



New York City area high school students are invited to participate in a one-week summer program at a federal courthouse in New York City in July 2026.

The program is called The Justice Institute: Crime, the Constitution, and the Courts and is being run by the federal courts in partnership with the Federal Bar Council. 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 entering 10th–12th grades in fall 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: <https://vimeo.com/806761580/516918ed5e>.

This program will be offered the week of **July 20-24, 2026** at two locations:

- The Eastern District of New York federal courthouse in Brooklyn (225 Cadman Plaza East)
- The Southern District of New York federal courthouse in Manhattan (40 Foley Square)

The program will run 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. Therefore, parents or guardians will be responsible for providing their child with transportation.

Students who are interested in the program should fill out a registration form, linked below. Students may elect to attend EITHER the Brooklyn or Manhattan program regardless of where they attend school or reside.

[2026 Justice Institute \(Manhattan and Brooklyn\) Registration Form - July 20-24, 2026](#)

Students should submit an application form by April 17, 2026. Space in this program is very limited. Therefore, please let us know your interest as soon as possible by submitting the registration form. There are no additional materials required to register for the program, and students will be accepted on a “first come, first served basis.”

You will receive an email from justiceforall@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 reach out via email to justiceforall@ca2.uscourts.gov.