

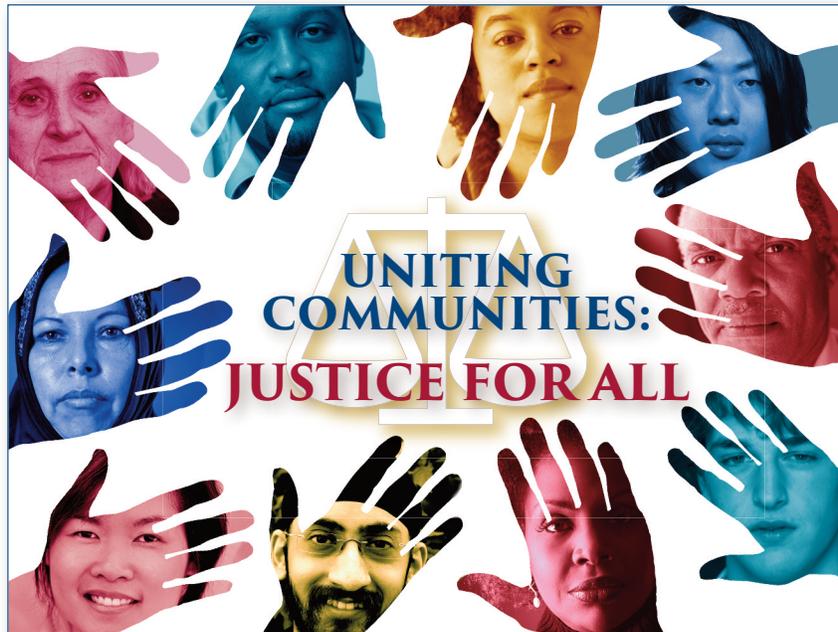


# NATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS

## 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

HOSTED BY

### THE FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION



## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**June 10 – 13, 2015**

**BUFFALO, NEW YORK**

PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

<http://national-consortium.org/>

**CONTACT PERSONS:**

DR. MICKEY COLLINS National Center for State Courts, (757) 259-1513, [mcollins@ncsc.org](mailto:mcollins@ncsc.org)

JOYCE HARTSFIELD Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, (212) 428-2790 [jhartsfi@nycourts.gov](mailto:jhartsfi@nycourts.gov)

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## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015

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**1:00 PM – 5:00 PM REGISTRATION**

**4:00 PM – 6:00 PM CONSORTIUM BOARD MEETING**

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM WELCOME RECEPTION**

*Hyatt Regency Ballroom. Music provided by Frank Cannata*

### WELCOME REMARKS

#### **Hon. Rose H. Sconiers**

*Chair, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission  
Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Fourth Department*

#### **Hon. yvonne lewis**

*Chair, National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, Supreme Court Justice, 2nd Judicial District, Kings County*

#### **Hon. Paula L. Feroletto**

*Administrative Judge, Eighth Judicial District*

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## THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015

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**8:00 AM – 5:00 PM REGISTRATION**

**7:30 AM – 8:30 AM BREAKFAST**

**8:30 AM – 11:15 AM OPENING PLENARY SESSION**

### WELCOME REMARKS

#### **Hon. Rose H. Sconiers**

#### **Hon. yvonne lewis**

#### **Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz**

*County Executive, Erie County, New York*

#### **Hon. Byron W. Brown**

*Mayor, Buffalo, New York*

#### **Hon. Paul A. Dyster**

*Mayor, Niagara Falls, New York*

### OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

#### **Reverend Al Sharpton**

*Host, "PoliticsNation with Al Sharpton", MSNBC  
President, National Action Network*

**11:15 AM – 11:30 AM BREAK**

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

#### ■ **BREAKOUT SESSION I:**

#### **Lock 'em up and Throw Away the Key: At What Cost to Society and the Ideals of Justice?**

*A look at the impact of alternative to incarceration programs (ATI) on prison populations in New York State and beyond and, the nexus between increased utilization of ATI and the move to repeal/modify the Nelson Rockefeller Drug Laws.*

#### **MODERATOR**

#### **Trini Ross, Esq.**

*Assistant United States Attorney, Chief of Fraud and*

*Corruption Section, Western District of New York,  
US Department of Justice*

#### **PANELISTS**

#### **JoAnne Page, Esq.**

*CEO & President, The Fortune Society*

#### **Professor Monica P. Wallace**

*University of Buffalo Law School*

#### **Robert Convissar, Esq.**

*Chief Defender Administrator, Assigned Counsel Plan*

#### ■ **BREAKOUT SESSION II:**

#### **Understanding the Story Behind the NFL Domestic Violence Scandal and Recent Trends and Best Practices Involving Victims and Abusers**

