



THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. KATZMANN

JUSTICE FOR ALL

COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

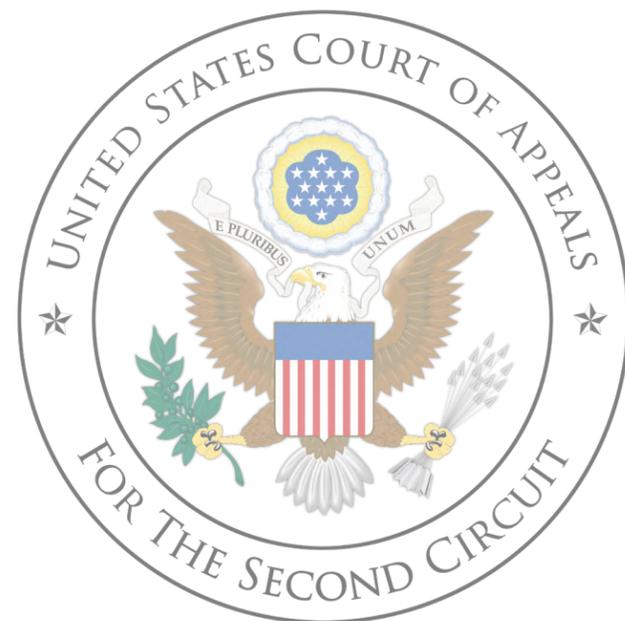
The Civic Education Project of the Federal Courts of the Second Circuit



ANNUAL REPORT

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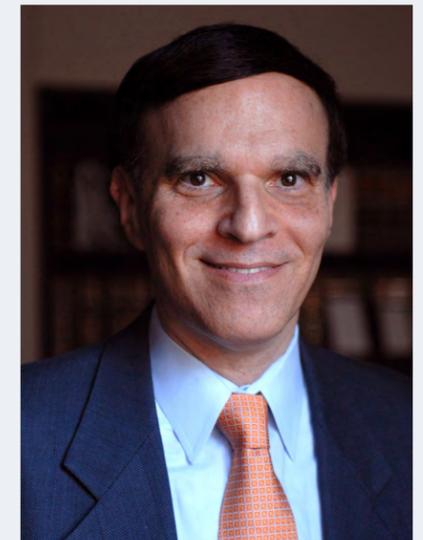


THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. KATZMANN JUSTICE FOR ALL: COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

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
- 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
- Naturalization ceremonies
- 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 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*.

JUSTICE FOR ALL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



The students heard from Maria Cruz Melendez and Alison Moe, both former Assistant United States Attorneys, about the day-to-day work of a federal prosecutor and high-profile cases prosecuted in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. In another class, the students had an in-depth discussion with Deirdre von Dornum of the Federal Defenders in the Eastern District of New York, about defending the Constitution in the courtroom, and then heard from Jeffrey Deskovic about his involvement in the criminal justice system as a wrongfully convicted defendant and his inspiring road to becoming an attorney who represents others who were wrongfully convicted. A highlight of the program was a Zoom 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 visited four New York City law firms and talked to attorneys about their careers and the fascinating work of the firm. Students also met with Michael Catapano, a former NFL player and now attorney, and heard about his inspiring story and his guidance to students for overcoming challenges and pursuing your passions. The students also received advocacy skills instruction on how to argue a case before the Supreme Court from judges and attorneys.

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 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.*

Justice For All launched an innovative civic education program in the Spring of 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. In Spring 2025, *Justice For All* again offered a 12-week after school law program at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse for students throughout New York City.

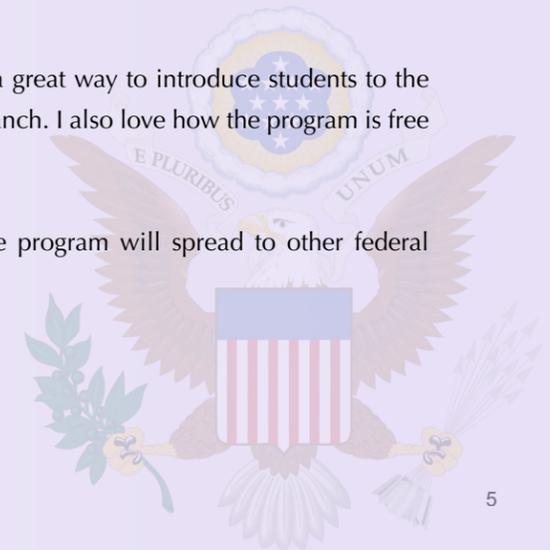
As part of its effort to reach students across New York City, *Justice For All* partnered in this program with the Harlem Educational Activities Fund (“HEAF”), which is a non-profit organization that provides middle school and high school students from the City’s underserved communities with academic enrichment, personal development, college preparation and career exposure.

