



FIRST ANNUAL
REPORT
June 2017



JUSTICE FOR ALL: COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY





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The pages that follow report on the wide-ranging activities during the preceding year of *Justice For All: Courts and the Community*, a civic education initiative of the federal courts of the Second Circuit. In 2014, I 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. Judge Victor Marrero of the Southern District of New York co-chairs the project. *Justice for All* encompasses two principal approaches: we seek to bring the communities to the courts, and the courts to the communities. In the words of the project's mission statement: "we 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." With the active participation of judges, court staff, educators, members of the bar and community organizations, working through several committees, *Justice For All* encompasses a variety of programs – student and community field trips to the courthouse; moot courts and mock trials for students; learning centers and library labs; support for efforts to enhance school curriculum about the law and justice system; teachers institutes; Constitution Day/Citizenship Day and Law Day programs; essay contests; reenactment programs of important cases; financial literacy programs; jury service; and a speakers bureau. This First Annual Report describes the enormous efforts that have been devoted to the project by so many people, and the impressive progress that the initiative has achieved in all its activities to date. Judge Marrero and I are profoundly grateful to all those who have given so generously of their time to make this project such a vibrant reality. It is a great privilege to work together with such dedicated persons. We welcome the participation of those not yet involved who, on reading the report, find areas of engagement. In the course of the year, you can follow the activities of the project on the *Justice For All* website: www.justiceforall.ca2.uscourts.gov.



"Justice for All: Courts and the Community" is a civic education initiative conceived and implemented by the federal courts of the Second Circuit, which includes the federal appellate, district and bankruptcy courts within the states of New York, Connecticut, and Vermont. To thrive, democracies need an informed citizenry. *Justice for All* strives "to increase public understanding of the role and operations of the justice system," by forging closer ties between the courts and the communities they serve.

Launched by Second Circuit Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann in 2014, and co-chaired by Chief Judge Katzmann and Judge Victor Marrero of the Southern District of New York, the Circuit's Civic Education Committee works through nine subcommittees. Members include judges, representatives of the circuit executive, clerks of court, probation and pretrial services offices, and the circuit library, as well as attorneys, educators, professionals of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the Federal Judicial Center, and non-profit organizations. Many judges have substantially aided the *Justice for All* endeavor through their participation in our programs.

The initiative is an integrated, circuit-wide, multi-faceted, multi-purpose effort. It builds on civic education activities already in place in the Circuit's courts and encourages additional activities directly, and by providing prototypes and pilot projects that can be replicated. Its mission "encompasses two principal approaches: to bring the communities to the courts, and to bring the courts to the communities." This first annual report presents the Committee's activities under those two overlapping headings. *Justice for All* works with numerous civic and educational institutions within the Circuit, including bar associations, law firms, law schools and universities, government agencies, and private non-profit organizations, notably the Justice Resource Center (JRC).¹ We 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 on *Justice for All: Courts and the Community*.

Courts welcomed over **85,000** new citizens at more than **500** naturalization ceremonies throughout the circuit.

September 16, 2016

Naturalization ceremonies were held at iconic sites in celebration of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.



Ellis Island

298 Candidates Naturalized
From **53** Countries.

**Eastern District of
New York** **56** Candidates Naturalized.

Second Circuit Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann administers the oath of allegiance at a naturalization ceremony on Ellis Island, September 16, 2016.



2016 EDNY
Citizenship/
Naturalization
Day, Theodore
Roosevelt US
Courthouse.

CEREMONIES

Law Week and Constitution Day celebrations, including courtroom naturalization ceremonies, are well established in the Circuit’s courthouses, as are visits by school groups and others. Courthouse tours provide descriptions of the buildings’ architecture and history. Judges and staff explain federal court components and how they operate.

Justice for All encompasses education about these activities and expands learning opportunities. In conjunction with the Just the Beginning Foundation, *Justice For All* hosted some 300 students from minority communities, providing educational discussions about the court system. Each year, *Justice for All* hosts the Sonia & Celina Sotomayor Internship Program, with a special visit from Justice Sotomayor herself.

