

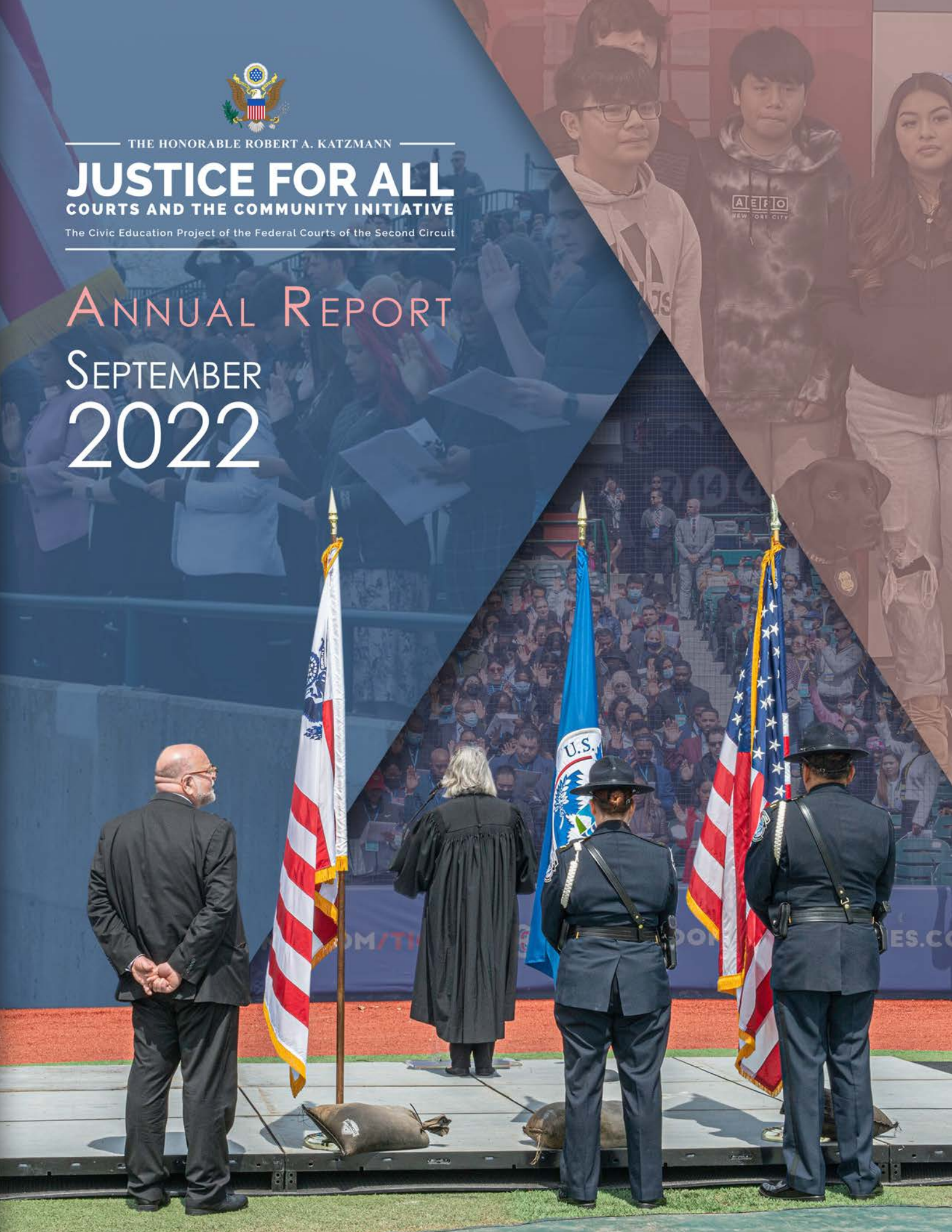


THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. KATZMANN

JUSTICE FOR ALL COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

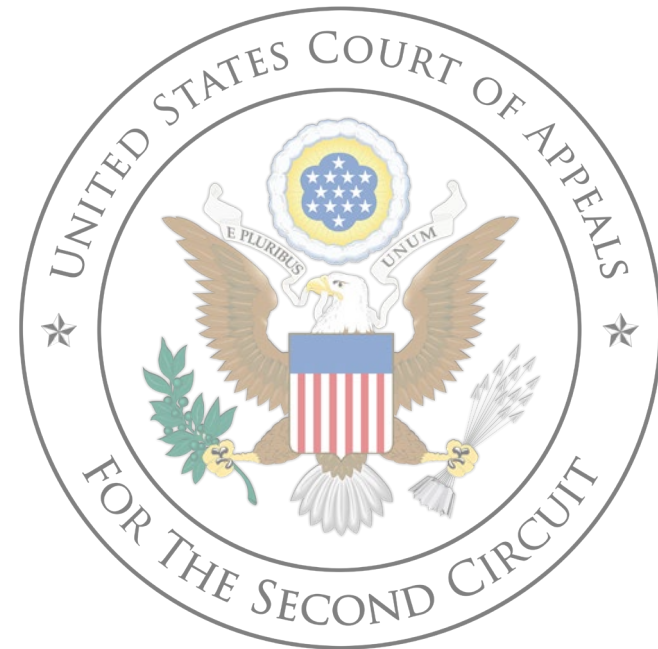
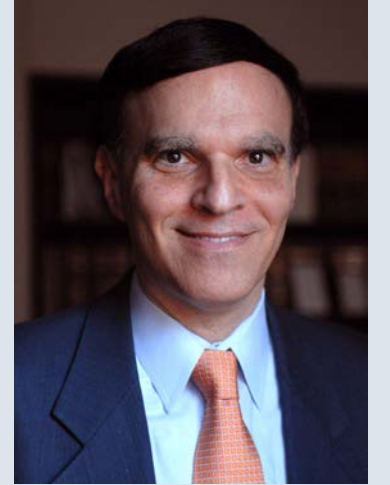
The Civic Education Project of the Federal Courts of the Second Circuit

ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022



THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. KATZMANN JUSTICE FOR ALL: COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

The pages that follow report on the wide-ranging activities during the preceding year of *The Honorable Robert A. Katzmann Justice For All: Courts and the Community Initiative*, a civic education project of the federal courts of the Second Circuit. In 2014, then-Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann launched this circuit-wide project to increase public understanding of the role and operations of the courts and to bring courts closer to the community. Under Judge Katzmann's leadership, the *Justice For All* civic education initiative became a nationally-recognized model for other courts. In honor of Judge Katzmann, who passed away in 2021, *Justice For All* was renamed in 2022 as *The Honorable Robert A. Katzmann Justice For All Courts and the Community Initiative*—a fitting name for a project conceived of by such a true champion of civic education. Under the leadership of Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco and Southern District of New York Judge Victor Marrero, co-chairs of the Second Circuit Civic Education Committee, *Justice For All* continues to pursue its mission “to seek to encourage, develop, and support programs in civic education for all members of the public, especially students, and to engage the community through outreach efforts.”



