



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 /

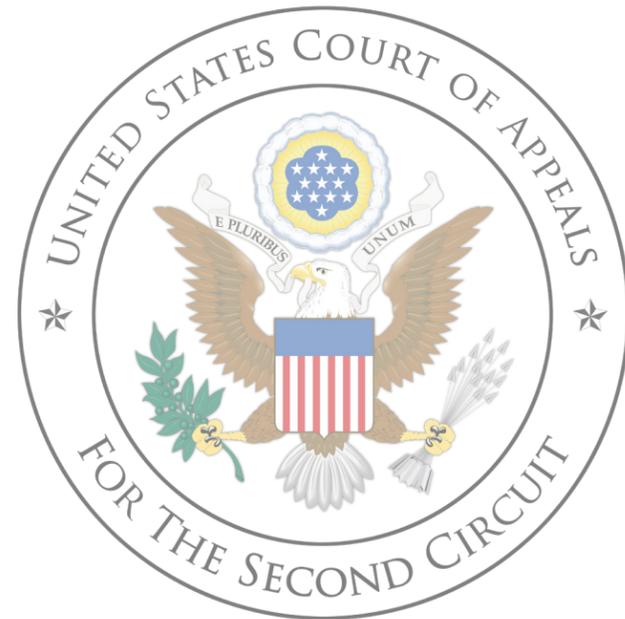
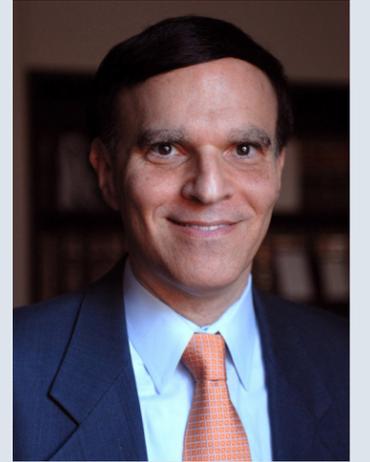
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THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. KATZMANN JUSTICE FOR ALL: COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

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* encompasses a variety of programs including:

- Student and community field trips to courthouses
- After school programs
- Law school programs
- 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 subcommittees whose members include judges; representatives from the circuit executive's office, clerks of court, probation and pretrial services, and the 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).¹ 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.²

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*.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. KATZMANN



On Monday, May 8, 2023, the Second Circuit honored Judge Robert A. Katzmann, the founder of *Justice For All* and former Chief Judge of the Second Circuit, with a special tribute dedicated to Judge Katzmann's contributions to civic education. The theme of the tribute was: The Transformative Role of Civics and the *Justice For All* Initiative. The tribute was held immediately preceding the Second Circuit's Ceremonial Session in honor of Judge Katzmann.

The tribute focused on the founding and expansion of *Justice For All* under Judge Katzmann's leadership, and on the continuing growth of the initiative inspired by his legacy. The speakers included:

- Troy A. McKenzie, Dean & Cecelia Goetz Professor of Law, New York University School of Law

- Honorable Victor Marrero, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Co-Chair, Second Circuit Civic Education Committee
- James O'Connor, Chairman, Board of Directors, Justice Resource Center
- Honorable Joseph F. Bianco, United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Co-Chair, Second Circuit Civic Education Committee
- Emily Gold Waldman, Professor of Law & Associate Dean for Faculty Development, The Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University
- Honorable Vera M. Scanlon, United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of New York
- James Duff, Executive Director, Supreme Court Historical Society & Former Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts

Each speaker focused on a different aspect of *Justice For All* and Judge Katzmann's contributions to civic education, including the founding of *Justice For All*, partners in student outreach and engagement, Justice Institutes, and the national impact of Judge Katzmann's civic education efforts.

With the assistance of the Circuit Library, a visual display of photographs and video clips of Judge Katzmann were used to complement the speakers' presentations. This meaningful event will be remembered by all attendees for years to come.



JUSTICE FOR ALL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



discussion with Mary Beth Tinker, who wore a black armband to school during the Vietnam War and was a plaintiff in the 1969 landmark Supreme Court case of *Tinker v. Des Moines*. The students also heard from Damian Williams, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, about his inspiring background

and the day-to-day work of a federal prosecutor. In another class, the students had an in-depth discussion with Deirdre von Dornum, Attorney-in-Charge of the Federal Defenders in the Eastern District of New York, about defending the Constitution in the courtroom, and then heard from Larry Williams about his involvement in the criminal justice system as a defendant and his inspiring road to rehabilitation. The students also visited a New York City law firm and talked to attorneys about their careers and the fascinating work of the firm. One student commented, "The guest speakers were amazing and there was never a dull day."

