

19TH ANNUAL MEETING

National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts



Theme artwork created by Halima Cassells

Saving Our Children: Justice and Fair Treatment of Youth in the Courts

MAY 2-5, 2007

MARRIOTT NEW YORK AT THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, May 2

2:00 P.M.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

1:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Marriott Hotel New York
at the Brooklyn Bridge

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Marriott Hotel New York
at the Brooklyn Bridge

Honorable Marilyn Kelly

*Justice of the Supreme Court, State of Michigan
President-National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness
in the Courts*

Honorable Lewis L. Douglass

Chair-Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities

Thursday, May 3

7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Marriott Hotel New York
at the Brooklyn Bridge

7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Marriott Hotel New York
at the Brooklyn Bridge

8:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.

OPENING SESSION

Marriott Hotel New York
at the Brooklyn Bridge

PRESENTATION OF COLORS AND INVOCATION

High School Color Guard/Court Officers

WELCOMING REMARKS

Honorable Marilyn Kelly

Honorable Jonathan Lippman

*Chief Administrative Judge, State of New York
Justice of the Supreme Court, 9th Judicial District*

Honorable Lewis L. Douglass

Honorable Ariel E. Belen

*Administrative Judge, Supreme Court
Civil Division, Kings County
Vice Chair- Franklin H. Williams
Judicial Commission On Minorities*

Overview of the History of Children in the Courts

9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Jeremy Travis

President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Introduction by:

Honorable Eduardo Padro

*Supreme Court Justice, 1st Judicial District
New York, New York
Commissioner, Franklin H. Williams
Judicial Commission on Minorities*

10:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

BREAK

11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

PLENARY SESSION

TEEN VIOLENCE, THE MEDIA, AND THE COURTS

A real life situation presented by Prevention Focus, Inc., a Western New York Agency dedicated to the belief that education is the answer to the problems of youth violence, gangs and drugs. The participants will take part in the discussion and assist in finding pathways to solutions on the many issues facing our youth today.

Moderator:

Kevin Glover

Director, Prevention Focus

Introduction by:

Honorable Rose H. Sconiers

*Supreme Court Justice, 8th Judicial District
Buffalo, New York
Commissioner Franklin H. Williams
Judicial Commission on Minorities*

12:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

LUNCH

GUEST SPEAKER

Honorable Byron Brown

Mayor, Buffalo, New York

Introduction by:

Honorable Rose H. Sconiers

Supreme Court Justice, 8th Judicial District

Buffalo, New York

Commissioner, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities

2:15 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

I. CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE BARRIERS TO JUSTICE

This session will consist of an interactive discussion on what strides are being made to facilitate justice for the growing immigrant population and whether there are special needs for the youth population. Represented on the panel will be New York, Florida, California and Ohio. Participants will share what are the challenges in their respective states, whether administrative, legislative or resource based. Each participant will discuss/ present on the progress being made by each state.

Moderator:

Honorable Randall T. Eng

Administrative Judge of the Supreme Court, Criminal Term Queens County, New York

Panelists:

Sandra Bryan

Statewide Coordinator

Court Interpreting Services of the State of New York

J.M. Munoz

Senior Court Services Analyst

Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts, San Francisco, California

Bruno Romero

Senior Court Services Analyst

Program Manager Interpreter Services, Supreme Court of Ohio

Augustin Servin de la Mora

Federally Certified Court Interpreter

and President of the Florida Institute of Interpreters and Translation State of Florida

II. ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION AND MENTORING PROGRAMS

This panel will discuss the alternative programs currently in existence to limit the number of incarcerated youth.

Moderator:

Honorable Michael Corriero

Judge of the Court of Claims, State of New York

Panelists:

Aubrey Fox

Project Director

Bronx Community Solutions, Bronx, New York

Angel Rodriquez

Executive Director

Andrew Glover Youth Program, New York, New York

Marsha Weissman, M.P.A.

Executive Director

Center for Community Alternatives, Syracuse, New York

III. TEEN VIOLENCE AND THE MEDIA

Media portrayal of youth, crime and violence: Is it real, slanted, or imagined?

Moderator:

Les Payne

Former Editor, New York Newsday

Panelists:

Alfonso A. Castillo

Court Reporter, New York Newsday

Mae Cheng

Editor, New York Newsday

Bob Herbert

Columnist, The New York Times

Sheryl McCarthy

Columnist, New York Newsday

Shola Lynch

Director/Producer, REALside Production

IV. COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES FOR YOUTH

Young people who become involved in the justice system face a daunting array of counterproductive debilitating barriers that make it much more difficult for them to succeed in many important aspects of life. These "Collateral Consequences" are over and above the direct penalties of their underlying actions. They are the unintended consequences that flow from their involvement in the justice system. These children's growth and expected development into mature adults is disrupted and skewed. Their childhood is interrupted and thrown off course. This panel will discuss the difficulties and barriers these young people face and will offer recommendations and possible solutions to these vexing questions.

