

IN SESSION

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE NATIONAL
YOUTH COURT CENTER



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The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to Assume Leadership Role for the Federal Government on Youth Court Issues

Change is an inevitable part of life. While some view change as intimidating and something to be avoided, change very often offers a chance for renewal and growth. On November 1, 2006 the Council of State Governments/American Probation and Parole Association ends its formal role in administering the National Youth Court Center—which is part of the Federal Youth Court Program and funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. However, the federal support of the national youth court movement is still going strong. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) will assume the leadership role for the Federal Youth Court Program with continued funding and support from OJJDP, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

There have been numerous accomplishments in the national youth court movement in the past twelve years as a result of the federal support of a variety of youth court initiatives. The number of youth courts grew more than 1,300%—currently there are more than 1,100 youth courts operating in 49 states and the District of Columbia. More than 4,000 persons representing all 50 states, Canada and the Philippines received training and technical assistance on developing, implementing or enhancing youth court programs. More than 20 publications were published by the NYCC and its allied agencies (which include the American Bar Association, Street Law, Inc., Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles and Chicago, and the American Youth Policy Forum) on a variety of youth court issues. In addition, the NYCC and some of its partners received national awards recognizing exemplary service to and products for youth courts. Four national organizations and the U.S. Congress passed resolutions in support of youth courts. Youth courts also received international attention in 2002 by the United Nations. See page 8 for additional highlights from the national youth court movement.

Twelve years ago, most youth court programs were isolated in their communities—often not aware of what youth courts in surrounding areas or states were doing. However, over the past decade, youth courts in at least 20 states have come together on a state level to form state youth court associations or networking groups. Currently, with support from OJJDP and Phi Alpha

Delta Public Service Center, there is a strong movement underway to develop a National Association of Youth Courts. When formalized within the next few years, this group will take control of its own destiny and be in a position to set its own agenda. See page 10 for an update on the National Association of Youth Courts.

In the short-term, the federal government will be funding several organizations to provide services and develop products for youth courts. NCJFCJ will take the lead and will maintain www.youthcourt.net, produce future issues of *In Session*, and coordinate training and technical assistance. See page 9 for additional

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Message from the Director of the National Youth Court Center

I have had the distinct honor and pleasure to serve as the project director for the Council of State Governments/American Probation and Parole Association's national youth court initiatives, funded by the U.S. Departments of Justice, Transportation, and Education since they began in 1994. As a result, in part, of the publications, resources, training and technical assistance, and other services we have been able to provide, I have seen the number of youth, teen, peer, and student courts grow by leaps and bounds. I have witnessed firsthand local programs examining their practices and policies and continually working to improve their services to youth, families, victims, and communities. And, with excitement, I have watched as practitioners in youth courts have transitioned from being isolated in communities, to forming statewide associations and coalitions, and to now turning their attention to forming a National Youth Court Association.

When I began working at CSG/APPA in 1993, I had no idea that I would get the privilege of working on such an interesting, rewarding, and dynamic project. So much of what I've been able to accomplish while working on this project is directly related to the counsel, advice, and assistance that I have received from youth court coordinators and administrators throughout the United States. The professionals who manage local youth court programs have been incredibly open and eager to provide input on issues and send material and resources that have helped in the development of the national publications and resources. I want to personally thank all of you who have taken time to talk with me, respond to my questions via email, send your program materials, and let me come and visit your programs. Your support was invaluable.

I have also appreciated the support I received from my colleagues and friends at Street Law, Inc, the American Bar Association, the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles and Chicago, the American Youth Policy Forum, Youth Service America, Phi Alpha Delta,

and the other national organizations with which I've had the pleasure to work in various capacities on youth court initiatives. The partnerships we formed, with the support of the federal sponsoring agencies, resulted in the creation of wonderful and enduring products for the youth court field.


Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools—and their respective program managers Scott Peterson, Donni LeBoeuf, Brian Chodrow, Jim Wright, Ruth Esteban-Muir, and Bryan Williams—for their amazing commitment and support of youth courts and for the assistance they have provided to me and CSG/APPA over the past twelve years.

But, as one door closes, another one opens. I will continue to work at CSG/APPA and will manage and serve as the project director on several of their new federally funded projects. The subject matter I deal with on a day-to-day basis is going to change, but the lessons I've learned and skills I've been able to develop while serving the youth court field will help me immensely in my new endeavors.

I am excited about the changes ahead, but I must admit as November 1st draws near, it is somewhat bittersweet. Throughout my work on this project, I have made wonderful professional relationships and personal friendships, and I sincerely hope that these continue to flourish. I have no doubt that you will provide the same type of support you have given me, Lisa Ginter, and Karen Blackwell to the new project staff at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) when they take over administering aspects of the Federal Youth Court Program for OJJDP. NCJFCJ is a well known and well respected organization with much experience in administering federal projects. I am confident that they will provide you with top notch services and products. I plan to keep involved in the youth court world on the periphery—most likely participating in some training and technical assistance events along the way—so, I hope our paths will continue to cross.

All of you who work on a daily basis with the youth involved in youth courts and the people who champion these programs on a local, state and national level are an inspiration to me. You are truly making a difference in the lives of so many young people. I wish you all continued success—professionally and personally.

With Warm Regards,
Tracy Godwin Mullins




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information on upcoming products and services planned for youth courts.

