NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH COURTS
RESOURCE BUREAU

The following individuals have over 170 years of collective experience in the development, running, and expansion of youth court programs and state associations. Each person has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to youth courts as an effective means of diverting young offenders from our justice system. They believe that these courts, through their early intervention with our youth, prevent many young people from making poor life choices, and effectively assist in the reintegration of young offenders who have violated the law.

The National Association of Youth Courts’ Resource Bureau is offered to members of the Association as a source of good information, founded on years of experience, for the creation, management, and expansion of local, regional and state programs. Each of the speakers is available at no personal charge for their services. They may be reached by email and telephone conference call to assist in all manner of issues related to youth courts. Arrangements also may be made to cover their cost of personal appearance at a program site.

Members of the Resource Bureau may be contacted directly by members of the National Association of Youth Courts.

LISA ALBERT-KONECKY
Director, Mat-Su Youth Court, Alaska

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Lisa Albert-Konecky has been active in the youth court movement for over 20 years. She began in 1996 with the Mat-Su Youth Court, located in the Mat-Su Borough of Alaska.

The Mat-Su Youth Court, which operates under the umbrella of local law enforcement, is a three judge tribunal model that handles misdemeanor offenses. Students act as attorneys, judges, bailiffs and clerks. Adult attorneys and judges assist the program as legal advisors. The adults also provide classroom instruction on the law and on-going training to the student attorneys. The program is offered to students in the 8th – 12th grades. Students may receive high school credit for participation in the program.

Lisa is a past president of the United Youth Courts of Alaska, the state association for these courts. She has traveled throughout Alaska, attending annual youth court conferences and visiting local programs. She has actively mentored new programs and has assisted in the training of staff and student participants.

Lisa is currently a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Youth Courts and assisted in the national peer/teen/youth court effort that resulted in the formation of the National Association.
Judge Couzens has been active in the youth court movement for over 27 years. He led the formation of the Placer County Peer Court in early 1990. The program has been acknowledged for its exemplary services to California youth by the office of the California Attorney General and the California Legislature. A unique aspect of Peer Court was an education component that served all of the high schools in Placer County with speakers and materials on the law and youth.

Judge Couzens also led the formation of the California Association of Youth Courts which serves all youth courts in California. Each year it sponsors a “Youth Court Summit” which is designed to facilitate the exchange of best practices between youth and adult advisors. He has served as the association’s first president and remains on the board of directors.

Judge Couzens was a founding member of the National Association of Youth Courts, has served as its president, and currently is a member of its board of directors.

During his 40 years on the bench, Judge Couzens served for 10 years as a juvenile court judge, presiding over delinquency and dependency matters. He has taught California judges on the intricate workings of the juvenile law.

Drawing on his experience as a lawyer and judge, Judge Couzens can be particularly helpful in the crafting of the legal documentation for the formation of youth court programs. He also may be able to assist in the engagement of the local judiciary in the youth court movement.
Karen Green has been actively involved with youth courts for over 27 years. She began as the coordinator of Placer County Peer Court, California. The program, primarily supported by the Placer County Superior Court, provided youth court services at two locations in the county, and provided an education component to 15 high schools. Her responsibilities included all aspects of program management: conducting in-take for students referred to the program, setting up court sessions, monitoring school-based aspects of the program, and supervising students who went through the court.

Karen was a founding member of the California Association of Youth Courts and the National Association of Youth Courts. She has continuously served on the board of directors of each association. She has served as a past president of the National Association of Youth Courts. She is currently the treasurer for both associations.

Karen has an extensive and diverse background in community action projects: Placer County Tobacco Coalition; GATEWAY, a Placer County committee helping pregnant and parenting teens; Auburn Children’s Psychology Services Board; Youth Violence Prevention Symposium Planning Committee; Restorative Justice Steering Committee; Placer County Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Task Force; and Placer Dispute Resolution Services Board Member. As a member of the W. K. Kellogg Consortium, Karen was a Western States representative to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s five-year program ($5.1 million dollars) to facilitate volunteerism in the United States. She co-authored the manual “Volunteers Who Serve on Boards, Councils, and Committees.” She has served as the counselor on the Placer County School Attendance Mediation teams. Karen has served as an advisor to the Placer County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. Her experience with the juvenile justice system was recognized when she was placed on the California Attorney General’s Youth Council on Violence Prevention (1997-1998). She was a member of the California Judicial Council Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee.

