



NATIONAL CONSORTIUM ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS

27TH ANNUAL MEETING

HOSTED BY

THE FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION



JUNE 10 - 13, 2015

HYATT REGENCY BUFFALO HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER • BUFFALO, NEW YORK

CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION	<i>Niagara Room</i>
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	CONSORTIUM BOARD MEETING	<i>Ellicott Room</i>
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	WELCOME RECEPTION	<i>Hyatt Regency Ballroom</i>

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

*President & Moderator 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

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM REGISTRATION *Niagara Room*

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM BREAKFAST *Regency Ballroom*

8:30 AM – 11:15 AM OPENING PLENARY SESSION
(Grand B & C)

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

Performance by the Iroquois Native Dance Group

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: (Grand E)**

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 within the Federal Court systems. We will also examine the nexus between increased utilization of ATI and the move to repeal/modify the Nelson Rockefeller Drug Laws. There will also be a discussion of the United States Attorney General's Smart on Crime Initiative.

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: (Grand F)**

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 statis-

tics 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: (Grand G)**

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 *Regency Ballroom*

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 (Grand A)

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

Erie County, New York

Mayor Paul A. Dyster

Niagara Falls, New York

Anthony Miranda

President, National Latino Officers Association

Reinaldo Rivera, Jr.

National Program Manager, Community Relations Service (CRS), United States Department of Justice

Dorrell Foster

Student, Buffalo Urban League

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM (OR ON FRIDAY JUNE 12 TIME TBD)

CONSORTIUM BOARD MEETING (*Ellicott Room*)

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM REGISTRATION *Niagara Room*

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM BREAKFAST *Regency Ballroom*

8:30 AM – 11:15 AM (*Grand B & C*)

PLENARY SESSION

Professor Rachel D. Godsil

Eleanor Bontecou Professor of Law, Seton Hall University School of Law

Promoting Fairness in the Courts: Addressing Implicit Bias, Racial Anxiety, and Stereotype Threat

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM BREAK

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

■ **BREAKOUT SESSION I: (Grand E)**

50th 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 semi-

nal “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: (Grand F)**

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 School—a policy implemented to maintain safe schools for our children—created a school to prison pipeline with devastating consequences for adolescent school children of color. The panelists will also discuss solutions to the school to prison pipeline dilemma including the need for youth justice reform in New York State and raising the age of criminal responsibility.

MODERATOR

Hon. Eduardo Padro

Supreme Court Justice, First Judicial District

PANELISTS

Philip 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

■ **BREAKOUT SESSION III: (Grand G)**

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 Regency Ballroom

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.

Counsel to New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

2:20 PM – 3:45 PM PLENARY SESSION Delaware Suites

Addressing the Impact of Immigration Consequences on Immigrants within a State Court System

This session will explore the various immigration consequences that may be triggered by criminal and family court dispositions while highlighting the benefits of increasing the understanding and awareness as to the challenges faced by state courts in dealing with cases involving immigrants and their family members and the need for developing resources and legal representation to address these unique immigration challenges experienced by immigrants and their family members. This session will also provide suggestions for identifying and assisting human trafficking victims, and discuss, as an example, the services provided by the New York Asian Women's Center.

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
Delaware Suites

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM CONSORTIUM BOARD MEETING
Ellicott Room

7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

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

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Hon. yvonne lewis

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

Dinner Key Note Address

Pamela J. Meanes, Esq.

President, National Bar Association
Partner, Thompson Coburn LLP

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

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

(CLE Provided)