Justice For All encompasses two principal approaches: we seek to bring the communities to the courts, and the courts to the communities. To that end, and with the active participation of judges, court staff, educators, members of the bar and community organizations, *Justice For All* facilitates a variety of programs including:

- Student and community field trips to courthouses
- Visits to schools by judges and lawyers
- Moot courts and mock trials for students
- Learning centers and library labs
- Curriculum support for law and justice system content
- Teacher professional development
- Constitution Day and Citizenship Day
- Law Day
- Summer court camp programs
- Virtual learning experiences
- On-demand educational resources
- Reenactments of historic cases.
- Financial literacy programs

This annual report describes the enormous efforts that so many have devoted to the project, and the impressive progress that the initiative has achieved in its activities to date. To develop and expand *Justice For All*, the Circuit's Civic Education Committee works through nine subcommittees, whose members include judges; representatives from the circuit executive's office, clerks of court, probation and pretrial services, and circuit library; attorneys and educators; and professionals of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, and interested non-profit organizations. Many judges have substantially aided the *Justice For All* endeavor through their participation in our programs. *Justice For All* also partners with numerous civic and educational institutions within the Circuit, including bar associations, law firms, law schools, universities, government agencies, and private non-profit organizations, most notably the Justice Resource Center (JRC). We also very much appreciate the contributions of Rebecca Fanning, National Outreach Manager for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and Russell Wheeler of the Brookings Institution and the Governance Institute.