The students also received basic advocacy instruction from Nicole Maffei, Civic Education Director at the Supreme Court Historical Society, along with Michael Catapano, who pursued a career in the NFL before becoming an attorney at a major New York City law firm. After receiving instruction, students practiced their skills by arguing about who was the greatest sports franchise or musical performer. In later classes, the students received more specific instruction from

judges and attorneys on how to argue a case before the Supreme Court. And, on the last day of the program, the students put those skills into action by participating in a moot court competition during which they fanned out across the courtrooms of the federal courthouse and, with their family members and other supporters watching, presented arguments about the First Amendment rights at stake in the recent Supreme Court case of *Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L.*

After the students completed the 12-week course, there was no doubt as to the success of this new pilot program. As Judge Bianco explained, "We could sense the positive impact of the program as the classes progressed from the enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity displayed by the students from class to class but, when we received the written feedback from the students at the end of the course, we quickly realized that the impact was even greater than we had ever imagined." One student echoed the sentiments of so many other students when she wrote, "I am very grateful for this program.... All the guest speakers that came to share their story inspired me because as they told their story, I thought of myself being in their shoes! With each story, I saw myself being happy in the position because I'm doing what I love most." One student succinctly summed it up this way: "I have thoroughly enjoyed this program from the beginning to the end."

Justice For All plans to offer this course each spring and hopes that the program will spread to other federal courthouses across the Nation.

The Honorable Robert A. Katzmann *Justice For All: Courts and the Community Initiative*, launched an innovative civic education program in Spring 2023, in which high school students across New York City were invited to participate at the federal courthouse in a law course taught by judges and attorneys. As part of its effort to reach students across New York City, *Justice For All* partnered in this program with Federal Bar Council and the Harlem Educational Activities Fund ("HEAF"). HEAF is a non-profit organization that provides middle school and high school students from the City's underserved communities with academic enrichment, personal development, college preparation, and career exposure.

During the spring, students came each week after school to the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse in lower Manhattan and, utilizing an interactive question-and-answer format, heard from judges and attorneys at the top of the legal profession who discussed their career and then immersed the students in an interesting legal topic. Second Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco, Co-Chair of the Second Circuit Civic Education Committee, explained, "The goal of the program was to help the students understand the importance of the law in our society and give them a real-life glimpse as to how different careers in the legal profession and court system provide a unique opportunity to help others and impact the world."

In one class, First Amendment scholar Floyd Abrams and his daughter, U.S. District Judge Ronnie Abrams, delved with the students into the importance of the First Amendment, and then led the students in a Zoom



LAW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS



Justice For All piloted two law school partnership programs this year: one in White Plains with The Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University and one in Syracuse with Syracuse Law School.

The Pace Law program was a two-day event: a fall day at the The Hon. Charles L. Brieant Jr. Federal Building and Courthouse in White Plains and then a spring day at Pace Law School. Nearly 100 high school students from throughout Westchester County participated in the program. During the fall day at the White Plains courthouse, students heard from Southern District of New York U.S. Attorney Damian Williams; federal judges Joseph F. Bianco, Philip M. Halpern, Cathy Seibel, and Kenneth M. Karas; federal defender Rachel Martin; a U.S. Marshal; Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah; and an FBI special agent. During the spring day at Pace Law School, students sat in a law school classroom and heard from current law students, experienced a mock Constitutional Law class with Professor Emily Gold Waldman, and toured the Law School.

The program at Syracuse, spearheaded by Professor Lauryn Gouldin, a member of the Second Circuit Civic Education Committee, was also tremendously successful. Over 80 students from Syracuse and surrounding areas came together at the Law School for a full day of programming, including presentations from Judge Bianco and Northern District of New York Magistrate Judge Thérèse Wiley Dancks. The students also did a mock trial.

Justice For All is eager to bring the law school partnership program to more law schools across the Second Circuit – if the first two iterations at Pace and Syracuse are any indication, these programs have a meaningful impact on the students that participate in them.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES



Naturalization ceremonies are not only a transformative moment for new citizens, but can also be a transformative moment for the public, especially students who observe and are inspired by the ceremony.

Throughout the Second Circuit, judges have invited students to observe naturalization ceremonies at the federal courthouses, and have gone out into the community to perform naturalization ceremonies at special sites and events. During naturalization ceremonies, students participate by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and handing out American flags to the new citizens. On some occasions, student musicians and singers perform the Star Spangled Banner or another musical number.

