

Community-Oriented Defender Network Conference 2013

*The Meaning of Gideon:
The Clients, The Counsel, The Community*

July 25-26, 2013

Lester Pollack Colloquium
Furman Hall, NYU Law School
245 Sullivan Street
New York, New York 10012

BRENNAN CENTER
FOR JUSTICE

at New York University School of Law

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED DEFENDER NETWORK



National
Legal Aid &
Defender
Association



DAY 1 | THURSDAY JULY 25

9:30 – 10:00 am **Registration & Breakfast**

10:00 – 10:15 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Edwin Burnette, Vice President, Defender Legal Services, National Legal Aid & Defender Association

Thomas Giovanni, Director, Community-Oriented Defender Network

10:15 – 11:15 am **Keynote Address and Q&A**

Andrew Cohen, award-winning journalist, contributing editor at *The Atlantic*, legal analyst for *60 Minutes*, Chief Analyst and Legal Editor for *CBS Radio News*, and Brennan Center Fellow will give our keynote address. Andrew will speak about the roles of defenders and journalists, as well as their power as story tellers, in the fight against Mass Incarceration.

Andrew will be present throughout the Thursday sessions, but will be “on background.”

11:15 –11:20 am *Break*

11:20 am – 12:20 pm **Network Member Updates**

12:20 –1:20 pm *Lunch*

1:20 –2:20 pm **Media Engagement and the Defender Community: Strategies and Lessons Learned**

Following up on the Keynote address and Q&A, this panel will further explore how and when defenders engage with the media. What are some lessons learned from past interactions with journalists? How can defenders work with the media to advance their work and message? What issues are raised when working with the media, and what are some best practices? Panelists will share their experiences and lessons learned.

Panelists: **Lurene Kelley**, *Special Assistant for Organizational Communication, Law Offices of the Shelby County Public Defender* and **Robin Steinberg**, *Executive Director, Bronx Defenders*

Moderated by **Thomas Giovanni**, *Director, Community-Oriented Defender Network*



2:25 – 3:25pm

Network Member Updates

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Client Empowerment: Having Clients Tell Their Own Stories

This panel will explore ways in which defenders can empower and support their clients sharing their own stories with criminal justice stakeholders. We will hear from clients who have shared their stories with various audiences, as well as the defenders who worked with them.

Panelists: **Lynnae Brown**, *Coordinator of Education and Training Howie the Harp Advocacy Center*; **Noche Diaz**, *Stop Mass Incarceration Network and Revolution Club*; **Juli Kempner**, *Director of Social Work, Legal Aid Society Criminal and Civil Practices*; **Kate Mogulescu**, *Supervising Attorney, Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Practice*; **Joshua Norkin**, *Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Practice, Bronx*.

Moderated by **Tina Loungo**, *Deputy Attorney-in-Charge, Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Practice*

4:35 – 5:30 pm

John Stuart Recognition

John Stuart has served as the State Public Defender of Minnesota since 1990 and will be retiring next year. The COD Network will honor John and look back at the important contributions he has made, the changes he has seen in the state of public defense and hear from John about his hopes and optimism for the future.

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Appetizer and Drink Reception at Amity Hall

80 W 3rd St, New York, NY 10012



DAY 2 | FRIDAY JULY 26

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

9:45 –10:45 am **Network Member Updates**

10:50 –11:20 am **Gideon’s Heroes, an Oral History Presentation**

Amber Baylor, former Staff Attorney at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, will screen an interview conducted as part of an ongoing project collecting oral histories of defenders.

11:25 –12:25 pm **Leadership: Holistic vs. Pragmatic**

Join us in discussing the tension faced and trade-offs forced upon offices and leadership as they navigate between the desire to practice holistically and the realities of running an office in current political and fiscal climates.

Panelists: **Carlos Martinez**, *Public Defender for Miami-Dade*; **Robin Steinberg**, *Executive Director, Bronx Defenders*; and **Natalie Finegar**, *Deputy District Public Defender, Maryland Office of Public Defender*.

Moderated by **Jose Varela**, *Public Defender, County of Marin*.

12:30 –1:30 pm *Lunch*

1:30 – 2:30 pm **Answering Gideon's Call Outside the Courtroom**

Acknowledging that the fight for the Right to Counsel extends outside the courtroom, we will explore issues of community involvement, advocacy, and reform strategies that can help push for desperately needed policy changes. Among the matters to be discussed will be the damage that Strickland has wrought on defender practice, lack of parity between defender and law enforcement, and advocating that defenders should be "at the table" whenever criminal justice funding and resource allocations are discussed.

Panelists: **Edwin Burnette**, *Vice President, Defender Legal Services, National Legal Aid & Defender Association* and **Cait Clarke**, *Assistant Director of the Office of Defender Services, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts*.

2:35 – 3:35 pm **50 Years Later: The State of Indigent Defense**

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, we will take a moment to look at the current state of indigent defense, the progress and struggles of the last 50 years and visions for the future. The views of chief defenders and advocates inside the beltway will be discussed.



Panelists: **Carlos Martinez**, *Public Defender for Miami-Dade*, **Mark Houldin**, *Defender Counsel, National Legal Aid & Defender Association* and **Christopher Durocher**, *Government Affairs Counsel, Criminal Justice Program, The Constitution Project*.

3:40 – 4:40 pm **Federal Policy Reforms**

This panel will explore a variety of federal policy issues and reforms and their impacts on the Right to Counsel and holistic defense. Why have we not connected with the federal defenders, what are their issues and how do they affect us.

Panelists: **Ezekiel Edwards**, *Director of Criminal Law Reform Project, American Civil Liberties Union*; **Seymour James**, *Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Practice, New York Legal Aid Society* and **Cait Clarke**, *Assistant Director of the Office of Defender Services, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts*.

Moderated by **Edwin Burnette**, *President, Defender Legal Services, National Legal Aid & Defender Association*

4:45 – 5:45 pm **State Strategies for Reform**

This panel will discuss a variety of state policy reforms and their impacts on right to counsel and holistic defense. There will be discussion on strategies on several important issues regarding reform and ongoing defender community issues.

Panelists: **Corey Stoughton**, *Senior Staff Attorney, New York Civil Liberties Union*; **Marcela Westrate**, *Executive Director, Michigan Campaign for Justice* and **John Stuart**, *Minnesota State Public Defender*

Moderated by **Edwin Burnette**, *President, Defender Legal Services, National Legal Aid & Defender Association*

5:45 – 6:00 pm **Closing Remarks**