



*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.*



Partnership Between State of New York and University at Albany will Promote Best Practices to Reduce Recidivism, Improve Outcomes and Enhance Public Safety

Albany—November 16, 2016

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the creation of the Youth Justice Institute, a partnership between the state and the University at Albany, designed to improve services for children, teens, and young adults in New York’s criminal justice system. The Institute will train public and private youth service providers so they can put into place best practices and programs proven to improve outcomes for at-risk youth.

“Too many youth end up trapped in our criminal justice system and, absent resources and opportunity, are doomed to repeat the same vicious cycle of recidivism and incarceration,” **said Governor Cuomo.** “By using innovative programs and proven methods to train those who work with at-risk youth, this institute will help these youth have a better chance at success, improving their lives and increasing public safety in the process. Our administration is committed to opening the door to more opportunities for the next generation and building a safer, stronger New York for all.”

The State Division of Criminal Justice Services, and Office of Children and Family Services partnered to develop the Institute, which is based at the University at Albany’s School of Criminal Justice and dedicated to improving services for children, adolescents and young adults. The School of Criminal Justice will hire an executive director to lead the Institute, which will be overseen by a seven-member executive committee chaired by the commissioners of the Division of Criminal Justice Services and Office of Children and Family Services.

Among its functions, the Institute will provide training and technical assistance to organizations implementing or developing youth justice programs, while serving as an information resource for the best evidence-based practices in the youth justice field. The Institute will also help evaluate youth justice programs, practices and policies, so that organizations relying on its training can gauge the effectiveness of their programs. In addition, the Institute will include a research component to improve the practice of youth justice across the state and inform youth justice policy.

Research has demonstrated that institutional confinement grounded in purely punitive principles has little effect on, and in some cases, may even increase youth recidivism. Studies also have shown that confinement, absent therapeutic and developmentally appropriate programs, can contribute to the development of further delinquent skills and attitudes by youths.

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The creation of the Institute is another milestone in New York State's effort under Governor Cuomo's leadership to further improve the state's criminal and youth justice systems. After the Legislature failed to enact legislation raising the age of criminal responsibility in New York State to 18 years of age, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order 150, which established a correctional facility exclusively for youth within the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. He also directed the Office of Children and Family Services, now in collaboration with the Institute, to advise the Department on the best practices, age appropriate programming, and treatment for those 16 and 17 year olds housed at the designated youth facility at Hudson Correctional Facility. In the absence of legislation, New York – along with North Carolina – remain the only states in the nation that prosecute 16 and 17 year-olds as adults.

The Youth Justice Institute is modeled after the Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven's Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, created in 2014. New York State's Youth Justice Institute will feature an Executive Committee with representatives from the New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, the state Office of Court Administration, the University at Albany, and chaired by the commissioners of the Division of Criminal Justice Services and Office of Children and Family Services. The Institute's executive director is anticipated to be hired by early 2017.

The Division of Criminal Justice Services provides staff to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, which administers federal juvenile justice funds provided to New York State, among other responsibilities. The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group allocated \$1.1 million in federal funds over the next two years to establish the Institute. Once hired, the Institute's executive director also will be responsible for obtaining additional grant funding for the Institute's operation.

**Division of Criminal Justice Services Executive Deputy Commissioner Michael C. Green said,** "The Institute is another example of New York State's commitment to providing local partners with resources, training and technical assistance to help them improve the quality of their services. Agencies and organizations will learn from the successes of others and receive support to implement programs and practices with a documented history of keeping young offenders out of jail and on the path to success."

**William Pridemore, Dean of the UAlbany School of Criminal Justice, said,** "How society responds to its at-risk youth and their families reflects its true values. This partnership between DCJS, OCFS, and our School represents New York State's willingness to invest in its future. Professor Megan Kurlychek, who will be the lead collaborator from the School of Criminal Justice, has substantial experience evaluating youth programs. The new team of scholars and practitioners at the Institute will carry out world class research and translate evidence into practice by delivering skilled training and technical assistance to youth justice service providers throughout the state."

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**Office of Children and Family Services Commissioner Sheila Poole said,** “OCFS is proud to be part of this innovative and visionary initiative to improve outcomes for children, youth, families and communities. The Institute will help our local partners develop solutions to complex problems and apply them on a larger scale as part of New York State’s ongoing juvenile justice reform efforts.”