Throughout the 12-week program, 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.

The *Justice For All* after school program has received extremely positive feedback from students. One student stated that, “this program was an amazing experience, being introduced to different people, and a new environment. This program has been very informative, learning new terms, and ways of the law. . . . [T]his program inspired me to engage more in public speaking and being aware of the law in new ways – understanding the law more to advocate for myself and others using the law.”

Another student commented that “I really, really like this program. It is a great way to introduce students to the world of law and get to be a part of a greater connection to the judicial branch. I also love how the program is free because then it allows students of all backgrounds to participate.”

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





LAW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Justice For All was excited to continue its partnership programs with the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University in White Plains and with Syracuse Law School in 2025.

The Haub Law program was a two-day event: a winter day at the White Plains courthouse and a spring day at Haub Law School. Nearly 100 high school students from throughout Westchester and Rockland Counties participated in the program. During the winter day at the White Plains courthouse, students heard from an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, federal judges Philip M. Halpern, and Kim P. Berg, a federal defender, a Deputy U.S. Marshal, and a member of the FBI. During the spring day at Haub Law School, students sat in one of the law school classrooms, just like law students—and heard from current law students, experienced a mock Constitutional Law with Professor Emily Gold Waldman, and toured the Law School.

The program at Syracuse Law, spearheaded by Professor Lauryn Gouldin, a member of the Second Circuit Civic Education Committee, was also tremendously successful – over 200 students from 8 schools from across Central New York came together at the Law School for a full day of programming, including a keynote address by Northern District of New York Chief Judge Brenda K. Sannes. Northern District of New York Judges Anthony J. Brindisi and Elizabeth C. Coombe participated in a panel discussion.

Justice For All is eager to bring the law school partnership program to more law schools across the Second Circuit, and looks forward to continuing to partner with Haub Law and Syracuse Law in the coming year.



SUMMER JUSTICE INSTITUTE PROGRAM

In July 2025, *Justice For All*, in partnership with the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York and the District of Connecticut, welcomed over 300 students from across Long Island, New York City and the surrounding suburbs, and Hartford to one-week Justice Institute programs in the Central Islip, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Hartford courthouses.

The Justice Institute is open to high school students and consists of several components that allow the 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, law professors, and others about their respective roles within the court system. The students also observed naturalization ceremonies. Students were also 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, "I am so glad I was able to participate in this program. It was very engaging and informative, and broadened my horizons to other careers within the law field. This program encouraged me tremendously. It was amazing to see so many people from so many different backgrounds and hear their stories. I made so many new friends and had the best mentors ever... I will forever be grateful and inspired by this program and I believe it's one of my best decisions."

Another student stated, "I really enjoyed learning about the court system and how it works. The speakers were very knowledgeable and I learned so much about different careers in the government. This program has inspired me to learn more about and possibly pursue a career in law/government. There are so many opportunities to learn and grow so I'm glad I took this week and attended the camp."

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



CIVIC EDUCATION AROUND THE CIRCUIT...

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK:

The Northern District of New York has been involved with many exciting civic education programs throughout the past year. The Northern District posts many of their civic education activities on social media: [U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York](#) (Facebook) and [US District Court NYND \(@USDCNYND\)](#) / X (Twitter).

Throughout the past year, Northern District judges presided at many naturalization ceremonies, including several that were held onsite at schools, community colleges, and special sites throughout the District. One teacher, whose students observed Northern District of New York Judge Mae A. D’Agostino preside over a naturalization ceremony, wrote: “The Naturalization Ceremony was an incredible and moving experience for my students. Many of them expressed that everyone should attend at least one in their lifetime to truly appreciate their own citizenship and country. The words [Judge D’Agostino] shared with the new citizens were powerful and meaningful, and I am certain they will stay with both the new citizens and my students for a lifetime.”



