PARTNERS IN JUSTICE COLLOQUIUM
May 9, 2005

AGENDA

9:45 A.M. - 9:50 A.M. Welcome by Honorable Robert G. M. Keating, Dean, New York State Judicial Institute

9:50 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. Remarks by Honorable Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge of the State of New York

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. Opening Plenary Session: The Current State of Offender Re-Entry and Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions

This opening plenary session will present a brief history and a description of the current state of offender re-entry and collateral consequences of criminal convictions. The focus of this colloquium will be on a wide range of types of consequences that can result from a criminal conviction, including deportation, loss of voting rights, loss of employment, eviction from public housing, loss of financial aid for education and removal of children from the home. The opening plenary will set the stage for discussion of these topics while focusing on the broader systemic issues of access to justice and pro bono legal resources for the poor.

Panelists: Honorable Fern A. Fisher, Administrative Judge, Civil Court of the City of New York
Professor Gerald López, Professor of Clinical Law and Director, Center for Community Problem Solving, New York University School of Law
Debbie Mukamal, Esq., Director, Prisoner Reentry Institute, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York

Moderator: Honorable Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge of Justice Initiatives and Administrative Judge, Criminal Court of New York City

11:30 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. Break

11:45 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Panel A - Holistic Lawyering: Does holistic representation make for good policy, better lawyers and more satisfied clients?

This panel presentation will consider the development of holistic approaches that cut across traditional subject matter areas of practice.

Panelists: Honorable Sharon S. Townsend, Administrative Justice, 8th Judicial District
Professor Anthony C. Thompson, Professor of Clinical Law, New York University School of Law
Robin Steinberg, Esq., Executive Director, The Bronx Defenders

Panel B - The Efficacy of Unbundling of Legal Services

This discussion will focus on the benefits and risks of “unbundling,” the process of breaking down the multiple roles of an attorney into smaller simpler groups of tasks in order to make courts and legal services more accessible to more people.
Panelists: Honorable Fern A. Fisher, Administrative Judge, Civil Court of the City of New York
Professor Bruce Green, Lois Stein Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law
Andrew Scherer, Esq., Executive Director and President, Legal Services for New York City

Panel C - “Civil Gideon”: The Right to Counsel and Its Absence

This panel discussion will focus on the many issues surrounding the right to counsel and the areas in which improvements can be made to meet the legal needs of the poor in civil as well as criminal courts.

Panelists: Honorable Jean T. Schneider, Civil Court of New York City Housing Part
Professor Mary Lynch, Clinical Professor of Law and Co-Director, Clinical Legal Studies Program, Albany Law School
David Udell, Esq., Program Director, Brennan Center For Justice at New York University School of Law

1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. Working Lunch
Plenary Session on Selected Topics on Offender Reentry and Collateral Consequences

Speakers:

Professor Conrad Johnson, Clinical Professor of Law, Columbia Law School
Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Conviction on Access to Public Housing

Manuel Vargas, Esq., Consulting Attorney, Immigrant Defense Project of the New York State Defenders Association and Adjunct Professor of Law, CUNY Law School
Immigration Consequences of Guilty Pleas or Convictions

Paul Samuels, Esq., Director and President, Legal Action Center
The Employment Consequences Raised by Criminal Convictions

Honorable Phylis Bamberger, Bronx County Supreme Court
Federal Sentencing Enhancements, Mandatory Surcharges and the Sex Offender Registration Act

2:30 P.M. - 3:15 P.M. Breakout Sessions

These small-group breakout sessions will examine the collateral consequences of criminal convictions to identify ways that the judiciary, law school clinical programs and the practicing bar can collaborate in improving indigent representation and accessibility to the courts.
Housing

Facilitators: Honorable Rolando T. Acosta, New York County Supreme Court
Professor Conrad Johnson, Clinical Professor of Law, Columbia Law School
Marie Richardson, Esq., Managing Attorney, Civil Division of The Legal Aid Society

Immigration

Facilitators: Honorable Cheryl E. Chambers, Kings County Supreme Court
Professor Gemma Solimene, Clinical Associate Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law
Manuel Vargas, Esq., Consulting Attorney, Immigrant Defense Project of the New York State Defenders Association and Adjunct Professor of Law, CUNY Law School

Employment

Facilitators: Honorable Valerie Brathwaite Nelson, Queens County Supreme Court
Professor Arlene S. Kanter, Director of Clinical Legal Education, Co-Director of the SU Center on Disability Studies, Law and Human Policy, Syracuse University College of Law
Paul Samuels, Esq., Director and President, Legal Action Center

Federal Sentencing Enhancements, Mandatory Surcharges, and the Sex Offender Registration Act

Facilitators: Honorable Phylis Bamberger, Bronx County Supreme Court
Professor Stacy Caplow, Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Clinical Education Program, Brooklyn Law School
Florian Miedel, Esq., Staff Attorney, Federal Defender Division of The Legal Aid Society

3:15 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.  Break


This session will feature a panel consisting of representatives of each of the four afternoon breakout sessions (Housing; Immigration; Employment; and Federal Sentencing Enhancements, Mandatory Surcharges, and Sex Offender Registration Act). The moderator will be Professor Randy Hertz, Director, Clinical and Advocacy Programs, New York University School of Law.