



*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.*

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## LAW DAY 2015:

## THE MAGNA CARTA

## SYMBOL OF FREEDOM UNDER LAW

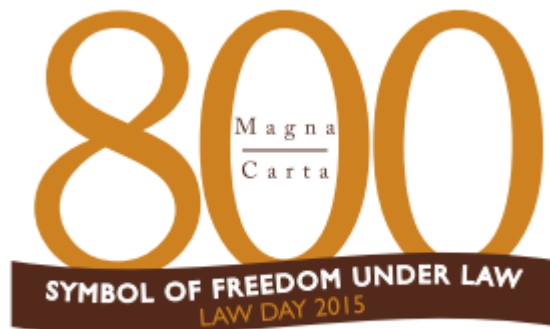
Perhaps more than any other document in human history, Magna Carta has come to embody a simple but enduring truth: No one, no matter how powerful, is above the law.

In the eight centuries that have elapsed since Magna Carta was sealed in 1215, it has taken root as an international symbol of the rule of law and as an inspiration for many basic rights Americans hold dear today, including due process, habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the right to travel.

As we mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, join us on Law Day, May 1, 2015, to commemorate this "Great Charter of Liberties," and rededicate ourselves to advancing the principle of rule of law here and abroad. ([ABA](#))

[Watch](#) the ABA's President William C. Hubbard discuss Law Day

[Read](#) President Barack Obama's 2015 Law Day Proclamation



# *Law Day Around New York*

## **Wyoming County Youth Court:**

### **Law Day Event**

On Thursday, May 28, 2015, members of the Wyoming County Youth Court had the opportunity to attend a special event in honor of Law Day. The morning consisted of sitting in on Wyoming County Criminal Court Hearings/Cases. The participants were able to witness the working of the criminal court system and witness a variety of cases. The afternoon portion of the event members were given a tour of the Wyoming County Jail and Sheriff Department and had the opportunity to ask questions and learn about various roles in that system. The youth that participated were inquisitive and overall enjoyed the opportunity to learn about a portion of our local system. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that the Wyoming County Youth Court offered such an event. Some members were back for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Pictured below are Wyoming County Youth Court members who attended the Law Day Event.



Pictured left to right: Front Row—Morgan Milhollen, Bethany Messe, Riley Humberstone, Jake Kramell, Sam Matthews;  
Back Row--Allison Karasiewicz, Leah Parker, Ben Kelly, Nathan Manning, Jacob Patrick, Mason Bush.

Submitted By: Jamie Hudson, Wyoming County Youth Court

# Law Day Around New York

## Livingston County Youth Court Law Day, April 30th

Livingston County Youth Court is a county diversion program established in 2003 as a voluntary alternative to the traditional criminal justice system for youth ages 7 to 17, who have committed non-violent offenses. The goal of Youth Court is to intervene in early anti-social behaviors, reduce recidivism and teach new behaviors and skills. Youth Court is based on the philosophy of Restorative Justice, using “positive peer pressure” to hold the youth accountable by offering opportunities to make



amends and educating them on the impact of their actions. All court positions are filled by student Youth Court members who have completed a training curriculum and passed a “Bar Exam”. The positions of the Youth Court are: Judge, Jury, Defense, Prosecution and Clerk/Bailiff.

Each year, the Livingston County Youth Court gathers to hold a Mock Trial for the community in recognition of Law Day. Law Day is a national day set aside annually to celebrate the rule of law and recognize the role of courts and jury service in our democracy. However, this event also provides our

members the opportunity to be recognized for their participation and to display their skills in a setting which would normally be strictly confidential. Each year, a different theme is chosen to highlight the impact which the legal process has on our daily lives. This year’s theme was the “800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magna Carta: A Symbol of Freedom Under Law”. In attendance this year to assist us in recognizing our youth members was representatives from the offices of Senator Catherine Young and Senator Patrick Gallivan. Also in attendance were leaders from the Livingston Co. Probation Dept., Youth Bureau, and Dept. of Social Services. The keynote speaker at this year’s event was the Honorable Judge Dennis S. Cohen, who gave an enthralling opening speech on this year’s theme and praised the hard work of our youth members. Leah Watkins, a 3 year veteran member, also gave an incredible speech detailing her court experience and the impact which it has had on her life outside of the court room.