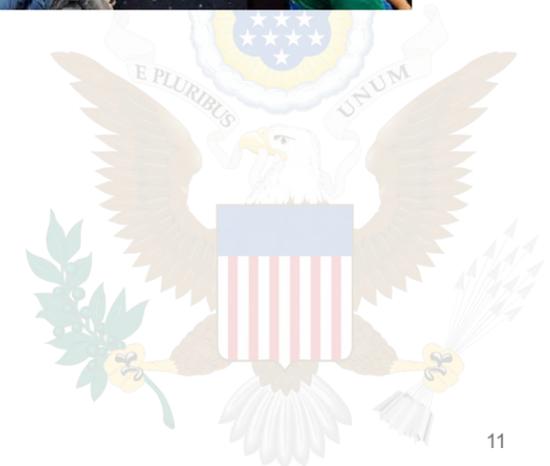
Additionally, students were welcomed to the Albany, Binghamton, Syracuse, and Utica courthouses throughout the year for courthouse visits, including observing proceedings, meeting with federal judges, and participating in mock trial activities. Judges also visited classrooms throughout the Northern District to meet with students and to educate them about the work of federal judges and the role of the federal courts.

The Northern District also held many programs in celebration of Law Day/Month. Northern District of New York judges and local federal bar attorneys delivered the Law Day program to 17 school districts and over 800 students both onsite at schools and in the courthouses.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK - WHITE PLAINS

The Southern District of New York successfully piloted its first formal courthouse visit program at the Charles L. Briant Courthouse in White Plains over the 2024-2025 school year. The White Plains courthouse hosted over 400 students for visits over the 2024-2025 school year. Students heard from judges, attorneys, law enforcement officers, and others and also participated in a mini mock trial activity.

Additionally, the White Plains courthouse hosted the final round of the Westchester County Bar Association Mock Trial Competition in March 2025.



CIVIC EDUCATION AROUND THE CIRCUIT...

SPOTLIGHT ON THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT:

Over the past year, the District of Connecticut connected with over 1,569 students across Connecticut. At its courthouses in New Haven, Bridgeport, and Hartford, judges in the district hosted: a mock sentencing; 3 groups from area universities (Yale University, Quinnipiac University, University of New Haven); 1 class of LLM students from Yale; a group of adult education students; 4 high school classes; and 5 middle school classes. District of Connecticut judges taught 3 high school classes and visited students at Wesleyan University. As part of Law Day, judges visited and read to 8 elementary school classes, visited 3 middle school classes, and visited 4 high school classes to speak about the rule of law. One of the middle school sessions was led by a bankruptcy judge who, along with two volunteer attorneys, taught students about financial literacy. 7 groups of middle and high school students observed naturalizations in District of Connecticut courthouses, and our judges spoke to 8 bar association groups.

In July 2025, the District of Connecticut hosted its second annual Hon. Warren W. Eginton Justice Institute. 29 students from 16 high schools participated in the weeklong camp that culminated in a mock trial competition before Second Circuit Judges William J. Nardini and Maria A. Kahn and Connecticut Appellate Judge Nina Elgo. During the week, the students attended instructional panels about civil and criminal litigation, including sessions about how to prepare opening statements, direct and cross-examinations, and closing arguments; visited the U.S. Marshals Service cell block and the Connecticut Supreme Court; observed a sentencing and a naturalization ceremony; and met a K-9 unit and the Connecticut bomb squad. Also, in July, Judge Nardini hosted an all-day Scout Day for 38 scouts ages 7-16, with presentations by the U.S. Marshals Service, Probation Department, and members of the Clerk's Office. Additionally, in the spring, District of Connecticut Judge Sarala V. Nagala, Magistrate Judges Donna F. Martinez and Robert A. Richardson, and Chief Deputy Monica Watson Cucchiarelli, taught a four-week after school program at Classical Magnet School in Hartford, Connecticut to 12 10th, 11th and 12th graders from Classical Magnet and Capital Preparatory Magnet School. The four-week program included a lesson on the differences between civil and criminal trials, a civil mock trial, a mediation, and a discussion on civil verdicts and the issue of tort reform.