While the names of organizations and contact persons may change—the services and products provided by the Federal Youth Court Program will not. The Council of State Governments/American Probation and Parole Association have been working closely with OJJDP and NCJFCJ to assure a smooth transition of products and services. Continue to log on to www.youthcourt.net often to get updates on youth court issues and training opportunities.

Youth Court Member Made an Impact on Many

Cesar Chavez Teen Court Member Remembered

Anthony Gomez was like any other 13-year old. He loved to play sports, ride his bicycle at the neighborhood park, go horseback riding, and hang out with his friends. He also enjoyed being a peer mediator and bailiff in the Cesar Chavez Teen Court Program in Phoenix, Arizona. Anthony was a shy, reserved child, but through the encouragement of the teen court coordinator, Pam Neal, Anthony began to gain more confidence.

On March 18, Anthony had a big day planned. He was going to *Gameworks*, a local arcade. Anthony complained that he had a headache and his fingers started trembling (something that he typically did not have). A few hours later he began vomiting uncontrollably and was having difficulty walking. Anthony was becoming weaker as the minutes passed. Anthony's mother called the paramedics, but she could see his eyes start to roll back into his head as she kept talking to him and asking him questions to keep him from falling into a state of unconsciousness.

When the paramedics arrived, Anthony stopped talking and lost consciousness and was subsequently taken to the hospital. Doctors determined that Anthony had a brain aneurism. Doctors operated on Anthony, but he was later taken home where he passed away on March 30, 2006.

A local judge as well as numerous teen court volunteers attended the funeral service, which was standing room only. Members of the

Cesar Chavez Teen Court managed to contribute over \$375.00 through the sale of T-shirts to the family of Anthony Gomez in order to help with the burial and medical expenses. The teen court coordinator talked to the area's local Olive Garden and they donated food after the service.

"Anthony was the most caring, compassionate child anyone could ask for," said his mother. "He was such a great role model for his younger siblings," said his mother

"He was a wonderful son, just an angel." said his father.

Doctors informed the family that this type of aneurism is genetically predetermined and medical professionals do not really know when and where it could strike. What is known is that this was inevitable at some point in Anthony's life. An aneurism occurs when there is a bulge in a weakened portion of a blood vessel wall much like the bulge that results from over-inflating an inner tube.

There are a number of factors that attribute to a brain aneurism including genetic factors, disease, atherosclerosis, injury, infection and bad lifestyle habits. For a more detailed description you can log onto the following websites: www.optimal-heart.health.com; www.nyneuro.com; and www.cedars-sinai.edu

The Gomez family would like to increase awareness that brain aneurisms do not only happen to older individuals, but they can happen to anyone at any age.

New Publication

Giving Back: Introducing Community Service Learning *Improving Mandated Community Service for Juvenile Offenders*



Developed by the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles and Chicago through a grant from the OJJDP, this updated and revised edition of the original "Giving Back: Community Service Learning Manual for Youth Courts" gives youth courts and other juvenile-justice agencies the tools they need to apply school-based service-learning methods to court-mandated community-service. Giving Back provides skill-building strategies and materials to introduce juvenile offenders to basic concepts of community and community problems and offers three options for planning and implementing community service-learning projects specifically designed to deal with ten offenses that youth courts and other juvenile-justice agencies most frequently address. You can access the revised manual online at http://www.youthcourt.net/Publications/GivingBack_2006_final.pdf.

National Youth Court Month Celebrations

National Youth Court Month offers an opportunity to highlight the success and accomplishments of youth courts on a local, state, and national level. The NYCC along with OJJDP, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools celebrated the 5th Annual National Youth Court Month in September. The theme was “Correcting Crooked Paths: Youth and Communities in Partnership for Justice.” Youth volunteers from several youth courts across the country assisted the NYCC in developing the theme. See below for information on how some youth courts celebrated this year’s National Youth Court Month.

ALASKA

Mat-Su Youth Court

The Mat-Su Youth Court is celebrating its ten year anniversary this year. It publicized this anniversary to the community during National Youth Court Month. In addition, in an effort to recruit new volunteers, the program held mock sentencing hearings in its local shopping mall; featured a display, posters/phrases/collage of pictures in its local courthouse to show off ten years of students handling real cases of their peers in the courthouse; and broadcasted radio spots letting the public know about its ten year anniversary. Lastly, they created a scrapbook of pictures from over the years to give to the family of Jim Messick (the founder of the program). The scrapbook was presented to his family during their fall volunteer class graduation.

North Star Youth Court

North Star Youth Court in Fairbanks, Alaska conducted a mock trial clinic for current attorneys and interested community members as part of its National Youth Court Month festivities. The event was advertised via PSA’s promoting National Youth Court Month. The program also held its annual meeting of the Board of Directors. At the meeting the following awards were presented:

- **Volunteer Recognition:** Melissa Allen, Timothy Armstrong, Danny Powers, Emily Schooley, Tisha Simmons (adult Board member), Jim Cannon (volunteer Legal Advisor)
- **Rookie Attorney:** Ruth Kaplan, Renee Langworthy, Meghan Packee
- **Attorney of the Year:** Alysha Childs, Patrick Trometter
- **Mediator Corps Exceptional Volunteer:** Geoff Bacon, Shanail Mangrum, Tyler Nelson, Matt Stolzberg, Alysha Childs, Domenik Davis
- **Mediator (Peacemaker) of the Year:** Brenna Carlson
- **Rookie Mediator of the Year (Biggest Splash):** Chloe Leach

FLORIDA

Lake County Teen Court

The Lake County, FL Teen Court program celebrated National Youth Court month by presenting a proclamation in support of youth courts by the Board of County Commissioners, increasing volunteer recruitment efforts, conducting volunteer training sessions, hosting a Volunteer Recognition Party (the 2006 theme is a LUAU—Let Us Appreciate U); and publishing stories and announcements about the program through various media outlets.

