

## PROGRAMS OF THE NEW YORK STATE COURT SYSTEM

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## ADOPT-A-CLASS

*Bronx County, Queens County, Kings County*

The Adopt-A-Class Program was designed for middle-school students and includes teaching tools developed by the New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth and Citizenship Program and the New York State Education Department to help students better understand the role of the judiciary in our society and master the fundamental concepts of justice and fairness.

Contact: Patricia Parker, 646-386-4711, [pparker@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:pparker@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? Middle-school students in Bronx, Queens and Kings Counties.

How to apply: Educational institutions and individuals can contact Patricia Parker, 646-386-4711, to inquire about program availability.

Program Schedule: School Year

## FUTURE LEADERS ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

*Bronx County, Kings County, New York County, Queens County, Richmond County*

This award program recognizes high school juniors and seniors who have demonstrated outstanding ability and leadership skills in a particular sport, the performing arts, communications or other appropriate fields. To be considered for an award, students write an essay describing their accomplishments in the selected area, also discussing their scholastic achievements, life experiences and career goals. High-achieving individuals who have distinguished themselves as community leaders and role models present awards to winners in the various categories, which in the past have included political science, law enforcement, sports, performing arts and broadcasting.

Contact: Hon. John E. H. Stackhouse, 646-386-3751, [jstackho@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:jstackho@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? New York City high school students, grades 11 and 12.

How to apply: Schools internally identify students and file applications. If you have any interest, please discuss the program with a teacher or administrator at your school.

## HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT

### *Nassau County*

Along with the Nassau County and New York State bar associations, the courts host the largest county mock trial tournament in the state, with teams from more than 50 high schools competing. Each trial is judged by a sitting judge or attorney from Nassau County.

Contacts: Jeffrey Goodstein, Esq., 516-571-3716, [jgoodste@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:jgoodste@courts.state.ny.us)  
Hon. John Marks, 516-571-9010

Who is eligible? High school students in participating Nassau County schools.

How to apply: Interested schools should apply to the Nassau County Bar Association, 516-747-4070. Inquiries should be made by September of that academic year. If you have any interest, please discuss the program with a teacher or administrator at your school.

Program Schedule: Winter/Spring

## JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM, QUEENS CRIMINAL COURT

*Queens County*

Local high school students can "shadow" individual staff members of the Queens Criminal Court as a way of learning about the kinds of jobs that are available in the court system.

Contact: John Zoll, Supervising Court Attorney, (718) 298-0836, [jzoll@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:jzoll@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? Students at Queens Vocational and Technical High School.

How to apply: Students at Queens Vocational and Technical High School should contact a school administrator.

Program Schedule: School Year

## JOB SHADOWING PROGRAM, WARREN COUNTY

*Warren County*

Students interested in a career in the legal field "shadow" court personnel in the courtroom and court offices for a semester or part of the school year.

Contact: Anne Marie LaVigne, Chief Clerk, Warren County Family Court, 518-761-6500, [alivigne@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:alivigne@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? High school or first-year college students in Warren County.

How to apply: Students should contact Ms. Lavigne to inquire about participation.

Program Schedule: School Year

## JURY SERVICE MEDIA CONTEST

*Broome County, Bronx County, Kings County, New York County, Queens County, Richmond County, Schenectady County*

This contest, coordinated by the court system's Office of Public Affairs, invites students (under the guidance of their teachers) to use their creativity to highlight the importance of jury service, submitting posters and other materials. Entries are judged by the participating county's jury commissioner's office, with awards presented locally to the winners, whose entries will be displayed in public venues throughout the state.

Contact: Gregory Murray, 212-428-2116, OPAOutreach@courts.state.ny.us

Who is eligible? High school students in New York City's five boroughs and New York's Broome and Schenectady Counties

How to apply: Contest guidelines and entry forms are available at [www.nyjuror.gov/contest](http://www.nyjuror.gov/contest)

Program schedule: Annual

## LEADERSHIP FORUM

*New York County*

The Leadership Forum provides high school students the chance to engage in dialogue with court community leaders. Students learn about court structure and operations, also gaining knowledge about career opportunities in the New York state courts.

Contact: Gregory Murray, 212-428-2116, [OPAOutreach@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:OPAOutreach@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? High school students in New York County.

How to apply: Schools wishing to participate may contact Gregory Murray, 212-428-2116, at least one month prior to the beginning of an academic semester. If you have any interest, please discuss the program with a teacher or administrator at your school.

Program Schedule: School Year

## NEW YORK CITY SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

### *Kings County*

Kings County Supreme Court in Brooklyn participates in this citywide program, offering New York City residents between the ages of 14 and 21 educationally rewarding, paid summer employment opportunities designed to develop and hone job-related skills.