Moderator:

Honorable Richard B. Lowe III

Supreme Court Justice, 1st Judicial District, New York, NY
Commissioner, Franklin H. Williams Judicial
Commission on Minorities

Panelists:

Anita R. Marton

Senior Attorney
Legal Action Center, New York

Leonard E. Noiset

Executive Director
Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem, New York

Laurie Parise

Executive Director
Youth Represent, New York

Gemma Solimene

Clinical Associate Professor of Law Fordham University
Professor of Law, New York

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

RECEPTION/BUFFET

Hosted by the Association of the Bar of the City New York
42 West 44th Street
New York, New York

Buses will depart promptly at 5:15 PM from the front of the hotel on Adams Street.

Introductory Remarks by:

Barry Kamins, Esq.

President-The Association of the Bar of the
City of New York

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Marriott Hotel New York
at the Brooklyn Bridge

8:00 A.M. - 9:15 A.M.

BREAKFAST

Marriott Hotel New York
at the Brooklyn Bridge

GUEST SPEAKER

Councilman John Liu

Flushing, New York
First Asian Pacific American Legislator in New York City;
Chair of Transportation Committee.

Introduction by:

Honorable Doris Ling-Cohan

Supreme Court Justice, 1st Judicial District, New York, NY
Commissioner, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on
Minorities

9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY COURT VISITS*

***Red Hook Community Justice Center**, a multi-jurisdictional community court in an isolated Brooklyn neighborhood, brings criminal, family, and housing cases before a single judge and provides on-site social services to help solve neighborhood problems. The Justice Center hosts a range of youth-focused programs including a youth court, where teenagers are trained to serve as judge and jury, hearing cases referred by the police, judges and schools, and helping to set standards of acceptable behavior for their peers. In a 2004 survey, 78

percent of the neighborhood's residents viewed the community court favorably; and more than 94 percent of interviewed criminal defendants recently surveyed indicated that they felt that they had been treated fairly by the court. In 2005, the Justice Center was the subject of a nationally televised PBS documentary, Red Hook Justice.

Integrated Domestic Violence Court, is designed to improve the court and criminal justice response to domestic violence for victims and their children. New York City's "IDV" court brings each family's overlapping civil, criminal and matrimonial cases before a single judge allowing for dramatically improved judicial decision-making and true defendant accountability. Children exposed to domestic violence are represented by their own lawyers to ensure that the resulting dispositions reflect their needs and ensure that they do not fall through the cracks. Throughout New York State, IDV courts have reduced the number of trips that victims have had to make to court and, in some locations, documented increases in criminal domestic violence convictions. Over the past four years, New York State's IDV courts have served almost 9,000 families and adjudicated over 43,000 cases, including over 10,000 custody/visitation requests.

***Midtown Community Court**, the first community court in the United States, was founded in 1993. The court combines punishment and help, holding quality-of-life offenders accountable, by sentencing them to community service, and helping them avoid re-offending, by linking them to social services. Compliance with sanctions at the Midtown Community Court is 50 percent higher than compliance at traditional courts, and an independent evaluation found reductions in offending patterns and increased public confidence in justice. In

addition to on-site counseling, Midtown offers GED classes, homeless outreach and adult and adolescent job training programs. The Midtown Community Court has become the model for more than thirty community courts across the country and a growing number internationally, including in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Drug Court/ Brooklyn Treatment Court was the first drug court in New York City. The court's efforts to link felony drug offenders to substance abuse treatment have led to significant reductions in recidivism. To target younger offenders, in 2003, the Brooklyn Treatment Court added a marijuana addiction program. By 2006, 196 drug courts were in operation or planning around the state, built in part on the Brooklyn model.

***Harlem Community Justice Center**, applies the community court model to family and housing court matters while offering a range of programs for young people at risk of offending. In addition to juvenile delinquency matters and landlord-tenant disputes, the Harlem Community Justice Center has an adult and a juvenile re-entry court and a youth court.

12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

LUNCH

Marriott Hotel New York
at the Brooklyn Bridge

GUEST SPEAKER

Honorable Dora L. Irizarry

*United States District Court
Eastern District*

Introduction by:

Honorable Charles J. Tejada

*Acting Supreme Court Justice, 1st Judicial District
New York, New York
Commissioner, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission
on Minorities*

1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

I. PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE PROFESSION

In this captivating session panelists reveal the challenges and successes of People of Color in the Profession. The audience will leave with five distinct, profound messages and solutions that will help attorneys, court personnel and the public to benefit from what the speakers have done or are doing.