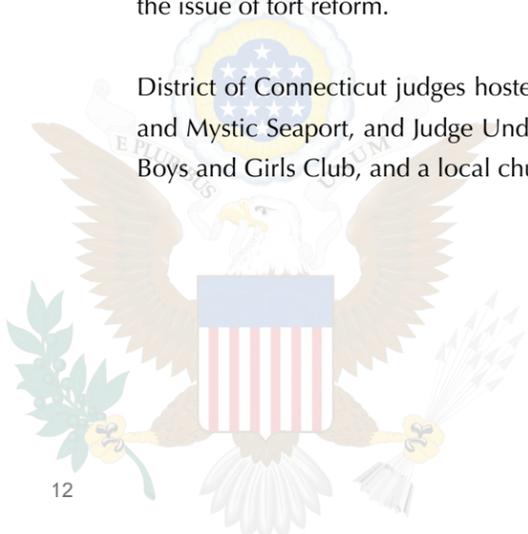
District of Connecticut judges hosted 3 off-site naturalizations: Middletown Elks Club, Classical Magnet School, and Mystic Seaport, and Judge Underhill and members of Support Court volunteered at local soup kitchens, the Boys and Girls Club, and a local church.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE DISTRICT OF VERMONT:

Students in the District of Vermont had special opportunities to observe and participate in naturalization ceremonies, including at ceremonies held onsite at two schools in the District. Over 571 students had the opportunity to observe one of the 14 naturalization ceremonies held across the District of Vermont over the past year. In April 2025, District of Vermont Judge Mary Kay Lanthier presided over her first naturalization ceremony at Milton High School. At that ceremony, students performed music and were included in the ceremony, and new citizens gave memorable remarks.

Additionally, in partnership with the Vermont Bar Association, District of Vermont Bankruptcy Judge Heather Z. Cooper organized a mock trial competition on April 5, 2025, at Vermont Law School. The trial involved 96 students from 7 high schools, with District of Vermont Chief Judge Christina Reiss and Judge Lanthier, 11 state court judges, and local attorneys serving as the competition judges. The mock trial case involved a criminal murder case.



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.

In February 2024, *Justice For All*, the Eastern District of New York, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), hosted naturalization ceremonies at Mineola High School in Nassau County and Northport High School in Suffolk County. These ceremonies marked the first time in over twenty years that a naturalization ceremony had been held onsite at a public school on Long Island. 50 new citizens were naturalized at Mineola High School and 75 new citizens were naturalized at Northport High school. Student musicians participated in the ceremonies at both high schools. At the Northport High School ceremony, a Northport High School teacher took the Oath of Citizenship and gave inspiring and meaningful remarks on behalf of the group of newly naturalized citizens to the school community.



Justice For All also hosted a special naturalization ceremony, in partnership with the Eastern District of New York and USCIS, at The Long Island Museum in May 2025, marking the first time that the Museum hosted a ceremony.

Inspired by the District of Connecticut’s piloting the use of Zoom to livestream naturalization ceremonies to schools, Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco has continued to implement a “hybrid” naturalization 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 live streamed to a larger group of students who remain at school and observe 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



The *Justice For All* courthouse visit program, a hallmark of the *Justice For All* initiative, experienced overwhelming success during the 2024-2025 school year. Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, a total of over 200 school groups visited the Manhattan, Brooklyn, Central Islip, and White Plains courthouses, including over 100 groups that visited the Learning Center at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse. The Manhattan and Brooklyn courthouses welcomed dozens of schools, totaling 5700 students, from throughout New York City and the surrounding suburbs, the Central Islip courthouse welcomed schools from throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties, and the White Plains courthouse welcomed students from Westchester and Rockland counties.

In Manhattan, students had the opportunity to observe an oral argument session before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and in Brooklyn and Central Islip, students had the chance to observe a naturalization ceremony. The program also includes 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. Dozens of circuit, district, magistrate, and bankruptcy judges volunteered their time to speak to student groups, along with many attorneys from the Southern and Eastern District United States Attorney's Offices, the Federal Defenders of New York, and CJA panel attorneys. The field trips were also supported by the Southern and Eastern District Executive's Offices, the Circuit Executive's Office, the Southern District Probation Office, and the United States Marshals Service.

Teachers and students expressed extremely positive feedback about the courthouse visit program. One teacher who brought a class to the Manhattan courthouse stated, "[m]y students ALWAYS love visiting court, dressing professionally, bringing their questions, and learning more about the justice system and the people who make it run smoothly! I have been taking my classes of elementary, middle, and high school students for almost 20 years now and am so happy you have these programs. As an attorney myself today, I would've LOVED to attend this kind of program back when I was a public school student!"

