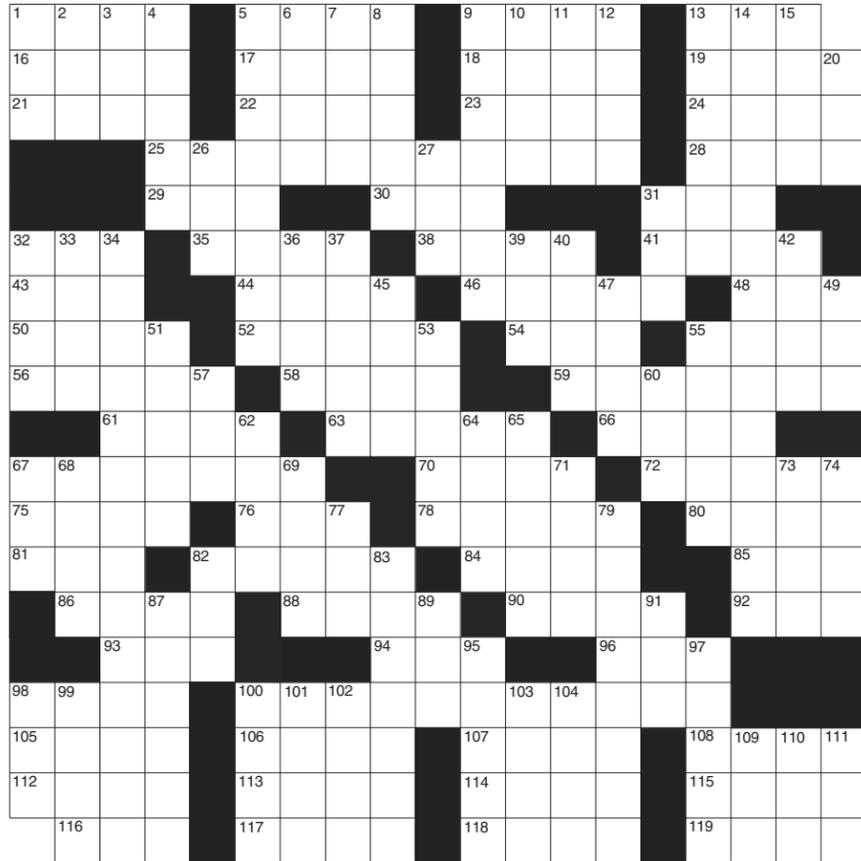


COURTSIDE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Bear's dwelling
- 5. Secure
- 9. Worry
- 13. Certain dashes
- 16. Early role for Michael J. Fox
- 17. Members of a Native American group
- 18. Public health problem
- 19. Cleans the floor
- 21. Hayworth or Coolidge
- 22. Belonging to one of the Stooges
- 23. "Once \_\_\_ a time ..."
- 24. Ballet movement
- 25. Party who brings 115-Across
- 28. Extremely small amount
- 29. Virtuous path for followers of Confucianism

- 30. Chatter
- 31. Circle segment
- 32. \_\_\_-tac-toe
- 35. Word with "cap" or "jerk"
- 38. Diamond, of song
- 41. CIA Director Panetta
- 43. Lennon's widow
- 44. Sea eagle
- 46. What a leaky faucet does
- 48. Agency that supports creative works: abbr.
- 50. Shock
- 52. The legendary Ms. Washington
- 54. Ostrich's cousin
- 55. Tiny particle
- 56. Name of a global philanthropist
- 58. Currency used in Germany or Turkey
- 59. Encompassing
- 61. Journey

- 63. Controversial matter
- 66. Professional group, for short
- 67. Added icing to the cake
- 70. Snare
- 72. Actor who played TV's Hawkeye and family
- 75. Coffee bar
- 76. Consume
- 78. Puts money away
- 80. Slippery types
- 81. Tax expert: abbr.
- 82. Before
- 84. For fear that
- 85. Rodent
- 86. Extend across
- 88. Afresh
- 90. Do a laundry chore
- 92. Curvy letter
- 93. Expert
- 94. Wedding-announcement word
- 96. Nickname of our 34th president

- 98. Designer Cassini
- 100. Certain type of crime
- 105. Hawaiian feast
- 106. Inactive
- 107. Crooner Crosby
- 108. Noah's ship: plural
- 112. French pronoun
- 113. "All in the Family" producer
- 114. Art Deco painter
- 115. Legal matter
- 116. Psychedelic substance: abbr.
- 117. The courts uphold these
- 118. Bambi, e.g.
- 119. Italian volcano