GEORGIA

Dublin-Laurens County Teen Court

Dublin-Laurens County Teen Court conducted observational survey seatbelt checks at each local high school and distributed cou-

pons to each student driver that was buckled up appropriately. This project was used to promote traffic safety and seatbelt safety among teenage drivers. Teen court student volunteers and school organizations assisted in this project.

KENTUCKY

Madison County Teen Court

The Mayors of Berea, KY and Richmond, KY as well as the Madison County Judge-Executive were invited to watch the Madison County teen Court perform a Mock Trial on September 6th. While there, they also signed proclamations for National Youth Court Month.

LOUISIANA

9th Judicial Circuit

National Youth Court Month plans included a massive teen volunteer recruitment drive. This year they attempted to get all parish principals to excuse teen court volunteers from school on Friday, September 8, 2006 for a 1-day long training. Fortunately, two schools have law magnet programs, as well as their own courtrooms. The Alexandria Bar Association, Young Lawyer’s Division provided lunch for the training along with their expertise. The Young Lawyer’s volunteer throughout the year as our judges. The 9th Judicial Circuit also worked with the local mall to set up an information booth.

NEW YORK

Warren County Youth Court

The Warren County Youth Court Program set aside September 28th for the National Youth Court Day. They presented some facts about youth court and hosted a mock trial that was open to the public. They also recognized their volunteers who worked so hard to get the program up and running.

Livingston County Youth Court

The Livingston County Youth Court conducted a mock hearing on September 25th for National Youth Court Month.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Youth Court Association

In honor of National Youth Court Month, the South Carolina Youth Court Association sponsored its first Statewide Youth Summit and Training Seminar on September 30, 2006. There were tracks for youth and adult volunteers. As part of the celebration they held a luncheon and invited stakeholders.

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2006 National Youth Court Month Volunteer Hall of Honor

Each year, the National Youth Court Center asks local youth court program coordinators and directors to submit nominees for the National Youth Court Month Hall of Honor. These youth and adult volunteers are recognized by their local programs for outstanding service and dedication. Congratulations to this year's 65 nominees! To read about the contributions these exceptional volunteers have made, go to http://www.youthcourt.net/YC_Month_2006/Listing_2006.htm