The Manhattan, Brooklyn, Central Islip, and White Plains courthouses are eager to welcome more student visitors and to continue this exciting program during the 2025-2026 school year.

Additionally, over the past year, other 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* core mission to "bring the courts to the community."



MOOT COURTS & MOCK TRIALS



Throughout the Second Circuit, there have been long standing 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 district hosted local moot court and mock trial competitions, facilitated 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 is an integral part of the *Justice For All* initiative. This year the Probation Department participated in many courthouse visits to the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse, and educated students on different aspects of the U.S. Probation Department, including presentence investigations, supervision, rehabilitation, treatment programs, and other topics.

On March 18, 2025, the Probation Department hosted a group of students from five New York City high schools for a full day of programming. The students heard from Eastern District of New York Chief Magistrate Judge Vera M. Scanlon as well as representatives from the U.S. Marshals Service and the Probation Department.

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.

LAW WEEK 2025

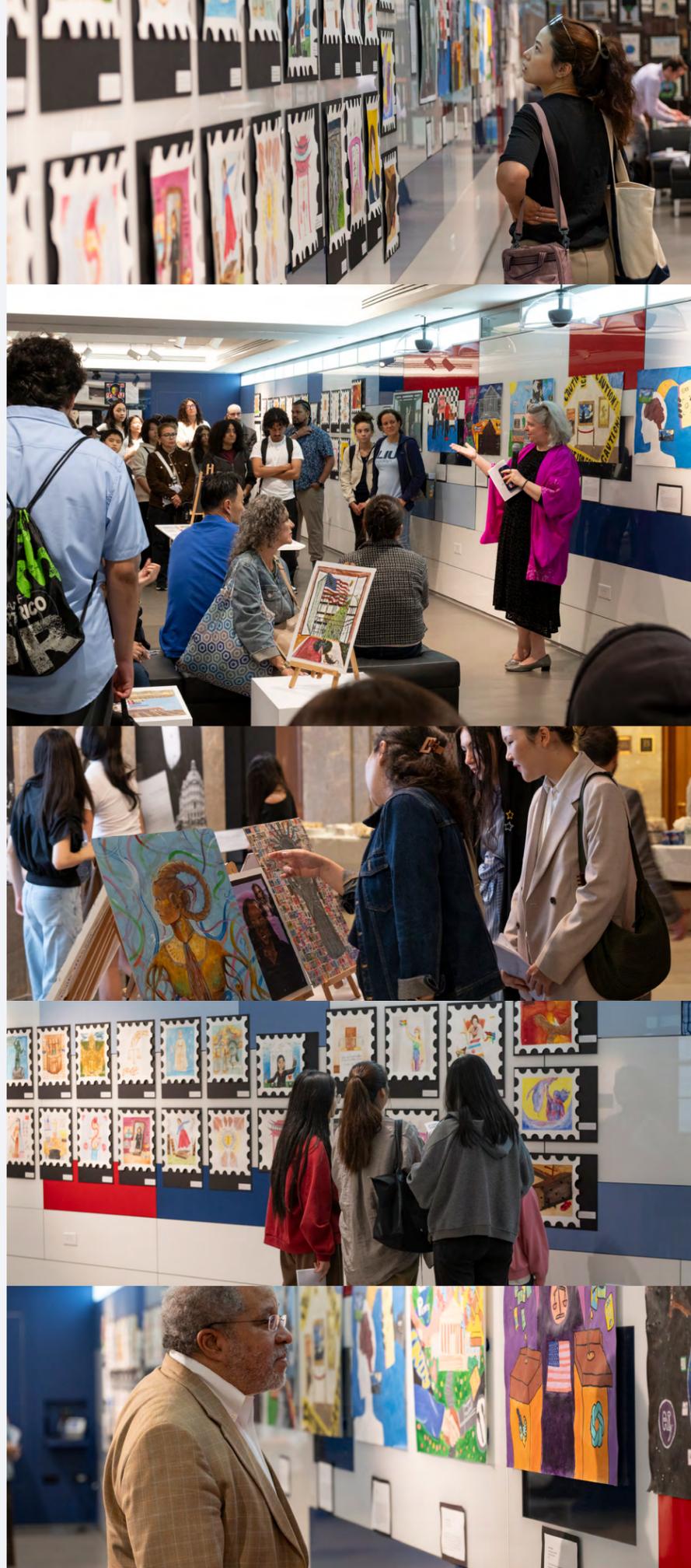
Justice For All facilitated multiple programs throughout May 2025 in celebration of Law Day. The 2025 national Law Day theme was: “The Constitution’s Promise: Out of Many, One.”

