



February 5, 2026

Dear High School Teachers and Students:

The purpose of this letter is to invite high school students to participate in a one-week summer program at the federal courthouse in Central Islip during the week of July 13th. The program is called *The EDNY Justice Institute: Crime, the Constitution, and the Courts* and is being run by the federal court in partnership with the Touro Law Center and the Eastern District of New York Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and the Federal Bar Foundation. It is part of *The Honorable Robert A. Katzmann Justice For All: Courts and the Community Initiative*, which is the civic education project of the federal courts for the Second Circuit. The program is open to students who will be completing the 9th through 11th grades in June 2026.

The program will consist of several components that will 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 will hear 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 will also observe real court proceedings in the federal courthouse and will discuss what they observe with a federal judge. Finally, the students will be taught basic advocacy skills in several sessions by experienced lawyers and, with the assistance of law students, will participate at the end of the week in a mock trial competition against other high school students. The program will be perfect for students who may be interested in participating in mock trial at their high school, or who are simply interested in learning more about the practice of law or the justice system. You may view a brief video about the program [here](#). Additionally, a few photos from past Justice Institute camps held at the federal courthouse in Central Islip are included at the end of this letter.


The program will run from Monday, July 13, 2026, through Friday, July 16, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is no cost to participate in the program. However, there is no funding for transportation or lunch. Therefore, parents or guardians will be responsible for providing their child with transportation and lunch each day. If you are interested in participating, please fill out the application form [HERE](#) by April 17, 2026. There are no additional materials required to apply, and applicants will be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis.

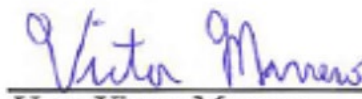
Space in this program is very limited and this letter does not guarantee your spot.

Therefore, please let us know your interest as soon as possible by submitting the application form. You will receive an email from alana_chill@ca2.uscourts.gov by April 24, 2026, letting you know if you have been accepted into the program. Please be sure to add this email address to your approved contacts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Alana Chill by telephone, at 212-857-8698, or by email, at alana_chill@ca2.uscourts.gov.

Sincerely,


Hon. Joseph F. Bianco
United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit


Hon. Victor Marrero
United States District Judge for the Southern District

