on April 14, 2025 and a half-day on April 15, 2025 via Zoom platform. A virtual conference will enable judicial officers, attorneys, court staff, scholars, and students from across the country to participate with greater ease.

The keynote speaker is Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal- winning author Isabel Wilkerson. Ms. Wilkerson is the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestsellers *The Warmth of Other Suns*, and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. Margaret A. Burnham, Distinguished Professor of Law at the Northeastern University School of Law and founder of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, will also be a featured presenter.

Founded in 1989, NCREF's mission is to eliminate racial and ethnic bias in the administration of justice. This work is accomplished through collaboration, training, and the sponsorship of programs promoting systemic reforms across judicial systems nationwide.

To register for the 2025 virtual conference, visit: <https://www.research.net/r/2025ncrefcform>. Once registered, attendees will receive additional information about completing the registration payment process. For more information about the conference, visit: <https://www.national-consortium.org/>.

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