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# Youth Courts

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## Young People Delivering Justice

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A SERIES OF "HOW-TO" PUBLICATIONS DESIGNED  
TO HELP THE COMMUNITY, THE BENCH, AND  
THE BAR IMPLEMENT CHANGE IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

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## **ABA Policy Statement**

Adopted by the ABA House of Delegates August 9, 1995

***RESOLVED***, That the American Bar Association encourages state and territorial legislatures, court systems, and bar associations to support and assist in the formation and expansion of diversionary programs, known as Youth Courts, where juvenile participants, under supervision of volunteer attorneys and advisory staff, act as judges, jurors, clerks, bailiffs, and counsel for first time juvenile offenders who are charged with misdemeanors and consent to the program.

# Youth Courts

## Young People Delivering Justice

By Margaret Fisher  
For the American Bar Association



A SERIES OF "HOW-TO" PUBLICATIONS DESIGNED  
TO HELP THE COMMUNITY, THE BENCH, AND  
THE BAR IMPLEMENT CHANGE IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM



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Except where indicated, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the American Bar Association.

## Message from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the American Bar Association

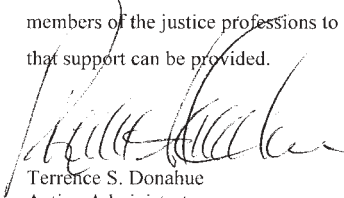
The ideal of justice for all can only be achieved when people both understand and trust our justice system. Through youth court, the nation's young people have a chance to contribute directly to the workings of that justice system, and at the same time develop a foundation for their trust in that system.

Youth court, also known as teen court and peer jury, engages youth volunteers to help their peers who have committed delinquent acts or other problem behaviors. The four structural models of youth courts commonly serve as sentencing hearings for first-time offenders who have acknowledged their guilt and agreed along with their guardians to accept a sentence determined by their peers. Adults and youth volunteers work as colleagues to achieve the goals of restoring justice to the victims, the respondents, and the community.

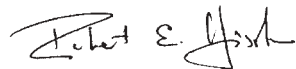
The benefits of such peer engagement are significant. Young respondents learn that there are consequences for their misbehavior and that their peers are willing to take the time to ensure that those consequences are just. The youth volunteers learn about due process, restorative justice, and the benefits of volunteering to improve their community. The community benefits by giving young respondents a chance to turn their lives around while educating youth volunteers about the value of participation in our justice system.

The number of youth courts has increased rapidly since the early 1990s, largely due to their grassroots popularity. In 1994, there were 78 operational youth courts. Currently, there are more than 860 youth courts, and hundreds more communities are poised to establish a youth court in the near future. Thousands of young people are participating as respondents and volunteers in youth courts. Can you imagine their response to jury duty summonses as they become adults? We can expect that their youth court experiences will solidify their trust in the justice system and encourage them to continue to be informed and active participants.

The American Bar Association and the United States Department of Justice recognize the importance of youth courts and have joined together to provide numerous programmatic resources, such as this *Roadmap*, to support and enhance the quality of youth courts. In particular, we want to encourage lawyers, judges, and other members of the justice professions to add their support to youth courts. You will find details in the booklet on how that support can be provided.



Terrence S. Donahue  
Acting Administrator  
Office of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention



Robert E. Hirshon  
President (2001-2002)  
American Bar Association

## Message from the Coalition for Justice

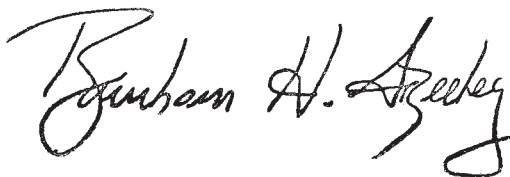
On behalf of the American Bar Association, we would like to thank you for your interest in improving the justice system in your community and throughout the country. Since 1992, the ABA has conducted a "Justice Initiatives" program to encourage justice reform at the state and local levels by all those affected by the system: judges, lawyers, citizens. The Coalition for Justice is a part of this effort.

Over the past several years, as community members across the nation have joined with bar associations and courts to examine the administration of justice, several important issues have emerged. The *Roadmap* series of informational booklets is one way the ABA is addressing these issues. We hope that this resource will provide citizen groups, bar associations, policy-makers, courts, and other concerned people with the tools they need to initiate reforms in key areas.

*"Youth Courts: Young People Delivering Justice"* describes a relatively new area of justice improvement. Although youth courts are a prime example of a justice initiative -- members of the community working cooperatively with judges and lawyers -- they are not yet widely known, even among those well-informed about justice reform. While youth courts are programs -- not formal courts--they are included under the umbrella of "therapeutic" or "problem-solving" courts. The formal courts included in this group are drug, domestic violence, mental health, unified family, and community courts. We addressed unified family courts in an earlier *Roadmap* ("*Unified Family Court: Justice Delivered*") and will address the broad topic of therapeutic or problem-solving courts in an upcoming *Roadmap*.

This *Roadmap* introduces youth courts to those who are interested in justice improvement. It explores the ways in which courts, bar associations, law enforcement, education organizations, community groups, and young people have developed coalitions to create and operate youth courts and provides examples of local programs of diverse models around the nation.