- Elias Wilterding, Anchorage Youth Court, Anchorage, AK
- Craig Cornichuck, Anchorage Youth Court, Anchorage, AK
- Jacob Beeman, Pima County Teen Court, Tucson, AZ
- Joann Thompson, Pima County Teen Court, Tucson, AZ
- Indira Suazo, Justice All Stars, Los Angeles, CA
- Mary Trotter, Justice All Stars, Los Angeles, CA
- Alex Coleman, Shasta County Youth/Peer Court, Redding, CA
- Craig M. Kellison, Shasta County Youth/Peer Court, Redding, CA
- Sarah Shoemaker, Santa Barbara Teen Court, Santa Barbara, CA
- Gregg Hackethal, Esq., Santa Barbara Teen Court, Santa Barbara, CA
- Andrew Roblyer, Colorado Springs Teen Court, Inc., Colorado Springs, CO
- Angela Michelle Kruse, Colorado Springs Teen Court, Inc., Colorado Springs, CO
- Rebecca Sarver, Manatee County Teen Court, Bradenton, FL
- Nancy Martin, Manatee County Teen Court, Bradenton, FL
- Louisa Monamoros, Broward County Teen Court, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Ellen Field, Broward County Teen Court, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Co'Relous Bryant, State Attorney's Office Teen Court Program, 4th Judicial Circuit of Florida, Jacksonville, FL
- Eugene B. Nichols, Esq., State Attorney's Office Teen Court Program, 4th Judicial Circuit of Florida, Jacksonville, FL
- Tiffany Koratich, Juvenile Restorative Justice Initiative of Port St. Lucie Police, Port St. Lucie, FL
- Cindi Tomaszewski, Juvenile Restorative Justice Initiative of Port St. Lucie Police, Port St. Lucie, FL
- Bailee Billhymer, Illinois Valley Peer Jury, Peru, IL
- Cindy Fahler, Illinois Valley Peer Jury, Peru, IL
- Laci Gillispie, Youth Services Bureau of Huntington County Teen Court, Huntington, IN
- Jenny Newton, Youth Services Bureau of Huntington County Teen Court, Huntington, IN
- Eamon Brennan, Michigan City Teen Court, Michigan City, IN
- Kurt Earnst, Michigan City Teen Court, Michigan City, IN
- Kaitlyn Konkell, Madison County Teen Court, Richmond, KY
- Honorable Brandy Oliver Brown, Madison County Teen Court, Richmond, KY
- Honorable Brandy O. Brown, Clark County Teen Court, Winchester, KY
- Marilyn Green, Kent County Teen Court, Chestertown, MD
- Camren Ryan-Hannum, Lansing Teen Court, Lansing, MI
- Marjorie Russell, Lansing Teen Court, Lansing, MI
- Destiny Fullwood, Brunswick County Teen Court, Bolivia, NC
- Ed Kay, Brunswick County Teen Court, Bolivia, NC
- Amber Matthews, Rowan County Teen Court, Salisbury, NC
- Sergeant Bob Price, Rowan County Teen Court, Salisbury, NC
- Kafrin Serrata, NJAC Youth Court, Perth Amboy, NJ
- Nohely Puntiel, NJAC Youth Court, Perth Amboy, NJ
- Aaron Frazier, Rochester Teen Court, Rochester, NY
- Honorable Frank P. Geraci, Rochester Teen Court, Rochester, NY
- Brianna Grant, Kershaw County Youth Court, Camden, SC
- April Skinner, Kershaw County Youth Court, Camden, SC
- Sean Binder, Lawrence County Teen Court, Deadwood, SD
- Suzanne Dardis, Lawrence County Teen Court, Deadwood, SD
- Jessica Brimer, Pennington County Teen Court, Rapid City, SD
- DiAnn Deyo, Pennington County Teen Court, Rapid City, SD
- Jessica Panchisin, Sumner County Teen Court, Gallatin, TN
- Cara Harr, Sumner County Teen Court, Gallatin, TN
- Jenise Zamora, Wilson County Teen Court, Lebanon, TN
- Angelo Wong, Wilson County Teen Court, Lebanon, TN
- Geena Nohinek, Duncanville Teen Court, Duncanville, TX
- Sande Jones, Duncanville Teen Court, Duncanville, TX
- Catalina Reyna, Hedwig Village Teen Court, Houston, TX
- Ron Cutlip, Hedwig Village Teen Court, Houston, TX
- Adam Maksym, Lewisville/Flower Mound Teen Court, Lewisville, TX
- Al Perry, Lewisville/Flower Mound Teen Court, Lewisville, TX
- Justin M. Stephenson, Midland Teen Court, Inc., Midland, TX
- Vishal Chanani, Collin County Teen Court, Plano, TX
- Kara M. Peart, Layton Youth Court, Layton, UT
- Torey A. Hayward, Rapides Parish Teen Court, Alexandria, VA
- Kyna McCartney, Brown County Teen Court, Green Bay, WI
- Sarah Malcore, Brown County Teen Court, Green Bay, WI
- Brennan Waupoose, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin - Teen Court Peer Jury Panel, Keshena, WI
- Kevin Raiche, Marinette County Teen Court, Marinette, WI
- Cammy Grutza, Marinette County Teen Court, Marinette, WI
- Jake Barreau, Columbia County Teen Court, Portage, WI

State and Local News

California

Riverside Youth Court Receives Award

The Riverside County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission recognized the Riverside Youth Court program by awarding it the "Community Delinquency Prevention Award." Since its inception, the court has heard 160 cases.

First Youth Summit for Youth Courts Held in California

The Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children and the Courts sponsored a Youth Court Summit August 7-9, 2006 in San Cruz, CA. The Summit was also supported by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Safety Administration. Over 200 youth and adults from more than 40 youth court programs in the state of California were in attendance. Establishing a state youth court association and developing a DUI prevention program for youth were among the issues discussed at the summit.

Justice All Stars Participates in Law Day Festivities

The "Justice All Stars" of Los Angeles is reaching new heights. This year, in commemoration of Law Day (May 1) the Justice All Stars were involved in the Kids Prevention Club at a local high school where the teen court presented a mock trial case as well as gave a presentation concerning this year's Law Day theme.

Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods Member Receives Award

Congratulations to Yasmine White, Club of the Redwoods Teen Court Program participant, who was recently awarded the Violet Richardson Award. The award was made possible by Soroptimist International of Eureka. Soroptimist (translation: best for women) International was founded in 1921 and is an organization for business and professional women who provide volunteer service to their communities.

Yasmine received a \$250 reward and selected the Boys & Girls Club Teen Court program as the recipient of a \$250 donation from the Soroptimist Club. Yasmine is a graduate of Arcata High School and will be attending Brown University in the fall of 2006. She has served as a volunteer with the teen court program and is a founding member of the Teen Court Youth Advisory Board.

Illinois

The Illinois Youth Court Association's Professional Development and Networking Summit, sponsored by The Office of Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, the Illinois Youth Court Association, and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) will be held on November 1-2, 2006 in Decatur, IL. All 133 youth court/peer jury programs in Illinois are invited to attend this first-ever statewide summit. Participants will learn new strategies from local and national experts, network with peers and increase program effectiveness. For more information, contact Theresa Geary at 312-814-0991 or via email at tgeary@atg.state.il.us.

Missouri

Independence Youth Court Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Independence Youth Court was established in December 1985, by Sam Williamson and members of the Independence Police

Department, Eastern Jackson County Bar Association and the City Council of Independence. It was the first youth court program in the state of Missouri. The first court session was held on "Law Day" May 1, 1986 in the historic Harry Truman courtroom.

