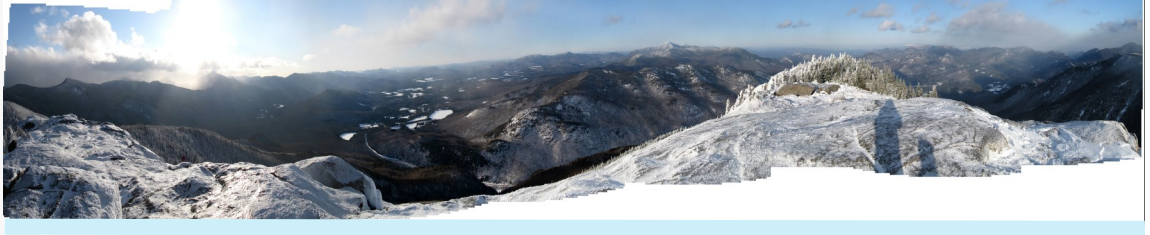




Association of  
New York State  
Youth Courts



*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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# BROOKLYN MAGAZINE

## Young Justice: Inside the Red Hook Youth Court

Early in October, a young man named Kellon sat in a heavy wooden chair inside the deliberation room at the Red Hook Community Justice Center. He wore a black polo shirt, had perfect posture, and made direct eye contact. From the hallway, enthusiastic voices leaked into the room and competed with his low baritone.

“Can we shut the door?”

Asking me was a courtesy. Kellon was already up, decisively shutting out the noise behind him.

“Everyone in my family is in law enforcement,” Kellon continues. “My father is a policeman, his father was a policeman, his father was a general. But my father’s son is now a lawyer.”

“I’m talking about myself,” Kellon clarifies. “I’m the lawyer.”

At 16-years-old, despite what he says, Kellon is not really a lawyer. Rather, he is a junior at the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice in Downtown Brooklyn. But Kellon is not a liar, either. Every Tuesday and Thursday for the past two years—along with 15 other high school students—Kellon goes to the Red Hook Community Justice Center and serves as a member of its Youth Court.



all photos by Jane Bruce

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Red Hook Youth Court is one of five operating Youth Courts in the city; other locations are in Queens, Staten Island, Harlem, Brownsville, and Newark. Youth Courts in New York operate in partnership with Community Justice Centers, like the one in Red Hook. (Many Youth Courts have popped up across the country in the past decade, though the one in Red Hook was both the city's and one of the country's first.) The overall directive of Community Justice Centers, which are supported by private and public partnerships, is to provide more effective and humane alternatives to detention, whenever possible. The Justice Center in Red Hook opened in June 2000, though the Youth Court had been established two years before that.

Rather than herding young people into an overcrowded and frequently immoderately punitive system, Youth Court members deliver rehabilitative sanctions to teens for misdemeanors in an effort to nudge them back on track early on, before things have a chance to get really bad. Most often sanctions take the form of community service, apology letters, job training, or anger management classes. Empathetic, early intervention—from peers, rather than authority figures—it's believed, gives the youth respondents an unprecedented opportunity to be a real life hero in their own *Choose Your Own Adventure* story. Making a course adjustment at a critical juncture can bring about a dramatically different ending.

On a given evening, Youth Court members will conduct between one to three juried cases of peers who have committed misdemeanors—truancy, fare evasion, possession of marijuana or a low-grade weapon, trespassing, fighting—non-indictable offenses that have been referred to the Youth Court by the New York City Probation Department, Brooklyn Law Department, and local police precincts and schools.

Truancy hearings are most common (“every kid in Sunset Park is late,” Kellon jokes) and on the afternoon I visited, this was also the case. Kellon acted as the youth advocate, or defense lawyer, for the respondent. “If it's truancy, we need to know why they were truant. The reason behind it. The subtext,” explains Kellon. “Basically, you get to know the person before you judge them.”

A few minutes later, Kellon took his place beside his youth respondent, a 17-year-old girl who had been caught skipping school in March. The bailiff, another youth member, led the courtroom in an oath of secrecy. The community advocate, or prosecutor, asked the jury to consider the harm done to the community and to the respondent herself by her actions. Kellon made his opening statement. “Please remember that a mistake does not define a person,” he says. The bailiff led the girl to the witness stand and asks if she promises to tell the truth. “Yeah,” says the girl. It was furtive. “Say, ‘yes,’” the young bailiff requests flatly, in response.

