

# NEW YORK STATE YOUTH COURT CONFERENCE

**APRIL 8, 2010 - ALBANY, NY**

## **SPEAKERS**

### **Hon. Judith S. Kaye (retired)**

Judith Kaye served as Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals for 15 years until her retirement in 2008, longer than any other Chief Judge in New York's history. She first was appointed in 1983 by Gov. Mario Cuomo as an associate judge of the Court of Appeals, becoming the first woman ever to serve on New York's highest court.

Ms. Kaye gained a national reputation for both her groundbreaking decisions and her innovative reforms of the New York court system. She wrote notable decisions on adoption rights for gay couples and the death penalty. Ms. Kaye also left her mark on New York's courts as a creative reformer, changing the jury system to eliminate exemptions and establishing community courts to handle nonviolent crimes such as graffiti, shoplifting and vandalism and provide on-site services for drug treatment, mental health counseling and job training. In addition, she created the Adoption Now program that has produced faster adoptions and more streamlined procedures for children in foster care and their families. Her reforms have been implemented by many other state courts. Before her appointment to the bench, she worked at Sullivan & Cromwell and Olwine, Connelly, Chase, O'Donnell & Weyher, where she became that firm's first female partner.

Ms. Kaye is the author of numerous publications, including articles on legal process, state constitutional law, women in law, professional ethics and problem-solving courts.

She also has received numerous awards recognizing her judicial and scholarly accomplishments, such as the ABA Justice Center John Marshall Award, the National Center for State Courts' William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Adoption Excellence Award.

### **Hon. Fern A. Fisher, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, New York City Courts**

Fern Fisher is the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts and also serves as the Director of the New York State Courts Access to Justice Program.

Judge Fisher's career started in the Civil Court as a Legal Services attorney practicing in Manhattan Housing Court. She served as Deputy Director of Harlem Legal Services, Inc. and as an Assistant Attorney General of the New York State Department of Law. For four years, she provided pro bono legal services to Harlem-based community organizations as a project director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers. In 1989, she was appointed Judge of the Housing Part of the Civil Court, and later, in 1990, was elected to the Civil Court where she served as Deputy Supervising Judge. Judge Fisher was elected in 1993 to the Supreme Court of the State of New York. After serving in both the City and the Matrimonial Parts of Supreme Court, in December 1996 she was appointed Administrative Judge of the Civil Court where she served until March 2009 when she was appointed to her current position.

**Co-sponsored by the Center for Court Innovation, the Association of New York State Youth Courts and New York State Courts Access to Justice. Supported by the New York Bar Foundation.**

Judge Fisher contributes the Views from the Bench in the Thomson-West practice guide, "Residential Landlord-Tenant Law in New York." She served as the host of a series of television shows on housing issues for Crosswalk's, a public service cable show. She is a frequent lecturer at the New York State Judicial Institute and has taught at CUNY Law School. Judge Fisher is a founding member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, a member and past Board member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and the New York County Lawyers Association.

In 2006, Harvard Law School awarded her the Gary Bellow Public Service Award. In 2008, she was appointed to the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services. She is the recipient of many other awards.

### **Stephen Younger, Esq., President-Elect, New York State Bar Association**

Stephen Younger, President-Elect of the New York State Bar Association, has been a commercial litigator with Patterson Belknap since 1983. Mr. Younger's clients include financial institutions, mutual funds, hedge funds, pension funds and venture capital firms involved in commercial, securities and real estate disputes. He has also developed an extensive practice representing Latin American companies in U.S.-related matters.

In addition to his elected position with the State Bar, Mr. Younger has sat on numerous New York State Bar Association committees. He is past Chair of the New York State Bar Association's Commercial and Federal Litigation Section, having previously served as Chair of its Securities Litigation Committee and of its ADR Committee. He was Transition Director for New York State Attorney General, Andrew M. Cuomo and is currently a member of the Transition Committee for New York County District Attorney, Cyrus Vance.

He is the Chair of the Executive Committee of the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution. Mr. Younger is counsel to the New York State Commission on Judicial Nominations which nominates New York's Court of Appeal Judges, and is a member of the First Department Judicial Screening Committee. He currently serves on the Advisory Committee to the Commercial Division of the New York State Supreme Court. He also served as a member of the Chief Judge's ADR Task Force. A long time Trustee of Albany Law School, Mr. Younger is past president of its National Alumni Council.

