ON BEHALF OF THE NACOLE BOARD of Directors, Conference Co-Chair Margo Frasier, the Annual Conference Committee, and our local hosts in Albuquerque, New Mexico, I would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in the 22nd Annual NACOLE conference. Each year the conference exceeds our expectations with the attendance, content, discussions, and visions that come as a result of our membership and other interested parties gathering together to strengthen a field that has grown significantly in the last few years. This year, NACOLE welcomed 462 attendees from 32 states and 115 cities. Additionally, we had attendees from Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Jamaica, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. It is a testament to the global reach of civilian oversight.

This year, NACOLE increased the number of sessions and offered three tracks. A fourth, one-day group of sessions devoted specifically to civilian oversight of corrections was also added. These included topics such as jail safety and models of corrections oversight. Other police and police oversight sessions focused on de-escalation, technology and open data, monitoring protests, procedural justice, policy analysis, police use of force, consent decrees and the role of the Department of Justice, working with community stakeholders, crisis intervention team training, restoring public trust, and juvenile justice reform.

One of the conference highlights was the plenary session: “Policing and Communities of Color: Confronting Systemic Injustice.” This session addressed the conference theme directly, while at the same time raising issues related to...
As I begin my second month of service as the twelfth President of NACOLE, I remain honored by being selected and humbled by the task at hand. As a nation, we are in a historical moment where issues of police misconduct, police accountability, and community involvement in policing are at the fore. At the same time, the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing has created a framework for positive change within law enforcement, coming from the highest level of our nation’s government.

Although they have recently gained increased attention, these incidents are only the latest manifestation of a long-standing history of injustice. This history that has worked to not only foster distrust of the police and the criminal justice system by many communities of color, but also to create a lack of faith in the ability for the system to change. Especially in communities of color, policing practices that are experienced as overly harsh, unjust, or unfair, whether or not those practices are deemed lawful, undermine legitimacy of police. When individuals from one racial or ethnic group are significantly more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, or even shot by the police, building and maintaining trust is extremely difficult—if not impossible.

As the national focus on these issues has increased, so have NACOLE’s membership, training programs, and requests for assistance and guidance from both established and new oversight entities, the media, scholars, and others looking for information and guidance on oversight. These factors have led to a number of challenges for NACOLE around expectations, governance, staffing, and funding.

NACOLE was originally formed by a small group of professional oversight practitioners, including several who were former police officers, as an association to provide mutual support to individuals and agencies working in and to promote civilian oversight. NACOLE has evolved into an organization that also includes community activists, current and former law enforcement professionals, elected officials, policy advocates, academics, and others who support NACOLE’s mission and benefit from its programs. With this evolution have come discussions and questions about the organization’s purpose and work, as well as challenges to meet the requirements and expectations of a much greater variety of stakeholders. At the same time, diversity and inclusion have always been central to NACOLE’s vision, mission, and work—and will always remain central.

Our “NACOLE in 2020” strategic planning process has been an important opportunity to build on our solid foundation and current dynamic tensions, come to consensus around organizational direction and priorities, and create a plan for implementation through staffing, structures, governance, and programs. Important issues NACOLE faces include:

- Supporting and engaging its existing members while increasing its membership base;
- Expanding its reach and influence through strategic partnerships across sectors and professions;
- Effectively addressing “hard issues” by speaking out and taking principled and well-supported positions on important matters of concern within both policing and civilian oversight; and
- Continuing to increase member and stakeholder engagement in and transparency over NACOLE’s governance.

After leading the Association’s “NACOLE in 2020” strategic planning initiative over the last year, I am excited to help us achieve our shared vision for NACOLE: being an inclusive, diverse, sustainable and expanding organization; creating a fully developed field of study and practice; and providing objective timely guidance to communities across the nation. This work will allow NACOLE to be the preeminent, influential national organization for civilian oversight, promoting increasingly respectful police and community relations, and supporting peaceful and just communities for all.

Brian Corr is the President of NACOLE and works as the Executive Secretary of the Cambridge Massachusetts Police Review & Advisory Board and Executive Director of the city’s Peace Commission.

Greetings from the President

SAVE THE DATE!

The 23rd Annual NACOLE Conference
Spokane, Washington
The Davenport Grand Hotel

September 10–14, 2017

SAVE THE DATE!

