



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.

THE 14TH AMENDMENT
TRANSFORMING
AMERICAN
DEMOCRACY

...any title. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privilege of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. Represents the whole number of persons of electors for Presidential officers of a State, or years of age, and citizenship therein shall one year of age in such or hold any office of Congress, or a State, to support public

The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy

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The 2017 theme provides the opportunity to explore the many ways that the Fourteenth Amendment has reshaped American law and society. Through its Citizenship, Due Process and Equal Protection clauses, this transformative amendment advanced the rights of all Americans. It also played a pivotal role in extending the reach of the Bill of Rights to the states. Ratified during Reconstruction a century and a half ago, the Fourteenth Amendment serves as the cornerstone of landmark civil rights legislation, the foundation for numerous federal court decisions protecting fundamental rights, and a source of inspiration for all those who advocate for equal justice under law.

For more information on this year's Law Day, [click here](#)

Red Hook Youth Court in the Spotlight Again!!!

This past summer BBC America came to the Red Hook Youth Court to learn about youth courts and create a video about the program. The video is available on the BBC World News and First News Live website:

<https://live.firstnews.co.uk/investigates/americas-youth-courts/>

Submitted by:

Dory Hack

CCI Deputy Project Director

Nassau County Youth Court

Several respondents from the Nassau County Youth Court who had expressed an interest in business and entrepreneurship had the unique experience of meeting with Don Vultaggio, founder and CEO of Arizona Iced Tea. Mr. Vultaggio spoke to each of the visiting respondents individually about their skills and background and then spoke to the group about learning from your mistakes and the importance of a positive and supportive peers. Mr. Vultaggio and his staff treated the respondents to a tour of his amazing offices and sample beverages as well.



Submitted By:

Arianne Reyer, ADA

Nassau County Youth Court



2017 Criminal Justice Reform Act

Governor Cuomo proposes a comprehensive set of reforms from arrest to trial that will ensure equal justice for all citizens. The Governor will advance the following new measures:

- Overhauling New York's antiquated bail system
 - Ensuring access to a speedy trial
 - Raising the age of criminal responsibility
 - Improving witness identification procedures
- Recording police interrogations for serious offenses
- Extending the Hurrell-Harring settlement reforms statewide

For more information and up to date information please visit the

[2017 Criminal Justice Reform Act](#)

Effort in place to raise age for state prison sentences for teens convicted of crimes

<http://wrvo.org/post/effort-place-raise-age-state-prison-sentences-teens-convicted-crimes>

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie is pushing for a measure to stop treating 16- and 17-year-olds as adults in the state's criminal justice system.

Heastie said the proposals would take 16- and 17-year-olds out of the adult criminal justice system and treat them as juveniles in family court. Heastie, the first African-American speaker, said this is a personal issue for him.

"It's embarrassing," Heastie said. "For me, as a speaker of color, it's hurtful to me that New York and North Carolina are the only ones who still treat 16- and 17-year-olds as adults."

Jim St. Germaine, a college graduate and a father of young children, said when he was a teenager in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, he "made a lot of poor decisions," including selling drugs at age 14 and having run-ins with the law.

"My brain was not fully developed enough to understand the potential consequences of some of the decisions I was making," said St. Germaine, who said he "fortunately" was arrested four months before his 16th birthday and was sent to the juvenile justice system.

He said that made all the difference. He met counselors and other social service providers there who cared for him and helped him turn his life around. He now works with teens who are incarcerated in the same juvenile detention center where he spent time.

But he said he also knows of teens who ended up in the adult prison system whose lives have been "wasted."

He said 16- and 17-year-olds are not allowed to buy cigarettes or alcohol, or vote or serve in the military.

"So many things they cannot do," St. Germaine said. "But as soon as they make a mistake, we're willing to charge them as an adult."

(cont on next page)

Gov. Andrew Cuomo tried unsuccessfully last year to get the bills through the state Senate, where Republicans, led by Sen. John Flanagan, and breakaway Democrats, led by Sen. Jeff Klein, form a ruling coalition.

Cuomo issued executive orders to partially enact the changes. He separated the 16- and 17-year-olds from adults in state prisons, but he can't, on his own, require that their cases be handled in family court.

The governor once again has put the measures in his state budget. Heastie stopped short of saying that he would hold up the budget, due March 31, over the issue.

