

**BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE**

Brennan Center for Justice
at New York University School of Law

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**THE COMMUNITY ORIENTED DEFENDER CONFERENCE, 2009
BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE AT NYU SCHOOL OF LAW
NEW YORK CITY
JULY 23 – JULY 24**

DAY ONE: JULY 23

Location:

Lester Pollack Colloquium
NYU School of Law
9th Floor of Furman Hall
245 Sullivan Street
New York, NY 10012
(between West 3rd Street and Washington Square South in Greenwich Village)

**I. *Welcome and Introduction*
(Continental Breakfast)
9:00 am**

Participants will introduce themselves and share a single word or phrase that describes the value of community oriented defender work.

- Melanca Clark, Director, COD Network at Brennan Center for Justice
- Cait Clarke, Director, Public Interest Law Opportunities, Equal Justice Works

**II. *Performance Measurements*
9:30 am – 12:30 pm (with small group break-out sessions)**

In light of the current economic climate public defense budgets are being scrutinized and cut. How do defenders use performance measurements to make the case that COD programs not only add value to the individuals that they serve, but also result in fiscal savings to communities through reduced recidivism, lower incarceration rates, fairer dispositions, etc.? What are the right metrics? What will persuade policymakers?

- Catherine Beane (Moderator), Beane Consulting
- Josh Dohan, Director, Youth Advocacy Project of the Committee for Public Counsel Services
- Michael Rempel, Center for Court Innovation

**III. Lunch
(COD Member updates)
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm**

**IV. *Making Our Case*
1:30 pm – 2:45 pm**

According to the polls, the public wants the criminal justice system to be fair, and yet defenders struggle with the perception that their work does not create public value. Community oriented services (e.g., social services, outreach services, expungement, etc.) face particular threat. What advocacy tools can defenders rely on to ensure that these programs are protected and flourish?

- Jeff Adachi, San Francisco Public Defender
- Michael Judge, Los Angeles County Defender

**V. *Data on Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System - How to Get It and What to Do with It*
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm**

COD members are committed to reducing racial disparities in the criminal justice system, but often lack the resources and time to "get it right." What are feasible best practices for making sure that data is tracked at the state or local district level, and for using the data to obtain meaningful change once it is collected? What approaches are already in place in jurisdictions around the country to require police and prosecutors to collect and confront this data?

- Jack McDevitt, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Director Institute on Race and Justice, Northeastern University

- Holly Stevens, Assistant Research Professor, Center for Justice, Law, & Society, George Mason University

VI. *A Call to Action*
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

Gideon was decided at the height of the civil rights era, and was of a piece with other reforms at that time that secured equality for disenfranchised and minority groups. Today, as COD members look to increasingly engage in public policy advocacy for racial justice there are natural alliances to be made with traditional civil rights groups that care deeply about this issue. What steps can COD members take to cultivate these alliances and inspire traditional civil rights organizations to "own" and to champion public defense services?

- Bryan Stevenson, director of the Equal Justice Initiative and NYU Professor of Clinical Law

VII. *Closing Remarks and Day Two Briefing*
5:15 pm – 5:30 pm

- Melanca Clark
- Cait Clarke

VIII. Dinner at Greenwich Village Restaurant (Optional)
7:30 pm

DAY TWO: JULY 24

Locations:

In the morning we will visit the Bronx Treatment Court to tour the office and meet court personnel.

Bronx Hall of Justice
265 East 161st Street
Bronx, NY 10451

We will return to NYU Furman Hall after lunch.

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Greenwich Village neighborhood)

I. *Book Talk – Hard Time and Nursery Rhymes*
(Continental Breakfast)
9:00 am

Context is Everything: How COD Members can use family ties and effective storytelling to garner community support for our clients.

- Claudia Trupp, Author & Senior Appellate Counsel, Center for Appellate Litigation

II. *Depart NYU Furman Hall for Court Visit*
9:30 am

III. *Visit to the Bronx Drug Treatment Court with Judge Laura Safer Espinoza*
10:30 am

IV. *Lunch in the Bronx*
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

V. *Community Oriented Defense and Immigrant Populations*
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

What strategies are available to defenders to better serve immigrant clients at risk of mandatory detention and deportation as a result of their interaction with the criminal justice system? What resources are available and how can defenders partner with community-based organizations to achieve better outcomes for their clients, as well as broader policy reform?

- Heidi Altman, Staff Attorney, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
- Angad Bhalla, Organizer, New Sanctuary Coalition
- Benita Jain, Co-Director, Immigrant Defense Project

VI. *Building Community Support for Public Defender Programs*
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

How can public defenders better enlist the support of community leaders/groups, criminal justice stakeholders (prosecutors, corrections, judges) and the public at large?

- John Stuart, Minnesota State Public Defender
- The Honorable Pamela G. Alexander, President, Council on Crime and Justice

VII. *Building the COD Movement: Crafting a Statement of Principles for the COD Network, A Community Discussion*
5:15 pm – 6:00 pm

Applying ideas from the earlier presentations and discussions the group will complete a statement of principles for the COD.

VIII. *Wrap-up*
6:00 pm

- Melanca Clark
- Cait Clarke

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