A graduate of the University of California, Davis, with a Master’s Degree in Psychology and School Counseling, Karen established her own business, CONNECTIONS, School Counseling College and Career Advising following her years as a public high school counselor.
Tammy Hawkins has been involved in the youth court movement for over 24 years. She has worked with the Odessa Teen Court since 1993, and has served as its past president. She has been active with the Teen Court Association of Texas as a member and officer. She was a founding member of the National Association of Teen Courts and currently serves as its president. She has assisted in the formation of many youth courts in Texas and throughout the nation. She holds a degree in criminal justice and a minor in psychology.
Barbara Marcille has been involved with youth courts for 14 years. Barbara is the Trial Court Administrator for Multnomah Circuit Court in Portland, Oregon—the largest court in the state, with 51 judicial officers and approximately 350 staff. Barbara has served in a variety of roles for the courts in Oregon, New Mexico, and North Carolina, including extensive experience in juvenile dependency and delinquency matters. Barbara began working with youth courts in 2003, when she served as program coordinator for the New Hanover County and Pender County Teen Courts in North Carolina. In 2005, she established a new youth court program for Los Alamos County, New Mexico, and supervised that program for 6 years while managing the Municipal Court there. She has been involved with the National Association of Youth Courts since 2008, when she lead efforts to create a pocket guide for developing new youth court programs, *Youth Court 101*. She was President of NAYC’s Board of Directors in 2014-2015.

Barbara holds a degree in Business/Marketing from Florida State University, and, prior to working with youth and the court system, she was the Client Services Manager for a high-tech advertising agency in the Silicon Valley, California. She has used her marketing and communications skills through the years to benefit a variety of social service organizations. Past activities include mentoring parents with abused or neglected children, guiding teams of high school students for a youth leadership program, facilitating Girls Circle groups for troubled teens, working as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in the court system, and serving as President of the Board of Directors for the Los Alamos Family Council Community Mental Health Center. She has also served on a number of other advisory councils and boards of directors for groups focused on prevention and intervention programs to benefit children, teens, and families.
KATIE SELF
Executive Director, Teen Court of Sarasota, Florida 1989-2015
Consultant, 2015 – present

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Katie Self has been active in the youth court movement for over 28 years. She was hired to co-ordinate Florida’s first Teen Court in 1989. With little funding for the program, her task was to build support for the new peer jury concept in youth justice reform. Working with judges, court administration, law enforcement, the legal community and other community leaders, the organization’s services grew from 80 to 500 delinquency referrals annually. The program recruited and trained 150 student volunteers each year, and developed a sustainable funding for an annual budget of $15,000 to $300,000. The non-profit organization provides for intervention services that now include anger management and substance abuse reduction classes.

Katie is a Charter Member and the first president of the Florida Association of Teen Courts. She led the expansion of teen courts into 51 of Florida’s counties. She was a co-author of state legislation in 1996 to fund Florida’s Teen Courts. Katie coordinated and secured funding for Camp X-RAYD with the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Department to reduce substance abuse among at-risk youth.

Katie was a task force consultant on youth courts with the U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention. She is a founding member and first president of the National Association of Youth Courts, and remains active on its board of directors. She served on the American Bar Association’s Youth Advisory Commission in 2007.

Her services to the youth court movement have been acknowledged by being awarded the Florida Bar Foundation Medal of Honor (Non-Lawyer), and with the presentation of a flag flown over the nation’s capital by Congressman Vern Buchanan.
Marlene has worked in juvenile justice for thirty years. She is the director of Lawrence County Teen Court in Deadwood, South Dakota. Currently she serves as President of the South Dakota Teen Court Association. She is also a Past President of the National Association of Youth Courts (NAYC).

As a court services officer early in her career, Marlene recognized the need for more services for juveniles before they entered into the judicial system. Inspired by emerging research on the positive influence of youth courts, Marlene started the first teen court in South Dakota in 1995. During the past 22 years, Marlene has been an active advocate for teen courts both on the state and national levels.

In South Dakota, Marlene’s goal has been to see teen courts established throughout the state. In 2003 she was one of four coordinators who developed the South Dakota Teen Court Association (SDTCA). Since then, she has served in all officer positions for the SDTCA. In 2007, Marlene initiated state legislation to fund teen courts in South Dakota. As a result, the first Teen Court Grant Fund was established with an initial appropriation of $100,000. In 2012, another $150,000.00 was appropriated to the fund which provided funding for three teen courts on Native American reservations and a Youth Summit. As of 2017, there are twelve teen courts in South Dakota, one in every judicial circuit. For the last two years, the South Dakota legislature has appropriated $250,000.00 for successful completion of diversion programs.

In 2015, Marlene was approached by a past teen volunteer about developing a student court on the campus of Black Hills State University. The Thompson Student Court was successfully implemented in 2016, serving students between the ages of 18 and 21 for Minor Consumption charges, including use of marijuana.

Marlene has also been an active participant in determining Teen Court policy on the national level. In developing the National Association of Youth Courts (NAYC), she was invited to serve on a national task force with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Additionally, she has collaborated with other agencies such as the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). As a facilitator, Marlene has been a presenter at several national Teen Court training conferences.

In South Dakota, she has organized similar training sessions as she continues to realize her goal of seeing teen courts throughout the state. In appreciation for these efforts, Marlene has received the following awards:

- Youth Service Award (2004) – sponsored by Behavior Management Systems Family Pathways Division recognizing her for “commitment to the emotional needs of young people in Western South Dakota.”
- Outstanding Service to Children Award (2005) – presented by CASA.
- Marlene Todd Day in the State of SD (Oct. 4, 2008) – Governor signed a proclamation declaring this day in recognition for starting the first teen court in the state, assisting five other courts in development and developing the South Dakota Teen Court Association.