Submitted By: Andrew Fountain, Livingston County Youth Court

## *Law Day Around New York*

### Bethlehem Law Day, Induction, and Scholarship Awards

Bethlehem Youth Court hosted a combined Law Day Celebration and Induction Ceremony on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015. US District Court Judge Mae D'Agostino delivered the keynote address to a crowd of about 100 community members, parents, volunteers, and youth court supporters. The evening highlighted the work and accomplishments of both brand new volunteers, 15 new members were sworn in, and graduating senior volunteers alike, 5 of whom took part in a scholarship competition. The Judge Jordan Memorial Scholarship competition was sponsored by the local Police Benevolent Association and the Bethlehem Police Supervisors' Association. The first place winner, Kieran Taylor, will be graduating from Doane Stuart in June and plans to continue his education at the collegiate level in the fall.

Left to right: Sgt. Kraz of the Bethlehem Police Supervisors' Association, Kieran Taylor, winner of the 2015 Judge Jordan Memorial Scholarship and Officer Berben, President of the Police Benevolent Association.

Submitted By: Katrina Charland,  
Bethlehem Youth Court



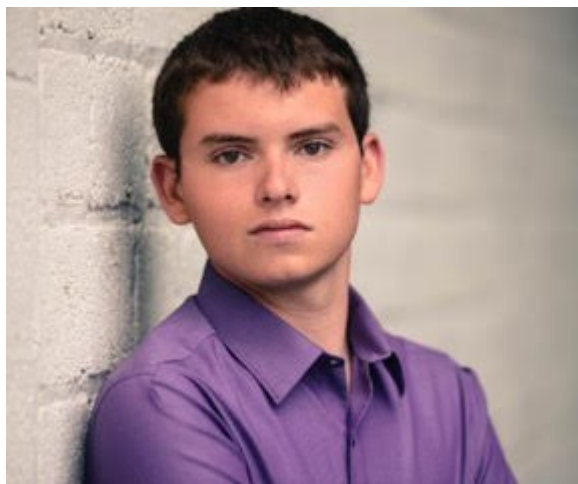
## 2015 ANYSYC Scholarship Winners!!!



Congratulations to  
Bryce Rogers, Genesee County Youth Court  
&  
Danielle Fuller-Sincock, Horsehead Youth Court  
Best Wishes!!

### Bryce Rogers

Bryce Rogers is the son of Paula and Durin Rogers. Bryce will attend American University participating in their prestigious Scholars Program having received the Dean's Scholarship. Bryce intends to dual-major in International Relations and Economics while concentrating in foreign policy and national security. Bryce is an active member of the Mock



Trial Team, National Honor Society, is the Managing Editor of BHS' Literary Magazine, and Band President. Bryce is active in his community serving on the Genesee County Youth Court and the County Youth Board as secretary. Bryce is also the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator for the Batavia Summer Recreation program

"Americans never quit"  
-General Douglas McArthur

# 2015 ANYSYC Scholarship Winners!!!

## Bryce's Essay

Youth Court has provided me with many life skills that I know will be essential as I transition from high school to the “real world.” The facet of Youth Court that has had the greatest impact on my character is the increase in empathy that I now possess and try to express in my everyday life. Serving on Youth Court has exposed me to other youth with a wide range of upbringing under unique circumstances. I have been blessed to have grown up in a loving and supportive family. Youth Court has shown me first hand, the struggles and experiences of less fortunate youth. In the spirit of restorative justice, I have learned that empathy for, and many times acknowledgement and acceptance of, each individual's unique circumstances can lead to a better understanding of what caused them to act in the first place and in the end the best resolution. The Youth Court program has improved my ability to see what others do and has encouraged me to break my initially rigid worldview, in an effort to better connect and serve my community.

I certainly intend to draw upon these “life-skills” when I attend college in the fall, hopefully in Washington D.C.. As I will be pursuing a degree in international relations, economics, and political science, these skills will be invaluable. Upon graduation, it is my intent to seek a post in one of our federal intelligence or defense organizations as an analyst focusing on counter-espionage, counter-terrorism, and international political conflict. Serving in such a position will allow me to protect the nation I love dearly, and hopefully better the world as a whole. Empathy, understanding and acceptance of those with varying cultural backgrounds and experiences can only serve to assist me in this role.

I am sincerely interested in this scholarship and believe that I would represent a qualified and deserving candidate for the Association's evaluation. Having served in my county's Youth Court for over four years now, I have been an active participant, rarely missing a training or case during my tenure. I have made a point to serve in every position within our program, including defense and prosecution counsel, as well as Chief Justice in our tribunal system. At the request of our coordinator, I started to take on more of a mentoring role for our younger members and have had the privilege of assisting with many of the new member training sessions. It is with great pride that I also express that during my four year tenure as a member on the Genesee County Youth Court, we have had a 98% non-recidivism rate.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity Youth Court provided me. It is a wonderful program and I sincerely hope that I have been able to leave a lasting and positive impact on the youth who have come through our Court.