(cont. on next pg.)

In unison, the 10 Youth Court jury members turned to face their peer. The lead juror opened with a line shared at the start of every hearing, composed by a former member. “We want you to know,” says the 15-year-old juror, “We’re here to help you, not judge you.”

Community Justice Centers are one of many operating programs initiated by the Center for Court Innovation, located on 18th Street in Manhattan. In addition to community courts, the Center operates mediation programs, mental health and infant courts, and conducts research to create more effective systems for keeping offenders out of a criminal justice system that has long operated more like a non-rehabilitative black hole than an effective form of punishment.

Justice Centers, like the one in Red Hook, also serve adults who have committed real crimes. Judge Alex Calabrese has presided over every single case in the Justice Center’s criminal and family court since its first day of operation. In that time, he has reduced the number of adult offenders that have gone to jail by 35 percent. Rehabilitative programs are offered in place of detention in every possible instance. And, in the process, taxpayers save five thousand dollars per defendant compared to the cost of processing the same case in regular criminal court. In cases of recidivism, after offenders have been given generous second chances, Judge Calabrese will often send them to jail for twice as long.

The Director of the Community Justice Centers and Youth Courts in Red Hook and Brownsville is James Brodick. After graduating from college in 1995, Brodick planned to go to law school and began working for Victim Services, an AmeriCorps program in Red Hook, which, at the time, was in dire condition. “For a long time, Red Hook was a forgotten neighborhood and the crack epidemic hit it extremely hard,” said Brodick. In 1992, a local elementary school principal, Patrick Daly, was murdered, after getting caught in cross fire in public housing walking a sick student home from school. “The shooting was an enough-is-enough moment,” says Brodick. There was a new collective urgency to turning Red Hook around.

“There were partnerships with the Brooklyn DA’s office and Victim Services and the Center for Justice [in Midtown, the country’s first Community Justice Center, created to address low-level crimes around Times Square] to really think smarter about when people are touching the system, and how you stop crimes in the first place,” says Brodick. “One of the first things we wanted to do was train youth to hear cases and to build confidence in something that was not buying [the Red Hook community’s] trust. If you don’t get people when they make their first misstep, they don’t get back on track.”

(cont. on next pg.)



Brodick became further steeped in the Red Hook community, training as a mediator, working for another AmeriCorps program, Public Safety Corps, and helping to start the Community Justice Center and Youth Court. For the AmeriCorps programs especially, Brodick said they were purposeful about working with local residents, as opposed to outsiders who would come to do the work, then leave. The work changed Brodick's trajectory: He never went to law school.

"What I love most about Red Hook is that in 1995, when I got here, there were 12,000 people living there and 8,000-9,000 in public housing. Now, 20 years later, there are still 12,000 living here and 8,000-9,000 in public housing, but there has also been a shift where people started to believe: 'I don't have to take these conditions anymore,'" says Brodick. In other words, the demographics in Red Hook today are remarkably similar to two decades ago—despite the economic impact of places like Fairway Market and Ikea, as well as gentrification, which, while not as extreme as in other Brooklyn neighborhoods, is still a huge factor—because of a feeling cultivated from within the community that people were working toward something together.

Today Brodick spends most of his time in Brownsville navigating local politics in an attempt to finalize a location for a Youth Court building (though an operating Youth Court program already serves 400-500 kids per year). The project has approval from all but one City Council Member, Darlene Mealy, who is not commenting on the matter.

"Red Hook in 1995 is Brownsville now," says Brodick. "Fifteen years down the road, Brownsville will be another Red Hook."

Back in the Youth Court, jurors began learning more about the girl who had skipped school. Their approach was impressive—for anybody, not just teenagers. No one spoke over anyone else; everyone interjected questions in turn, though there was no formalized system for doing so, then asked incisive follow-up questions. It appeared to be a team of professionals using a script—but there wasn't one, just an abundance of teamwork.

The lead juror on this case is Derece, a 15-year-old girl, petite and brimming with a kinetic energy that she ably keeps under control. Her goal is to become a senior Youth Court member one day, like Kellon. During questioning, her demeanor would pass muster at a military training camp, but that's because Derece has worked hard to keep her proclivity to laugh in check.

