

## National Association of Youth Courts' E-Update

A Very Successful Annual Conference in Florida!!

Volume 1, Issue 1 December 2009

The National Association of Youth Courts, along with the Florida Association of Teen Courts, held our 2009 Annual Conference in Lake Buena Vista, FL from November 8-11. Over 110 attendees participated in this outstanding event that covered a diversity of topics from starting a youth court to building support for existing programs. Delegates from 24 states were in attendance...along with one international visitor from Japan!



A Class Picture of conference attendees in Orlando.

A special feature at the conference opening session was a video segment of retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor speaking to the Arizona Teen Court Summit in September during which she expressed her support for Youth Court and shared that her granddaughter was a Teen Court volunteer at South Mountain High School in Phoenix! Justice O'Connor's passionate advocacy for improving civic knowledge includes her direct involvement in the [www.ourcourts.org](http://www.ourcourts.org) web initiative. NAYC looks forward to collaborating with Justice O'Connor and her ourcourts.org colleagues on matters of mutual interest.

Click [here](#) for the detailed conference program, agenda and guest speaker roster from the National Conference.

### Youth Courts- Your Perspective is Important to Us

In late October NAYC sent a request on behalf of the Research & Data Collection Committee requesting that all youth courts complete the first stage of several surveys that will enable NAYC to gather details about your community program. If you have not been able to complete this first stage, please go to <http://tinyurl.com/NAYC-First-Survey> and take a couple of minutes to complete the survey.

In addition, please keep your eyes open for the next stage in this survey to be emailed in the near future. Our goal is to establish an accurate portrayal of the national movement of youth courts and we can't do it without your assistance. As the Youth Court movement grows to help more young people travel a positive path to their future, your involvement is valued.

#### E-Update Spotlight

All of these stories can be seen in their entirety in the upcoming Winter edition of the NAYC *In Session* newsletter.

Please verify your mailing address on [www.youthcourt.net](http://www.youthcourt.net) in order to ensure you receive the upcoming NAYC calendar.

We would like to congratulate the Hon. Richard Couzens for being named the new NAYC President of the Board of Trustees for 2009-2010.

- See bio sketch right

In addition, we would like to thank Karen Green for her valued service as President and her continued leadership as a member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. Also joining the NAYC Executive Committee is John Duncan, Assistant United States Attorney from Syracuse, New York, Marlene Todd of the Lawrence/Meade County (South Dakota) Teen Court, and Rick Peters, Thurston County (Washington) Youth Court.

Judge Couzens is a member of the Placer County Peer Court board of directors, president of the California Association of Youth Courts, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Youth Courts.

For over 15 years Judge Couzens has taught California judges and attorneys law and procedure related to criminal and juvenile law. He has been a presenter at many state and national conferences on youth courts. In 2008, he was named Jurist of the Year by the California Judicial Council.



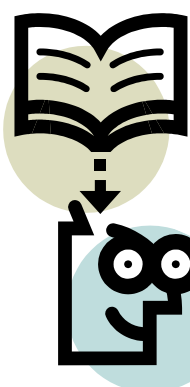
### Start planning for the 2010 Law Day- May 1, 2010

Please keep in mind that May 1, 2010 is Law Day. Each year, the American Bar Association chooses a priority theme for Law Day and this year's theme is "*Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges*". Be one of the numerous nationwide youth court programs to participate in this wonderful event by planning early.

Visit <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/home.shtml> for more information.



### University of Minnesota offers online course: Teen Risk-Taking



Would you like to learn more about research on adolescent risk-taking and implications for your work?

Register now for the course, "Understanding Adolescent Risk-Taking Behavior - Online Research Update for Professionals," developed by University of Minnesota Extension.

This short term professional development opportunity is designed to: define risk-taking, present a multi-dimensional framework for understanding risk-taking, introduce a model of adolescent decision making, reframe risk-taking, and offer a systems approach to risk-taking with an emphasis on family influences.

Participants will have opportunities to apply current research on risk-taking through online activities and in threaded discussions. Participants will also be encouraged to discuss topics with other colleagues.

This course is geared to professionals who work in schools, extension, court systems, treatment programs, faith based organizations, and public health; also counselors, social workers, youth workers, parent educators, and others who work with teens and their families in community organizations and agencies.

Registration is open now until Jan. 15, 2010. The course is accessible through March 31, 2010, which allows participants to go in and out of the course as many times as they wish, completing it at their own pace.

Registration fee is \$50 per person; \$45/individual when three or more people register from the same agency or funding source. To view a brochure or to register, visit

<http://www.parenting.umn.edu>.

Questions? Contact Colleen Gengler, Extension Family Relations Educator, at [cgengler@umn.edu](mailto:cgengler@umn.edu) 888-241-4635 or 507-372-3907, or Jodi Dworkin, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, at [jdworkin@umn.edu](mailto:jdworkin@umn.edu) or 612-624-3732.

### December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

Intoxication of any sort impairs your judgment, no matter your age, but this is especially a concern for young drivers. If you are driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics, you are not only putting yourself at risk but also your passenger(s), other drivers, and pedestrians.



The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) mission is to prevent the disease of alcoholism, other drug additions, and related problems through educating the public and encouraging scientific research.

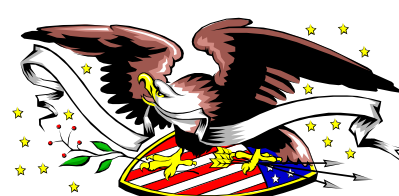
In addition, NCADD advocates on behalf of alcoholics and their families for policies that will ensure access to care for the treatment of alcoholism, other drug additions and related problems.

This month take special care of those you love by appointing a designated driver before you go out. For more information or to find a local NCADD office please feel free to view their website <http://www.ncadd.org/>.

### FY 2010 Department of Justice Grant Writing Manual Released

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the U.S. Department of Justice has released its "Guide to Grants FY10 edition" as a resource to help potential grant applicants who are interested in applying for FY 2010 grant funds. The 77-page manual may be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/funding/aboutgrants.html>.

The contents are developed from the insights of BJA staff and grant applicants. It is designed to inform both novice and more experienced grant applicants about the grant process and includes tips for writing grants and sample documents.



To remove your name from our mailing list, please email us at [nayc@youthcourt.net](mailto:nayc@youthcourt.net).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [nayc@youthcourt.net](mailto:nayc@youthcourt.net) or call (410) 528-0143.