New York

Governor Pataki Honors Livingston County Youth Court

New York State Governor George E. Pataki recently recognized the Hillside Children's Center Livingston County Youth Court. The governor signed a certificate commending the court on their service to the community as well as to the juvenile justice system.

Nottingham High School Teen Serves on New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

Jessica Kye Fredette, a senior at Nottingham High School and youth court volunteer has had the distinguished honor of being appointed by Governor George Pataki as a member of the New York State Juvenile Justice Advisory Group which convenes in Albany, New York several times a year. Jessica's involvement with youth court began when she was 13 where she served on the Onondaga County Youth Court as well as the Syracuse City School District's Student Court. Fredette is a well accomplished young woman who has succeeded in swimming, as well as winning state oratorical competitions. This year, Jessica began her freshman year at Seton Hall as the recipient of the Martin Luther King Scholarship.

Saratoga County Youth Court wins Liberty Bell Award

The Saratoga County Bar Association recently honored the Saratoga County Youth Court (NY) with the "Liberty Bell Award." Saratoga County Youth Court received the award for its demonstration of outstanding community service and for making the community a better and safer place.

South Dakota

Lawrence County Hosts Banquet

The Lawrence County Teen Court program held their annual awards banquet on April 27th. Two senior youth volunteers received scholarships to attend the school of their choice. Sarah Joyce was the recipient of a \$500 scholarship and Sean Binder received a \$750 scholarship.

Texas

Midland Teen Court Honors Participants

Eight seniors recently were awarded scholarships for their participation in the Midland Teen Court program. Students included Carl Dennis, Paras Gupta, Matthew Quiroz, Adam Riviera, Ben Rodriguez, Bethany Sample, Justin Stephenson, and Cassandra Valles. Participants that received honorable mention included Cydney Cumbest, John D. Benton, and Laura Liem.

Teen Receives \$2,000 Scholarship

On July 24, 2006, the Keller, Haltom City, Watauga Teen Court awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Branson White. Branson attended Central High School and is the first teen to be with the KHW Teen Court for all 4 years of high school. Branson started as an attorney with

the KHW Teen Court in 2002. He was the lead attorney for the last 2 years and played a vital part in the teen court process.

First Annual Coastal Teen Court Competition Held in Texas

Nine teen court programs in Texas participated in the first annual Coastal Teen Court Competition. Programs that attended included; Hedwig Village Teen Court, Navasota Teen Court, Bay City Teen Court, Palacios Teen Court, El Campo Teen Court, Port Arthur Teen Court, Greenspoint (City of Houston) Teen Court, Northwest (City of Houston) Teen Court and Missouri City Teen Court. The competition was created to help the teen volunteers improve their skills in the courtroom and to support and develop Teen Courts in the coastal area. The three day event provided instruction for the teens on their roles in court and actual trials which were held under the guidance of legal professionals.

After the scores were tallied for each team the winners of the competition were:

- First Place: The Prosecution Team from Navasota
- Second Place: The Defense Team from Hedwig Village
- Third Place: The Prosecution Team from Hedwig Village
- Fourth Place: Port Arthur's Attorney Team.

The Hedwig Village Team went on to win best overall team with Bay City coming in at second, Navasota third, and Port Arthur fourth.

Port Arthur's Bailiff, Kyle Vincent went on to win first in the Bailiff competition, Palacios' Clerk, Jazmina Kocurek won first in the Court Clerk competition. After the trials the defendants went on to New Orleans to perform community service work after receiving some instruction in Restorative Justice.

Wisconsin

Barron County Teen Court Receives Award

The Barron County Restorative Teen Court received second place in the Rice Lake Lions Club Youth Service Project Awards, recognizing the number of volunteer hours contributed by the teen court members. The teen court received \$100 as a prize in the event.

Wisconsin Teen Court Association Announces Scholarship Recipients

Emma Dorrance of Barron County Teen Court and Matthew P. Nielsen of Vilas County Teen Court were the recipients of the 2006 Teen Court Association of Wisconsin scholarships. The goals of the scholarship are to encourage ongoing education and promote teen court throughout Wisconsin. To be eligible for scholarship monies an applicant should plan to attend a two or four year post secondary school.

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TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Youth Court Program held a Youth Court Day for teens involved in youth and teen courts on Saturday September 30, 2006. The event was conducted at Wilson Central High School and offered sessions that teen court members chose by voting online. Session options included a variety of topics such as dating violence, student rights at school, negotiation skills and female offenders.

TEXAS

Wichita County Teen Court

The Wichita County Teen Court located in Wichita Falls conducted a massive recruitment drive in the local middle and high schools in the area as well as an annual training of volunteers. The board of directors had a fundraiser dinner at a live dinner theatre. In addition, they hosted a booth at the local Fall Fest—an annual event where beads were provided as prizes.

UTAH

Salt Lake Peer Court

Salt Lake Peer Court held its annual Swearing-In Ceremony on September 12, 2006 for 90 youth volunteers and their families. Juvenile Court Judge Andrew Valdez spoke and conducted the swearing-in. There also was one student speaker. City officials and other stakeholders were invited to attend this evening ceremony.