**UAlbany Interim President James R. Stellar said,** “Youths who become involved in the Family Court or criminal justice system are among our most vulnerable. We are gratified to partner with the Division of Criminal Justice Services and Office of Children and Family Services to coordinate training, research and the expertise of our leading School of Criminal Justice with the state's youth justice programs to help move these young offenders from lives on a downward trajectory to lives of hope.”

The Division of Criminal Justice Services ([www.criminaljustice.ny.gov](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov)) is a multi-function criminal justice support agency with a variety of responsibilities, including collection and analysis of statewide crime data; maintenance of criminal history information and fingerprint files; administrative oversight of the states DNA databank, in partnership with the New York State Police; administration of federal and state criminal justice funds; support of criminal justice-related agencies across the state; and administration of the state’s Sex Offender Registry.

The Office of Children and Family Services ([www.ocfs.ny.gov](http://www.ocfs.ny.gov)) serves New York by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children, families, and communities.

The University at Albany ([www.albany.edu](http://www.albany.edu)) offers 120 undergraduate majors and minors and more than 125 master's, doctoral, and graduate certificate programs. The School of Criminal Justice examines political, economic and cultural patterns that shape definitions of crime and influence the policy choices about how to respond to certain categories of crime.

To access the article on the Governor’s website – [Click Here](#)

## New York State Court of Appeals

## Chief Judge Janet DiFiore



Janet DiFiore, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and of the State of New York, was born in 1955 in Mount Vernon, New York.

She graduated from C.W. Post College, Long Island University (B.A. 1977) and from St. John's University School of Law (J.D. 1981). She was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York in 1982. Chief Judge DiFiore served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Westchester County District Attorney's Office from 1981-1987, and from 1994-1998 as Chief of the Office's Narcotics Bureau. From 1987-1993, Chief Judge DiFiore practiced law with the firm of Goodrich & Bendish. In 1998, she was elected a Judge of the Westchester County Court, presiding over criminal and civil matters and sitting by designation in the Family Court, Surrogate's Court and Supreme Court. She served as a County Court Judge until 2002, when she was elected a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court.

As a Supreme Court Justice, she served as Supervising Judge of the Criminal Courts of the 9th Judicial District. In 2005, Chief Judge DiFiore resigned from the bench and was elected Westchester County District Attorney. She served in this position from 2006-2016. On December 1, 2015, Governor Andrew Cuomo nominated her to the position of Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York. On January 21, 2016, her nomination was confirmed by the New York State Senate.

Chief Judge DiFiore lives in Bronxville, NY with her husband Dennis E. Glazer. They have three grown children and two grandchildren.

## Nassau County Youth Court Spotlighted on FOX News

The Nassau County Youth Court was featured on Fox 5 News On November 21, 2016. News Reporters visited the Youth Court in Hempstead and had the opportunity to observe one of the hearings and meet with volunteers and former respondents. Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas was then interviewed live on November 21 about the success of the program. Nassau County's Youth Court was lauded for its low recidivism rate and the unique pro-social component that connects each respondent to an individualized activity based upon an assessment of their goals and interests. DA Singas discussed a recent respondent who had an interest in auto mechanics and had the opportunity to visit the Nassau County Autoseum, a county supported teaching museum for high profile movie & TV cars. The Autoseum then offered that respondent a scholarship to take a class on restoring and painting cars.

The Fox 5 interview also touched on the Nassau County Youth Court's strong support from the law enforcement community and Hofstra Law School and featured many of the Court's high school volunteers.



Submitted By: Arianne Reyer—Nassau County Youth Court



## Nassau County Youth Court Training Class

The Nassau County Youth Court held its bi-annual volunteer training on November 30 and December 1. Approximately 30 students from 12 different high schools all across Nassau County participated in the 2 day training. Students were taught about the elements of restorative justice, their responsibilities as volunteers and the basic fundamentals of Youth Court. New volunteers will now be required to shadow senior advocates before officially becoming Youth Court volunteer advocates.