"It's hard not to laugh at some of the people in the cases," says Derece, who sits with her friend Whitney, another Youth Court member. Both are students at the Secondary School of Journalism. "At first, me and Whitney, we'd burst out laughing."

"I control myself," interjects Whitney. "You just gotta realize what we're doing, where we're at, and that this is a serious thing."

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So, for example, when the youth respondent is 2-feet taller than her community advocate, it's nearly impossible not to snicker, but all of them, save for rare exceptions, have learned to suppress the impulse. If they're not serious, after all, the defendant definitely will not be.

The jury works its way through a line of questioning that fills out a more nuanced picture of the teen's life. Their communication was nonverbal at times—they all seemed to know in unison when they'd learned enough information to reach a conclusion. There was a quiet efficiency which, when it comes to group decision making, is rare at any age, and certainly among kids.

After the presiding youth judge confirmed that there were no further questions, he dismissed the jury to discuss the case.

Sabrina Carter, Coordinator of Youth and Community Programs at the Red Hook Community Justice Center, grew up in the neighborhood and is a past Youth Court member. She began her job as program coordinator in Red Hook four years ago, when she was 24.

Carter was in kindergarten in 1992 when Principal Daly was murdered, and her mother was strict about keeping tabs on her whereabouts. "My mom was single and wanted to make sure we were not getting into any trouble," says Carter. "I did every Youth Court program. They never made me feel like I couldn't come back."

The Youth Court program today is true to its original version, save for minor differences. For example, it now addresses issues that might not have been considered a crime when Sabrina was in kindergarten, like a fight in school. Then, it would have been half-addressed by school administrators and likely lead to repeat offenses; now, Youth Court gets those cases. The kids learn accountability for their actions but, more importantly, are made to understand they are not bad people—they just need help. And the peers who give it to them are oftentimes more similar to the respondents than not.

"We don't always want the A students. We want students who are struggling too," says Carter. "We've had former Youth Court respondents who have [later] joined and become members."

Carter remembers one respondent-cum-member in particular, who she describes as irascible, a girl who wanted to fight everyone. Today this young woman attends LaGuardia Community College. Carter says, "Her parents were like, 'What did you do to my daughter? She's so different. She's doing so well.'"

Carter says that one year, of the seven graduating Youth Court members, all were accepted to universities, and one got a full ride to Yale.

"Those are the stories that really shine to me and make me happy, because it's just this little program, and I think the way we run it, we build relationships with kids," says Carter. "They know there is a time to work and a time to play. This is what I didn't know I wanted to do, but now I wouldn't want to do anything else."

In the deliberation room, the jurors sat down to review the facts in the case of the girl who skipped school. She usually wakes up late, they remember. This isn't her first interaction with police. She doesn't see herself as a role model, though she has two siblings. She doesn't know

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how her actions will affect her goal of becoming a veterinarian, or how they affect the community.

“We should help her get a job,” says one member. From a list of available sanctions, they determine, with minimal dissent, that the respondent should take a skills-building workshop called Bridges to Employment, and another class called Motivating 101.

A juror sits down to write the verdict, composing out loud their collective decision. “We the jury give you [the respondent] the sanctions of...” but he is interrupted by another member.

“Don’t say sanctions, just say Motivating 101 and Bridges to Employment.”

“Ok, so, we the jury give you [the respondent] Motivating 101 and Bridges to Employment because, as stated, you would take the opportunity to get employed...”

“Don’t say ‘get employed,’” interjects another. “We’re not giving her a job, we’re helping her get a job.”

“We the jury give you [the respondent],” he writes the final version, “Motivating 101 and Bridges to Employment because, as stated, you would take the opportunity to help get employed, and we would like to encourage you in taking the steps to achieve your future goal.”

The jury members file back into the courtroom. The juror reads the team’s decision to the respondent, who stands next to her Youth Advocate, Kellon. The judge asks if she understands her sanction, to which she offers a quick response: “Yes.”

Before the hearing began, Kellon told me, “That’s what I don’t like about regular court—you stay in a cell for, what, one year, which could lead to the rest of your life, just thinking, ‘Damn, I really messed up.’”

Youth Court, on the other hand, is restorative justice. “Any criminal court, their purpose is only to obtain, seize, or subject,” says Kellon. “They never restore; they never help. I think that’s why I love it here. I help people.”