First Lady Laura Bush Visits Colonie Youth Court Program

On October 4, 2006, while First Lady Laura Bush was in the Capital Region of New York campaigning for a local Congressman, she visited the Colonie Youth Court Program in Latham, NY to observe a mock trial. While there she also talked with some of the youth court volunteers and defendants about their experiences with the program. Ms. Bush visited the program as part of her lead role in "Helping America's Youth." Helping America's Youth is a nationwide effort designed to raise awareness of the challenges facing young people today, particularly at-risk boys. For more information on Helping America's Youth, go to <http://www.helpingamericasyouth.gov/>.

Highlights from the National Youth Court Movement 1994-2006

There have been numerous advances made in the national youth court movement. While not an exhaustive list, the following is a brief summary of some of the highlights from the past 12 years.

Background

- In 1994, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) awarded funds to the Council of State Governments/American Probation and Parole Association (CSG/APPA) for the first national youth court initiative.
- In 1998, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) became the lead federal agency funding the national youth court initiative, administered by CSG/APPA with continuing support from NHTSA. In addition, at various times, other federal agencies provided support to the national youth court initiative including the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education; and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- In 1998, OJJDP created and funded the National Youth Court Center (NYCC) which served as a clearinghouse for information, provides training and technical assistance, and develops publications and resources on youth court issues.
- In addition to CSG/APPA, the following national organizations received funds between 1994 and 2006 from OJJDP to develop products and services for youth court programs:
 - American Bar Association, Division for Public Education
 - Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
 - Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles
 - Street Law, Inc.
 - American Youth Policy Forum
 - Youth Service America
 - Phi Alpha Delta
 - Urban Institute

Training and Technical Assistance

- The National Youth Court Center conducted two national conferences with support from OJJDP and NHTSA (Albuquerque, NM on October 24-26, 2000; and Washington, DC on April 14-16, 2002). Collectively, more than 1,570 persons attended these conferences.
- More than 46 training seminars were delivered to more than 2,000 persons representing all fifty states, the Philippines and Canada on topics such as developing and enhancing youth court programs, applying restorative justice in youth court programs, and evaluation and funding. There also were three Professional Development Institutes conducted that featured intensive training sessions for youth court coordinators on a variety of youth court issues.
- The National Youth Court Center responded to thousands of requests for technical assistance via email, telephone contact, and written correspondence. In addition, the NYCC participated in more than 70 technical assistance events by presenting workshops at conferences or community meetings.

- Two national satellite video conferences were broadcast on youth court issues (May 1998 and November 2003).
- Two audio teleconferences/webcasts (on evaluation and funding issues) were broadcast in 2003 and 2004.

Publications and Resources

- More than 20 publications and resources have been developed on a variety of youth court issues. For more information and to order publications and resources go to www.youthcourt.net.

National Commemoration Events

- The National Youth Court Center and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) designated September 2001 as the first National Youth Court Month. National Youth Court Month has been celebrated every September since 2001.
- Since 2003, more than 250 youth courts have received \$250 mini-grants to organize and conduct service events on National Youth Service Day.

Resolutions in Support of Youth Courts

- Four national organizations (American Probation and Parole Association; Street Law, Inc.; Constitutional Rights Foundation/Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago; and the American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division) and the U.S. Congress have passed resolutions in support of youth courts.
- On September 25, 2006, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution recognizing September 2006 as National Youth Court Month.

National Awards and Recognition

- The National Youth Court Center website received the February 2002 CivicMind™ Award.
- In June 2002, the American Probation and Parole Association received the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Public Service Award for its management of the youth court initiative.
- In June 2002, the Youth Volunteer Training Package developed by the American Bar Association won the Distinguished Achievement Award for Multimedia Instructional Materials, Young Adult Category by the Association of Educational Publishers.
- In September 2002, Jim Nelson, developer of TEAM YC (Tools to Evaluate and Manage Youth Courts) case management software, received the Best Practices Award from the NY State Forum for Information and Resource Management.
- A team of four Assistant U.S. Attorneys and one law enforcement coordinator from the Northern District of New York were among three finalists for the 2003 "Justice Medal" for their work with youth court on a national level, as well as on a local and state level in New York.
- The director of the National Youth Court Center was invited to make a presentation on youth courts in the U.S. at the "New Ways in Criminal Law for Dealing with Young Offenders" symposium

on September 28, 1999, organized by the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Munich, Germany.

- In September 2002, an independent film crew from Germany visited the Colonie Youth Court Program in New York to film a documentary on youth courts.
- The director of the National Youth Court Center wrote the introductory chapter, which provided an overview of teen courts in the United States, for a book on teen courts edited and published in Japan in 1999.
- On May 8, 2002, youth courts were recognized at the United Nations' Special Session on Children Worldwide Event.
- As of September 2006, more than 20 states had formed state youth court associations or networking groups.
- In 2005, the state associations and networking groups formed a National Task Force, with support from OJJDP, to begin working on the development of a National Association of Youth Courts.
- On October 4, 2006, First Lady Laura Bush visited the Colonie Youth Court Program in Latham, NY.

Tracy Godwin Mullins Receives Award from OJP

On October 16, 2006, Donni LeBoeuf, Special Assistant to the Administrator and Scott Peterson, Program Manager with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) presented Tracy Godwin Mullins of the American Probation and Parole Association with an award from the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice in recognition of her outstanding service and significant contribution to the development of the National Youth Court Initiative. "Millions of youth will eventually benefit from the enormous contributions Tracy has made and will make to the National Youth Court Movement here in America and as it continues to take hold in other nations around the globe," said Scott Peterson. The award was given to Ms. Godwin Mullins at the National Youth Court Task Force Meeting in San Diego, California.



