



THE CONSTITUTION UNLOCKED: AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

This 8-session adult education program, presented by federal judges and practicing attorneys and hosted by United States Circuit Judge Joseph F. Bianco, is designed to expose the audience in an interesting and interactive way to the inner workings of our justice system, including an exploration of exciting and relevant legal topics and issues. No law degree or legal background is necessary to enroll in this new, innovative program – any adult interested in legal issues is welcomed and will enjoy this program, including teachers and post-secondary students. The program, which is part of the civic education project of the federal courts of the Second Circuit in partnership with the Federal Bar Foundation, is free and will be held on Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (dates listed below) during the fall at the Long Island federal courthouse in Central Islip.

A sampling of the topics covered throughout the program include: how cases end up in federal court, how federal judges are nominated and confirmed, how to build a criminal case, the role of federal prosecutors and public defenders, using the federal courts to vindicate and protect civil rights, wrongful convictions, and improving fairness in our justice system.

The audience will have the opportunity to meet and speak with federal judges and practicing attorneys during the sessions, and ask questions about their work and careers in the legal profession.

Adults interested in participating should fill out the registration form, linked [here](#) by September 25, 2026. You can also register by scanning the QR code below. There is limited capacity in this free program and spaces will be offered on a first-come first-served basis.

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DATES: October 8, October 15, October 22, November 5, November 12, November 19,
December 3, December 17

TIME: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: 100 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, NY 11722



REGISTER
HERE

Register [here](#) (or using this URL: <https://forms.gle/PjSGhmfewtEDjvxQ9> or the QR code)

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- **INSIDE THE FEDERAL COURTS**
- **BUILDING A CRIMINAL CASE**
- **PURSuing JUSTICE: THE WORK OF A FEDERAL PROSECUTOR**
- **DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION: THE WORK OF A FEDERAL DEFENDER**
- **EXONERATING THE WRONGFULLY CONVICTED: THE PATH TO JUSTICE AND FREEDOM**
- **ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION AND IMPROVING FAIRNESS IN OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM**
- **VINDICATING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**
- **FINAL RECEPTION: FROM THE NFL GRIDIRON TO THE COURTROOM**

Speakers & Instructors Include:

United States Circuit Judges Joseph F. Bianco

United States District Judge Gary R. Brown

United States District Judge Nusrat J. Choudhury

Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney

Former Federal Prosecutor Christopher Caffarone

Federal Prosecutor Justina Geraci

(prosecutor in the investigation and prosecution of Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota)

Former Federal Prosecutor Maria Cruz Melendez

(prosecutor in the investigation and prosecution of R. Kelly)

Former Federal Prosecutor Alison Moe

(prosecutor in the investigation and prosecution of Ghislane Maxwell)

Former Federal Defender Deirdre von Dornum

(defense counsel in the appeal by Dzhokar Tsarnaev for his convictions and death sentence in connection with 2013 Boston Marathon bombing)

Martin H. Tankleff, Attorney and Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center

(wrongfully convicted for the 1990 murder of his parents in his home on Long Island)

Mary Beth Tinker

(plaintiff in landmark Supreme Court case of Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District)

Former NFL Football Player and Big Law Attorney Michael Catapano

Attorneys Toni Mardirossian and Zoe Shea

(Pathways to Public Safety Division, Manhattan District Attorney's Office)

Roland Acevedo, Criminal Defense Attorney