Mr. Younger has spoken at more than 100 seminars and written over 30 articles in the fields of securities litigation, commercial arbitration and international dispute resolution.

Prior to joining Patterson Belknap, Mr. Younger served as Law Clerk to the Hon. Hugh R. Jones, Associate Judge for the New York Court of Appeals.

## **PRESENTERS**

### **Linda Baird, Program Coordinator, Youth Justice Board, Center for Court Innovation**

Linda Baird is the program coordinator of the Youth Justice Board, a project of the Center for Court Innovation. The Youth Justice Board is a model civic engagement program in which 20 teenagers from across New York City study juvenile justice and public safety issues that affect their lives, make recommendations for changes to policy and practice, and work with policymakers to implement their ideas. Ms. Baird is responsible for curriculum design, lesson planning, outreach to program partners, facilitating Board sessions, and supervising a program associate and interns. She earned her B.A. from Sarah Lawrence

College and her M.Ed. from Lesley University. To learn more about the Youth Justice Board program, or to request the Youth Justice Board Toolkit which provides guidance and resources for creating a youth-led policy advisory group, please contact the program at [yjb@courttinnovation.org](mailto:yjb@courttinnovation.org).

### **Debbie Boar, Esq., Task Force Coordinator, Harlem Community Justice Center, Center for Court Innovation**

The task force coordinator of the Upper Manhattan Reentry Task Force at the Harlem Community Justice Center, Ms. Boar organizes a collaboration of government agencies and community-based organizations working to reduce crime and improve outcomes for persons returning from prison. As part of this work, she oversees the implementation and day-to-day operations of a pilot case management program for ex-offenders returning from prison to the Harlem community. Prior to her current position, Ms. Boar served as a public defender for the Legal Aid Society of New York. In addition to her work as task force coordinator, she is an assistant adjunct professor of law at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Debbie received her B.A. from Haverford College and her J.D. from Rutgers-Newark School of Law.

Colleen Breslin, Supervisor, Albany County Department of Probation

Colleen Breslin is a supervisor with Albany County Probation with 27 years of experience. She graduated from Hudson Valley Community College in 1979 with an A.A.S. in Criminal Justice and in 1981 with a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Russell Sage College. Ms. Breslin began working for Albany County Probation in 1982 and was assigned to various adult units for 17 years, including Investigation, County Supervision, and Release Under Supervision (RUS). She was promoted to senior probation officer (training position) in 1995 and to supervisor in 1999. She was originally assigned as a supervisor to Adult Investigations and shortly thereafter transferred to Intake/Diversion where she currently oversees special programming.

### **Katherine Chambers, Director, Warren County Youth Court**

Katherine Chambers is the director of Warren County Youth Court, a program administrated by the Council for Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. She has been in this position, implementing a youth court for Warren County, for almost five years. Ms. Chambers is responsible for overseeing the participation of more than 200 youth and working with more than 40 organizations/municipalities each year.

In addition to her own program duties, Ms. Chambers works with other programs of the Council for Prevention, including Natural Helpers and SADD programming in both Warren and Washington Counties. Ms. Chambers is a Warren County local, having grown up in its northern reaches and returned after receiving her B.A. in Psychology. She is currently working on her M.A. in Psychology and Law at New York University.

### **Hon. Michael A. Corriero (retired), Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City**

Michael A. Corriero is currently the executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City. The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to provide mentors to all children who need caring adult role models. Judge Corriero was appointed to the Court of Claims in June 1990. From September of 1992 to February of 2008, Judge Corriero presided over Manhattan's Youth Part, a court set aside within the adult court system to deal exclusively with the cases of 13-, 14-, and 15-year-olds who are charged with the most serious and violent crimes. He was previously appointed to the New York State Supreme Court (1989 - 90) and also served as a judge of the Criminal Court of the City of New York (1980 - 89). He lectured on

criminal justice as an adjunct professor at Pace University (1976 - 94) and was an assistant district attorney for New York County (1969 - 73). He subsequently specialized as a private practitioner in all phases of criminal law (1973 - 80). Judge Corriero was also assistant general counsel to the Society of European Songwriters, Authors and Composers; a legislative assistant; and an associate at Schiffmacher, Rochford & Cullen, a firm that specialized in municipal law.