Moderator:

Wilhemina Tribble

*President of LTA Inc.
Co-chair, Florida Supreme Court Standing Committee on
Fairness and Bias in the Courts*

Panelists:

Janiece Brown Spitzmueller, Esq.

*Co-chair, Minorities and the Law
New York County Lawyers Association*

Michael Oshima, Esq.

*Chairperson, Minorities in the Profession Committee,
Association of the Bar of the City of New York*

Diana S. Sen, Esq.

*Senior Litigation Associate,
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, LLP;
Vice President, Puerto Rican Bar Association*

Patrick A. Michel, Esq.

Associate Counsel, Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP

Taa Grays, Esq.

*Assistant General Counsel,
Met Life Insurance Company;
Director, National Bar Association, Region 2*

II. INNOVATIVE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOCUSING ON GANGS, THE LAW, THE COURTS, AND THE COMMUNITY

This panel highlights innovative educational and community programs that offer alternatives to our youth. The innovative programs discussed will include programs that focus on rescuing youth from gangs and other negative peer influences; teaching the kids personal and mediation skills to deter them from engaging in violence in the schools and communities; building self-worth; and offering career alternatives in the law. Three such programs will be discussed in detail, and the Deputy Mayor of the City of New York will provide an overview of other innovative educational programs offered in New York City.

Moderator:

Honorable Doris Ling-Cohan

*Supreme Court Justice, 1st Judicial District, New York
Commission Member, Franklin H. Williams Judicial
Commission on Minorities*

Panelists:

Dennis Walcott

Deputy Mayor, New York City

Robert J. DeSena

*Founder
Council for Unity, New York, New York*

James O'Neal

*Executive Director
Legal Outreach Inc., New York, New York*

Miesha Ross-Porter

*Principal
The Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice
Bronx, New York*

**III. DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF MINORITY YOUTH
IN THE FAMILY AND CRIMINAL COURT SYSTEMS**

African American and other ethnic children are more likely to be under State supervision, and once there, they generally fare worse than other children. Even though there is no evidence that they are abused or neglected more than other children, children of color are more likely to be pulled into the child protection system, and to be placed in out-of-home care. For too many children there is a "slippery slope" leading from children's protective services to juvenile detention-even prison. This panel will offer solutions on how to make a much needed difference for our youth.

Moderator:

Honorable Gayle P. Roberts

Judge of the Family Court of the City of New York

Panelists:

Honorable Judy A. Hartsfield

*Presiding Judge, 3rd Judicial Circuit Court, Juvenile Section,
Detroit, Michigan*

Thomas J. Harig, Ph.D.

*State DMC Coordinator
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, New York*

Gregory G. Owens

*LMSW, Director of Special Projects
New York State Office of Children and Family Services*

3:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

BREAK

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

STATE REPORTS: PROMISING PRACTICES

6:00 P.M.

RECEPTION AND CLOSING BANQUET

*Marriott Hotel New York
at the Brooklyn Bridge*

**THE FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD PRESENTED TO**

Honorable Judith S. Kaye

Chief Judge, New York State Court of Appeals

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Congressman Charles B. Rangel

*Member of the United States Congress
Chair of the Ways and Means Committee*

Introduction by:

Honorable Richard B. Lowe III

*Supreme Court Justice, 1st Judicial District,
New York, New York;
Commissioner, Franklin H. Williams
Judicial Commission on Minorities*

8:00 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

**PRESENTATION OF THE DOCUMENTARY
THE UNTOLD STORY OF EMMETT TILL**

*Preceded by a Discussion with the Director, Keith
Beuachamp. Mr. Beauchamp is a young filmmaker who has
dedicated 10 years of his life telling the story of Emmett Till,
the 14 year old black boy brutally slain in Mississippi in the
summer of 1955.*

10:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

BREAK

10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM BOARD MEETING

12:30 P.M.

**CONCLUSION OF THE 19TH ANNUAL NATIONAL
CONSORTIUM ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS
IN THE COURTS**

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION
Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities



Pictured from left to right: **Hon. Ariel E. Belen, Vice-Chair; Hon. Charles J. Tejada; Hon. Rose H. Sconiers; Felix C. Fernandez; Hon. Eduardo Padro; Joyce Y. Hartsfield; Hon. Lewis L. Douglass, Chair; Rene Myatt, Esq.; Hon. yvonne lewis; William H. Etheridge; Hon. Richard B. Lowe III and Karlene Dennis.** *Not pictured:* **Pamela D. Hayes, Esq.; Lenore Kramer, Esq.; Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan; Dr. Maria Ramirez and Hon. Troy K. Webber.**

25 Beaver Street, Room 861 • New York, New York 10004