Inspired by the District of Connecticut's use of Zoom to livestream naturalization ceremonies to schools, Judge Joseph F. Bianco has implemented a program where schools send a small contingent of students to either the Brooklyn or Central Islip courthouses to observe a naturalization ceremony, and the ceremony is simultaneously livestreamed to a larger group of students who remain at school and watch the ceremony from their classrooms or

school auditorium. Judge Bianco engages with the students on Zoom before the ceremony and gives them a preview of what they will observe, and follows up with an interactive question-and-answer session via Zoom after the ceremony. This model has enabled more students to access the naturalization ceremony experience and has been met with great enthusiasm by schools, teachers, and students.



COURTHOUSE VISITS



Beginning in January 2023, *Justice For All* piloted a “revamped” courthouse visit program at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse for middle and high schools throughout New York City and the surrounding areas.

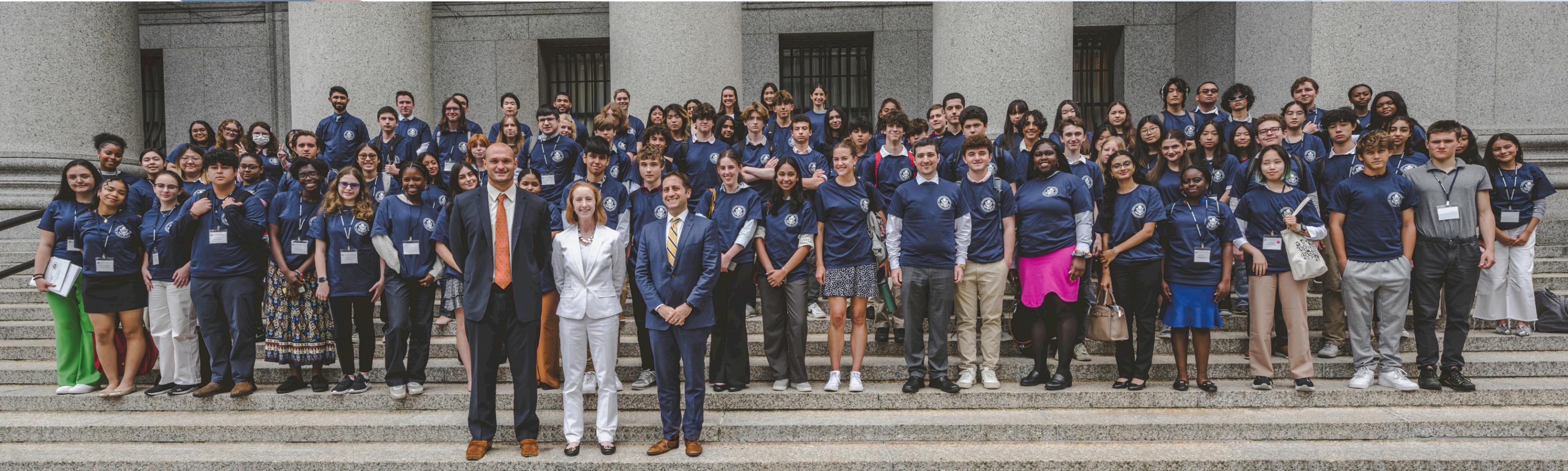
The field trip program includes: observation of oral argument before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals; exploration in the Learning Center, including a presentation about the federal courts; a discussion and question-and-answer session with an attorney; a conversation with a federal judge; and a mini mock trial activity in a district court courtroom.

Over 70 school groups participated in a courthouse visit between January and May 2023—a record number of school visits to the courthouse. Dozens of circuit, district, magistrate, and bankruptcy judges volunteered their time to speak to student groups, along with many attorneys from the Southern District United States Attorney's Office and the Federal Defenders of New York.

We hope to welcome even more groups over the course of the 2023-2024 school year to the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse. *Justice For All* also looks forward to bringing the revamped courthouse visit model to other courthouses, including the Brooklyn courthouse, this coming school year.

Over the past year, courthouses around the Circuit also welcomed student groups for courthouse visits. Judges throughout the Circuit also visited elementary, middle, and high schools, fulfilling *Justice For All's* mission to “bring the courts to the community.”

SUMMER JUSTICE INSTITUTE PROGRAM



In July 2023, *Justice For All*, in partnership with the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York and the District of Connecticut, welcomed nearly 300 students from across Long Island, New York City, and Hartford to one-week Justice Institute programs in the Central Islip, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Hartford courthouses. This year marked the first year that the Justice Institute was held in the District of Connecticut.