Schools participated in special in-person visits to the Brooklyn and Manhattan federal courthouses in commemoration of Law Day. As part of these programs, students had the opportunity to observe courthouse proceedings and to engage in learning opportunities focused on civic awareness, civil discourse, and the rule of law.

TEACHERS’ INSTITUTE

In June 2025, in collaboration with the Justice Resource Center, *Justice For All* presented a three-day summer Teachers’ Institute for 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 coordinated the 2025 Teachers’ Institute, the theme of which was the relationship between the First Amendment’s free speech clause, the Fourth Amendment’s protection against unreasonable search and seizure, and a public school’s rights to regulate student speech and conduct. Presenters included renowned scholars and litigators, who discussed both First Amendment and Fourth 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 2025-2026 school year.



JUDICIARY AND THE ARTS

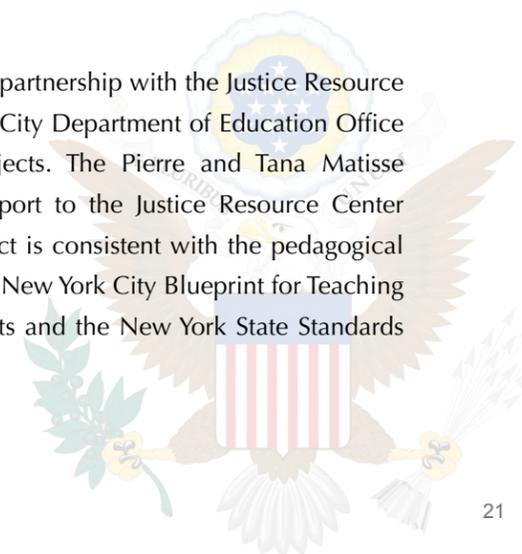
Twelve visual art educators from schools across all five boroughs were selected to participate in the 2024-2025 cohort of the Judiciary and the Arts program. These educators commit to helping their students create and produce artwork inspired by legal topics and actively engage with the judiciary as a civic institution. 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 four subjects:

1. The Declaration of Independence;
2. Art law;
3. Telling the story of a nation through stamps;
4. Becoming a citizen in the 21st century;
4. A courthouse design for America’s next 250 years.

More than 150 students participated this year. An exhibition of the artwork was hosted at the Thurgood Marshall U.S Courthouse in Manhattan in June. A selection of artwork from previous years’ projects were shown at the Second Circuit’s 2025 Judicial Conference, complementing the Conference’s theme, “Art and the Law.”

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 in-person courthouse field trips 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 May 2025 and the Summer Law Institute's culminating mock trial competition in August 2025, both at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse.

CELINA AND SONIA 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 2025 Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program reception, featuring remarks by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Circuit Judge Raymond J. Lohier, was held at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse. Over 160 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.



PARTNERSHIP WITH CUNY LAW FIRST IMPRESSIONS YOUTH LEGAL COLLABORATIVE

Justice For All was excited to partner with the First Impressions Youth Legal Collaborative at CUNY Law for the first time in 2025. First Impressions seeks to "engage[] young people to create a powerful shift toward civic leadership, community advocacy, and a future with a better and more representative justice system." First Impressions is led by Hon. Tracey A. Bing, a retired Bronx County Family Court Judge.

In July 2025, *Justice For All* welcomed First Impressions' Youth Summer Institute participants to the Eastern District of New York courthouse in Brooklyn for a day of learning about the federal courts and the federal criminal justice system. Students observed a naturalization ceremony, met with federal judges, spoke with a federal defender and an FBI agent, and participated in a Cinderella mini-mock trial exercise.

Justice For All looks forward to future partnership opportunities with the First Impressions Youth Legal Collaborative.



COMMEMORATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Circuit Judge Myrna Pérez hosted a program for over 75 middle school students in October 2024 at the Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The students heard from several speakers, including Judge Pérez, and also watched a reenactment of *Mendez v. Westminster*, performed by Second Circuit law clerks.



2025 CONSTITUTION AND CITIZENSHIP DAY SUMMIT AT NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

New York Law School, in partnership with *Justice For All*, hosted the inaugural Constitution and Citizenship Day Summit in September 2025. The Summit was a full day gathering of judges, lawyers, educators, law students, and civic leaders from across New York State.