¹ JRC is a New York-based non-profit group funded by the New York City Department of Education that develops law-related curriculum and other programs for public schools and units of public education departments. <http://jrcnyc.org/>

² A grant from the Leon Levy Foundation has supported Russell Wheeler's contributions to *Justice For All*.

VIRTUAL COURTHOUSE VISITS

Justice For All continued to connect with students of all ages across the Circuit by again offering virtual library labs, virtual courthouse field trips, and other distance learning initiatives over the past year.

VIRTUAL LIBRARY LABS

With the use of technology, law librarians worked with students on information literacy skills by teaching students how to find reputable legal resources. Students voted on a topic to research, conducted legal research on the selected topic, and then participated in a structured debate about the topic.

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM VISITS

Judges and volunteer attorneys conducted live programs on a range of topics, including the everyday impact of the rule of law, and the role of the independent judiciary.

VIRTUAL COURTHOUSE VISITS

Although students were unable to visit the courthouses of the Second Circuit in person during the 2021-2022 school year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, *Justice For All* developed a virtual courthouse visit program, giving students an overview of the judiciary and our system of government, including information about the history of our courts, our judges, and our courthouses. Some of the most influential judges in the nation have been members of our bench. Many of our courthouses were designed by famous architects of their day. These historic buildings have housed landmark trials and groundbreaking legal disputes. Our judges, staff attorneys, probation officers, clerks of court, and professional staff provided students with an overarching view of the judiciary, including how it manages so many cases, buildings, courtrooms, and people.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Justice For All partners with local bar associations and community organizations to promote civic education programming for students across the Second Circuit. *Justice For All* is eager to continue to partner with community-based organizations to expand its reach and to bring the courts closer to the communities that the Second Circuit serves.

LEGAL OUTREACH – SUMMER LAW INSTITUTE FIELD TRIP HOST

Justice For All hosted rising ninth graders participating in Legal Outreach's Summer Law Institute for in-person courthouse field trips to the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse in July 2022—the Summer Law Institute's first in-person visits to the courthouse since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The visits included an introduction to legal research, learning about the judicial branch, and exploring interactive kiosks in the *Justice For All* Learning Center featuring Second Circuit judges. The students also had the opportunity to engage in question-and-answer sessions with Circuit Judge Myrna Pérez and Circuit Judge Denny Chin.



CELINA AND SONYA SOTOMAYOR JUDICIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Justice For All conducted virtual workshops for high school participants in the Sonia & Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program that included an introduction to the federal courts, as well as sessions on how to effectively conduct legal research.



LAW DAY 2022

Justice For All facilitated multiple programs throughout May in celebration of Law Day. The 2022 national Law Day theme was: "Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change."

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM VISITS

Teams of judges and lawyers virtually visited over 20 classrooms across New York state, including schools in each of New York's four federal districts. In the Northern District of New York, over 300 students met with federal judges and lawyers both virtually and in-person throughout the first two weeks of May. In Connecticut, students participated in both virtual and in-person programming throughout the month, including: a school visit to the New Haven courthouse to observe a court proceeding; a virtual career panel; virtual discussions about the Law Day theme; an observation of a naturalization ceremony; meeting with a federal judge on a high school campus; and reading with a federal judge in several elementary school classrooms.

In partnership with the New York Public Library, and in celebration of Law Day, *Justice For All* conducted a three-part virtual career panel series. The first panel consisted of Eastern District of New York Chief Judge Margo K. Brodie, a federal prosecutor (Maria Cruz Melendez), and a federal defender (Deirdre von Dornum); the second panel was a U.S. Secret Service Agent, a recently retired FBI Special Agent-in-Charge, and a Special Inspector from the U.S. Marshals Service; and the third panel consisted of a courtroom sketch artist, a court reporter, and a U.S. Pretrial Services Officer.

SPECIAL NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

On May 3, 2022, *Justice For All*, the Eastern District of New York, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services hosted simultaneous naturalization ceremonies for nearly 500 new citizens at the Brooklyn Cyclones Maimonides Park and the Long Island Ducks Fairfield Properties Ballpark in honor of Law Day. Eastern District of New York Chief Judge Margo K. Brodie and Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco presided over the Brooklyn ceremony and the Long Island ceremony respectively. Numerous other Eastern District of New York and Second Circuit judges attended and participated in the ceremonies. The Brooklyn ceremony featured performances by the St. Edmund Preparatory High School Band, and students from East Islip Middle School performed at the Central Islip ceremony. The naturalization ceremonies were covered by local media outlets in Brooklyn and Long Island.