Submitted By: Arianne Reyer—Nassau County Youth Court

## Wyoming County Youth Court

On November 17, 2016, the Wyoming County Youth Bureau selected four Youth Court members to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual WNY Youth Bureau Association Youth Leadership Forum, which was held at the Millenium Hotel in Buffalo. The leadership forum is an opportunity for youth in the Western NY region to participate in youth lead presentations, as well as workshops on topics that included cyber safety, runaway and homeless youth, and growing leaders through service. In addition to those things, the keynote speaker was from the Community Advocacy and MH Association of Erie County to discuss challenges youth face and how these challenges can create problems related to mental health and substance abuse. The youth also were able to hear from local legislatures such as Erie County Executive, Marc Poloncarz, and Senator Tim Kennedy. The Wyoming County Youth Court volunteers who attended were Autumn Finch, Mason Bush, Leah Parker, and Sam Mathews.

Submitted By: Jamie Hudson, Wyoming County Youth Court



## Good Luck & Best Wishes!!

After 20 years of service to her community and the Cattaraugus County Youth Court, Laurie Peterson will be retiring come the new year.

Retirement from a job you love is always bittersweet but on behalf of ANYSYC and all its members, Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Laurie included a few words about the woman filling her position;

“ I am so fortunate to be handing the reins over to Alison Crosson. Alison has been a deputy with the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department for several years, including serving as the SRO at Salamanca High School. She is great with the kids and has been working with many of the same people I have. She will have the same phone number: [716-938-2617](tel:716-938-2617) and her e-mail address will be [ajcrosson@cattco.org](mailto:ajcrosson@cattco.org). “

Laurie, you will be missed by our Association and your community.

Alison, Welcome! We look forward to working with you.



### Newsletter Submission Dates for 2017

Friday—March 24, 2017

Friday—June 23, 2017

Friday—September 22, 2017

Friday—December 15, 2017

### 2017 Scholarship Region Breakdown for Preferred Members

**Long Island/NYC Region:** Babylon Youth Court, Brookhaven Youth Court, Huntington Youth Court, Nassau County Youth Court, Riverhead Youth Court, Southampton Youth Court.

**Upstate Eastern Region:** Bethlehem Youth Court, Clarkstown Youth Court, Colonie Youth Court, Jefferson County Youth Court, Onondage County Youth Court, Oswego County/City Youth Court, Putnam County Youth Court

**Upstate Western Region:** Elmira City Youth Court, Genesee County Youth Court, Horseheads Youth Court, Livingston County Youth Court, Ontario County Youth Court, Schuyler County Youth Court, Wyoming County Youth Court

Each region will be awarded a \$300 Youth Court Scholarship winner. The Judge Kay Memorial Scholarship, \$500, will be awarded to the highest overall scoring scholarship. Scholarship packets will be sent out March 1, 2017. Anyone interested in joining the scholarship committee, please contact [Claire](#)

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

***Another year is coming to an end and again I reflect on the accomplishments of the Association. We wonder whether or not we are headed in the right direction. Are we doing enough to insure that all of the Youth Courts are being represented? What can we do better? We would love to hear your thoughts.***

***We have a core of participating courts and we thank them for all that they do to facilitate the business of the Association: Melissa Morman, Violet Palumbo, Katherine Chambers, Jamie Hudson, Amy Fialkowski, Katrina Charland, Arianne Reyer, and Chelsea Elliott. Your consistent participation is most appreciated.***

***The professional development conference is being held in Albany in April. We are still in the planning stages and we would love to hear from our members what types of workshops they would find helpful. Please don't be shy.***

***Remember that we have a responsibility to the youth that we serve to advocate for them, to be their voice.***

***Best Regards,***

***Claire McKeon***

## 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**

Next ANYSYC Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2017 11AM – Conference Call

ANYSYC Group Email: [anysyc@googlegroups.com](mailto:anysyc@googlegroups.com)

Season's Greetings  
&  
Happy New Year



**ANYSYC OFFICERS**

President	Claire McKeon, Town of Babylon Youth Court
Vice President	Katherine Chambers, Warren County Youth Court
Treasurer	Violet Palombo, Colonie Youth Court
Secretary	Jamie Hudson, Wyoming County Youth Court

**BOARD OF ADVISORS**

Amy Fialkowski, Wyoming County Youth Court
Katrina Charland, Bethlehem Youth Court

**Contact Us**

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

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

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

Submissions for the ANYSYC Newsletter must be received by deadline date  
Deadline for the next Newsletter is Friday, March 24, 2017

Please direct all questions to Melissa at the contact information below

**ANYSYC NEWSLETTER**

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