DOWN

- 1. Automobile
- 2. Boxing great
- 3. One with experience
- 4. Precise
- 5. Called for jury duty
- 6. On
- 7. Touch
- 8. Homework assignment for a literature student
- 9. Failed
- 10. Regis Philbin's TV partner
- 11. Business major's subject, for short
- 12. Temporary dwelling
- 13. Popular furniture style in 19th-century France
- 14. Plea for some defendants: 2 words
- 15. Rotisserie feature
- 20. Baltic or Caspian
- 26. Shade tree
- 27. Actor McShane
- 31. Weather anchor Roker et al.
- 32. Prepare, as a salad
- 33. Division word
- 34. New York's highest tribunal: 3 words
- 36. A Great Lake
- 37. Boredom
- 39. Anger
- 40. Peruvian capital
- 42. Colorless gas
- 45. Corn servings
- 47. Big cat
- 49. Total, for short
- 51. Like Erik the Red
- 53. Plays the part of emcee
- 55. Theater feature
- 57. Fix, as bail
- 60. Young men's organization: abbr.
- 62. Enthusiastic
- 64. Name of a Russian mountain range
- 65. Roof's border
- 67. It regulates cable and satellite services: abbr.
- 68. Knocks sharply
- 69. Computer input
- 71. Mexican denomination
- 73. Woe is me!
- 74. Speedy aircraft: abbr. (plural)
- 77. Can metal
- 79. Part-time news reporter
- 82. One, in 71-Down
- 83. Banks
- 87. Worked to prove one's case in court
- 89. Tiny
- 91. Boxing decision: abbr.
- 95. Make an integral part of
- 97. Remove from the blackboard
- 98. Spanish cheer
- 99. Period of inactivity
- 100. Word with "wind" or "tread"
- 101. Concept
- 102. Picnic fare
- 103. Dublin's land, poetically
- 104. Poker stake
- 109. Routine
- 110. Relatives
- 111. Bus depot, for short

# JURY POOL NEWS

A NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTING THE LATEST COURT INITIATIVES AND RELATED NEWS

## TRI-COUNTY PROJECT IS LATEST OF NY COURTS' VETERAN-TAILORED INITIATIVES

**C**HIEF JUDGE JONATHAN LIPPMAN joined prosecutors from Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County in July to launch the Veterans Project, a tri-county rehabilitative program tailored to nonviolent offenders with prior military service.

The new initiative will identify and treat underlying problems—such as post-traumatic stress disorder and other combat-related conditions—typically suffered by these defendants, with veterans who are not deemed a public safety threat and who plead guilty to their crimes eligible for the program. Those who successfully complete the program, which entails stringent judicial monitoring and participation in rigorous treatment and other programs, may have their charges dismissed or reduced or receive a reduction in sentence.

### A Second Chance for Struggling Former Servicemen and Women

Veterans who struggle to acclimate to civilian life and find themselves in the criminal justice system deserve a helping hand, Judge Lippman told those at a news conference announcing the initiative, held at the Veterans Affairs Hospital's Manhattan campus.

Approximately 70,000 veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan are from New York State, stated Judge Lippman, citing reports that show the incarceration rate for veterans who witness combat or sustain injuries to be double that of the general population. (Nine percent of those now in U.S. jails and prisons are former servicemen and women.)

"We have learned from the past that veterans may need enhanced services should

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they become involved in the criminal justice system," emphasized Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes—himself a veteran—who with his counterparts from Queens and Nassau County addressed the press conference.

Mr. Hynes also said that while a recent Rand Corporation study found that 20 percent of veterans return home with post-

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## COURT PROGRAM SETS NOVICE LAW STUDENTS ON PATH TO SUCCESS

**EVEN BEFORE STARTING NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL THIS FALL**, Gregory Bailey, an ebullient New Jersey native, was taking classes in civil procedure, contract law, torts and legal writing as an enrollee in this year's NY Legal Education Opportunity (LEO) program. Launched by the New York state court system in 2007 to promote diversity in the legal profession, the intensive summer initiative targets minority and low-income college graduates who are about to enter—or awaiting acceptance into—a law school located in New York State.