NACOLE 3rd Annual Academic Symposium
Arizona State University
Phoenix, Arizona

Visit www.NACOLE.org
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Friday, June 9, 2017
civilian oversight and police and community relationships. The session began with Tucson, AZ Police Chief Chris Magnus acknowledging the history of law enforcement’s mistreatment of people of color and other marginalized groups over hundreds of years, and continuing into the present. John Jay College of Criminal Justice Professor Jodie Roure discussed these issues within a human rights framework and through the lens of educating police officers, providing a broader context and elaborating on ways to make systemic change. Next, New Orleans Independent Police Monitor Susan Hutson vividly described the challenges she has faced personally as a woman of color, and professionally in leading an institution that has had to fight for survival since its creation. There was an incredibly powerful discussion that immediately followed the panelists’ presentations about the experiences of communities of color with policing. These are the difficult conversations that are necessary for true and lasting reform to be achieved.

The keynote luncheon on Tuesday provided NACOLE with the opportunity to present awards to several deserving people and organizations. The NACOLE Flame award was given to Christy Lopez, Deputy Chief of the Special Litigation Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. Ms. Lopez has supervised investigations of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the East Haven Police Department, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, among others; formulated DOJ’s statement of interest in the Floyd litigation challenging the New York Police Department’s stop-and-frisk practices; and investigated the law enforcement response to sexual assault in Montana. In 2013, Ms. Lopez was a recipient of the John Marshall Award, the DOJ’s highest award for attorneys, in recognition of her work in New Orleans. She served as a federal court-appointed monitor from 2003 to 2010 and was monitor to Senior District Judge Thelton E. Henderson of the Northern District of California, assessing and reporting on the Oakland Police Department’s compliance with a federal consent decree. The Contribution to Oversight Award was given to the Invisible Institute, a non-profit journalistic production company on the South Side of Chicago whose mission is to enhance the capacity of citizens to hold public institutions accountable. The Institute recently published an interactive online database of 56,000 misconduct complaint records for more than 8,500 Chicago police officers. It was a game changer.

NACOLE gave out two Achievements in Oversight awards this year. The first went to Sonoma County, California for their two-year effort to bring oversight to the community. Following the fatal police shooting of 13-year old Andy Lopez, the County initiated a comprehensive and inclusive public process to gather an incredible amount of information and input. At the conclusion of the process, the County created the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO) in August 2015. The Office conducts independent reviews of investigations alleging law enforcement misconduct, including use of excessive force, engages the community, and makes recommendations of policy changes to the Sheriff’s Office and the Board of Supervisors. The second award was given to Nicholas Mitchell and the staff of the Office of the Independent Monitor in Denver, Colorado. The Denver OIM has released numerous reports, promoted transparency and community engagement, and worked to affect positive change in the Denver Police and Sheriffs Departments.

During the Keynote luncheon, attendees had the pleasure of hearing from this year’s keynote speaker, Roy Austin, Jr., Director of the White House Office of Urban Affairs, Justice, and Opportunity. Mr. Austin relayed numerous points that engaged and enlightened attendees and challenged us to think more critically about the role of civilian oversight within the broader context of criminal justice system reform.

This incredible conference would not have been possible without the hard work of both the NACOLE Annual Conference Planning Committee—Elisabeth Albert, Cathleen Beltz, Linda Bernard, Lendel Bright, Gianina Irlando, Robin Jackson, Nicole Junior, Christian J. Klossner, Tess Mullarkey, Byron Norris, Damon Scott, Constantin Sever, John Torres, and Catharine Wright—and the local organizing committee in Albuquerque—Amanda Bustos, Joanne Fine, Ed Harness, and David Ring. A special note of recognition is extended to NACOLE’s staff—Director of Training and Education Cameron McEllhiney and Director of Operations Liana Perez—who were critical throughout the planning and development of the conference, and who worked tirelessly to ensure that the conference communicated the full impact of our collective efforts.

The RFP for the 2017 conference workshops has been released, and is available HERE. More information about the proposal process is available on the NACOLE website at www.nacole.org. We look forward to seeing you at the 23rd Annual Conference in Spokane, Washington, from September 10-14, 2017!
Conference Exceeds Expectations
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The NACOLE Review
The NACOLE Review is produced under the supervision of the NACOLE Newsletter Committee Chair Brian Buchner, as well as the NACOLE Board of Directors. The Board thanks those individuals who contributed to this issue of the newsletter and extends a special thanks to the Newsletter Committee: Susan Gray, Loan Le, and Marielle Moore. Additionally, the Board is grateful to Cameron McEllhiney and Liana Perez, who provide staff and contracting services to NACOLE. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Jerri Hemsworth of NewmanGrace (www.newmangrace.com) for providing layout and publication services to the NACOLE Review.