Judge Corriero is an alumnus of St. John's University School of Law (1967) and St. John's University (1964). He graduated from St. John's University College with a B.A. in social science. He was a member of the Law Review and served as an associate editor. He is the author of a book entitled *Judging Children as Children: A Proposal for a Juvenile Justice System* (Temple University Press, 2006). Additional legal writings include *The Involvement and Protection of Children in Truth and Justice-Seeking Process: The Special Court for Sierra Leone*, *New York Law School Journal of Human Rights* (Spring 2003); *South African Paper-Proposals for a "Youth Justice Act," NYSBA Crim. Just. J.* (Spring 1999); *Sentencing Children Tried and Convicted as Adults*, *NYSBA Crim. Just. J.* (Spring 1999); *The Youth Part and Juvenile Justice*, *N.Y.L.J.* (Feb. 4, 1997); *Youth Parts: Constructive Response to the Challenge of Youth Crime*, *N.Y.L.J.* (Oct. 26, 1990); and *A Fresh Look at the Fashionable Fifth*, *3 Kings County Crim. Bar Assoc. J.* (June 1987).

Judge Corriero is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including Excellence in Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Detention Association of New York State (2007); Frank S. Hogan Associates Recognition Award (2007); Excellence in Children's Advocacy, presented by 100 Women Against Child Abuse (2006); The Citizens' Committee for Children's Annual Founders' Award (2004); The Howard A. Levine Award for Outstanding Work in the area of children and the law (New York State Bar Association 1999); The Livingston Hall Juvenile Justice Award (American Bar Association 1997); Outstanding Service on Behalf of Youth Award (ELEM 1996, 2007); The Conrad B. Mattox, Jr. Commonwealth Debate Winner (University of Richmond 1996); The Charles A. Rapallo Award (Colombian Lawyers Association 1994). He also participated as a Polsky Judicial Fellow at the Aspen Institute's Justice and Society Seminar (2003).

### **Chief Scott Drake, Elmira Police Department**

Chief Drake is a graduate of the class of 1983 from Southside High School. After high school, he attended Corning Community College and received an associate's degree in Criminal Justice. He is a graduate of the Southern Tier Law Enforcement Academy and began his career in law enforcement with the Dryden Police Department. Chief Drake returned to his hometown and became a member of the Elmira Police Department in 1988. Since joining the Elmira Police Department, he has graduated from the 195th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia; graduated from the New York State Police Henry Williams Homicide Seminar; and has become a New York State Department of Justice certified police instructor. Before serving as deputy chief, Chief Drake served the Elmira Police Department as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant, patrol captain, detective bureau sergeant, detective bureau lieutenant, SWAT team commander, honor guard, and bike patrol officer. He served as interim deputy chief of administration and headed Internal Investigations before being promoted to deputy chief of operations in February of 2004. He was appointed chief of police in February 2005. When he is off duty, Chief Drake enjoys photography, hockey (roller and ice), playing water sports on Keuka Lake, and spending time with his family.

### **Bunny Dugo, Prevention Education Specialist, Center for Youth Services**

Ms. Dugo is a prevention education specialist with the Center for Youth Services. She earned her bachelor's degree in Biology from St. John Fisher College and is pursuing her master's degree in Health Education at SUNY Brockport. Before joining prevention education services with the Center for Youth, she gained youth

advocacy experience through community service with multiple agencies in Rochester, New York, and through AmeriCorps. As a prevention education specialist, Ms. Dugo facilitates workshops and psycho-educational groups throughout Monroe County for youth ages 12-22 in schools, recreation centers, neighborhood associations, churches, and correctional facilities. Her philosophy statement aligns fully with the mission and philosophy of the Center for Youth: Youth will make healthy choices when provided with the skills and knowledge to do so. Ms. Dugo believes that interactive activities facilitated in a way that enable youth to discuss with each other their values and ideas are central to learning. She has planned and implemented curricula for incarcerated male and female adolescents with success, as demonstrated by youth self reports of increased knowledge, interest in the group, belief that the knowledge is helpful, and demonstrated skills.

