

**BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE**

2010 COD Network Conference | Our Principles in Action
New York City
July 22 – July 23, 2010

Locations:

NYU Furman Hall | [View on map](#)

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

The Bronx Defenders | [View on map](#)

860 Courtlandt Ave.
Bronx, NY 10451-4338

Agenda: Day One | Thursday, July 22

Welcome and Introductions

Location: NYU Furman Hall

9:00 am (Continental Breakfast)

- **Tanya E. Coke**, Independent Consultant & Principal, TC Consulting
- **Nicole Austin-Hillery**, Director & Counsel, Washington DC Office, Brennan Center for Justice

Evidence Based Practices - How to Demonstrate the Value of the Services We Deliver

Location: NYU Furman Hall

9:30 am – 11:00 am

What are the benefits and challenges of implementing evidence-based evaluations of the COD model? The LFA Group, a research, strategy, and evaluation firm which has partnered with the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, will provide training on best practices for evidence-based evaluation, and we will learn about the North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services' development of a comprehensive, system-wide

evaluation project to determine how well the office is accomplishing its mandate to provide quality and cost-effective assistance to indigent defendants across the state.

- **Margaret A. Gressens**, Research Director, North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services
- **JT Taylor**, Senior Consultant, LFA Group

Barriers to Reentry – Fees, Fines & Other Legal Financial Obligations

Location: NYU Furman Hall

11:15 am – 12:30 pm

People charged with crimes face an increasing number of legal financial obligations. We will hear about national trends in imposing these fees and their hidden costs: the cumulative impacts on those required to pay, the ways in which the debt can lead to new offenses, and the costs to counties, clerks and courts of collection mechanisms that fail to exempt those unable to pay, as documented in the Brennan Center’s forthcoming national report. We will also learn about the Los Angeles Public Defender Office’s “Failure to Provide Unit,” which helps defendants stay child support obligations while incarcerated, as well as legislative advocacy efforts to minimize counterproductive fee collection practices and penalties.

- **Rebekah Diller**, Deputy Director, Justice Program, Brennan Center for Justice
- **Mitali Nagrecha**, Pro Bono Counsel, Justice Program, Brennan Center for Justice
- **Kimberly Wong**, Legislative/Policy Advisor, Los Angeles Public Defender’s Office

Lunch

Location: NYU Furman Hall

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

We’ll hear updates from all of our COD members about recent developments in their practices and communities.

A Discussion of the Promise of the COD Model

Location: NYU Furman Hall

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

In this session we will have an opportunity to discuss the challenges of implementing *Gideon*, the promise of the COD model, and other opportunities for reform with Laurence Tribe, Senior Counselor for Access to Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice.

- **Daniel Olmos**, Senior Counsel for Access to Justice, U.S. Department of Justice

Representing Clients with Mental Illness

Location: NYU Furman Hall

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

How best can mental health and indigent defense communities work together to reduce incarceration, promote effective diversion and foster smoother re-entry of people with mental illness? We will learn how the Travis County Mental Health Public Defender Office, the first office of its type, is combining quality legal representation with mental health service referral and assistance, and we will hear how the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law can support public defender programs in addressing discriminatory policies and practices that cause people with mental illness to be unnecessarily entangled in the criminal justice system.

- **Karen Bower**, Senior Staff Attorney, The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
- **Jeanette Kinard**, Chief, Travis County Mental Health Public Defender Office

Using Privately-Funded Fellowship Programs to Expand the Capacity of COD Offices

Location: NYU Furman Hall

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Given limited resources, defender programs around the country are relying on fellows to build and sustain non-traditional advocacy efforts, including the provision of civil legal services for immigrant populations and impact litigation. We will hear three perspectives on the impact fellowships can have on defense practice.

- **Rebecca Bers**, Associate Dewey & LeBoeuf | former Dewey & LeBoeuf Community Service Fellow at the Orleans Public Defender
- **Roxanna Gutierrez**, Chief Operating Officer, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
- **Adam Culbreath**, Program Officer, Soros Justice Fellowships, Open Society Institute

Briefing on Day Two Visit to Offices of the Bronx Defenders

Location: NYU Furman Hall

5:00 pm – 5:15 pm

- **Robin Steinberg**, Executive Director, The Bronx Defenders

Group Dinner at Greenwich Village Restaurant

Location: Savore Restaurant – 200 Spring St. | New York, NY 10012

7:30 pm (Optional)

Agenda: Day Two | Friday, July 23

Guest Performance – Lyrical Circle, The Brotherhood/Sister Sol Program

Location: NYU Furman Hall

9:00 am (Continental Breakfast)

Enmanuel Candelario and Frantz Jerome, award winning poets from the Lyrical Circle of the Brotherhood/ Sister Sol, will present a spoken-word performance. The Brotherhood/Sister Sol in Harlem offers a safe space for Black and Latino youth to speak their minds, acquire knowledge and skills, explore their identity and beliefs, and receive support to make their dreams reality. The Brotherhood/Sister Sol's programs and activities - mentoring, leadership development, international study, academic tutoring, internships, community service, job training, writing collective, youth organizing - provide these young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and overcome the negative pressures of poverty, racism, drugs, and violence.

Creative Strategies for Addressing Racially Disparate Law Enforcement and Prosecution Practices

Location: NYU Furman Hall

9:30 am – 11:00 am

Racial and ethnic disparities persist at every stage of the criminal justice system. We will learn about The Defender Association's work with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program, a community-based, pre-arrest, diversion and community re-entry program that keeps individuals accused of low-level drug crimes out of the criminal justice system, and reduces the number of minority youth negatively impacted by Seattle's law enforcement policies. We will also hear about the Equal Justice Initiative's new report, *Illegal Racial Discrimination in Jury Selection: A Continuing Legacy*, which details the ongoing problem of race bias in jury selection and provides recommendations for reform.

- **Lisa Dugaard**, Deputy Director, The Defender Association | Supervisor, Racial Disparity Project
- **Randy Susskind**, Deputy Director, Equal Justice Initiative

****Departing from NYU Furman Hall for the Bronx at 11:00 am****

Lunch at Offices of The Bronx Defenders

Location: The Bronx Defenders

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Visit With Staff of The Bronx Defenders

Location: The Bronx Defenders

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

We will visit the Bronx Defenders for a tour of the office and to hear about the office's innovative work in the areas of criminal defense, family defense, civil action, and policy advocacy. We will also hear about the office's new Center for Holistic Defense.

Wrap-up

Location: The Bronx Defenders

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

We will recap what we've learned and discuss ways in which defender programs of varying sizes and resource levels can incorporate new, community-centered efforts into their current practices and expand their engagement with the community and the COD Network.

- **Tanya E. Coke**, Independent Consultant & Principal, TC Consulting
- **Nicole Austin-Hillery**, Director & Counsel, Washington DC Office, Brennan Center for Justice