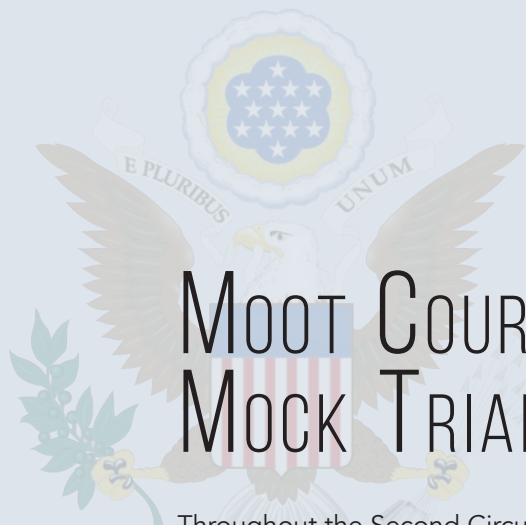




SUMMER JUSTICE INSTITUTE PROGRAM



In July 2022, *Justice For All*, in partnership with the Eastern and Southern Districts, welcomed over 200 students from across Long Island and New York City to one-week Justice Institute programs in the Central Islip, Brooklyn, and Manhattan courthouses. The program consisted of several components that allowed students to learn all about the legal system, including careers within that system, and to develop basic advocacy skills in a fun and interesting format. The students heard presentations from federal judges, FBI agents, Deputy U.S. Marshals, a U.S. Secret Service agent, federal prosecutors, criminal defense lawyers, and others about their respective roles within the court system. The students also observed real court proceedings in the federal courthouses and discussed what they observed with federal judges. Finally, the students were taught basic advocacy skills in several sessions by experienced lawyers and judges, and with the assistance of law students, participated at the end of the week in a mock trial competition against other high school students.



MOOT COURTS & MOCK TRIALS

Throughout the Second Circuit, there have been longstanding moot court and mock trial competitions operated through bar associations and non-profit organizations.

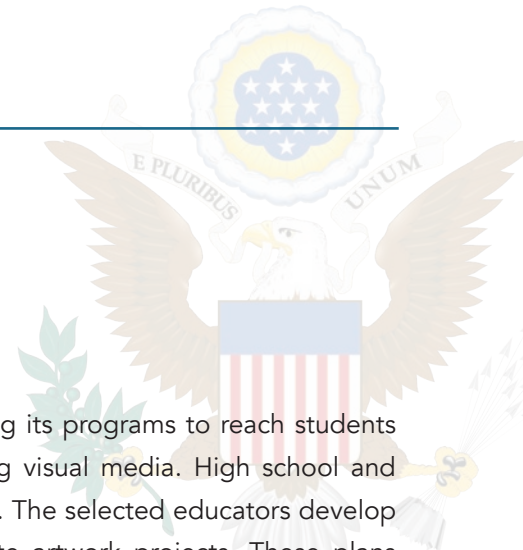
The New York City MENTOR Moot Court Competition is organized by the Justice Resource Center and Fordham Law School, in partnership with the Second Circuit. High school students from across New York City work with lawyer mentors and school coaches to prepare mock Supreme Court oral arguments. Federal judges preside over the semi-final and final rounds of the Competition. The 2021 Competition was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The New York State High School Mock Trial Program is a joint venture of the New York Bar Foundation, the New York State Bar Association, and the Law, Youth, and Citizenship Program. The Justice Resource Center, in collaboration with the Second Circuit, facilitates the New York City competition, which was held virtually in 2022.

Through these programs, high school students have the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of civil/criminal law and courtroom procedures, and thousands of students participate each year. Objectives of the tournaments include: teaching students ethics, civility, and professionalism; furthering students' understanding of the law, court procedures, and the legal system; improving proficiency in communication skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and reasoning; promoting better communication and cooperation between the school community and members of the legal profession; and stimulating interest in law-related careers.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Teachers' Institute, held annually since 2016 (with the exception of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), provides a comprehensive high school civic education program that teachers can bring into their classrooms. The 2022 Teachers' Institute was conducted as a hybrid program, with some teachers participating in person at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse in Manhattan, and other teachers and speakers participating virtually. Over the course of the three-day Institute, teachers interacted with judges and scholars to explore cases involving the First Amendment and national security issues throughout modern history. Teachers also received instruction on guiding students to prepare and deliver mock Supreme Court oral arguments.