The Justice Institute is open to high school students and consists of several components that educate students about the legal system. This includes learning about careers within the system as well as developing basic advocacy skills in a fun and interesting format. The students heard presentations from federal judges, FBI agents, Deputy U.S. Marshals, U.S. Secret Service agents, federal prosecutors, criminal defense lawyers, law professors, and others about their respective roles within the court system. Students at all of the New York Justice Institutes also heard from Michael Catapano, a former New York Jets player

who is now an associate at a major New York City law firm. The students also observed naturalization ceremonies. Students were taught basic advocacy skills in several sessions by experienced lawyers and, with the assistance of law students, used those skills to compete in a mock trial competition against other high school students.

Students provided extremely positive feedback about the Justice Institute programs, with one student commenting that, "the program was amazing and it helped me understand many aspects of the law and the vast jobs that are in the justice system," and another noting that, "this program was the most helpful that I have ever been a part of. I would like to be part of other programs in the future led by *Justice For All*."

The Justice Resource Center, Federal Bar Council, Federal Bar Association, and Touro Law Center partnered with *Justice For All* on the Justice Institute programs.

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 oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Federal judges preside over the semi-final and final rounds of the Competition, which are held at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse.

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 at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse.

Likewise, other courthouses throughout the circuit hosted local moot court and mock trial competitions, supported by bar associations, law schools, and other organizations.

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.

PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES



The U.S. Probation Department of the Southern District of New York facilitates civic education programs in furtherance of *Justice For All's* mission. This year, the Probation Department visited six New York City schools and educated the students on different aspects of the Probation Department, including presentence investigations, supervision, rehabilitation, treatment programs, and other topics. The Probation Department presented at Bryant High School, Bronx Law, Curtis High School, Truman High School, Cardozo High School, and East Williamsburg Scholars Academy.

On July 25, 2023, the Probation Department held an informational session for Southern District of New York Judge George B. Daniels's Legal Outreach program for high school students. The session included information on the reentry process, post-conviction supervision, justice involved programs, presentence investigations, and other programs

within the Department. On July 27, 2023, the Department participated in the SDNY's Justice Institute, presenting on the post-conviction and presentence divisions.





LAW WEEK 2023

Justice For All facilitated multiple programs throughout May 2023 in celebration of Law Day. The 2023 national Law Day theme was: “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.”

Schools participated in visits to the Brooklyn and Manhattan federal courthouses to observe courthouse proceedings and to hear from judges about qualities that contribute to being a fair and impartial judge. In Brooklyn, students explored an exhibit about the late Eastern District of New York Judge Sterling Johnson, Jr., who exemplified what it means to be an excellent judge.

TEACHERS’ INSTITUTE

In collaboration with the Justice Resource Center, *Justice For All* presented a three-day summer Teachers’ Institute for 21 New York City teachers. The Teachers’ Institute has been an integral part of the *Justice For All* initiative since 2016.

Southern District of New York Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil and Southern District of New York Magistrate Judge Sarah L. Cave spearheaded the 2023 Teachers’ Institute, which focused on the First Amendment’s religion clauses. Presenters included renowned scholars and practitioners, who discussed both First Amendment jurisprudence and legal process topics. With the support of Justice Resource Center staff, teachers worked on developing oral arguments and questions for a hypothetical legal question, in preparation for teaching the same exercise to their students during the 2023-2024 school year.