"I don't want to make declarations," said Heastie, who said he's expressed the importance of the issue to Klein and Flanagan. "It's a pretty serious part of the negotiations."

Cuomo has enhanced powers in the budget process to push through policy changes, which is why he often attaches unrelated items to his spending plan. He can use the pressure of the fiscal end of the year deadline to forge agreements, as he did last year with an increase in the state's minimum wage.

Article submitted by Tammie Miller—Jefferson County Youth Court

Thank You!

I just wanted to take a moment and say thank you and farewell to all the wonderful members of the ANYSYC and all the Youth Courts from across the State. The lives of so many children and young adults have been positively affected because of the work we've all done, I will truly miss working with the kids and you all. Thank you again and I know Rebecca will be a wonderful addition to the Babylon Youth Court and the Association.

Melissa Morman

Babylon Youth Court



SAVE THE DATE

ANYSYC Round Table Meeting

Please come join your fellow
Youth Court professionals
to learn from each other & discuss:

- Restorative Practices & Circles
 - Evidence Based Practices
- Trouble Shooting & Getting Referrals
 - Working for Legislative change

APRIL 26, 2017 * 10AM – 3PM

NYS BAR ASSOCIATION

One Elk Street

Albany, NY 12207

If you have any interest in attending register at

<https://anysyc.eventbrite.com>

ANYSYC'S ANDY PLACITO

Andrew “Andy” Placito, joined the New York State Department of Corrections after the Attica riots where he instituted a release program for those incarcerated with a year to their parole board. The program was designed to address recidivism of career offenders and assist them in the readjustment into their home and community. Although this was a step forward in the criminal justice system it still did not address the root of the problem. Corrections had shown that those incarcerated started their criminal activities at an early age and their recidivism rate kept rising. Andy believed that something more could be done and had to be done. Andy transferred to the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) where he worked with various state and federally funded programs throughout the state. His role was to assist these programs to grow and become self sustaining in their communities. The most rewarding of these programs was Youth Court.

Then Governor George Pataki, included in his State of the State address the establishment of youth courts, as a deterrent to juvenile crime, across New York State. Andy was asked to be the program manager/DCJS representative of this pilot program. Thirty-five (35) communities across the state were selected to establish a youth court in their community modeled after the Colonie Youth Court Program. Those 35 selected communities were brought to Albany for a one day information/intensive training program. Their charge was to establish a youth court program in their community, with funding made available from DCJS.

A year later over 75 youth courts reconvened in Albany for their first Youth Court Conference in November 1999 to exchange matters of interest, to share ideas and develop the Association of New York State Youth Courts. An organizing committee was established with members of the youth courts and shortly thereafter the Association was incorporated and granted a 501C3 not-for-profit status from the federal government. The number of youth courts in New York State has grown to over 100 and has become one of the nations leading youth court programs in the country offering training, technical assistance and leadership.

Since Andy’s retirement in 2007, he has remained involved with the youth court program. The most rewarding and fulfilling part of his retirement are his grandchildren. Andy also fills his time by volunteering at assisted living facilities as a barber, traveling, fishing, golf and making wine with his sons.

A Message from the President...

Last Spring I asked the membership what steps you have taken toward growth and new beginnings in your Youth Courts. I really would love to hear what you have accomplished since then.

What partnerships have you formed since that time? What have you done to advocate for the youth in the juvenile justice system? What successes have you experienced? What obstacles have you encountered?

If we want to remain a valuable resource to the juvenile justice system in the State of New York we have to be proactive. Sharing ideas and experiences is essential to our survival both as individual Youth courts and as an Association.

I am looking forward to the Professional Development Conference April 26. There is still time to register. Please consider attending.

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.

Full Court Membership: Any active NYS Youth Court program can purchase a group youth membership for all its youth members for the period of one school year—September 1—August 31. This can also be purchased in addition to one of the 3 levels of membership above.

Youth Membership: High school or middle school student actively involved in a youth court program.

For more information regarding membership and pricing please contact

[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

Professional Development Meeting, April 26th in Albany

Conference Call, Thursday, June 8, 2017 – 11AM



ANYSYC Group Email: anysyc@googlegroups.com

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

Submissions for the ANYSYC Newsletter must be received by deadline date
Deadline for the next Newsletter is Friday, June 23, 2017

Please direct all questions to Rebecca at the contact information below

Contact Us

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Membership Questions?
Violet Palombo—
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ANYSYC NEWSLETTER

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