## 2015 ANYSYC Scholarship Winners!!!



### Danielle Fuller-Sincock

I am honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Association of New York State Youth Courts, Inc. scholarship. I have attended Horseheads Central School District since Kindergarten. I am a senior at Horseheads High School and remain in the top 2% of my graduating class. Currently, I attend classes at Horseheads in the morning and New Visions Honors Academy for Health at the Greater Southern Tier BOCES Pauline Bush Campus in the afternoon. The New Visions Health program has not only prepared me for college, but helped me select the educational program that best fits me.

I participate in many school activities. I am a member of the Varsity Lacrosse Team, Vice President of Student Council, District Implementation Team, Student Advisory Council, and Alternate Board of Education Representative at Horseheads High School, and Treasurer of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) for the GST BOCES Pauline Bush Campus, and many other school related activities. I have volunteered for Freshman First Day at Horseheads High School for the last three years, and Open House, Chicken Barbeque, and Parents' Night at the Pauline Bush Campus.

I strive to give back to my community by volunteering and being involved in activities within my community. I have been an active member and role model in Youth Court for the past five years where we utilize positive peer pressure to educate youth about criminal behavior and lessen the cases brought before family court. The Big Flats Teen Commission is another group, which for five years, I have been volunteering by planning and assisting with senior, youth, and community activities. This year, I partnered with the Lions Club to collect, recycle, and deliver no longer used eye glasses to improve eye health in my community.

I have maintained part-time employment: Smithhome Farms Birthday Party Coordinator (4years), Old Navy (2 years), and Big Flats Summer and Winter T.A.F.F.Y. Counselor (1 year), while remaining in the top 2% of my graduating class. I take my education seriously, but found a way to balance the extracurricular and volunteer activities to reflect my personal values and belief system on the importance of giving back to my community.

Even though I have changed my career goal from law to medicine, my involvement in the Youth Court program experience has guided and molded the way in which I act, interact, and react to those around me. Each of the school and community activities have provided me with experiences that have been as intrinsically motivating, fulfilling, and amazing learning experiences for me.

# 2015 ANYSYC Scholarship Winners!!!

## Danielle's Essay

I am a senior currently attending Horseheads High School and am looking to attend a four year university (either the University of Albany or Binghamton University). I will then attend four years of medical school as I am aspiring to improve the lives of others as a physician. Being a part of Youth Court may seem odd for someone planning on entering a medical career; however, Youth Court provided the opportunity to explore law and determine the career that is ultimately the best choice for me.

I deserve this scholarship for many reasons. I have been a dedicated member of Horseheads Youth Court for five years, spending an innumerable amount of time working on cases in the courtroom, attending monthly meetings, and teaching the candidates for membership at training events. Yet, my dedication does not end with youth court events, expanding into everything I do. This includes playing Varsity Girls Lacrosse, a member of Teen Commission, a local volunteer organization, and I am on Yearbook Committee. I am Vice President of Student Council and the Alternate School Board Representative. I participate in Implementation Team, a group of students, teachers, and administrations that are exploring ways to improve the school district. I am also part of Student Advisory Council, a group of select students that focus on improving our school. Also, I am working at Old Navy year-round and as a summer and winter counselor at TAFFY. Maintaining a schedule this busy involves serious dedication, commitment, and hard-work, but the benefits of such work far outweigh the costs.

Youth Court has done so much for me. When I joined in the eighth grade, I was certain that I wanted to become a lawyer. Through youth court, I was able to explore what a career in this field would be like, learning of the legal system and its processes. This exploration, while I enjoyed it, was essential in determining what I wanted to do in the future, before ending up in serious debt from law school. In fact, it made me realize that my true passion is science and that I wanted to help people in some way. Youth Court gave me the opportunity to explore, which led me to better understand myself. This in turn resulted in my decision to enter the medical field as a physician. Youth Court gave me a future that I may have never even considered had I not been a member.

Youth Court was an experience all its own, full of law and plenty of laughter between cases. It ended up being the hands-on experience that I needed in order to grow into the person that I am today. Being in court kept me on my toes, my mind sharp and my voice strong; but it also kept me from choosing a career that would have made me unhappy. It taught me about myself, ultimately giving me the confidence to do what is best for my future.



## Clinton County Youth Court

Nine Clinton County Youth Court Members helped organize the 2015



Youth Leadership Conference. 115 high school students attended the annual conference which was held on St. Patrick's Day. Thirteen workshops were offered, including a Geocaching Workshop which was presented by Clinton County Youth Court Member Matt Rine.