Almost as an afterthought, he adds, “Although prosecutors make way more money than defending attorneys, I like helping people.”

Submitted By:

Judge Judith Kaye

&

Jennifer Smith

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &

Flom LLP

To read the article; [Click Here](#)



## **ONONDAGA COUNTY YOUTH COURT**

**ONONDAGA COUNTY YOUTH COURT HELD ITS NEW MEMBER TRAINING ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015 AT THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE, NY. THERE WERE 21 NEW MEMBERS WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO FIVE DIFFERENT COURTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.**



**THE CLASS OF 2015 IS SWORN IN BY JUDGE GIDEON, DEWITT TOWN JUSTICE.**

**SUBMITTED BY: HEATHER SARONEY, DIRECTOR  
ONONDAGA COUNTY YOUTH COURT**

## Huntington Youth Court

Huntington Youth Court (HYC) inducted 24 members on Wednesday, December 9, 2015. The event was held at Huntington Town Hall where parents and community members were invited to witness Councilman Cuthbertson swear in the new members under oath. The newly inducted members also received their training completion certificates and HYC monogrammed shirts. In addition, 10 of the Youth Steering Committee members performed a mock trial for all in attendance. Abigail Wax, a senior involved in the program for three years, gave a speech that was motivational and inspiring for the inductees. These new members are excited to join the 50 existing members and hear their first real case!



Submitted By: Maria Danisi, Youth Court Director

Huntington Youth Court



## Wyoming County Youth Court New Member Graduation

On Wednesday, November 18, 2015, the Wyoming County Youth Court hosted a graduation ceremony inducting 13 new members into the Wyoming County Youth Court. The new members included Bianca and Nick Foeller, Will Parker, Andrea Halsey, Cathrine Holderer, Scott Heldwein, Julia and Michael Fraterrigo, McKenna Broughton, Emma Baker, Alyssa and Alexis Wright, and Tim Geoghegan. The new Youth Court members bring the total membership to 32 youth. The graduation ceremony was held in the Conable Courtroom at the Wyoming County Courthouse. The Honorable Judge Michael Griffith attended and swore the new members into the Wyoming County Youth Court.



Submitted by Jamie M Hudson, Wyoming County Program Coordinator and Amy Fialkowski, Wyoming County Youth Court Coordinator

## **Babylon Youth Court Training: Trial Prep**

The Town of Babylon Youth Court is hard at work with their latest class of Youth Court trainees. Currently, they are learning trial preparation and preparing a mock trial that will be the culmination of their training program.

This class will represent the 10th Youth Court class the Town of Babylon has inducted since its inception in 2006. These student volunteers are set to be inducted at the end of January 2016.

Submitted By: Melissa Morman, Babylon Youth Court

Program Coordinator

# Jefferson County Youth Court:



←---Chase Crump – Thanksgiving Day Run



Tammie Miller, Director, Delanie Miller (YC in Training) , Volunteers: Paige Mitchell, Johnathan Nail, Ariana Geyer, Chase Crump, Alexis Thomas, Cassidy Mills, Jefferson County District Attorney Elect Kristyna Mills



Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner

Chase Crump, Johnathan Nail, Alexis Thomas, Delanie Miller (YCIT), Paige Mitchell, Ariana Geyer

Jefferson County Youth Court has been super busy. The amount of community service hours this group puts in above being court volunteers is amazing. This is just a glimpse of a 2 week period of time! What is not reflected in these photos is volunteering with our Respondents. We find nothing builds better community relationships and mentoring experiences then working side by side for a common goal.

Submitted By: Tammie Miller, Director



Festival of Trees 2015

Ariana Geyer, Laurie Franklin, Delanie Miller, Logan Surace, Alexis Thomas, Christian McAtee, Tammie Miller; Director, Amber Lobdell Intern

## New York State Bar Association

The 2016 Mock Trial Summer Institute will be held:

◇ Sunday, July 17 through Friday, July 22 in Silver Bay, NY.

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 [MTSI 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.