United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor opened the Summit and participated in a conversation with Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco, Southern District of New York Judge Victor Marrero, New York State Court of Appeals Associate Judge Anthony Cannataro, and New York Law School Dean and President Anthony W. Crowell.

Eastern District of New York Chief Magistrate Judge Vera M. Scanlon, Southern District of New York Magistrate Judge Sarah L. Cave, and Southern District of New York Magistrate Judge Katharine H. Parker presented during panel discussions throughout the day. Additionally, Yessica Martinez, a former *Justice For All* Justice Institute participant who is now a law student, spoke about the impact of the Justice Institute during the Summit.



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT CIVIL APPEALS MEDIATION PROGRAM (CAMP)



In December 2024, *Justice For All*, in partnership with CAMP, was thrilled to host high school students from The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria for a special courthouse visit and mediation module in the Learning Center as part of the celebration of CAMP's 50th anniversary and annual colloquy. Circuit mediators facilitated the interactive mediation module with the students and students worked collaboratively to use mediation strategies to resolve the hypothetical disputes as part of the module. United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor spoke with the students during this very special program—it was a truly memorable experience for all.

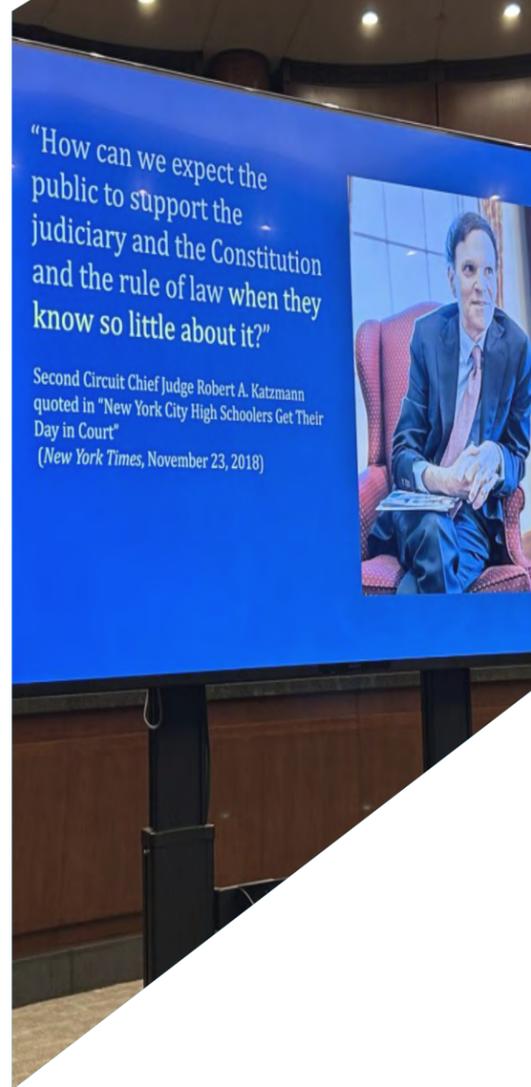


THE 2025 HONORABLE ROBERT A. KATZMANN CONFERENCE ON CIVICS EDUCATION AND THE FEDERAL COURTS

In April 2025, federal judges from across the country together with judiciary staff members, James Madison Fellows, and representatives from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts gathered at the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri for the 2025 Honorable Robert A. Katzmann Conference on Civics Education and the Federal Courts. The 2025 Conference followed the inaugural 2019 National Conference on Civic Education and the Federal Courts, convened by then-Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann and then-Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts James C. Duff. The Judicial Branch Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States subsequently named the national civics conference, to be held every five years, in Judge Katzmann's honor.

The 2025 Conference featured panel discussions on learning centers, lifelong learning, public outreach strategies, supporting teachers, immersion programs, media outreach, funding models, and more. Second Circuit judges and court staff members participated on several panels throughout the Conference, and Second Circuit programs such as the Justice Institute, After School Program, Teachers' Institute, courthouse visit program, and Judiciary & The Arts were highlighted throughout the Conference.

Additionally, the Conference featured a video tribute, prepared by Jennifer Callahan, Judge Katzmann's wife and member of the Second Circuit Education Committee, and the presentation of the first Honorable Robert A. Katzmann Civics Award.



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 in this program that has been offered at public libraries and senior living communities 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.



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

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