"The professors are great. They're teaching us to 'think like lawyers,'" said the recent Lehigh University graduate during a June kickoff reception where he and other LEO participants mixed with a variety of legal professionals, including New York state court judges who will act as mentors to the students through their first year of law school.

"They even give us housing and textbooks," said LEO student Ingrid He at the reception, referring to the dormitory accommodations at Pace Law



LEO 2009 participants (left to right) Julia Hernandez, Ingrid He, Gregory Bailey and Monique Chase at the program's June kickoff reception.

*continued page 2*

Tri-County Project Is Latest of Ny Courts' Veteran-Tailored Initiatives *continued from page 1*



Photo by Rick Kopstein/New York Law Journal

Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman (at the podium) joins (left to right) District Attorneys Kathleen Rice, Charles Hynes and Richard Brown, of Nassau County, Brooklyn and Queens respectively, at the news conference announcing the multi-county Veterans Project.

traumatic stress disorder, many do not seek help because of the stigma attached to getting treatment. “We cannot allow our country to ignore the lessons of Vietnam,” he cautioned.

The Veterans Project, whose other partners are Long Island’s Law and Psychiatry Institute, the Department of Veterans Affairs New York Harbor Health Care System and the Touro Law Center, incorporates a range of treatment and support services—including peer mentors—building on the successful model spearheaded by Erie County Judge Robert Russell, who presides over Buffalo’s drug treatment and mental health court parts.

Court Program Sets Novice Law Students on Path to Success *continued from page 1*

School’s Westchester County campus provided to those enrolled in the program. “And we get to go on field trips,” added the incoming Fordham Law School freshman, announcing that she and her LEO peers had already visited Albany’s Court of Appeals and New York City Criminal Court.

Wednesdays are devoted to such outings, with students also observing federal trials and visiting the Westchester County district attorney’s office as well as community courts in Manhattan and Brooklyn over the course of the six-week program, explained attorney Joy Beane of the New York State Judicial Institute. The court system’s legal research and education facility, the Judicial Institute sits on the Pace Law School campus in White Plains, administering the program.

**Program Boasts A Strong Networking Component**

The student-to-student interaction is also an integral part of the program, said Ms. Beane adding, “By the end of the program

**A New Court Model Grows in Buffalo**

With more and more veterans appearing before Judge Russell in recent years, the jurist worked with the court system, adapting Buffalo’s drug and mental health court models—alternative-to-jail programs comprising a mix of treatment and support services—to launch the nation’s first Veterans Treatment Court in January 2008.

Over 120 veterans have since enrolled in the Buffalo court, and of the court’s 18 graduates, none has been rearrested, Judge Russell reported recently at a roundtable discussion of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. “They are clean and sober and actively addressing any mental health needs. All are either employed or pursuing further education,” he said, adding that many have reconnected with once-estranged relatives and friends.

In addition to the multi-county Veterans Project, the Buffalo model has inspired the creation of veterans courts in Rochester and communities across the country, with legislation pending in Washington, D.C. that would provide federal funding for the establishment of these tribunals. ■

**“We have learned from the past that veterans may need enhanced services should they become involved in the criminal justice system.”**

**CHARLES HYNES**  
*Kings County District Attorney*

**With some LEO students first-generation Americans and most of those applying to the program counting few or no attorneys among their circle of family and friends, a primary goal of the program is to give students a sense of belonging in their first year of law school.**

students form their own network of peers at different law schools. We now have a Facebook page for each class.”

She also noted the strong relationships that have developed between LEO students and their mentors, a component of the program spearheaded by the courts’ Judicial Commission on Minorities, which is dedicated to promoting racial equity and cultural sensitivity in the courts and legal profession.

Asari Aniagolu, an alumna of the LEO Program’s inaugural class and now a third-year student at Columbia Law School, continues

**JAPAN’S NEW JURY SYSTEM IS FOCUS OF NYC SEMINAR**

**A PIANO TEACHER, DIETITIAN, HOMEMAKER AND SEVERAL COMPANY EMPLOYEES** made history in August as “lay judges” in Japan’s first jury trial in over 60 years, held at the Tokyo District Court. Employing mixed panels of jurors and professional judges to render verdicts—and hand down sentences—in serious criminal cases, the new system aims to add transparency to the judicial process.

Upon being discharged on August 7, the seven jurors—including one alternate—described the experience as valuable and urged others to participate in the new system, making it a particularly triumphant day for defense attorney Satoru Shinomiya, a professor at Tokyo’s Kokugakuin University Law School who has spent years advocating for the return of jury trials in Japan.