Contact: Izetta Johnson, 347-296-1231, [ijohnson@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:ijohnson@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? Kings County youngsters aged 14 through 21.

How to apply: Students must meet application criteria set by the New York State Department of Labor and complete the Summer Youth Employment Program application package. Once approved by the Summer Youth Employment Program, a student may request to be placed in Kings County Supreme Court. Potential candidates are interviewed by court staff.

Program Schedule: Summer (Seven Weeks)

PUBLIC SAFETY CORPS, RED HOOK COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER  
*Kings County*

The Red Hook Public Safety Corps is an AmeriCorps community service program that seeks to improve the quality of life in Red Hook through crime prevention and victim assistance projects. Part of the Red Hook Community Justice Center, the Public Safety Corps consists of 50 members, ranging in age from 18 to 68, from Red Hook and surrounding neighborhoods. Participants perform one year of community service--fixing broken windows, painting over graffiti, cleaning local parks, tutoring students who need extra help and linking victims to crime assistance and other social services. Visible and active within the community, participants are often able to serve as a first line of communication between the Justice Center and community members who may not trust courts enough to seek out assistance on their own. In return, participants receive valuable training, free child care, a small living allowance and a \$4,725 education award that can be used for college or job training.

Contact: Red Hook Community Justice Center, Shona Bowers (718) 923-8290 or Melissa Gelber (718) 923-8249

Who is eligible? Applicants must be 18 years or older.

How to apply: Application available online at  
<http://www.courtinnovation.org/pdf/rhpscapplication.pdf>.

Program Schedule: Year Round

RED HOOK COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT  
*Kings County*

In this eight-week college-level arts course, participants learn the artistic and technical aspects of digital photography. Participants visit galleries and museums, travel to sites around NYC to take their own photographs and participate in classes at the Justice Center. At the end of the course, students create a portfolio of their work and have a show in Red Hook.

Contact: Amy Roza, Director of Youth and Family Services, Red Hook Community Justice Center, 718-923-8220, amyroza@courts.state.ny.us

Who is eligible? Applicants must be 14-18 years old. Priority is given to teens who live or go to school in South Brooklyn. Applications are typically available in February and March and due in early April for the following summer.

How to apply: Contact Amy Roza, 718-923-8220, amyroza@courts.state.ny.us for an application.

Program Schedule: Summer Program

SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM, QUEENS CRIMINAL COURT  
*Queens County*

In this outreach program, judges and court personnel from Queens Criminal Court visit local schools, give tours of the courthouse, lead discussion with school children on topics such as bullying, and conduct mock trials.

Contact: Linda Catarisano, Office of the Supervising Judge, (718) 298-0836,  
[lcataris@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:lcataris@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? Schools in Queens County.

How to apply: If you have any interest, please discuss the program with an administrator at your school. School administrators should contact Ms. Catarisano.

Program Schedule: School Year

## STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

*Bronx County, Kings County, New York County, Queens County, Nassau County, Richmond County, Suffolk County and the Sixth and Eighth Judicial Districts*

The Student Ambassador Program is an internship program that offers high school, college, graduate and law school students an opportunity to work under the guidance of New York state judges and other court professionals to expand their knowledge about a particular court- or law-related issue. Students develop presentations, conveying what they learned to their peers and others in their community.

Contact: Gregory Murray, 212-428-2116, [OPAOutreach@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:OPAOutreach@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? High school, college, graduate and law school students in New York City's five boroughs, Long Island and New York's Sixth and Eighth Judicial Districts

How to apply: Students must submit a resume, cover letter and transcript one month prior to the beginning of an academic semester in which they wish to participate. Some locations may also request face-to-face interviews.

Program Schedule: Year-Round

## SUMMER LEGAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

*Nassau County*

The Summer Legal Internship Program pairs first- and second- year law students with Nassau County judges. Interns perform legal research and writing, observe court hearings and trials, and participate in weekly seminars and field trips.

Contact: Jeffrey Goodstein, 516-571-3716, [jgoodste@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:jgoodste@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? First- and second-year law students

How to apply: Students should apply to the program between January 1 and the last day in February by sending a resume to Jeffrey Goodstein at [jgoodste@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:jgoodste@courts.state.ny.us). Resumes can also be faxed to Mr. Goodstein at 516-571-0482.

## TIMES SQUARE YOUTH PROGRAM

*Bronx County, Kings County, New York County, Queens County, Richmond County*

Times Square Youth is a workforce development initiative that empowers young people to set and achieve positive employment and educational goals. Each year, the program prepares 60 low-income, out-of-school, at-risk youth for future success by helping them change their attitudes about themselves, work and the world. Participants have access to individual counseling, peer support groups, work readiness training, computer classes, 30-hour skills-enhancing internships, leadership development exercises, community service projects, college counseling, mentoring and job placement services.