*Discussion of the recent trends involving domestic violence and child abuse, including a view from the medical perspective and the relevant laws affecting the medical profession. In addition, the panelists will discuss statistics on homicides and domestic violence incidents, as well as teen and pre-teen dating abuse.*

#### **MODERATOR**

#### **Mary Travers Murphy**

*Executive Director, Family Justice Center of Erie County, New York*

#### **PANELISTS**

#### **Judith Olin, Esq.**

*Director, Lee Gross Anthonie Child Advocacy Center*

#### **Dr. Matthew Withiam-Leitch, M.D., PhD**

*Associate Professor in Department of Family Medicine, University of Buffalo Medical School*

#### **Lorien Castelle**

*Director of Prevention, NYS Coalition against Domestic Violence*

#### ■ **BREAKOUT SESSION III:**

#### **Access to Justice in the Courts**

*Discussion on how to ensure justice in civil and criminal matters for court users of all incomes, backgrounds and special needs, by using every resource, including self-help services, pro bono programs, and technological tools, and by securing stable and adequate non-profit and government funding for civil and criminal legal services programs.*

#### **Hon. Fern A. Fisher**

*Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, NYC Courts  
Director, NYS Courts Access to Justice Program*

**1:00 PM – 1:15 PM BREAK**

**1:15 PM – 2:15 PM LUNCH**

#### **INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER:**

#### **Alphonso O'Neil-White**

*Former CEO, HealthNow, Chair, Racial Equity Roundtable*

#### **SPEAKER:**

#### **Dr. Gail C. Christopher, D.N.**

*Vice President for Policy and Senior Advisor,  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation*

#### **'The Business Case for Equity'**

**2:15 PM – 2:30 PM BREAK**

**2:30 PM – 5:00 PM TOWN HALL MEETING****Improving Police and Law Enforcement Relations with the Community**

*Law enforcement is an essential function of good governance. Current cases in the media has brought to the forefront nationwide issues of distrust between law enforcement and communities of color. Join us as national civil and human rights advocates, government policy makers, law enforcement officials and those on the ground, meet to discuss means to build a better relationship between law enforcement and the community. This is an exceptional opportunity to gain various perspectives in one session on one of the most trying issues of our time. Through intelligent discourse you will learn about reforms and solutions that have worked in different communities and ways that communities can unite to ensure justice for all.*

**CONVENER****Reverend Darius G. Pridgen**

*Council President, Buffalo, New York*

**PANELISTS****Professor Gloria Browne-Marshall**

*Associate Professor, Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

**Professor Lory Dance, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor of Sociology and of the Institute for Ethnic Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

**Mylan Denerstein, Esq.**

*Partner, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, (Former Legal Counsel to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, 2011 – 2014)*

**Deputy Police Commissioner****Kimberly L. Beaty**

*Buffalo Police Department, New York*

**Robert J. DeSena**

*President, Council For Unity, Brooklyn, New York*

**District Attorney Frank A. Sedita, III**

*Buffalo, New York*

**Mayor PaFul A. Dyster**

*Niagara Falls, New York*

**Michael Hardy, Esq.**

*Executive Vice President & General Counsel, National Action Network*

**Anthony Miranda**

*President, National Latino Officers Association*

**4:00 PM – 6:00 PM (OR ON FRIDAY JUNE 12 TIME TBD)****CONSORTIUM BOARD MEETING****FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015****8:00 AM – 12:00 PM REGISTRATION****7:30 AM – 8:30 AM BREAKFAST****8:30 AM – 11:15 AM****PLENARY SESSION**

**Dr. Steve Robbins** *SL Robbins & Associate*  
**'Implicit Bias'**

**11:15 AM – 11:30 AM BREAK****11:30 AM – 1:00 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS****■ BREAKOUT SESSION I:****50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The 1965 Voting Rights Act: From Selma to Shelby — Communities United to Protect the Right to Vote**

*A half century after the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the seminal "Bloody Sunday" march on the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma, Alabama; voting rights today in America have been notably threatened by the 2013 Supreme Court Decision in Shelby County (Alabama) v Holder. Join us as we examine how various communities of color have been affected by voting rights legislation and the solutions and proposals to effectuate voting rights equity and equality in our nation.*