### **Toni Fisher, Prevention Education Coordinator, Center For Youth Services**

Toni Fisher has been a Certified OASAS Prevention Professional (C.P.P.) for 12 years. She holds a C.P.P. specialty in Teen Gambling and is also the International Certified Prevention Specialist. Since Ms. Fisher became a C.P.P. trainer in 2006, and she has become certified to facilitate ten separate adults courses. She has also been a Certified Prenatal Instructor and Lactation Consultant for over 35 years. Ms. Fisher has worked at the Center for Youth Services for 20 years in the Prevention Education Department, the last 8 years as the coordinator of the department. She has designed and implemented programs and appropriate evaluation tools to closely monitor workshops, trainings, and groups. She recruits, selects, trains, and evaluates Prevention staff and is responsible for the oversight of one of the largest prevention education programs in New York State, serving over 10,000 youths per year.

Ms. Fisher is dedicated and passionate about the Center for Youth's mission and philosophy and strives to make real the Center's promise to youth to be the best organization for them to turn to for information, support, and understanding. A core belief of hers is that youth want to and are capable of taking responsibility for their life choices. She strives to maintain the highest professional standards and expectations while still remaining compassionate and approachable. For Ms. Fisher, it is simple...the youth come first!

### **Nancy Fishman, Project Director, Youth and Community Engagement Programs, Center for Court Innovation**

Nancy Fishman recently joined the Center for Court Innovation as a Project Director for youth and community engagement programs. Prior to joining CCI, she served as Project Director for the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Project at the Council of State Governments Justice Center, a national initiative focused on improving how the criminal justice system responds to people with mental illness. Ms. Fishman previously worked as a senior law and policy analyst for the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, where her work focused on community and economic development and criminal justice policy reform. She has taught at New York University School of Law, and was a Skadden Fellow at the Legal Aid Society of New York. Ms. Fishman received her J.D. and B.A. from Yale University and also received an M.A. in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University.

### **Melissa Gelber, Project Director, Staten Island Youth Justice Center, Center for Court Innovation**

Melissa Gelber is the project director of the Staten Island Youth Justice Center, a project of the Center for Court Innovation and the Fund for the City of New York. Specifically, Ms. Gelber oversees the Staten Island Youth Court and Project READY, an alternative-to-detention program. In this capacity, she is responsible for maintaining all aspects of Justice Center operations, including issues of facilities,

programming, operations, development, and services. In addition, she assists in researching, planning, and implementing new Justice Center projects.

Prior to holding this position, Ms. Gelber was the director of Community Programs at the Red Hook Community Justice Center, the nation's first multi-jurisdictional community court, where criminal, civil, and family matters are heard by a single judge under one roof. While at the Justice Center, Ms. Gelber coordinated the Red Hook Public Safety Corps, an AmeriCorps national service program, as well as the Red Hook Youth Court.

Ms. Gelber also served as a mentor in the Red Hook Mentoring Program from 2005-2006 and has volunteered at the Fund for Modern Courts, an agency to improve the judiciary in New York State, and SHARE, a self-help organization for women with breast and ovarian cancer. Ms. Gelber received her B.A. in Government and Women's Studies from Franklin and Marshall College and received her M.A. in Social Work and Public Policy from New York University in 2005.

### **Hon. Judge Frank P. Geraci, Jr., Adult Judge, Monroe County Court, New York**

Currently, Judge Frank P. Geraci, Jr., is seated as a Monroe County Court judge, subsequent to his re-election to that position for a second ten-year term in November 2008. Following his election to City Court in November 1991, Judge Geraci served as a Rochester City Court judge from January 1992 through December 1998. After being sworn in as an attorney, he began working in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office. As a special assistant district attorney, Judge Geraci prosecuted a variety of criminal matters including DWI, burglaries, rapes, robberies, and homicides. He served as an assistant district attorney in the City Court of Rochester, Monroe County, and Supreme Courts. While in the district attorney's office, Judge Geraci headed the DWI Bureau and the Organized Crime/Investigations Bureau. He also worked in the Career Criminals Bureau, which was responsible for the prosecution of repeat violent offenders. In 1983, Judge Geraci was appointed as an assistant United States attorney in the Western District of New York. He represented various agencies of the federal government, including the FBI, IRS, DEA, and Secret Service in both civil and criminal matters. Bank robberies, drug conspiracies, prison escapes, threats against the president, and fraud cases were some of the many matters handled during his tenure with that office.