Contact: Angela Tolosa, Midtown Community Court, 646-264-1302

Who is eligible? New York City residents between the ages of 17 and 21 who are high school graduates, GED recipients or GED students.

How to apply: Contact Angela Tolosa.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

### *Kings County*

This program gives high school and college students an opportunity to acquire hands-on, basic office skills and exposure to the field of law. Mentors work closely with students, providing direction and career guidance.

Contact: Izetta Johnson, 347-296-1231, [ijohnson@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:ijohnson@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? Kings County high school and college students.

How to apply: Students must be referred by an educational institution, commit to a minimum of 6 hours per week and complete an application packet, submitting their most recent semester grades. The application deadline is October 1. If you have any interest, please discuss the program with a teacher or administrator at your school.

Program Schedule: School Year

## YOUTH COURT, FAR ROCKAWAY

*Queens County*

The Far Rockaway Youth Court trains local teenagers to serve as jurors, judges and attorneys, handling real-life cases involving their peers. The Court uses positive peer pressure to ensure that young people who have committed minor offenses pay back the community and receive the help they need to avoid further involvement in the justice system. The Court handles cases involving young people, ages 10 to 18, who have been cited for low-level offenses, such as vandalism, fare evasion, assault and truancy.

Contact: Far Rockaway Youth Court Staff, 718-474-2168, [nvazquez@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:nvazquez@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? Applicants must be 14-18 years old and interested in making a difference in their community. Priority is given to teens who live or go to school in Far Rockaway, Queens.

How to apply: Contact the Youth Court staff at 718-474-2168 to request an application.

Program Schedule: Year-Round, After-School Program

**YOUTH COURT, HARLEM**  
*New York County*

The Harlem Youth Court handles low-level cases such as truancy, shoplifting and public drinking. Teenagers from the neighborhood receive training to perform the roles of judge, jury and attorneys and preside in cases involving their peers. The young people who serve on the Court articulate and enforce standards of acceptable behavior for their peers. The program encourages young people to take responsibility for their actions and to acknowledge how their behavior affects the quality of life in the community.

Contact: Raye Barbieri, Harlem Community Justice Center, 212-360-4110,  
rbarbier@courts.state.ny.us

Who is eligible? Applicants must be 14-18 years old and interested in making a difference in their community. Priority is given to teens who live or go to school in East Harlem.

How to apply: Contact Raye Barbieri at 212-360-4110.

## YOUTH COURT, QUEENS

### *Queens County*

The Queens Youth Court trains local teenagers to serve as jurors, judges and attorneys, handling real-life cases involving low-level offenses committed by their peers. The teenagers conduct trials and hand out sentences such as community service and detention.

Contact: Ruth Maxwell, Youth Coordinator, (718) 286-3151

Who is eligible? Youth between the ages of 14 and 16 can serve as members of the Youth Court.

How to apply: Youth interested in serving as members of the Youth Court must successfully complete a multi-week, law-related education program. Contact Ms. Maxwell.

Program Schedule: School Year

YOUTH COURT, RED HOOK  
*Kings County*

The Red Hook Youth Court trains local teenagers to serve as jurors, judges and attorneys, handling real-life cases involving their peers. The Court uses positive peer pressure to ensure that young people who have committed minor offenses pay back the community and receive the help they need to avoid further involvement in the criminal justice system. The Court handles cases involving young people, ages 10 to 18, who have been cited for low-level offenses, such as vandalism, fare evasion, assault and truancy.

Contact: Red Hook Youth Court Staff, 718-923-8260, [shmartin@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:shmartin@courts.state.ny.us)

Who is eligible? Applicants must be 14-18 years old and interested in making a difference in their community. Priority is given to teens who live or go to school in South Brooklyn.

How to apply: Contact the Youth Court staff at 718-923-8260 to request an application.

Program Schedule: Year-Round, After-School Program

## YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD

*Bronx County, Kings County, New York County, Queens County, Richmond County*

The Youth Justice Board brings together young people to study and propose solutions to juvenile justice and public safety challenges that affect them. Each year, a team of 15 to 20 New York City teenagers studies an important issue affecting young people. After months of research, participants present their recommendations to key policymakers and advocate for their implementation. Members of the board participate in intensive training in research and critical thinking, developing skills and gaining leadership experience.

Contact: Dory Hack, Center for Court Innovation, 212-373-8084,  
yjb@courtinnovation.org

Who is eligible? 13-18 year old residents of New York City.

How to apply: The Youth Justice Board recruits new members each year in May and June. For more information call 212-373-8084 or write to yjb@courtinnovation.org.