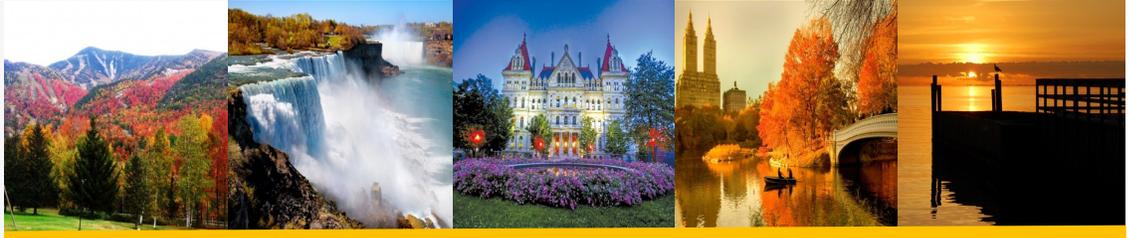




*Association of New York State Youth Courts*



*Mission Statement:*

*To act as a catalyst for the comprehensive development of Youth Courts across New York State, to maintain a juvenile justice alternative that is operated for and by youth, and to promote Youth Courts as an important feature of the juvenile justice services that seek to improve juvenile justice outcomes for all community youth.*

## 2014 NEW YORK STATE YOUTH COURT CONFERENCE

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the ANYSYC hosted a Youth Court Conference at the Syracuse University College of Law in the brand new Dineen Hall. The conference was made possible through grant funding from the New York Bar Foundation and a private donation from Judge Judith S. Kaye.

The day consisted of a morning plenary session with guest speakers Rick Hartunian, US Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and Judge Kaye, who delivered the keynote address. A mock hearing was performed by the Onondaga County Youth Court, which demonstrated how a tribunal model works. Morning workshops featured presenters from across New York, Sharese Crouther from Brownsville and Katherine Chambers from Warren County, as well as a representative from the National Association of Youth Courts, Jack Levine, from Florida. The afternoon plenary session and workshop focused on the impact of “raising the age” in New York State on Youth Courts. The afternoon plenary session guest speaker was Elaine Spaul, Ph.D, Executive Director of the Center for Youth in Rochester, which houses the Rochester Teen Court. Following Ms. Spaul’s presentation, conference attendees participated in roundtable discussions, facilitated by Marilyn Morey of the US Attorney’s office, to brainstorm ideas that might help prepare courts for impending changes in New York State associated with increasing the age of which one is considered an adult from 16 to 18 years old. Overall the conference was very well received, well attended, and a great success.

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**Conference (cont)**

## SPECIAL THANKS TO...

## SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

The Association of New York State Youth Courts would like to thank the Syracuse University College of Law for hosting the 2014 New York State Youth Court Conference. Special thanks to Dean Hannah R. Arterian and Tomás Gonzalez for their support and assistance.



THE US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Special thanks to US Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and members of his office for their continued support of Youth Courts across New York State.



## NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

The NYSBA Committee on Youth Courts, which is chaired by retired Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye and retired Appellate Court Judge Bernard Malone, Jr., continues to champion Youth Court endeavors. Their support and generosity is appreciated.



## THE NEW YORK BAR FOUNDATION

This program was made possible through the financial support of a generous grant from the New York Bar Foundation. Thank you!



As part of the 2014 New York State Youth Court Conference that was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Syracuse, NY, a mock trial of the tribunal model was conducted. This mock hearing featured members of Onondaga County Youth Court with the help of some members from Oswego Youth Court.



The mock hearing that took place was based upon a Petit Larceny charge which is common to most Youth Courts throughout the state. The roles were played by:

Keri Peyton (Chief Judge) – Onondaga County Youth Court, Frank Procopio (Judge) – Onondaga County Youth Court, Genesis Loetterle (Judge) – Oswego Youth Court, Adriana Sotolongo (Prosecution) – Onondaga County Youth Court, Mikaela Scanlon (Prosecution) – Onondaga County Youth Court, Anthony Kesler (Defense) – Onondaga County Youth Court, Jordan April (Defense) – Oswego Youth Court, Patricia Murry (Bailiff) – Onondaga County Youth Court, Ryan Smith (Respondent) – Oswego Youth Court



