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**AUG. 13, 2023 | 2:15-3:15 PM | GRAND 2**

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1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Get to Know the Indiana General Assembly
3. Legislative Institution Track Sessions in Indianapolis
  - a. Preview of session on staff retention and turnover.
4. NCSL 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Institution-Focused Product Ideas

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To: Members of the NCSL Executive Committee  
From: Natalie Wood, director, NCSL Center for Legislative Strengthening  
Date: Aug. 13, 2023  
Re: NCSL Institution-Focused Services, June-July 2023

The Center for Legislative Strengthening (CLS) is NCSL's hub for consulting, projects, training and research in service of the legislative institution. Through May of this year, CLS provided trainings, testimony and presentations for 13 legislatures and four international delegations; responded to a variety of constituent requests on legislative operations and management; maintained an updated web presence; and staffed four consulting studies. As the Executive Committee recently received a briefing on most of these services at the Providence, R.I., meeting, this report covers activities in support of legislative institutions in June and July 2023.

### **Promoting Legislative Institutions**

Constituents sought NCSL's expertise on personal staffing structures, staff pay and other personnel issues, legislator term limits, legislative calendars, open meetings and open records, and legislator salaries, among other topics. In July, CLS published its biennial update of legislator compensation and benefits, research led by policy specialist Josalyn Williams.

Program Principal Will Clark spoke about the emerging use of artificial intelligence in legislative drafting, appearing on panels at two virtual international meetings, for [iLegis](#) and Bussola Tech. Clark also spoke at a July webinar for the Legislative Research Librarians professional staff association on the topic of records retention. In June, Director Natalie Wood testified before the Colorado General Assembly's Committee on Legislative Legal Services on staff director hiring recruitment strategies and practices.

### **Training, Professional Development and Special Projects**

CLS is nearing the conclusion of two studies on legislative staff compensation and, in June, Senior Policy Specialist Selena Saucedo led and completed a data collection effort for a third staffing study. CLS staff have been analyzing the findings of an all-staff survey on factors contributing to turnover and retention and will share the results at the 2023 Legislative Summit. The team has also been hard at work designing the other legislative institution track Summit sessions, which will cover social media in the legislative environment, public records issues, leadership, evolutions in legislator time on the job and parliamentary procedure.

Like most years, the summer and fall of 2023 are full of requests for presentations, workshops and professional development. Senior Policy Specialist Mari Henderson provided a workshop on parliamentary procedure for legislators in their second year of service at the "Avoiding the Sophomore Slump" meeting in Denver. Wood gave the opening presentation at the Legislative Staff Management Institute in July. The team is planning the [National Seminar on Human Resources Management in State Legislatures](#), which will be held in Raleigh, N.C., this October. Finally, the team began work on a brief legislative consulting engagement that will focus on civics education regarding the legislative branch and the separation of powers.