This component of *Justice for All* has also encouraged and publicized school and civic group interest in jury service. A prime example is the District of Connecticut’s jury utilization program, which has led to invitations to judges and court staff to speak to school and civic groups about the importance of jury service and effective jury management.

LAW DAY AND CONSTITUTION DAY OBSERVANCES

Naturalization ceremonies are a staple of the life of every district court throughout the year. The past Constitution Day/Citizenship Day features special naturalization ceremonies in every district within the Circuit.

The Speakers Bureau and Civic Education Subcommittees, with support from the Circuit Executive’s and Circuit Librarian’s offices, as well as JRC and the New York City Department of Education, developed a PowerPoint presentation, with accompanying template of remarks, for use by judges and attorneys speaking at

school events on this year’s Law Day theme, The Fourteenth Amendment: Transforming American Democracy.

The subcommittees will build on the Law Week experiences and undertake a similar outreach to schools in connection with Constitution Day, on September 17, 2017.



COURT VISITS TO SCHOOLS

Judges and lawyers have long appeared throughout the academic year at schools to explain their work to students at all grade levels. *Justice for All* is working with others to expand these programs.

The Southern District Probation Department, in partnership with JRC, is arranging probation officer visits to high schools to meet with students enrolled in the Law Enforcement Academy program.

The Advocacy Skills Subcommittee has started a program on Long Island to make judges and lawyers available to visit schools and speak to students about the court system and lawyering and thus provide a civics education opportunity for schools that, for budgetary or other reasons, cannot arrange class trips to the courthouse.

Justice for All also builds on educational outreach projects already in place. Judges and lawyers have for several years presented a once-a-week law study and mock trial course for students at the Anderson School,

a K-8 public school for gifted and talented students on Manhattan's Upper West Side, culminating in full, unscripted mock trials, held every spring in the Southern District courthouse with federal judges presiding. This year Civic Education and Speakers Bureau Subcommittee members and JRC worked with the New York City Department of Education and a major law firm to develop a pilot project to replicate the Anderson School program at underserved communities. An important goal of this effort is to develop a full set of lesson plans—tailored to public middle-school students—that will be transferable to other law firms and schools.

CURRICULA & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2015-16, *Justice for All* worked with JRC to revise six JRC law-related high school courses, including criminology, constitutional law, and a two-part "Introduction to Law" course. New York City high school teachers are now field-testing the courses, based in part on the March 2017 Professional Day at the Thurgood Marshall courthouse. The JRC is monitoring the field test and gathering feedback from teachers.

The Subcommittees are now reviewing 11th and 12th grade courses currently offered in eight New York City public schools' "Law Enforcement Academy" programs. JRC plans to use those courses to develop a model Law Enforcement Academy curriculum for expansion to additional schools. The courses include subjects such as forensic science, race and ethnicity, corrections, and advanced research into topics such as terrorism and complex technology in law enforcement. The Circuit

Library's staff compiled Internet-based resources for use with the curriculum.

The Subcommittees also expect to work with the New York City Department of Education (DOE) in providing technical assistance and editorial support in connection with a program undertaken by the DOE to revise and enhance the American studies portion of the general high school Social Studies Curriculum.



ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS/CARE

For several years, bankruptcy judges from within the Second Circuit, attorneys, and financial experts have provided educational programs to adult learners regarding financial responsibility. *Justice for All's* Adult Education/CARE Subcommittee has further promoted these programs which engage in three broad areas.

First, in partnership with schools and religious and community-based organizations, our judges and colleagues present on topics of financial literacy to teach the basics of credit, empower financial responsibility, and raise awareness of financial obligations. Attendees include:

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

Second, bankruptcy judges and other participants are engaged in the Credit Abuse Resistance Education

program (CARE), founded by now-retired Bankruptcy Judge John Ninfo of the Western District of New York. CARE is a national nonprofit, community service financial education outreach program through which bankruptcy and other financial professionals teach young adults, in schools and community organizations, the basics of financial literacy and the fundamentals of sound financial management.