As an assistant United States attorney, Judge Geraci also served as an instructor in the United States Attorney General's Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C. Judge Geraci formed a partnership with Jonathan Feldman, now a United States magistrate judge, in 1987. The law firm of Geraci & Feldman specialized in the litigation of civil and criminal cases. Judge Geraci has been active in the Monroe County Bar Association, and served on the Board of Trustees, Law Day Committee, Memorial Committee, and Monroe County Bar Foundation. He has also served on Monroe County's Graduated Restriction Advisory Board, the Monroe County Catholic School Board, and the Diocese of Rochester's, Bishop Matthew Clark, Stewardship Council. Judge Geraci served as co-chair of the Seventh Judicial District's Committee to Promote Trust and Confidence in the Legal System and was president of the University of Dayton Alumni Association's Rochester Chapter and president of the University of Dayton's National Alumni Association.

For four years, Judge Geraci served as chair of Our Lady of Mercy High School's Board of Governors. Currently, Judge Geraci is the president of Eastside Little League; he previously served as an assistant coach for Eastside Little League and Catholic Youth Organized Basketball. He was also a member of the Board of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, New York Branch. While presiding in the Rochester City Court, Judge Geraci was active supporting alternative programs designed to help break the

cycle of criminal activity in the Rochester Community. The formation of the Day Reporting Center, the Rochester Drug Treatment Court, and the Rochester Teen Court are some examples of programs that grew out of that work. He remains active with the Teen Court by presiding over some of their sessions.

### **Dory Hack, Deputy Director, Youth and Community Engagement Programs, Center for Court Innovation**

Dory Hack is a deputy project director for Youth Engagement Programs at the Center for Court Innovation. In this capacity she oversees the Greenpoint Youth Court and the Youth Justice Board, and has helped produce the New York State Youth Court Recommended Practices project. She is also responsible for various youth engagement initiatives, such as the development of MyCourtsNY ([www.nycourts.gov/youth](http://www.nycourts.gov/youth)), the New York State Court System's website for youth, which provides information about New York State courts, law and civic engagement opportunities. Previously, Dory Hack was the project coordinator of the Youth Justice Board and was technology project manager for several case management systems used by the Center's problem-solving courts, including the Red Hook Community Justice Center and New York City's first juvenile drug court. Ms. Hack received her BA from Wesleyan University.

### **Shaina Harrison, Director of Youth Programs, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence**

Shaina Harrison is the director of youth programs for New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, a nonprofit organization founded in 1993 by Brooklyn mothers devastated by shootings. Specifically, Ms. Harrison oversees the Bronx borough president's anti-gun violence youth council and a host of other afterschool programs in the five boroughs. The goal of the youth council program is to build capacity for youth leadership in communities where gun violence continues to both plague and attract young people. This program promotes a youth development model to encourage and develop individual responsibility and leadership skills. Ms. Harrison also works part time as a coordinator for the Murray Bertram High School Youth Court.

### **Kate Hogan, District Attorney, Warren County**

Kate Hogan is the Warren County district attorney; she is the first woman to be elected to that position. After graduating from Washington and Lee University Law School, she began her legal career as an assistant district attorney in Brooklyn, where she specialized in trial work and prosecuted murders, rapes, and serious felony cases. Ms. Hogan left Brooklyn to return home and entered into private practice. However, she soon returned to prosecution, taking a position with the New York Prosecutors Training Institute. There she worked on death penalty cases around the state and helped train prosecutors statewide.

In 2000, Ms. Hogan accepted a position as an assistant district attorney in Warren County. In 2001, she was elected Warren County District Attorney and is currently serving her third term. As district attorney, she has tried a number of high-profile cases. Ms. Hogan has worked to establish a grassroots network called Communities that Care. She has created a child advocacy center that is fully funded through grants from the state.

In addition to serving as District Attorney, Ms. Hogan serves as the president of the District Attorneys Association. In that capacity, she successfully advocated for the passage of Leandra's Law, and is currently working to help implement a strangulation statute and a felony child endangerment statute. She serves on Chief Judge Lippman's Justice Task Force. Ms. Hogan has served on Chief Judge Kaye's Commission on the jury and serves a statewide task force on children's justice issues. She also served on the New York

State Arson Board. In April 2007, the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York awarded her their Spirit of Justice Award for her work on behalf of victims of crime.