Ironically, Prof. Shinomiya was not in Tokyo on August 7 but in Manhattan, where just hours after the trial he led a teachers’ seminar on his nation’s justice system sponsored by the New York City-based Japan Society, with the trial and history of the resurgence of Japan’s jury system the focal points of discussion.

**An Upbeat Start**

Addressing the group of New York City educators at the workshop, the professor shared highlights of the previous evening, which he spent watching Internet coverage of the trial’s aftermath, at times moved to tears by the jurors’ positive reactions to their service.

In particular, he was struck by the homemaker on the jury panel, who initially doubted her ability to serve but walked away pleased

that she had done a good job, as well as the eldest man on the jury, a part-time worker in his early sixties with reservations about serving who later told the press, “To make this society a better place, we should actively take part in it.”

“The important thing is how one feels about the system *after* serving,” stressed Prof. Shinomiya, who came to the U.S. in the mid-1990s to study the American jury system, then returned to Japan to push for the revival of jury trials, participating on the committee that authored the 2004 bill re-establishing juries in Japan.

Interviewing jurors as part of his research on the American jury system, the professor said most came to believe that their responsibility was not just toward the parties but society as a whole, a perspective seemingly shared by jurors on the recent Tokyo trial.

**Seeds of A Movement**

Providing workshop attendees with some historical context, the professor said that over 480 jury trials were held in Japan between 1928 and 1943, with juror eligibility limited to Japanese males, age 30 or older, meeting certain financial requirements.

Seventeen percent of the defendants tried by these juries were acquitted. During this period, though, most offenders waived their right to a jury, said the professor, explaining that defendants, if convicted by a jury, would have to pay for the trial and could not appeal the verdict.

Jury trials were suspended in Japan during WWII, with the jury clause included in the second draft of the country’s postwar constitution omitted from the final version, according to Prof. Shinomiya.

*continued on page 4*

to stay in touch with her mentor, Queens Family Court Supervising Judge Carol Stokinger.

“We normally meet at least twice a month for breakfast or dinner. She gives me honest advice and truly cares about my future,” Ms. Aniagolu wrote in an August e-mail to Ms. Beane.

The experience has also been very rewarding for Judge Stokinger, who over the past two years has enjoyed watching Ms. Aniagolu gain more self-confidence.

“Law school requires a different way of thinking, a different way of writing. As a LEO mentor, you try to smooth the way a bit,” the judge said recently.

**A Chance to Get One’s Feet Wet**

With some of the LEO students first-generation Americans—and most of those applying to the program counting few or no attorneys among their circle of family and friends—a

primary goal of the initiative is to provide the students “a sense of belonging in their first year of law school,” emphasized Judge Juanita Bing Newton, dean of the Judicial Institute, who was involved in the early efforts to develop the program and now oversees its administration. “The program is outstanding in so many ways, but most importantly because it lets the students experience the realities of law school and, in doing so, gives them the confidence they need to succeed,” she added.

Nearly 60 students have participated in the LEO program since its inception. “As of this year, we have students enrolled in every single law school in New York State,” reported Ms. Beane, who is already gearing up for the 2010 LEO class.

For eligibility requirements and other details, visit the LEO program online at: [www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/leo/program.shtml](http://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/leo/program.shtml). ■

By the late 1980s, pressure was building from the business community, legal scholars and others to establish a more accessible and publicly accountable legal system in Japan, with the professor attributing the return of jury trials to this reform movement.

Prof. Shinomiya took up the cause of reviving the jury trial in Japan after one of his clients—a man whose innocence the professor maintains until this day—was convicted of murder by a panel of judges and now waits on death row.

Traditionally, convictions have been based largely on signed confessions obtained by police and prosecutors, with little emphasis on witness testimony, noted the professor. Under the new jury trial system, police officers will have to testify before the jury, providing information on how they obtained a confession.



Japanese defense attorney and legal scholar Satoru Shinomiya with Japan Society education director Robert Fish at the August workshop on Japan's new jury system.

Prof. Shinomiya also pointed out that until now prosecutors were not required to disclose evidence unless ordered to by a judge. The new system provides for pre-trial meetings among judges, defense attorneys and prosecutors, giving the defense access to more of the evidence.