Finally, the Pro Se Law Clerk for the Eastern District Bankruptcy Court makes frequent presentations as part of a panel of other attorneys and/or financial advisors, on consumer bankruptcy, primarily Chapter 7 bankruptcies, and related topics on consumer debt and management of personal finances.

Lehman Bankruptcy Judge Holds Court in Mock Trial



It wasn't the usual trial before U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Shelley Chapman, who has presided over the collapse of investment firm Lehman Brothers and other complex corporate cases.

Last week, fifth-graders from Girls Prep Bronx Elementary School put slave rebellion leader Nat Turner on trial for murder as part of a broader push to merge classroom education and the courts.

— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

'Our collective legacy': 45 new U.S. citizens welcomed at Skaneateles naturalization ceremony — WOCJournal.com

LI students give up beach for civics lessons in federal court

Some Long Island teenagers gave up a week at the beach to take in civics lessons — inside a federal courtroom, no less.

Despite the imposing atmosphere, the young participants gave the experience rave reviews.

The new program, led by U.S. District Judge Joseph Bianco, gave the teens an up-close, hands-on look at how the justice system works.

— **Newsday**



Teaching Students That Judge Judy Is Not a Supreme Court Justice



The divide between the criminal justice system and much of the public has become an urgent topic of conversation in recent years, with voices rising from all sides.

Now, those voices include one of the most powerful judges in the Eastern United States.

Robert A. Katzmann, chief judge of the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, has begun a wide-ranging program that casts the entire circuit in an unusual role, not as an adjudicator set apart but as an engaged and approachable teacher.

— *The New York Times*


Attend the Superbowl of Naturalization Ceremonies — OBSERVER

In New York City, Hundreds Become U.S. Citizens Just in Time to Vote

— *The New York Times*

Second Circuit Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann participates in a discussion on Civic Education in a segment of the Charlie Rose program on PBS.





Students from William Cullen Bryant High School during inaugural "New York City School Visit to the Courthouse" event. March, 2016.

More than **6,000**
students from **175**
schools visited our
courthouses.



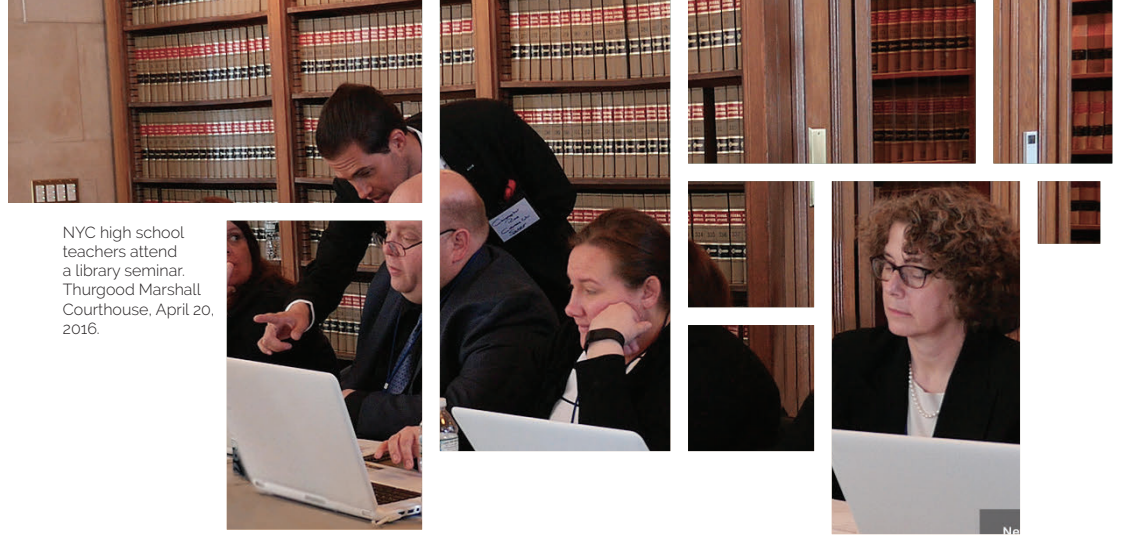
Summer Institute: James Madison Legacy Program

From June 26 to July 7, 2016, **50** high school teachers in NYC and Albany, NY learned about constitutional law from local law school professors partnered with federal judges. Teachers participated in a mock hearing at the end of the program.