Left to right: Richard Hartunian (US Attorney for the Northern District of NY), Anthony Kesler (Onon. Co. YC Member), Sarah Knickerbocker (Onon. Co. YC Coordinator), Keri Peyton (Onon. Co. YC member), Frank Procopio (Onon. Co. YC member), Retired Chief Judge Judith Kaye

Submitted By: Heather Saroney, Director Onondaga Youth Court



# New York State Regional Youth Justice Teams



The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), on behalf of the New York State Juvenile Justice Strategic Planning Action Committee (SPAC), has formed Regional Youth Justice Teams throughout New York State. Each regional team acts as a liaison between local stakeholders and the State policy makers, and provides the region with their own distinct voice at SPAC. Each regional team also provides feedback to the State policy makers regarding proposed and already implemented youth justice policies. The Regional Youth Justice Teams coordinate their local stakeholders to discuss juvenile justice trends and will play an instrumental role in planning, supporting and assessing effective youth justice services and reforms in their areas. It is important that the stakeholders of each region get involved whenever and wherever possible with the planning of juvenile justice practices and reform. For more information on your local Regional Youth Justice Team please refer to the contact list and links below.

**Capitol Region:** Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington. Contact [Joe Mancini](#) Director of Probation, Schenectady County or [Philippe Cadet](#) SPAC Liaison

**Central New York Region:** Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego. Contact [Jim Czarniak](#) Director of Juvenile Justice, Onondaga County, [Phil Galuppi](#) Principal Probation Officer, Onondaga County, or [Courtney Ramirez](#) SPAC Liaison

**Finger Lakes Region:** Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates, Genesee, Orleans, Wyoming . Contact [Bob Burns](#) Chief Probation Officer Monroe County, [Leslie Barnes](#) Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Monroe County, or [Courtney Ramirez](#) SPAC Liaison.

**Long Island Region:** Nassau, Suffolk. Contact [Dr. Robert Marmo](#) Chief Planner, Suffolk County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, or [Lorraine Hogan](#) SPAC Liaison

**Mid-Hudson Region:** Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester, Sullivan, Ulster. Contact [Rocco Pozzi](#) Commissioner, Westchester County Probation, [Daniella Jackson](#) Chief of Planning Westchester County Probation, or [Lorraine Hogan](#) SPAC Liaison

**Mohawk Valley Region:** Herkimer, Oneida, Fulton, Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie. Contact [David Tomidy](#) Director Oneida County Probation, [Katie Weldon](#) Clinical Director Kids Oneida, or [Courtney Ramirez](#) SPAC Liaison

**New York City Region:** Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond. Contact [Mark Ferrante](#) Senior Policy Advisor NYC Department of Probation, or [Lorraine Hogan](#) SPAC Liaison

**North Country Region:** Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis. Contact [Karen Richmond](#) Exec. Director Children's Home of Jefferson County, or [Philippe Cadet](#) SPAC Liaison

**Western New York Region:** Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara. Contact [Brian McLaughlin](#) Commissioner of Probation Erie County, [Ysaías Feliz](#) Deputy Commissioner of Probation Erie County, or [Courtney Ramirez](#) SPAC Liaison.

All other Regions please contact [Tom Andriola](#), Chief of Policy and Implementation, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. (518) 485-1833.

## NEW YORK'S RAISE THE AGE MOVEMENT GRABS NATIONAL HEADLINES

**Raise the Age of Criminal Responsibility in New York State—** Despite its progressive reputation, New York remains one of only two states in the nation that continues to automatically arrest and prosecute 16 year olds as adults. It's an archaic system, proven to be ineffective, and in direct conflict with scientific evidence and cost benefit analysis. It is time to reform New York State's juvenile justice system by raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18.

While opponents of reform worry that raising the age of criminal responsibility is a "get out of jail free" card and promotes a culture of leniency regarding juvenile criminals, advocates suggest such an assumption reflects one of the two biggest misconceptions regarding the types of crimes generally committed by youth and the recommended reforms.

First and foremost, a review of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) arrest data shows that the majority of crimes committed by teenagers are not the violent, headline grabbing crimes that all too often drive policy but instead, are nonviolent offenses that do not pose a substantial threat to public safety.(1)

In addition, advocates recognize that children who are charged with committing violent offenses should be held accountable for their actions and face different consequences than children who are charged with nonviolent offenses. But, they contend, court processes, services offered, and placement options should be developmentally appropriate.