FIVE YEARS OF JUDICIARY AND THE ARTS

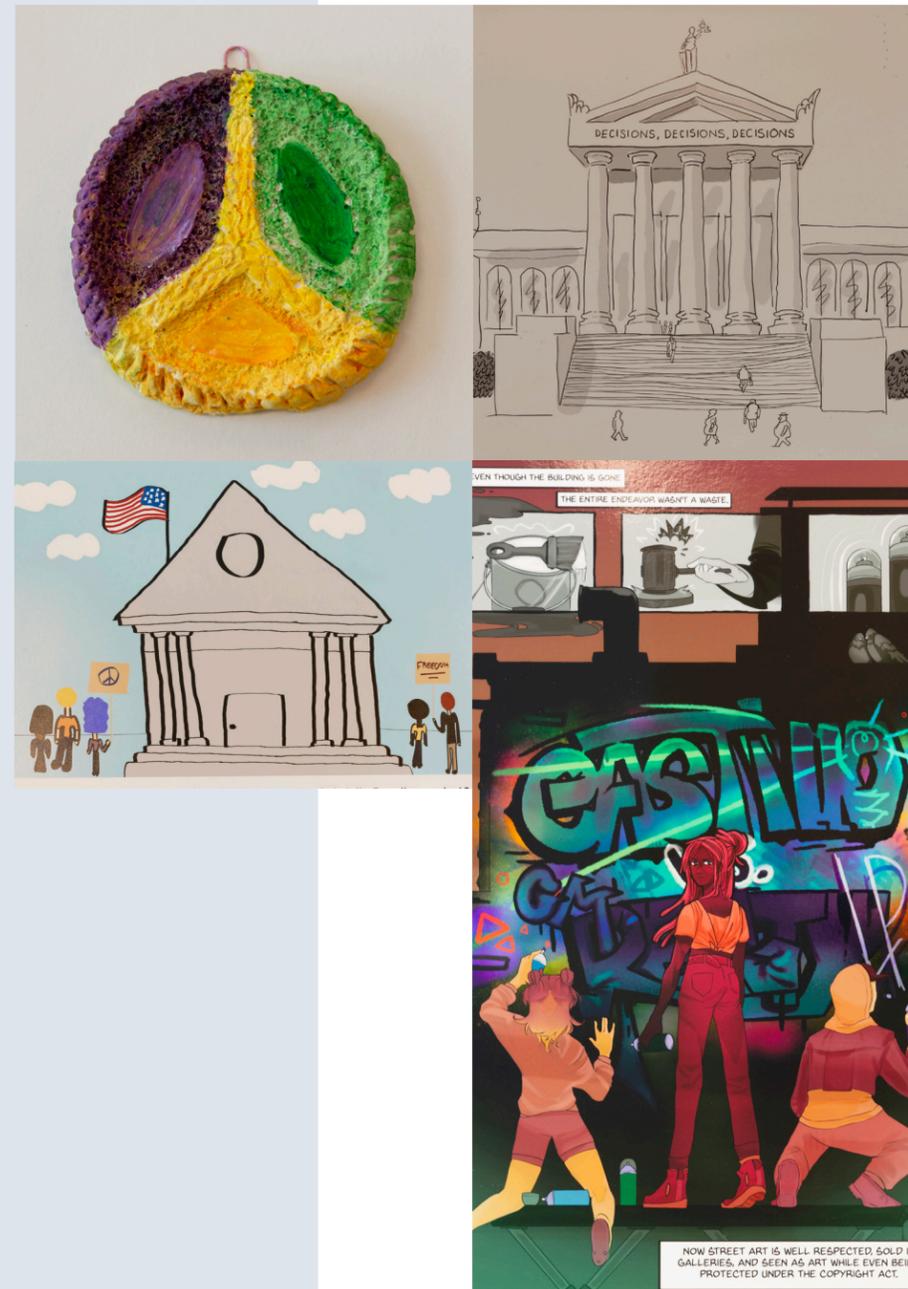
The Judiciary and the Arts program has flourished in the five years since its inception, with fourteen schools from all five boroughs participating in the 2022-2023 cohort. Visual arts educators are selected to participate in this program, and commit to helping their students create and produce artwork inspired by legal topics. The students actively engage with the judiciary as a civic institution through the Judiciary & the Arts program, including utilizing resources created by the Circuit Library and visiting the federal courthouse for first-hand experiences of the judiciary. This program honors student voices and culminates in a visual portrayal of the students’ knowledge of the federal judiciary and the rule of law in the United States.

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

1. The importance of the Visual Artist Rights Act (VARA)
2. The journey to becoming a U.S citizen
3. A design of a courthouse of the future

An exhibition of the artwork was hosted at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn.

Judiciary and the Arts is a partnership with the Justice Resource Center and the New York City Department of Education Office of Arts and Special Projects. 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.



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

Justice For All hosted rising ninth graders participating in Legal Outreach's Summer Law Institute for courthouse fieldtrips to the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse. The visits included an introduction to legal research, learning about the judicial branch, and exploring interactive kiosks in the Learning Center.

Justice For All also hosted Legal Outreach's "Debater of the Year" competition in April 2023 and the Summer Law Institute's culminating mock trial competition in August 2023, both at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse.

SONIA AND CELINA SOTOMAYOR JUDICIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Justice For All partnered with the Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program to host interns from the high school division of the program for courthouse visits and Library Labs. The 2023 Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program reception, featuring remarks by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Chief Circuit Judge Debra Ann Livingston, was held at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse. Nearly 200 program participants, alumni, family members, board members, judges, and program supporters attended the reception, which took place in the Learning Center and surrounding hallways in the Courthouse.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS



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

Second Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco discussed the selection process for federal judges, cases and issues litigated on Long Island, and the challenges facing the criminal justice system. This program has been offered at public libraries in Nassau and Suffolk Counties since June 2018.



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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