Left to right: Carole Collins, Phi Alpha Delta Public Service Center; Scott Peterson, OJJDP; Tracy Godwin Mullins, APPA; Donni LeBoeuf, OJJDP; and Keri Strug, OJJDP.

Upcoming Products and Services for the Federal Youth Court Program

On November 1, 2006, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) will take the lead role in developing and fulfilling many of the key deliverables of the Federal Youth Court Program funded by OJJDP. The following are some of the planned upcoming products and services:

- Maintain and enhance www.youthcourt.net
- Maintain and collect new information for the National Youth Court Database.
- Send out monthly issues of the electronic communiqué—Youth Court E-Update.
- Produce and distribute 3 issues of *In Session*.
- Plan, market and implement 3 training events for new and existing youth court programs.
- Produce and distribute the 2007 edition of the *National Youth Court Directory and National Resources*.
- Develop, design, print and disseminate a 6-8 page informational brochure based upon information prioritized by the National Youth Court Task Force.
- Develop, print and disseminate the *2007 National Youth Court Month Action Kit*.
- Conduct workshops and/or exhibit at 3 national or state-level conferences.
- Provide office-based technical assistance via phone, e-mail and written correspondence to the youth court field by answering questions, providing publications, and making referrals on issues related to the development and enhancement of youth courts.
- Distribute national youth court publications and resources that are available in-stock.

Youth Courts Work to Strengthen State Associations and Develop a New National Association of Youth Courts

On March 14-16, 2005 leaders representing state youth court associations or networking groups from 14 states convened in Washington, D.C. for the first national meeting of State Youth Court Associations and Networking Groups. The meeting was funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to give association members and networking groups an opportunity to interact with one another and learn from each other how to enhance policies and procedures and to generate ideas about how to more effectively manage youth courts.

That meeting proved so successful, OJJDP funded two subsequent meetings in New Orleans, Louisiana in February and June 2006 of leaders from state associations and networking groups to further build the capacity of state associations and to begin working toward the development of a national youth court association. These energetic and dedicated youth court professionals, that now form the National Youth Court Task Force, have worked tirelessly on a number of tasks (including the passage of a resolution in support of National Youth Court Month 2006 by the U.S. Senate) at the direction of OJJDP to further the national youth court movement. Another major task completed this summer by the group was the facilitation of a process whereby all active youth courts were invited to vote on the official name of the National Association of Youth Courts.

The next meeting of the National Youth Court Task Force is in San Diego, CA on October 15-17, 2006. Keep checking www.youthcourt.net for more information and reports on the National Youth Court Task Force's progress.

National Youth Court Task Force Members

Alaska

Sharon Leon, Anchorage Youth Court
Lisa Albert-Konecky, Mat-Su Youth Court
Ginny Espenshade, Kenai Peninsula Youth Court
Candace Brower, State of Alaska Health and Human Services

Arizona

Charlsie Cordova, Glendale Justice Teen Court
David Berni, Graham County Teen Court
Graham Judson, Maricopa County Teen Court
Jeffrey Schrade, Arizona Foundation for Legal Education

California

Karen Green, Placer County Peer Court
Eduardo F. Cue, Teen Court of Santa Barbara
Jo Ann Allen, Santa Cruz Teen Peer Court
J. Richard Couzens, Superior Court Judge (retired)
Patrick Dana, California Administrative Office of the Courts

Florida

Katie Self, Sarasota Teen Court
David Medvec, II, Orange County Teen Court
Stephanie Glass, Lake County Teen Court
Jon Messick, Manatee County Teen Court

Illinois

Amy Zimmerman, Illinois Attorney General's Office
Gary Kepley, Mattoon Teen Court
David Kidd, Macon County Teen Court
Candace Fujii, NICASSA Teen Court

Indiana

Sandra Porter-Phillips, Lake County Teen Court
Bonita Schaff, Michigan City Teen Court
Lorna Stephan, Teen Court in Huntington
Julie Deckard, Reach for Youth Teen Court

Kentucky

Robin Winkfield, Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts
Deb Bennett, Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts
Melissa Huffman, Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts

Louisiana

Linda Anson, Lafayette Teen Court
Pat Faulkinberry, Bossier Parish Teen Court
Kathy Haas, Calcasieu Parish Teen Court
Elizabeth Hollingsworth, Webster Parish Teen Court
Shonda Houston, Youth Justice Teen Court

Maryland

E. Rick Miller, Baltimore City Teen Court
Georgine DeBord, Montgomery County Teen Court
Maryellen Kraese, Charles County Sheriffs Teen Court
James Gossage, Caroline County Teen Court

New Mexico

Antonia Hernandez, Dona Ana County Teen Court
Diolinda Roybal, Teen Court of Santa Fe County
David Garcia, Teen Court of Lea County, Inc.
Karen Garcia, Curry County Teen Court

New York

Violet Colydas, Colonie Youth Court
Judy Wolfe, Syracuse City School District Student Court
Michael Torillo, Amherst Youth Court
Eric Watkins, Owego Youth Court
Andy Placito, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

