

BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE



July 30, 2008

Welcome to New York City and to *Public Defense: Leading the Way to Racial Justice* -- the first joint gathering of the American Council of Chief Defenders and of the Community Oriented Defender Network. We have an exciting conference prepared for you.

Our training will begin by talking about how we talk about race – or how we don't talk about it. We will then hear about how issues of race pervade the criminal justice system, and will break into small groups to discuss racial injustice in our own jurisdictions. In the afternoon, we will explore strategies for tackling the problem, including how to harness the power of government in our cause.

On day two, we begin with "the strategic triangle," a tool you can use to identify the support your program will need to obtain change. We will then hear from colleagues who are engaged in creative research initiatives to demonstrate and combat racial injustice. In the afternoon, we will travel to Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem to discuss how we can all return home with concrete ideas for change. We will end the day with each of us paying our own way to a great dinner in Harlem.

Bookending our conference is a COD planning meeting during the afternoon on Wednesday and an ACCD business meeting on Saturday morning. Of course, throughout the conference we will include opportunities to network with other chief defenders and with COD activists from around the country.

We hope that you will find the agenda to be interesting and substantive and that you have an opportunity for fun and excitement during your time in New York, New York.

Welcome again,

Fern Laethem
Chair
American Council of Chief Defenders

David Udell
Director, Justice Program
Brennan Center for Justice at New
York University School of Law