Teacher's Professional Development Day

In March 2017, **26** NYC public high school teachers learn about advanced law topics including contracts, intellectual property, copyright and trademark, taught by judges, members of the bar, and law professors.

Students from the Friends Seminary participate in a moot court. Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, December 12, 2016.



NYC high school teachers attend a library seminar. Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, April 20, 2016.

IN-COURT PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Working with JRC and its Executive Director, Debra Lesser, *Justice for All* brings school teachers to federal courthouses to let them see firsthand how the judicial process works, meet judges and court staff, and learn from judges and scholars about the nation's constitutional foundations.

Facilitated by a James Madison Legacy Program federal grant, and with support from the Civic Education and Speakers Bureau subcommittees and Circuit Executive's office, the JRC prepared a five-day, Summer Institute held at the Marshall Courthouse in July 2016 for over 20 public school social studies teachers. The Institute helped the teachers prepare lesson plans and classroom materials for teaching units, based on the textbook, "We the People." The teachers' presentations on those topics to panels of federal judges culminated in the 2016 Institute. A 2017 institute will replicate the 2016 program at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse.

The JRC, again with assistance from the Civic Education subcommittees and the Circuit Executive's office, also organized a Professional Development Day program in March 2017 for 26 New York City public school teachers at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse.

The Northern District hosted students for a discussion of the federal courts and the U.S. Constitution, including

a mock trial for 5th grade elementary students about Constitutional rights. Separately, high school students rotated through the courthouse to meet with Probation, Public Defenders, Assistant U.S. attorneys, and U.S. Marshals Service to learn firsthand about the criminal justice system.

In March 2016, the Southern District of New York Probation Department hosted the inaugural "New York City School Visit to the Courthouse." Students from William Cullen Bryant High School, selected as the first school to take part in this event, met with officials from the Probation and Pretrial Services Departments and the Marshals Service, U.S. Attorney's Office, and the Federal Defender's office. The group then visited a district judge in her chambers to learn more about the sentencing process and, with the help of Probation Department mentors, argued hypothetical sentencing recommendations to the judge.

Courts hosted numerous student contests, including mock trials and moot courts throughout the circuit.



Student argues during National High School Mock Trial Competition, Hartford Courthouse, May 11, 2017.

The **2017 National High School Mock Trial Competition** was hosted at the Hartford Courthouse. Over **600** students comprising **46** teams participated from throughout the **United States, Guam, South Korea,** and **Northern Mariana Islands.**



Students from Hunter College High School celebrate advancing to 2017 New York State Mock Trial Finals at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Courthouse, May 3, 2017. Photo credit: Justin Carlisle, Justice Resource Center.

High school students gather on the field of Dunkin Donuts Park during opening ceremony of 2017 National High School Mock Trial Competition. Hartford, CT, May 10, 2017.



Students from Forest Hills High School and Bronx High School of Science participate in the 2016 MENTOR Moot Court competition, Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, December 15, 2016.

MOOT APPELLATE COURTS AND MOCK TRIALS

Both New York and Connecticut have long-standing moot court and mock trial competitions operated through bar associations and non-profit organizations. Several *Justice for All* subcommittees are supplementing these efforts.

The Advocacy Skills Subcommittee, along with the Circuit Executive's office and JRC, arranged for federal judges from the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York to preside over the final four rounds of the 2017 New York City Mock Trial Competition at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse in Manhattan. Additionally, a one-week advocacy summer program offered in the Central Islip federal courthouse, in cooperation with Touro Law School in July, will repeat a similar project launched during the summer of 2016.

Also on Long Island, the Advocacy Skills Subcommittee is planning a Mentor Moot Court Competition in the fall, mirroring the JRC's Moot Court Program in New York City, in which lawyers from large New York firms mentor at participating high schools to help prepare the students for a moot court competition.