A Clinton County Youth Court Attorney Training was held on April 20, 2015. Assistant District Attorney Nick Evanovich, critiqued the members opening and closing statements, shared examples of proper attorney courtroom etiquette, defined direct and cross examination and gave advice to those interested in pursuing a career in law.



Submitted  
By: Susan  
Taskin,  
Clinton  
County  
Youth  
Bureau



### Genesee County Youth Court

Genesee County Youth Court cknowledged its high school seniors during a Law Day event on May 5, 2015. From left, are Katie Kesler, Batavia; Elizabeth Bennion, Batavia; Bryce Rogers, Batavia; Jessica Colopy, Oakfield; and Christen Ferraro, Batavia. Some of these members have been involved with Youth Court since their swearing-in took place in December 2010.

Submitted By: Chelsea Dillon

Genesee County Youth Court

### Local Youth Help Clean Up Oswego

Along the Oswego Canal, there's a walkway where murals are painted in the summer and where many of the city's population walk through to see the beautiful scenery and wildlife. "As part of a statewide canal project, I organized a group of Oswego Youth Court members to clean up the walkway by the canal on April 18<sup>th</sup>", stated Britany Dievendorf, Community Service Coordinator for Oswego Youth Court. Youth Court is a diversion program for juvenile offenders that recruits local middle school and high school students and trains them on courtroom roles. The members are trained to try cases that are referred from local schools and law enforcement agencies. "Training for Youth Court will be held from July 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> this year, contact the Youth Bureau at (315) 349-3451 for more information." Armed with gloves, garbage bags, a push broom, and bottles of water, 8 of Oswego's youth helped clean up along the canal. We had the perfect weather, and with our hardworking group of girls, we managed to get the canal walk cleaned up in less than 2 hours.



Submitted By: Dawn Metott  
Oswego County Youth Court

Pictured in the photo from left to right are: Taylor Clohecy, Alyssa Morley, Victoria Crisafulli, Ruhma Khawaja, Mattie Wallace, Elyse Maniccia, and Tianna Moxley.

## BROOKHAVEN YOUTH COURT: FINALLY!!!

After cancelling twice due to snowstorms, Brookhaven Youth Court held its Annual Induction Ceremony on April 30. Twenty seven new volunteer members from 4 different high schools were inducted by Honorable Vincent J. Martorana, District Court Judge. Several state, county and Town officials were in attendance to present certificates to the newly in-



ducted members. They were all honored for their hard work and perseverance in participating in a 12-week training program. As our hearings are closed and confidential, many current members volunteered to perform a mock trial for all our guests. The families of the new inductees gained a greater understanding of what it is their children will actually be doing. Congratulations to all 27 new members of Brookhaven Youth Court!

Submitted By: Janet Wohlars, Brookhaven Youth Court

## NYS Bar Association Mock Trial Summer Institute

The New York State Mock Trial Summer Institute (MTSI) is an intensive week-long educational camp for high school students who are involved with mock trial. During the week, the students attend sessions presented by experienced Mock Trial teachers and attorneys. Counselors are educators who teach law related educational classes and have involvement with their schools' Mock Trial teams. All points of Mock Trial are covered from, "Evaluating the Case" to "Closing Arguments." The students are put in teams on the first evening of camp. During the week, they work on a past Mock Trial case, incorporating their new skills and techniques into their presentation. Guest speakers, local attorneys, and additional educators are brought in throughout the week to assist in instruction. The cases are presented on the final day before a judge. Time is built into the daily schedule for the students to engage in organized team and confidence building activities, as well as free time to enjoy the numerous recreational activities.

Students are selected to attend MTSI through an application process. The application is available online at [Mock Trial Summer Institute Applications](#). Teachers and attorneys must provide letters of recommendation for the student to be considered. Applications are accepted in the spring for consideration for that year's MTSI.

MTSI typically takes place at [Silver Bay YMCA](#) on Lake George, during July and runs from Sunday to Friday. The number of students accepted varies, but MTSI can accommodate up to 48 students. There is one adult counselor for every six students, a nurse, a camp director, and a Law, Youth and Citizenship representative on site all week. The students are bunked two or three to a room in a typical camp-style dorm with shared bathrooms. Meals are served in the cafeteria, buffet style.