**“To make society a better place, we should actively take part in it,” the eldest member of Japan's first post-WWII jury told reporters following his service.**

Jurors sit alongside the professional judges throughout the proceedings and can question the parties directly in court, said Prof. Shinomiya, adding that Japan's first postwar jurors posed questions to the defendant, an elderly man charged with fatally stabbing his 66-year-old neighbor, and to the victim's son.

#### Symbolizing A Cultural Shift

While there are those who say Japan's hierarchical structure will make it difficult, if not impossible, for citizens serving on these

## JAPAN'S NEW JURY SYSTEM: THE BASICS

- Potential jurors are picked by lottery from voters' lists.
- Jurors must be Japanese citizens and at least 20 years old with no serious criminal record.
- Police and military officers, legal professionals and high-ranking government officials are exempt from serving.
- Juries can rule on guilt as well as sentencing.
- Typical panels will comprise six jurors and three professional judges, with jurors and judges having one vote each and cases decided by a simple majority. (For a guilty verdict to be binding, there must be a majority of five votes, including at least one from a professional judge.)
- Jurors are permitted to directly question the witnesses and defendant in court.
- About 3,000 cases a year are expected to be tried under the new jury system.
- Citizens who are summoned but do not report for jury service will be fined 100,000 yen (approximately \$1,000).

mixed panels to express disagreement with the professional judges sitting beside them, Prof. Shinomiya and other experts contend that lay participation on trials will promote independent thinking and civic responsibility, also enhancing public understanding of the legal system.

In contrast to some of his peers, the professor predicted the new system will lead to a drop in Japan's notoriously high—99.8 percent—conviction rate, later saying, “Some think I'm overly optimistic, but I truly believe in the power of the people.” ■

#### INTERESTED IN SHARING YOUR JURY EXPERIENCE WITH OUR READERS?

We'd like to hear from you. We also welcome comments about *Jury Pool News* and story ideas for future issues.

Please send juror anecdotes, newsletter suggestions and story ideas to: Arlene Hackel, *Jury Pool News* Editor, NYS Unified Court System

25 Beaver Street, Suite 867, New York, NY 10004, E-mail address: [ahackel@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:ahackel@courts.state.ny.us)

*Jury Pool News* is published quarterly by the New York State Unified Court System

To view or download past issues of the newsletter, visit: [www.nycourts.gov/reports/jurypoolnews.shtml](http://www.nycourts.gov/reports/jurypoolnews.shtml)

## WEST BANK DELEGATION VISITS SYRACUSE COURT

**A NEWLY APPOINTED JUDGE AND OTHER LEADERS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST'S WEST BANK OBSERVED COURT PROCEEDINGS** and learned about methods being employed by the New York state courts to help stop the cycle of domestic violence during a recent visit to the Onondaga County Supreme Courthouse in Syracuse.

Michael Hanuszcak, one of the judges sitting in the Syracuse court's Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Part, was among those to meet with the group, whose members are looking to reduce family violence back home.

“I was very impressed with their genuine interest in our legal system and certainly acquired knowledge about theirs,” said Judge Hanuszcak, who underwent special training before joining the Onondaga County IDV Part, where he handles the criminal aspects of domestic violence cases, also presiding over family-related matters, such as child custody and support issues, that may be involved.

Due to the complex nature of domestic violence cases, complainants historically sought redress in various courts—Criminal or Family Court for the assault charges, Supreme or Family Court for child support and custody matters, and Supreme Court for divorce-related issues—with New York's IDV parts established several years ago to centralize the process. Keeping offenders under tight scrutiny, these specialized tribunals also provide victims and their children swift access to emergency housing and other critical services.

Over the course of their one-day visit to the Syracuse court, the all-female Mideast delegation had numerous questions—including inquiries regarding the court system's judicial and



Judge Michael Hanuszcak and International Center of Syracuse Director Ruth Ragonese (front row, second from left) and volunteer Norma Widman (front row, far right) with members of the West Bank delegation during their recent visit to Onondaga County Supreme Court.

jury selection processes—for Judge Hanuszcak and others working at the courthouse.

“They were intrigued by the fact that the majority of our state court judges are elected by the public and not appointed, and also that members of the public serve as jurors,” said Judge Hanuszcak, expressing his gratification at being able to share with the delegates strategies for combating family violence.