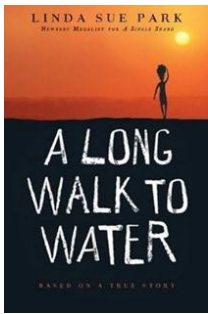
MTSI typically takes place at [Silver Bay YMCA](#) on Lake George, during July and runs from Sunday to Friday. The number of students accepted varies, but MTSI can accommodate up to 48 students. There is one adult counselor for every six students, a nurse, a camp director, and a Law, Youth and Citizenship 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)

We are also seeking **Educators** who teach law related educational classes and have involvement with their schools' Mock Trial teams **to be Counselors at our Mock Trial Summer Institute (MTSI)**. Attorneys who are interested in participating as a judge may email 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.*





*Official Essay Contest Enrollment Form*

## Essay Contest for 2016 Young Readers Program

*Presented by the Robert H. Jackson Center &*

*The Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association*

### ***A Long Walk to Water* written by Linda Sue Park**

***BOOK ESSAYS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT, April 1, 2016***

**Theme:** This novel, based on a true story, follows two young people in southern Sudan whose lives intertwine as they experienced great hardships and challenges in their war-torn country. Linda Sue Park, winner of the Newbery Medal, was inspired by Salva Dut, the main character in her story, who overcame many difficult situations and today serves as a role model to others.

**Task:** How did Salva Dut, when faced with great hardship and adversity, persevere and make important, life-changing contributions to humanity?

**Essay Format: please follow these instructions**

1. Your essay must be between 300 and 500 words in length.
2. Please use complete sentences.
3. Address the theme, using examples from the book to support your answer. Your essay will be judged on how well you answer with specific examples, and on organization, grammar and spelling.
4. In your conclusion, explain the importance of this book to you personally and tell how you might make a difference in your school or community.

**Winners:**

Three winners, selected from throughout New York State, will be notified by mail.

- ◇ Each winner will be invited to an awards ceremony held at the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown, NY on or around May 11, 2016.
- ◇ Each winner will be awarded a cash prize of: 1st place, \$500, 2nd place, \$250, and 3rd place, \$100.
- ◇ Acceptance of the prize constitutes permission to use winner's name, likeness and essay for public relations purposes without additional compensation or consent.
- ◇ Winning essays will be printed and distributed by the Robert H. Jackson Center and the New York Bar Association.



(Continue to next page for further details)



## Requirements:

You must be a student in New York State. You must complete the “Essay Contest Enrollment Form” below and staple it to your essay. You must follow the “Essay Format” (see above).

Your essay must be typewritten, double-spaced and be an original work of scholarship. All sources must be listed.

Deadline will be strictly observed.

## Essay Contest Submissions:

Entries are to be submitted to your classroom teacher. Each participating *school* should select and send two entries per classroom.

Please mail student entries, with this enrollment form attached to each one, in one packet to:

**New York State Bar Association**

*LYC Program: Essay Contest*

**One Elk Street**

**Albany, NY 12207**

[Click Here for the Application Page](#)

Sponsored by the Robert H. Jackson Center and the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association





Funded by the U.S. Department of Education

**Centered on the acclaimed *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution*, this professional development is designed to help secondary teachers who work with:**

- Title I students
- Students at-risk of dropping out
- Students with Disabilities
- ESL students
- Rural Students

All Teachers will receive a **\$1,000.00 stipend**, professional development credit (20), a class set of textbooks, as well follow-up provided by Mentor Teachers familiar with the program. Additional specifics will be provided at the orientation.

Training will begin at the 2016 NY State *We the People* Competition on Friday February 26, dinner and orientation, and attendance at the competition on Saturday February 27, Albany Marriott Wolf Road, Albany NY.



**Additional Dates are as follows:**

- March 5, 2016
- March 12, 2016
- March 19, 2016
- If needed, a snow day will be determined by the participants

Contact Martha Noordsy for Additional Information  
[mnoordsy@nysba.org](mailto:mnoordsy@nysba.org) | 518.487.5612

Sponsored by LYC of the New York State Bar Association



## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual *Safe and Supportive Schools and Communities Conference: Restorative Justice: Building Healthy Kids and Strong Communities*

### Featuring:

- A Plenary Panel on Restorative Justice made up of esteemed representatives from the law, education, and youth development professions;
- A Keynote Address offered by the Honorable Judge Fernando Camacho From the Suffolk County Supreme Court;
- A mock Restorative Justice trial video presented by the Town of Babylon Youth Court

### Workshops will Address:

Both the theory and practices of Restorative Justice and seek to answer often-asked questions... why now, what are the benefits and to whom, and how best to implement.