Understandably, many people are angered by the thought that kids who commit crimes could get a break and get the services they need to turn their lives around when the victims can be scarred forever. This is a very important concern. Victims of violence deserve far more help than they get from our society. But that's a separate matter. Treating children who commit crimes as adults will not help the victims.

Given the strong scientific evidence that children are not adults and should not be treated as such, it is clearly time to change the structure of our current system.

Research shows us that treating children as adults limits the possibility that they will be able to turn their lives around and results in far greater social and financial costs than does a juvenile justice system built on a sound understanding of human development. Rehabilitating just one high-risk delinquent teen away from a life of crime saves could save society \$3 million to \$6 million in costs to victims and in government expenses. It also results in increased wages and tax payments over the young person's lifetime.(2)

We also know that incarcerating teenagers in an adult facility where they often become sexual prey to much older and more violent criminals has devastating psychological consequences. Consider Daniel, whose grandmother has been speaking out about the injustice he suffered. Daniel was charged with a felony offense (despite the fact that there was no weapon brandished or even suggested) for stealing Chinese food out of a delivery car. He was arrested, prosecuted, and eventually incarcerated in an adult facility...where he was sexually assaulted by an adult inmate. He has since been released but suffers from severe and debilitating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Had our juvenile justice system mirrored that of other states, his life course could have been drastically different. Perhaps he would be nearing the end of college and about to embark on a path to productive citizenship.

Daniel is not an isolated example. The MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice examined juvenile offender cohorts in New Jersey and New York City. When comparing youth arrested for the same felony offenses, data showed that "adolescents processed in the New York adult courts were more likely to be re-arrested, to be re-arrested more often and more quickly, to commit more serious offenses, and to be re-incarcerated at higher rates than those in the New Jersey juvenile courts".(3)

NY's tough on crime approach fails to make our streets safer. In New Jersey, where 16- and 17- year -olds are processed through family court and judges have an array of support services to offer the juvenile offender, rehabilitation is a much more likely result. Juveniles who in New York would have been saddled with a felony offense on their record, forever precluding them from accessing student loans and many employment opportunities, get a chance to do well in New Jersey. And overwhelmingly they take advantage of the break they get to become productive members of society.(4)

Reform should result in a policy that strikes a balance between punishment and rehabilitation.

In New York state, two bills have been introduced. One is a broad initiative that: (1) raises the age of criminal responsibility for all juvenile offenders and all offenses, (2) expands the juvenile offender status and shifts their cases away from criminal court and into family court where judges have more tools for diversion, and (3) calls for community service when appropriate.

The other bill focuses on only non-violent offenses. Instead of criminal court, it creates a hybrid court between criminal and family court, provides for diversion, and seals records if offender meets the terms of their community service and or "probationary" terms.

Continued on next page

In addition, the Governor recently identified raising the age of criminal responsibility as a priority for his administration. He has formed a Commission charged with examining the issue, engaging stakeholders, and crafting recommendations for bill language that strikes a balance of all concerned.

As this process unfolds, there will undoubtedly be a debate about whether to have comprehensive change that assures that all youth are treated age appropriately regardless of their crime or to have more limited change that treats the few kids who commit violent crimes differently than the majority who do not.

Can advocates of reform and their opponents find a balance that protects our communities while also giving hope to kids who deserve a break? Enough is known to do it, as 48 other states already have. New York ought to be able to do it, too.

### References

- (1) Criminal Justice Case Processing of 16-17 Year Olds, Prepared by The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services; Office of Justice Research and Performance, January 4, 2013.
- (2) Cohen, Mark A., and Piquero, Alex R. "New Evidence on the Monetary Value of Saving a High Risk Youth". *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 2009.
- (3) MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice. "Issue Brief #5: The Changing Borders of Juvenile Justice: Transfer of Adolescents to the Adult Criminal Court".
- (4) National Campaign to Reform State Juvenile Justice Systems. "The Fourth Wave: Juvenile Justice Reforms for the Twenty -First Century".

*This post was co-authored by Paige Pierce, Executive Director of [Families Together in NYS](#)*

This article was run by [The Huffington Post](#)



**Babylon Youth Court**  
**Welcomes Their Largest Training Class Yet**

**Submitted By: Claire McKeon**

On Tuesday, September 23rd the Town of Babylon Youth Court held its ninth annual Youth Court Orientation for thirty six students. These student volunteers represent all of the nine hamlets within the Town of Babylon and even a few hamlets of the Town of Islip. The student volunteers, accompanied by their parents, were able to learn more about Youth Court and the important roles they will play in the lives of the juvenile offenders that come before the court. After a brief description of Youth Court given by Claire McKeon, the Executive Director of the Town of Babylon Youth Bureau, and Melissa Morman, the Program Coordinator and Case Manager of the Youth Court, the student volunteers and their parents were able to engage in the question and answer portion of the orientation.