**MODERATOR****Hon. Jenny Rivera**

*Associate Judge New York State Court of Appeals*

**PANELISTS****Leah Aden, Esq.**

*Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., New York, NY*

**Juan Cartagena, Esq.**

*President and General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF*

**Joel West Williams, Esq.**

*Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund, Washington, D.C.*

**Susan Lerner, Esq.**

*Executive Director, Common Cause NY*

**■ BREAKOUT SESSION II:****Zero Tolerance in the Schools: The Cure That Created An Epidemic**

*This workshop will explore how an initially well intentioned policy known as Zero Tolerance in our Schools—a policy implemented to maintain safe schools for our children—created a schools to prison pipeline with devastating consequences for adolescent school children of color. The panelists will also discuss solutions to the schools to prison pipeline dilemma.*

**MODERATOR****Hon. Judith S. Kaye**

*Of Counsel, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
Former Chief Judge of State of New York, 1993 - 2008*

**PANELISTS****Phillip Rumore**

*President, Buffalo Teachers Federation*

**Soffiyah Elijah, Esq.**

*Executive Director, The Correctional Association of N.Y.*

**Joshua Laub, Esq.**

*Director of Youth Development for District 88, Office of Safety and Youth Development, NYC Dept. of Education*

**Kristen Clarke, Esq.**

*Chief, Civil Rights Bureau, Office of the New York State Attorney General*

**Barbara A. Seals Nevergold, PhD**

*Co-founder, Uncrowned Queens Institute*

**11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**      **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** *continued***■ BREAKOUT SESSION III:****Innovations in Peacemaking: A Grass Root Perspective**

*Discussion on Peacemaking as a traditional approach to Justice within the Native American Community and the difference between Peacemaking and Mediation. The discussion will highlight Innovative Grass Root Mediation Programs. Can these techniques aid Police Departments throughout the Country?*

**MODERATOR****Daniel M. Weitz, Esq.**

*NYS Unified Court System, Deputy Director, Division of Professional and Court Services/State ADR Coordinator*

**PANELISTS****Sarah Reckess, Esq.**

*Director, Syracuse Office and Tribal Courts Technical Assistance, Center for Court Innovation*

**Andrew Thomas**

*Senior Project Manager, City Manager's Office — CDBG, Certified Florida Supreme Court County Court Mediator and Mediator for the United States Postal Service, Sanford, Florida*

**Hon. LaMarr K. Spruce**

*Peacemaker Judge, Seneca Nation of Indians, Allegany Territory*

**1:00 PM – 1:15 PM**      **BREAK****1:15 PM – 2:15 PM**      **LUNCH****Introduction of Speaker****Hon. Richard B. Lowe III**

*Chair, Planning Committee, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, Presiding Justice, Appellate Term, First Department*

**SPEAKER****Alphonso David, Esq.**

*Deputy Commissioner for Civil Rights, Office of the Governor of the State of New York*

**2:15 PM – 2:30 PM**      **BREAK****2:45 PM – 3:45 PM**      **PLENARY SESSION****Immigration Issues Affecting People of Color**

*The Intersection of Immigration Status with Criminal Prosecutions, Family Court Proceedings and Deportation Hearings.*

**MODERATOR****Joanne Macri, Esq.**

*Director of Regional Initiatives, State of New York Office of Indigent Legal Services*

**PANELISTS****Lisa Schreibersdorf, Esq.**

*Executive Director, Brooklyn Defender Services*

**Yanfei Shen, Esq.**

*Legal Services Manager, New York Asian Women's Center*

**3:45 PM – 4:00 PM**      **BREAK****4:00 PM – 5:00 PM****ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATES****7:00 PM – 11:00 PM**

**AWARDS BANQUET**      *Buffalo Niagara Convention Center*  
*Music by "White Chocolate" from Niagara Falls, NY*

**Introduction and Presentation of Award to Hon. A. Gail Prudenti****Hon. Sheila Abdus-Salaam**

*Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, New York State Court of Appeals*

**HONOREE****Hon. A. Gail Prudenti**

*Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York*

**Introduction and Presentation of Award to Hon. Jonathan Lippman****Hon. Samuel L. Green**

*Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Fourth Department (retired)*

**HONOREE****Hon. Jonathan Lippman**

*Chief Judge of the State of New York*

**Dinner Key Note Address****Pamela J. Meanes, Esq.**

*President, National Bar Association*  
*Partner, Thompson Coburn LLP*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015****9:00 AM – 4:00 PM****'Explore Buffalo/ Niagara Falls' Tour****SCHEDULE****9:00 AM – 12:00 PM:****Visit Niagara Falls, NY****1:00 PM – 2:00 PM:****Lunch at the Colored Musicians Club****2:00 PM – 3:00 PM:****Tour of Underground Railroad Sites****3:00 PM – 4:00 PM:****Tour of other Historical Sites, Buffalo, NY**