

**BRENNAN CENTER**  
**FOR JUSTICE**

*at New York University School of Law*

**COMMUNITY-ORIENTED DEFENDER NETWORK**

**COD CONFERENCE 2012**

**July 19-20, 2012**

Re-Oriented Defenders:

Client Voices ■ Internal Culture Change ■ Holistic Practices

DAY 1 | THURSDAY JULY 19\*

**9:00 – 9:30 am***Registration & Breakfast*

\*All sessions will be held in Lester Pollack Colloquium

**9:30 – 10:00 am****Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Michael Waldman, President, Brennan Center for Justice

John Kowal, Vice President for Programs, Brennan Center for Justice

Inimai Chettiar, Director, Justice Program, Brennan Center for Justice

Thomas Giovanni, Director, Community-Oriented Defender Network

**I: Listen Up****Listening to Client Voices Uplifts Your Practice****10:00 – 10:50 am****Introductions and Updates from all Network Members****10:50 – 11:00 am***Break***11:00am – 12:00 pm****Keynote Address and Q&A****Ms. Regina Kelly**

Ms. Kelly, the subject of the film *American Violet*, will discuss her journeys through criminal and civil justice systems and her experiences with lawyers. She will discuss the ways in which her goals and those of the attorneys sometimes diverged, and how the differences in perspectives impacted her representation.

**12:00 – 1:00 pm***Lunch***1:00 – 2:30pm****Panel #1****Views and Voices from Real Former Defender Clients: Empowering the Client in Your Client Centered Training**

The Legal Aid Society conducts a 6 week intensive, interdisciplinary and comprehensive new attorney training every Fall. A cornerstone of this training is a session where new attorneys meet formerly charged and sentenced clients who have had a wide range of experiences with public defenders. These former clients will share their thoughts and feelings about their representation and what was important to them as clients and what mattered

most. The session is a pivotal moment in the training and hailed by the new attorneys as one of the best parts of training.

This panel will discuss how to engage former clients in training opportunities and how to build client-centered representation into your programs. Panelists include **Timothy Rountree**, Attorney-in-Charge of the Queens Criminal Defense Practice, The Legal Aid Society; **Dennis Murphy**, Director of Training, The Legal Aid Society; Members and Former Members of the Fortune Society Staff.

## II: New North Internal Culture Change

**2:30 – 3:30pm**

**Panel #2**

**Trauma Stewardship: Taking Care of Yourself While Taking Care of Clients**

**Cessie Alfonso, Mitigation Specialist**, will discuss the unique professional and emotional challenges created when holistic defenders seek to learn and address the root causes of a client's interaction with the criminal justice system, which often involve a client's previous exposure to trauma. Substance abuse and "burn out" are the most common responses defenders have to being unable to create healthy ways to handle vicarious trauma, but there are important lessons to be learned from other professions that also expose service providers to client trauma. Some offices are taking steps to address the issue, which will give them greater stability in staffing, and create a more productive work environment.

**3:30–3:45 pm**

*Break*

**3:45 – 4:45 pm**

**Panel #3**

**Jonathan Rapping: The Ethical Basis for Implementing Holistic Defense Practices**

Jonathan Rapping, nationally-known trainer and lecturer on Holistic Defense Practice, will present information and participate in a Q&A on how implementing Holistic Defense Practices satisfies ethical requirements for lawyers.

**4:45 – 5:45 pm**

**Film Screening & Group Discussion: Creating and Supporting the Next Generation of Holistic Defenders**

A discussion on office culture change framed by film clips from *Gideon's Army*, a soon-to-be-released documentary on the young holistic defenders trained at the **Southern Public Defender Training Center**. **Leeta Jordan**, one of the film's producers, will be in attendance.

**6:00 – 8:00 pm**

**Appetizer and Drink Reception at Lani Kai restaurant**

DAY 2 | FRIDAY JULY 20\*

### III: Start Now

#### Holistic Practices Ready for Implementation

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**9:00 –9:30am***Registration & Breakfast*

\*All sessions will be held in Lester Pollack Colloquium

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**9:30 –10:30 am****Panel #4****“Start Now”**

Two selected COD Network members will present detailed information on recent expansions of their practices that they accomplished for little or no costs, as highlighted in the *Start Now* report, a Community-Oriented Defender Network report on the activities of various Network members, which will be released at this year's conference.

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**10:30–10:45 am***Break***10:45 –11:45 am****Panel #5****Trauma: the Hardest Part of Our Client’s Story**

We may have some idea of the trauma experienced by combat veterans. But many public defender clients – men, women, and children – have experienced violence and suffered from unacknowledged injuries. How do we learn these clients’ true stories, and then advocate successfully for the resources they need to recover? Presentation by **Brock Hunter**, Minnesota Criminal Defense Lawyer and **John Stuart**, Minnesota State Public Defender.

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**11:45 –1:00 pm***Lunch***1:00 –2:00 pm****Panel #6****The Rundown: The Last Year’s Major Court Decisions and Implications for Public Defenders**

Summary and group discussion on the impact of this year’s major cases and policy decisions on holistic practice. From *Lafley & Frye* to *DeWolfe*. Panelists **Sidney Rosdeitcher**, Senior Policy Advisor at the Brennan Center, and **Justice Olderman**, Managing Attorney of the Criminal Defense Practice at the Bronx Defenders.

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**2:00 – 2:30 pm**

*Debrief/ Wrap Up Session*