



*Association of
New York State
Youth Courts*



Mission Statement:

To assist in the development and expansion of Youth Courts and peer based diversion opportunities as an essential part of both the juvenile justice system and school disciplinary proceedings; to promote positive youth development, restorative practices and evidence based programs within these systems; and to establish and foster a strong network of practitioners to provide resources and support as well as collaborate and strategize on best practices.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



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Thank you to all the Youth Court members that have applied for the Judge Kay Memorial Scholarship and to the top scoring applicants in each region.

This year it was very close and I would like to congratulate the four applicants who have come out on top and shined through their grammar, director survey, time in youth court and essay questions. After much deliberation and all letters read a decision was finally made. There were two winners from Colonie Youth Court, one being the Judge Kaye winner, and one winner from both Babylon Youth Court and Genesee County Youth Court. Good luck to everyone and always remember what Dr. Seuss said “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.”

ANYSYC Scholarship Winners

Judge Judith Kaye Memorial Scholarship

Unnas Hussain

Top Scoring Applicant for U. East

Awab Shawkat

Now 18, I have been a member of the Town of Colonie Youth Court for 2 years, having also worked for the town for the past two years. Youth Court is among my favorite extra curricular activities and my favorite role is that of the prosecutor. I have lived in the town of Colonie all my life and to serve my town was a pleasure. Next fall, I am attending SUNY Geneseo as a Psychology major. Afterwards, I plan on getting a Nursing degree and following that with a master's in Psychiatric Nursing to become a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. I also run track, swim, and am an active member of Russian club.

Submitted By:

Awab Shawkat

Colonie Youth Court Member

Top Scoring Applicant for U. West

Alexis DeLong



My name is Alexis DeLong and I have been a part of youth court since 2012 and have had a great experience. I have learned about the law and feel that I have helped many students grow and head towards the right path. My plans next year include going to Genesee Community College full time for a general degree while working part time. After next year at GCC I will transfer to a college that best suits my major.

Submitted By:

Alexis DeLong

Genesee County Youth Court Member

Top Scoring Applicant for LI/NYC

Kayla Griffin



I joined the Town of Babylon Youth Court in my sophomore year of high school. After a year of training, I began to participate in trials. After gaining experience as a jury member, I began to participate as an attorney and a judge. Influenced by my time in Youth Court, I am attending Carnegie Mellon University as a political science major in the fall. After graduating Carnegie Mellon, I plan to attend law school.

Submitted By:

Kayla Griffin

Babylon Youth Court Member

Ontario County Youth Court

The Ontario County Youth Court swore in Class of 2017 members on Tuesday, January 31 2017 at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility in Canandaigua. The oath and charge of confidentiality were administered by Youth Court Executive Council President Ian Krager. The new youth court members as seen below left to right are: Jared Lindsey, Matthew Lindsey, Jacob Abel, Grant Besler, Ryan Haggett, Matthew Vierhile, Aidan Russell, Eric Szczepkowski, Zach Morse, Yvonne Vazquez, Program Director, Madisyn Liberati, Julia Carey and Madison Tompkins. Luke Besler was not present.



The youth had to go through a rigorous twenty hour training spread over ten weeks, where they were guided by professionals in the community, including probation officers, law enforcement officials, and attorneys. After the training, the members had to pass a bar exam and give a presentation to a panel of judges.

Ontario County Youth Court has expanded from two court sites to three. In addition to our current sites in Geneva and Victor, OCYC has expanded into Bristol Town Court to compensate for an increasing caseload. We heard our first case in February, 2017. Picture below include: Left to right: Owen Kennedy, Ian Krager, Robert Green, Town Supervisor, Matthew McGuire and Elizabeth Maczynski.



Ontario County Youth Court school-based Juvenile Justice Board at Geneva Middle School has heard their fourteenth case and volunteers are doing an amazing job.

The Ontario County Youth Court is a member of the Partnership for Ontario County and is funded by the Ontario County Youth Bureau, United Way, Ontario County Probation, Feinbloom Support Foundation, Wyckoff Foundation, and the Geneva Central School District.

Submitted By:

Yvonne Vazquez, Program Director

Ontario County Youth Court

LAW DAY!



The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy

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](#)

Greetings!

Hello ANYSYC Members and Youth Courts, I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcomes I have received over the last few months. I will admit that it was very scary taking on a new position but I have had a great teacher and role model to look up to. It will be hard to fill Melissa's shoes but I look forward to trying. I have heard nothing but great things about the Youth Courts and I am very grateful to be a part of it. Many have been very helpful and I very much appreciate it. Again, thank you for the warm welcome and I look forward to working with everyone in the future.

Rebecca Gumowski
Babylon Youth Court

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...

Hello and Happy Summer!

We adopted a revised mission statement at our last meeting and it is my hope that we all embrace the spirit of these words:

To assist in the development and expansion of Youth Courts and peer based diversion opportunities as an essential part of both the juvenile justice system and school disciplinary proceedings; to promote positive youth development, restorative practices and evidence based programs within these systems; and to establish and foster a strong network of practitioners to provide resources and support as well as collaborate and strategize on best practices.

Many thanks to Arianne Reyer for so eloquently putting our thoughts into words.

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

Conference Call, Thursday, August 10 2017 -
11AM

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, September 22, 2017

Please direct all questions to Rebecca at the contact information below

Contact Us

Claire McKeon—
cmckeon@townofbabylon.com

Katherine Chambers—
warrenctyhcrt@yahoo.com

Membership Questions?
Violet Palombo—
palombov@colonie.org

ANYSYC NEWSLETTER

Rebecca Gumowski
Town of Babylon Youth Court
babylonyouthbureau@gmail.com