JUDICIARY AND THE ARTS

Judiciary and the Arts arose from *Justice For All's* interest in expanding its programs to reach students who are developing skills to express ideas through the arts, including visual media. High school and middle school visual arts educators apply to participate in the program. The selected educators develop an instructional plan with their art students to develop and complete artwork projects. These plans actively engage the students with the judiciary as a civic institution committed to the fair and effective administration of justice, honor student voices, and culminate in a visual representation of the knowledge gained by the students about the judiciary and the rule of law in the United States.

Justice For All partners with the Justice Resource Center and the New York City Department of Education Office of Arts and Special Projects on the Judiciary and the Arts project. The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation provided support to the Justice Resource Center for this project. The project is consistent with the pedagogical practices described in the New York City Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Visual Arts and the New York State Standards for the Arts.

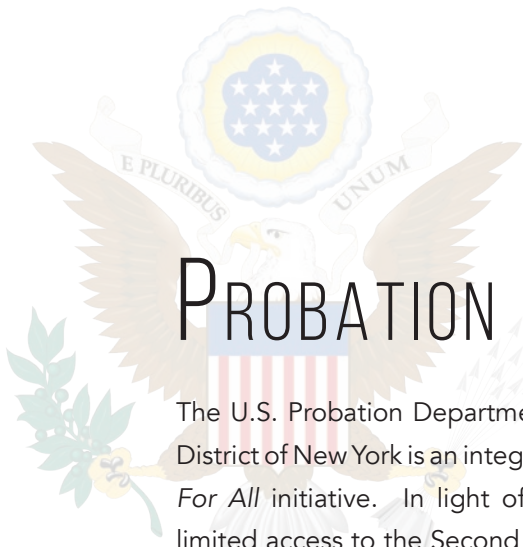


This year, students prepared a visual representation of one of three subjects:

1. Create an illustration of the Oath of Office
2. The Equal Protection Clause
3. A courthouse or courtroom of the future

The High School of Art and Design in Manhattan hosted an exhibition and reception to celebrate the artwork.





PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES

The U.S. Probation Department for the Southern District of New York is an integral part of the *Justice For All* initiative. In light of the pandemic and limited access to the Second Circuit courthouses, this year the Southern District Probation Department visited six New York City schools and educated the students on different aspects of the U.S. Probation Department including presentence investigations, supervision, location monitoring, sex offenders, rehabilitation, treatment programs, mental health, evidence, and search and seizure among other topics. The Department presented at Bryant High School, Bronx Law, Curtis High School, Truman High School, Cardozo High School, and East



Williamsburg Scholars Academy. In the summer of 2022, probation

officers proudly participated in the Summer Justice Institute hosted by the Honorable Joseph F. Bianco and Honorable Victor Marrero at the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse.

Visitors to the *Justice For All* website can view videos recorded by probation officers to further understand the mission of the department at https://justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov/probation_in_the_federal_courts.html.



ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

VIEWS FROM THE BENCH: AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE FEDERAL COURTS

Second Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco discusses the selection process for federal judges, cases and issues litigated on Long Island, and the challenges facing the criminal justice system in this program that has been offered at public libraries in Nassau and Suffolk Counties since June 2018. During the COVID-19 pandemic, several public libraries virtually hosted the program on Zoom.



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) was founded by now-retired Bankruptcy Judge John Ninfo of the Western District of New York. It is a national non-profit financial education outreach program with which *Justice For All* partners.

For several years, bankruptcy judges from within the Second Circuit, attorneys, and financial experts have joined together with CARE to educate adults about financial responsibility and improve their financial literacy. Attendees include:

- Senior citizens
- Veterans
- Domestic violence survivors
- Students
- Individuals with intellectual challenges
- Individuals newly arrived in the United States

Members of the Subcommittee on Adult Education Programs/CARE also offer financial literacy programs for people living in a Syracuse halfway house and as a component to the Northern District of New York's re-entry program. The program focuses on budget, credit, and student loan obligations.



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<http://justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov>