The fee for New York State students is \$250.00 and \$1,000.00 for out of state students. The fee includes the room, all meals, classroom materials, and activities. A deposit is required and the balance is due upon acceptance. Some financial assistance is available to qualified attendees. For more information regarding financial assistance, contact Kim Francis at [kfrancis@nysba.org](mailto:kfrancis@nysba.org)

*The New York Bar Foundation provides funding for this program in conjunction with The New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth and Citizenship Program.*

For more information click [here](#)



**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**  
*Serving the legal profession and the community since 1876*

# 2015 LYC Conference

39th Annual Civics & Law—Related Education Conference  
October 16, 2015, Saratoga Springs, NY

Full conference includes:

- Friday breakfast - 7-8:30 am
- Two 90-minute morning sessions
- Luncheon & Keynote Speaker - 12:15-1:15 pm

The keynote speaker is [Karen Korematsu](#) of the [Korematsu Institute](#)

- Conference Materials
- First session 8:45 am - 10:15
- Second Session 10:30 - noon
- Plenary Session 1:30 - 3:30
- Conference concludes 3:30 pm

For More Information [Visit](#)





## Division of Criminal Justice Services

### Juvenile Justice Indicator Report for Jan. - Dec. 2014

Issue Date: April 30, 2015

**JUVENILE ARRESTS DECLINED (-11%) STATEWIDE.** Declines were greater in New York City (-20%) than in Rest of State (-4%) in 2014.

**JUVENILE DETENTION ADMISSIONS WERE DOWN (-10%) STATEWIDE, AND AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION IN DETENTION DECLINED (-14%) COMPARED TO LAST YEAR.** Average Daily Population declined (-17%) in New York City from 255 to 213 and (-8%) in Rest of State from 127 to 117.

**THE NUMBER OF STATEWIDE JUVENILE PROBATION INTAKE CASES OPENED WAS DOWN (-16%).** Declines were larger for New York City (-24%) than the Rest of State (-9%).

**INITIAL FAMILY COURT PETITION FILINGS WERE DOWN (-13%) STATEWIDE.** New York City experienced a substantial decline in petition filings (-27%), while Rest of State showed a small decline (-3%).

**INITIAL FAMILY COURT DISPOSITIONS WERE ALSO DOWN (-15%) STATEWIDE.** Disposition orders resulting in a term of probation supervision declined at similar rates in both New York City (-14%) and Rest of State (-17%). However, changes in orders resulting in placements and conditional discharges differed substantially by region. Placement orders declined (-20%) in New York City and decreased (-3%) in Rest of State. Conditional discharges declined (-38%) in New York City but increased (+11%) in Rest of State.

**STATEWIDE JUVENILE ADMISSIONS TO OCFS DROPPED (-24%).** New York City admissions to OCFS were down (-43%), with 146 admissions, and Rest of State admissions were down (-10%) with 311 admissions.

**THE OCFS' CUSTODY-IN-CARE POPULATION DECLINED (-15%) FROM DECEMBER 31, 2013 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014.** The New York City OCFS custody-in-care population declined (-27%) to 208 youth, and the Rest of State OCFS custody-in-care population declined (-8%) to 411 youth.

DCJS: Office of Justice Research and Performance

F R O M   T H E   O F F I C E   O F  
T H E   G O V E R N O R

Dear Fellow New Yorkers,

June 16, 2015

I'm proud to announce that we have reached an agreement with legislative leaders on the "Enough is Enough" legislation to combat sexual assault on college campuses.

Today is a victory for all students across New York State.

As the Governor, and as a father, I am proud that with this legislation New York will become a national leader in the fight against sexual assault on college campuses. This action is a major step forward to protect students from an issue that has been plaguing schools nationwide for far too long.

[Learn more about the Enough is Enough legislation here, and share this victory with your friends.](#)

Advocates like Lady Gaga, Whoopi Goldberg, Nancy Pelosi and End Rape on Campus spoke up in support of these reforms. This was a fight with a broad base of support, from the Women's movement and organized Labor, to the LGBT community, service providers and student groups—countless individuals and organizations added their voices and energy to this fight.

Thanks to the efforts of those allies, the legislature, and citizens like you, New York's college students will be safe and supported in the fight against sexual violence.

Once again, New York is setting the standard for other states to follow, and I look forward to signing this legislation into law as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

Emailed Originated from the New York State Executive Chamber

## Upcoming ANYSYC Meetings!

August 11, 2015 – Syracuse

**Important: New officers will be elected and next years meetings will be scheduled during this meeting**

### ANYSYC OFFICERS

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

### BOARD OF ADVISORS

Violet Palombo, Colonie Youth Court  
Amy Fialkowski, Wyoming County Youth Court  
Jennifer Smith, NYSBA Committee on Youth Courts

Submissions for the ANYSYC Newsletter must be received by deadline date  
Deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday, September 21, 2015

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)