The School Contests Subcommittee has introduced a high school mock trial competition in the District of

Vermont in alliance with the Vermont Bar Association, the Snelling Center for Government, Vermont Law School, and the law school chapter of SPEAK, Inc., a student-run organization that promotes public speaking in various settings. Three Vermont high schools participated in training sessions and then in a mock trial competition in April at Vermont Law School with federal and state judges.

July 2016

Approximately **90** students from **23** high schools on Long Island participated in a one-week advocacy program at the EDNY Central Islip courthouse.



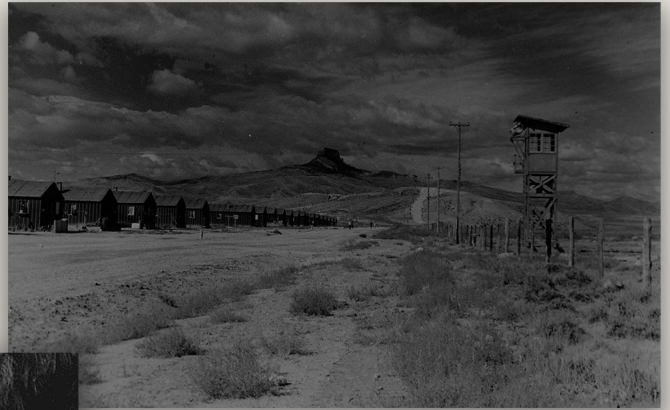
Students participate in a reenactment of The Amistad case at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse, June 6, 2016.

REENACTMENTS

Reenactments of historic court proceedings constitute an effective and popular teaching tool. The Reenactments Subcommittee has made six scripts available on the *Justice for All* website. Scripts are based on actual court transcripts and have been successfully performed for various audiences in various settings. Accompanying the scripts are slides of historic photographs, drawings, and documents to be projected during the performances. The website provides instructions for using the scripts, additional resources about the cases, and lists recent prior performances of the scripts.

Scripts are now available on:

- The Amistad
- The Heart Mountain Draft Resisters
- The Trial of Wyatt Earp
- The Trial of Ethel Rosenberg
- The Trial of Susan B. Anthony
- Twenty-two Lewd Chinese Women



Wyatt Earp



Virgil Earp



Morgan Earp



LEARNING CENTERS

Civic education learning centers are both physical and virtual spaces providing instructional exhibits about courts, judges, cases, and other items for visitors of all ages and backgrounds to explore.

The Second Circuit's first physical learning center will open in the fall of 2017 on the fifth floor of the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse. The Learning Center subcommittee, working with the library staff, is developing two inaugural, interactive exhibits.

An exhibit of noteworthy cases will include disputes over intellectual property, the First Amendment, freedom to marry, slavery and civil rights, technology and cybercrime, as well as cases illuminating the "Second Circuit in

the Movies."

An immigration and citizenship exhibit will explain the various ways in which the federal courts are involved with matters relating to immigration and citizenship.

Closely intertwined with the Learning Center are the "Library Labs" which provide high school students with opportunities to learn from our librarians about legal research, and to have brown bag lunch discussions with judges.



Do you have your own gavel, or is it, like a public gavel?

-Tottenville High School Student,
Library Lab, Oct 18, 2016

Each month NYC high school students visit the library at TMCH to learn about legal research and participate in a Q & A session with judges.

JUSTICE FOR ALL WEBSITE

Released by the Court of Appeals in April 2016, the *Justice for All* website provides teachers, students, lawyers, journalists and

others, as well as judges and court staff—within the Second Circuit and nationally—information about the federal judicial system, the courts of the Second Circuit, and *Justice for All's* components and activities. It is a project principally of the Civic Education Committee's Media and Public Outreach Subcommittee, working with the Director of the Second Circuit Library and Research Center and the Center's head of Research and Education. The website features descriptions of the Civic Education initiative's components and includes a Circuit-wide calendar of civic education events.