North Carolina

Johnice Autry, Bladen County Teen Court
Rita Marley-McKenzie, Chatham County Teen Court
Glenn Faison, Jones County Teen Court
Glenda Ansley, Brunswick County Teen Court

South Carolina

Lessie Peen, Dorchester School District Youth Court
Joe Board, Pickens County Youth Court
Jesse Smith, Kershaw County Youth Court
Donald Lanier, South Carolina Bar Association

Tennessee

Anjanette Eash, Tennessee Youth Court Program
Linda Schenk, Wilson County Teen Court
Marjorie McCoy, Bristol Teen Court

Texas

Tammy Hawkins, Odessa Teen Court
Leslie Comeaux, Keller/Halton City/Watauga Teen Court
Sandy Varner, Teen Court of Texarkana
Myra Weeks, Wichita County Teen Court

Utah

Kathleen Zeitlin, Salt Lake Peer Court
Lori Silcox, Midvale Youth Peer Court
Karlene Peart, Layton Youth Court
Juri Strong, Richfield Youth Court

Washington

Susan Goettsch, Granite Falls Teen Court
Rick Peters, Thurston County Teen Court
Danetta J. Rutten, Clallam County teen court
Pam Inglesby, Washington State Bar Association

West Virginia

Balinda Schwartz, Marion County Teen Court
Beth Sizemore, Mercer County Teen Court
C.W. Mullins, Monongalia County Teen Court

Wisconsin

Nancy Livingston, Vilas County Teen Court
Katrina Eisfeldt, Clark County Teen Court
Margaret McCullough, Columbia County Teen Court
Denise Kervin, Chippewa County Teen Court

Federal Officials, Sponsors and Lead Agencies

Donn Davis, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Donni LeBoeuf, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Scott Peterson, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Keri Strug, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Carole Collins, Phi Alpha Delta Public Services Center
Tracy Godwin Mullins, American Probation and Parole Association

Primary Contact Person

Scott Peterson, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; scott.peterson2@usdoj.gov or 202-616-2368.

U.S. Senate Passes Resolution Designating September 2006 as National Youth Court Month

One of the tasks the National Youth Court Task Force worked on the past several months was to initiate the passage of a resolution in support of youth court. Several youth court leaders throughout the United States took the lead to contact their state Senators to request a resolution in support of National Youth Court Month. As a result, Senator Stevens (R-AK) submitted a resolution designating September 2006 as National Youth Court Month with Senator Murkowski (R-AK), Senator Akaka (D-HI), Senator Dewine (R-OH), Senator Feingold (D-WI), Senator Domenici (R-NM), and Senator Chambliss (R-GA) which was passed on September 25, 2006.

Designating September 2006 as 'National Youth Court Month'. (Agreed to by Senate)

SRES 583 ATS
109th CONGRESS
2d Session
S. RES. 583

Designating September 2006 as 'National Youth Court Month'.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

September 25, 2006

Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating September 2006 as 'National Youth Court Month'.

Whereas a strong country begins with strong communities in which all citizens play an active role and invest in the success and future of the youth of the United States;

Whereas the fifth National Youth Court Month celebrates the outstanding achievement of youth courts throughout the country;

Whereas in 2005, more than 110,000 youths volunteered to hear more than 115,000 juvenile cases, and more than 20,000 adults volunteered to facilitate peer justice in youth court programs;

Whereas 1,158 youth court programs in 49 States and the District of Columbia provide restorative justice for juvenile offenders, resulting in effective crime prevention, early intervention and education for all youth participants, and enhanced public safety throughout the United States;

Whereas by holding juvenile offenders accountable, reconciling victims, communities, juvenile offenders, and their families, and reducing caseloads for the juvenile justice system, youth courts address offenses that might otherwise go unaddressed until the offending behavior escalates and redirects the efforts of juvenile offenders toward becoming contributing members of their communities;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments, corporations, foundations, service organizations, educational institutions, juvenile justice agencies, and individual adults support youth courts because youth court programs actively promote and contribute to building successful, productive lives and futures for the youth of the United States;

Whereas a fundamental correlation exists between youth service and lifelong adult commitment to and involvement in one's community;

Whereas volunteer service and related service learning opportunities enable young people to build character and develop and enhance life-skills, such as responsibility, decision-making, time management, teamwork, public speaking, and leadership, which prospective employers will value; and

Whereas participating in youth court programs encourages youth court members to become valuable members of their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, *That the Senate designates September 2006 as 'National Youth Court Month'.*

Source: Retrieved October 9, 2006 from <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c109:S.RES.583>:

National Youth Court Center
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P.O. Box 11910
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To include your conference or event in our newsletter or on our website, please email information to youthcourt@ncjfcj.org.

November 7-10, 2006

2006 Teen Court Association of Texas State Conference, McAllen, TX. For more information or to register, go to http://www.texas-teencourt.com/conf_info_reg_agenda.aspx.

December 2006

National Drugged and Drunk Driving Prevention Month

December 11-13, 2006

Youth Justice Seminar for School Resource Officers and Community Police, Las Vegas, NV. For more information, visit www.crf-usa.org/ojjdp/sro.htm.

For More Information On Youth Courts

Beginning November 1, 2006, Contact
**National Council of Juvenile
& Family Court Judges**
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Fax: (775) 784-6628
Email: youthcourt@ncjfcj.org
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