### **Hon. Joseph Lauria (retired)**

Judge Joseph M. Lauria was appointed and served as administrative judge of New York City Family Court from October of 1999 through 2008. Prior to that, he was the supervising judge of Kings and Richmond counties, beginning in July of 1998. Judge Lauria also served as a family court judge in Queens County, following his appointment to the court in June of 1989. Judge Lauria's legal career began as an assistant district attorney in Kings County from 1972 through 1978, where he held the title of Senior Homicide Trial Assistant from 1978 through 1980. He later served as chief of the criminal court and chief of training for the Queens County District Attorney's office.

Following his experience with the district attorney's offices, Judge Lauria spent ten years as a solo practitioner of law, focusing on criminal and family law until his appointment to the bench. As a practitioner and as a jurist, Judge Lauria has long been devoted to issues involving children and families. In his supervisory and administrative positions with the court, he has focused on achieving progress in the courts. He has been an ardent proponent for court restructure and alternative dispute resolution initiatives, and has received numerous recognitions for these efforts. Of paramount concern to him has always been the promotion of efficiency, integrity, dignity, and civility throughout the family court system. Judge Lauria is a United States Marine Corps veteran and an active member of countless court, legal, and related organizations. Judge Lauria now serves as a consultant for the Center for Court Innovation, and is a faculty member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

### **Patty Lockart, Victim Specialist, Colonie Police Department**

Patty Lockart has been a victim specialist for the Colonie Police Department in upstate New York for 27 years, investigating sexual offense cases and crimes against vulnerable populations. She has expertise in issues relating to youth and families, dysfunction, substance abuse, domestic violence, and victimization. She is frequently asked to provide training to law enforcement and professional groups regarding sexual assault investigations and issues related to the elderly and elder abuse. Additionally, she was elected in 2007 as Albany County legislator for the 27<sup>th</sup> legislative district and serves on the Social Services, Law, Special Nursing Home, and Conservation and Improvement committees in addition to her duties as a legislator.

Ms. Lockart served as a national expert for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Federal Youth Court Program Initiative. She has been the lead trainer for the National Youth Court Center (NYCC) and has trained and spoken extensively throughout the country in regards to youth/peer/teen court. She has consulted on various projects regarding youth courts, including NYCC's Operational Handbook and the Constitutional Rights Foundation's publication "Giving Back," a community service learning manual for youth courts. She has been instrumental in developing and implementing training materials in conjunction with the NYCC and OJJDP. Ms. Lockart has provided training and technical assistance to communities across the country establishing youth courts. She is a founding board member of the internationally recognized Colonie Youth Court in upstate New York and was involved in all aspects of developing and implementing the successful program. In 2002, she served as the United States Advisor for OJJDP at the United Nations' "Ten-Year Special Session on Children" in New York City. She has been interviewed by Time magazine and FOX National News on the subject of youth courts and has been published in the Journal for Justice and Detention Services.

Ms. Lockart served as consultant for the U.S. Department of Justice as a peer reviewer for national-scope Department of Justice solicitations, agreements and grants, and provided product review in various areas of expertise. She also served as a board member of the United States Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice, the New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, as well as numerous boards and committees in her areas of expertise. Among other recognitions for her accomplishments, she was the recipient of the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York and the United States Department of Justice prestigious "Spirit of Justice Award." In 2006, she developed and instituted the formal role of victim advocate for the Colonie Youth Court program which has enabled victims to be a prominent part of the youth court process.

### **Shanté Martin, Director of Community Programs, Red Hook Community Justice Center, Center for Court Innovation**

Shanté Martin is the director of community programs at the Red Hook Community Justice Center. In this capacity she oversees the Red Hook Youth Court, the Red Hook Public Safety Corps, and any organizations interested in partnering with the Justice Center to create new innovative youth programming. Prior to this position, Shanté was the coordinator of the Red Hook Youth Court where she supervised Youth Court, an early intervention program for youth who have committed violations, minor misdemeanors, and other offenses. Youth ages 10-18 who admit guilt to offenses such as shoplifting, graffiti, and truancy have their sanctions determined by a judge and jury of their peers. Sanctions combine punishment and help, restoring harm done to the community while also linking youth to social services. The Red Hook Youth Court is also a youth development program, training youth in the community to be peer leaders; Ms. Martin was a youth court member while in high school from 1999 until 2002. She has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from CW Post of Long Island University and a master's degree in Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

### **Carol Owens, Esq.**

### **Jim Palumbo, Principal, Fowler High School, Syracuse, New York**

Jim Palumbo has been with George W. Fowler High School in Syracuse City School District for five years. He served two years as a principal and three years as a vice principal. Prior to this, he worked as a middle school principal for three years. Mr. Palumbo served ten years as a special education teacher for the Syracuse School District. He has a master's degree in Special Education from Syracuse University and a C.A.S in Public School Administration from SUNY Cortland.