The group's excursion was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leader Program in collaboration with the International Center of Syracuse, with the center arranging the court visit and other outings in the Syracuse area to give delegates the opportunity to exchange ideas with their professional counterparts in New York.

To learn more about the state's Integrated Domestic Violence parts visit:

[www.nycourts.gov/courts/problem\\_solving/idv/home.shtml](http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/problem_solving/idv/home.shtml).

## SPECIAL AWARD GOES TO COURT FOR ITS ECO-FRIENDLY DESIGN

**A FIVE-STORY COURT COMPLEX UNDER WAY IN STATEN ISLAND EARNED SPECIAL HONORS** for its environmentally friendly design at the 27th Annual Awards for Excellence in Design, presented in July by New York City's design review agency.

Eco-friendly features of the state-of-the-art facility—the borough's first new courthouse in over 75 years—include solar panels, green spaces and green roofs with native and adaptive vegetation, a rainwater collection and storage system for irrigation needs, and a glass facade to provide maximum daylight.

At over 183,000 square feet, the Staten Island Court Complex will house the borough's Supreme and Criminal Courts, along with related agencies, replacing

cramped quarters in the existing Supreme Courthouse and other buildings.

The facility, to be located in St. George near the Staten Island Ferry terminal, will also accommodate a five-deck garage that offers preferred parking for hybrid and



Rendering by Polshek Partnership

alternative-fuel vehicles, with its outside walls to be covered in vegetation.

Representatives of the state Office of Court Administration, New York City Mayor's Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator, state Dormitory Authority and New York City Department of City-wide Administrative Services make up the team overseeing the completion of the complex, designed by Polshek Partnership LLP and Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects.

Estimated at \$220 million, the facility is scheduled for 2012 occupancy. Once construction is completed, the existing Supreme Court building—erected in 1912—will be retrofitted to house Staten Island's Family Court. ■

## COURTS HONOR ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR HER LIFELONG PURSUIT OF EQUAL JUSTICE

**DYNAMO AND LONG-TIME PUBLIC SERVANT, NEWLY APPOINTED DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR THE NEW YORK CITY COURTS FERN FISHER** drew a large, enthusiastic crowd at a recent courthouse tribute in lower Manhattan celebrating her new post and distinguished career, which include work as both a legal services attorney and jurist at New York City's Housing Court and a long tenure as administrative judge of New York City Civil Court.

Sheila Abdus-Salaam, who sits on the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, spoke fondly at the reception of friend and colleague Judge Fisher, recounting some of the triumphs and tragedies the two have shared over the years.

"We share the same experience ... being raised almost singlehandedly by mothers," Judge Abdus-Salaam pointed out, calling Judge Fisher a person of "keen intellect and boundless energy" and lauding her earnest pursuit "to achieve justice for the downtrodden."

### A Skilled Administrator Whose Passion is People

In a mostly lighthearted tribute, Queens County Civil Court Judge Pam Jackman-Brown noted Judge Fisher's penchant for detail, whether in her role as court administrator, dinner party host or unsolicited fashion adviser to her friends.

Expressing awe at Judge Fisher's wisdom, intuitive nature and extraordinary ability to juggle myriad responsibilities, Judge Jackman-Brown also used the terms "simplicity," "humility" and "the epitome of humanity" to describe her jurist friend.

Chief Judge Lippman, who on behalf of the courts' Judicial Commission on Minorities presented Judge Fisher with an award for her distinguished service, told the crowd, "I can't think of a more effec-



Honoree Fern Fisher (third from right) with (left to right) Judge Sheila Abdus-Salaam, Administrative Judge Michael Coccoma, Judge Pam Jackman-Brown, Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and Judge Rose Sconiers, chair of the courts' Judicial Commission on Minorities.

**Raised by a single mom who struggled with alcoholism and depression, and living in a largely migrant community as a teen, Judge Fisher early on felt compelled to pursue a life of public service.**

tive court administrator than Fern, but the thing that makes her so unique, so great, is her passion, her caring for people."

Judge Lippman also said that Judge Fisher "reformed Housing Court from top to bottom," alluding to such enhancements as the installation of on-site resource centers that provide procedural information and assistance to self-represented litigants, and a program at the Bronx Housing Court funded by United Way of New York City that combines legal and social services to help prevent low-income tenants from being evicted from their apartments.