**Tuesday, March 15, 2016**

7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Hofstra University,

Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center (North Campus)

### Support for this Conference is provided by:

Hofstra University, School of Education, Nassau County District Attorney's Office  
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

**Sponsored/Supported by: Safe & Supportive Schools and Communities Consortium**

To register go to: [hofstra.edu/edworkshopreg](http://hofstra.edu/edworkshopreg) or call 516.463.5750. In addition to certificates of attendance, this conference will award continuing education certificates for CA-SAC, CRC, and Licensed Social Workers.



A room block has been established for those interested in attending the conference. Each interested party must book their own room (double occupancy rooms) and pay for their own room.

The hotel information is as follows:

Long Island Marriott  
101 James Doolittle Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11553  
(516) 794-3800

### **Babylon Youth Bureau Room Block**

**\$149.00 for the night**

**Double Occupancy Rooms**

**Check In date: 3/14/16**  
**Check Out date: 3/15/16**

**Last day to book: 2/14/16**

Click [Here](#) to book your room

Please direct any questions about the hotel to the group manager:

[nicky.hendricks@marriott.com](mailto:nicky.hendricks@marriott.com)



We would like to compile a booklet of letters/papers from Youth Court members and Offenders about how Youth Courts have effected their lives, from across the State to distribute at the Hofstra Event this coming March. If you would like to submit a letter from one of your Youth Court members or an Offender, please send it to Melissa Morman, Town of Babylon Youth Court  
[melissa.tobyc@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.tobyc@gmail.com)

Thank You!



## ANYSYC MEMBERSHIP

**General Membership:** The general membership of the Association shall consist of a NYS youth court employee assigned to full or part time work with young offenders/ activities. The general member has the right to vote when in attendance of a quarterly business meeting by phone, video conferencing, or in person and includes lunch at meetings. (May sign up one person on a general membership)

**Preferred Membership:** The preferred membership of the Association shall consist of a NYS youth court employee assigned to full or part time work with young offenders/ activities. The preferred member has the right to one vote per court when in attendance of a quarterly business meeting by phone, video conferencing, or in person. Additional privileges at this level of membership include travel stipends to meetings, a youth scholarship option, lunch at meetings, reduced conference fees, and additional website accessibility. (May sign up two persons on a preferred membership)

**Advisory Membership:** Any persons in allied fields of delinquency prevention or persons who support the objectives and purposes of this Association and do not qualify for general or preferred membership. This level of membership includes lunch at meetings, but does not include the right to vote or hold office in the Association.

**Youth Membership:** High school or middle school student actively involved in a youth court program. This level of membership includes lunch at meetings

For more information regarding membership and pricing please contact Violet through email or in writing :

[Violet Palombo](#)

**Association of New York State Youth Courts**

**C/o Violet Palombo**

**Colonie Youth Court**

**312 Wolf Road Latham, NY 12110**

### *A Message from the President...*

What have we accomplished this past year? We ask ourselves that question as the year comes to an end and hopefully we can answer the question with some positive outcomes both personally as well as professionally.

The Association saw some changes in 2015 and I am sure we will see more changes in 2016. What those changes will be will be determined by the membership and our commitment to the system involved youth and their families.

Our goals for 2016 should include lobbying in favor of the "Raise the Age" movement and having more representation on the Regional Youth Justice Teams throughout the State of New York. I have the list of RYJT throughout the State if anyone is interested in becoming a participant please contact me.

What would you like the answer to be as 2016 comes to an end? I would love to hear your thoughts so please don't hesitate to respond!

Best Regards,  
Claire McKeon



**ANYSYC OFFICERS**

President	Claire McKeon, Town of Babylon 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  
 Katrina Charland, Bethlehem Youth Court

Submissions for the ANYSYC Newsletter must be received by deadline date  
 Deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday, March 21, 2016

Please direct all questions to Melissa at the contact information below

**Contact Us**

Claire McKeon—  
[cmckeon@townofbabylon.com](mailto:cmckeon@townofbabylon.com)

Katherine Chambers—  
[warrenctythrct@yahoo.com](mailto:warrenctythrct@yahoo.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)