### **Laurie Peterson, Coordinator, Cattaraugus County Youth Court**

Laurie Peterson is the Cattaraugus County Youth Court Coordinator. She has been on the Cattaraugus County Youth Bureau staff since 1994 and the youth court coordinator since 1998. Ms. Peterson is responsible for the entire youth court program including training and recruitment of new members, coordinating youth court hearings, and case management of youth court respondents until their cases are closed. The Cattaraugus County Youth Court program encompasses an area of approximately 1,000 square miles in rural western New York. Ms. Peterson works closely with several school districts, law enforcement, and community agencies to improve youth court accessibility for all area youth. In addition, youth court hearings are held in two separate locations to alleviate transportation and accessibility issues for team members and respondents.

Prior to taking the reins of the youth court program, Ms. Peterson was the coordinator for a GIVE/Learn and Serve America program and continues to coordinate volunteer and community service projects for the

Youth Bureau. She is also a mediator for Cattaraugus County's PINS diversion program. Ms. Peterson is a member of the Allegany State Park Regional Commission, a volunteer fly-fishing instructor for Casting for Recovery, and a volunteer mediator for the Center for Resolution and Justice.

### **Jessica Stein, Esq., Youth Court Director, Greenpoint Youth Court, Center for Court Innovation**

Jessica Stein first became involved with the Center for Court Innovation as Coordinator of the Attendance Court Program at P.S. 27 in Red Hook, Brooklyn, based on funding provided by a post-graduate fellowship, and she is currently the program coordinator of the Greenpoint Youth Court. In addition to her work with the Greenpoint Youth Court, Ms. Stein has been conducting extensive research on youth court programs across the country and contributed to the portion of the Youth Court Manual entitled, "New York Youth Court in Context: An Overview of Research and Resources." Ms. Stein has previous work experience as an intern with Legal Services New York City, Bet Tzedek Legal Services (serving as an advocate for elderly and disabled individuals seeking government benefits), and in the field of special education law. Ms. Stein received a B.A. in Social Thought and Analysis from Washington University in St. Louis and received her J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City.

### **Rachel Swaner, Senior Research Associate, Center for Court Innovation**

Rachel Swaner is a senior research associate at the Center for Court Innovation, focusing on youth programming and special projects at the Red Hook Community Justice Center. She recently completed a study examining how civic engagement programs for youth can help them to exert greater policymaking influence; she also finished a process and impact evaluation for a six-year HIV/AIDS and substance abuse teen peer education program. Prior to joining the Center, she was a research associate at the Harlem Children's Zone, where she evaluated social, educational, and health programs for children and youth. Ms. Swaner is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center.

### **Judy Wolfe, Program Supervisor, Syracuse City School District Student Court**

Judy Wolfe is the program supervisor for the Syracuse City School District Student Court, a peer-led diversion program that handles disciplinary offenses for the school district and offers a violence prevention program through a collaboration with the New York State Attorney General's Office and the Syracuse University College of Law. She is a member of the New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, the Onondaga County District Attorney's Advisory Council, an officer of the Association of New York State Youth Courts, and one of the founding members of the National Association of Youth Courts.

### **Kathleen Zeitlin, Program Director, Salt Lake Peer Court**

Kathleen Zeitlin is the program director for Salt Lake Peer Court, a program of the non-profit Utah Law Related Education in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has been involved with the program since its inception in 1993 and has been program director since 1996.

Ms. Zeitlin received a B.S. in Sociology with an emphasis in social work and a secondary teaching degree. She previously taught high school and was a juvenile probation officer. Ms. Zeitlin is a member of the Utah Youth Court State Advisory Board. She is also a member of the Utah Youth Court Association and its Training Committee, which plans the annual statewide conference for youth court volunteers. She sits on the Board of Trustees for the National Association of Youth Courts and has been involved in the Training and Technical Assistance committee for the NAYC. She is passionate about youth courts and ensuring that they provide a place for all youth to grow and learn about citizenship and community.