### Former Chief Judge, Others Pay Homage to Honoree via Film

Former Chief Judge Judith Kaye paid homage to Judge Fisher via a film Judge Fisher's staff produced without her knowledge, in which the former chief judge

recounted how Judge Fisher "was able to garner hundreds and hundreds of attorney volunteers" at a recent New York City program aimed at enhancing free legal help for needy litigants in civil matters.

In the film Ms. Kaye said she was "especially pleased" that Judge Fisher, who was also named director of the courts' Access to Justice Program, would be leading this statewide initiative to ensure equal access to justice in civil and criminal matters for New Yorkers of all incomes, backgrounds and special needs.

Other members of the legal community appearing in the film spoke of Judge Fisher's many efforts on behalf of the self-represented, including the creation of an online program to assist debtors prepare court papers to vacate default judgments against them, an initiative generated by the recent spike in consumer credit cases at New York City Civil Court.

### Awardee Recounts Starting Point of Her Life's Work

Addressing the standing-room-only gathering at evening's close, a visibly overwhelmed Judge Fisher recalled her move at age 14 from Queens to Riverhead, Long Island, where she said her lifelong journey to serve others began.

"Riverhead had the largest migrant population in the country. I decided then I was going to do something to make a difference," she said, also discussing the impact her mother's struggles with domestic violence, alcoholism and depression had on Judge Fisher's pursuit of a public service career.

Judge Fisher also related how she returned home just after graduating from Harvard Law School to discover the family house had been foreclosed on because her mom had not taken care of the necessary paperwork.

"There was no other alternative for me but to serve. The court allows me to do that," she said, at one point telling the crowd that she wakes up every morning "loving what I do—accomplishing social justice step by step, changing life by life."

### NEW ONLINE PROGRAMS AID LITIGANTS WITHOUT LAWYERS

Along with her duties as deputy chief administrative judge for New York City Courts, Fern Fisher also heads the New York state courts' Access to Justice Program, which works to develop and enhance programs to address the legal needs of New Yorkers, regardless of income or background.

In July Judge Fisher announced the addition of several self-help tools: the online DIY (do-it-yourself) Support Modification Petition Program for Family Court; the DIY Small Estates Affidavit Program for Surrogate's Court; and the Adult Name Change Petition Program for Supreme Court.

This latest technology is a collaborative effort of the court system, Legal Assistance of Western New York, Legal Services NYC, Law Help/NY and ProBono Net, with funding from the Legal Services Corporation and State Justice Institute and software provided by the Chicago-Kent College of Law. To access any of these programs, which aid users in preparing individualized court forms and instructions, visit:

[www.nycourthelp.gov](http://www.nycourthelp.gov). ■

## COURTS MARK EIGHT-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

**AT A CEREMONY IN THE KEW GARDENS JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM IN QUEENS MARKING THE EIGHT-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPT. 11 ATTACKS**, officials paid tribute to those who assisted in the World Trade Center rescue efforts, among them members of the courts' officer corps, three of whom perished saving others. Twenty-seven year court veteran Captain William "Harry" Thompson, 34-year-old Sergeant Mitchel Wallace and Sergeant Thomas "Tommy the Ready" Jurgens, a young newlywed, made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11.

"Our officers are the bravest ... and the finest, and there were none braver or finer than Harry, Mitch and Tommy," said a solemn Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Fern Fisher, administrator of the state's New York City trial courts, speaking before a packed jury room that included family members of the three fallen officers.

With President Obama designating Sept. 11 a National Day of Service and Remembrance, Judge Fisher—also the overseer of a statewide court initiative that aims to ensure access to justice in civil and criminal matters for all New Yorkers—recalled the spirit of volunteerism and unity that prevailed following the attacks. (Read about tribute to Judge Fisher on page 6.)

"Merchants were handing out bottles of water, first responders came from all over, volunteer attorneys were so numerous," she recounted, urging New Yorkers to come forward once again "at a time when mental illness, hunger, unemployment, homelessness and foreclosures are at an all-time high."

The county's administrative judges, Jeremy Weinstein and Fernando Camacho, also addressed the crowd, with Judge Weinstein acknowledging Queens County Supreme Court Officer Frank Pastore for putting his life on the line three years ago to intercept a carjacking outside the courthouse, and both jurists lauding the day-to-day efforts of the many dedicated men and women across the state charged with safeguarding our courts.

Ceremonies commemorating the 2001 tragedy and paying homage to the courts' fallen officers were held in courthouses around the state on Sept. 11. ■