The increase in volunteers can be credited to the Youth Courts involvement in the Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Initiative started by retired Chief Judge Judith Kaye and the New York State Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. The Babylon Youth Court has reached out the several local school districts to change their disciplinary policies to include Youth Court as an alternative to suspensions and arrests of students that commit crimes in school and on school grounds.

These student volunteers began training on September 30th and will continue through the end of January 2015 when they will be inducted into the Youth Court.

For more information on the NYS Judicial Commission on Justice for Children - [CLICK HERE](#)

-For information regarding the Town of Babylon Youth Court's involvement in school districts, feel free to contact [Melissa](#) or [Claire](#).

### **3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL REGIONAL YOUTH COURT SUMMIT**

On September 29, 2014, the Western Region of the Association of NYS Youth Courts held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Regional Youth Court Summit, hosting teen volunteers throughout the region. Approximately 25 Youth Court Volunteers were in attendance representing 7 of the region's Youth Courts: Wyoming, Genesee, Ontario, Livingston, Allegany, Schuyler County and Elmira. The summit was hosted by Wyoming County at the American Legion Hall in Warsaw Village Park.

The Youth Court Summit is a day of for youth to participate in activities that enhance networking and teambuilding and allows the Youth Court attendees a chance to learn about all the different youth courts within the Western Region. To start out the evening, youth were divided into groups to participate in some fun, teambuilding icebreakers. During dinner, attendees sat with their groups to further encourage interaction and discussion about Youth Court. Then the evening concluded with a group discussion using questions that youth were asked to submit during registration. The youth discussed topics such as caseloads, operating differences, volunteer numbers, and the types of youth court models, as well as what they enjoyed most about Youth Court.

The event lasted three hours. At the end, youth were asked to complete an evaluation on the overall experience. Attendees found the summit to be beneficial and fun, especially being able to meet other youth. This is a unique, successful even for the Western Region and we look forward to next year's summit, and hopefully increase the participation of Youth Courts across the Western Region. We encourage other regions to organize a similar event for their regions!

Article submitted by Amy Fialkowski and Jamie Hudson, Wyoming County Youth Court



Matt Surtel/Batavia Daily News

# ANYSYC NEWS

## The ANYSYC is Changing List Serve Accounts

As a reminder, in an effort to reduce expenditures and take advantage of current technology, The ANYSYC is in the process of switching listserv accounts from L-Soft to Google Groups. Please note that the [NYSYOUTHCOURTS@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM](mailto:NYSYOUTHCOURTS@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM) email address is no longer valid. The new listserv email address is: [ANYSYC@googlegroups.com](mailto:ANYSYC@googlegroups.com). Please be sure to accept the invitation to join this new group to continue receiving important information about Youth Courts in New York State. If you have not received an invitation to join the group and would like to be added, please contact Katrina Charland at [byc@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:byc@townofbethlehem.org).

## Upcoming ANYSYC Meeting!

Thursday – November 6, 2014 – 10:00AM

Hosted by: Deborah Holland - Ontario Youth Court – 585-396-4519

### ANYSYC OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Katrina Charland, Bethlehem Youth Court Dawn Metott, Oswego County Youth Court
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Sam Crisafulli, Oswego County Youth Court
Secretary	Jamie Hudson, Wyoming County Youth Court

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Violet Palombo, Colonie Youth Court  
Katherine Chambers, Warren County Youth Court

Submissions for the ANYSYC Newsletter must be received by deadline date  
Deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday, December 15, 2014

Please direct all questions to Melissa at the contact information below

### Contact Us

Katrina Charland–  
[byc@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:byc@townofbethlehem.org)

Dawn Metott–  
[dmetott@oswegocounty.com](mailto:dmetott@oswegocounty.com)

Membership Questions?  
Violet Palombo–  
[palombov@colonie.org](mailto:palombov@colonie.org)

### ANYSYC NEWSLETTER

Melissa Morman  
Town of Babylon Youth Court  
[melissa.tobyc@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.tobyc@gmail.com)