Although the array of information available on this subject cannot be included here, we believe that the information in this *Roadmap* will lead you in the right direction and provide you with tools to assist you in moving forward. Ultimately, we hope to inspire you to help establish or support a youth court in your jurisdiction.



Burnham H. Greeley, Chair  
Coalition for Justice



# Youth Courts: Young People Delivering Justice

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## INTRODUCTION

More frequently across the United States, young people are delivering justice to their peers who have engaged in their first delinquent act or other problem behavior. At the same time, these young people are learning important citizenship knowledge and skills. Youth courts, also known as teen courts and peer juries, involve volunteers from 8 to 18 years of age in sentencing their peers for crimes, traffic infractions, or school rule violations.

Instead of being ignored by the juvenile court system for a minor offense, youth court respondents<sup>1</sup> confront and address the impact of their behavior on all victims. Instead of just paying a fine in traffic court, youth who commit traffic infractions explore the impact of their careless driving and have a chance to find out more about the harm they caused. Instead of being suspended from school for multiple truancies, youth court respondents learn what impact truancy has on themselves, their families, their schoolmates, and the community. In each case, young people get a chance to make up for the harm they caused and develop needed competencies.

This *Roadmap* examines the nature, structure, and benefits of youth courts and explores the roles played by a variety of government and community entities. It highlights examples of successful youth courts throughout the United States – ones based in juvenile justice settings, community settings, and school settings. It spotlights unique innovations in youth courts and discusses statewide associations that play a role in supporting and networking youth courts within a state.

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## FEDERAL AND NATIONAL SUPPORT

A fairly uncommon phenomenon in the past, youth courts began expanding rapidly in the 1990s. Noting youth courts' successes, the federal government and other national organizations began supporting youth court programs. On December 20, 2001, before the U.S. Congress, Speaker of the House Dennis J. Hastert read a resolution in support of the national youth court initiative at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). As of 2002, the number of youth courts is rapidly approaching the 1,000 mark nationwide. In addition, there are 15 states with youth court associations that promote and support youth courts.

In 1999, OJJDP established the National Youth Court Center at the American Probation and Parole Association to assist communities in developing and operating effective youth court programs and supported the development of the *National Youth Court Guidelines*. Through the National Youth Court Center, OJJDP provides training and technical assistance on best practices in youth courts.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Constitutional Rights Foundation/Chicago, Street Law, Inc., and the American Bar Association (ABA)

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1. "Respondents" is a generic term used to refer to youth court defendants or offenders.

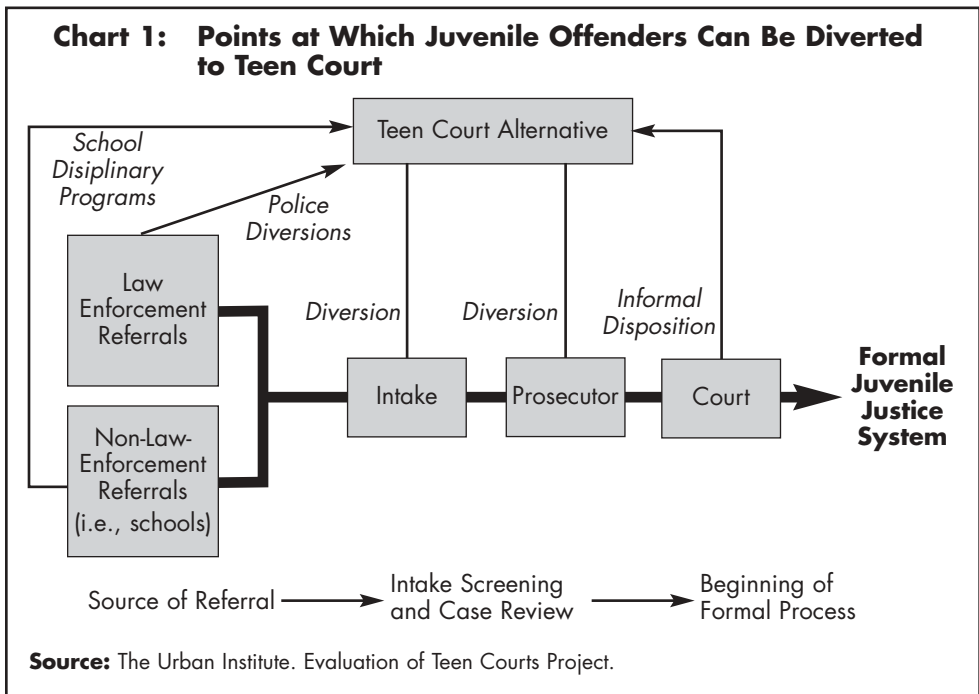
are also key partners in the development of youth courts nationally. NHTSA, with its concern for safety among young drivers, promotes youth courts as one tool in reducing underage drinking and impaired driving and has funded efforts in youth courts.

The ABA has a long history of educating the public about the law and embraces youth courts as an effective way to educate young people in active citizenship. It has prepared technical assistance bulletins, the national volunteer curriculum for youth courts, and this *Roadmap*.

## THE NATURE OF YOUTH COURTS

Most youth courts are diversion programs in which youth sentence their peers for crimes and other violations. Despite their name, they are not formal courts. They are programs involving youth volunteers who respond to youth misconduct by devising a disposition or sentence that addresses restorative justice goals. In many youth courts, but not all, those who complete their youth court sentence avoid having a criminal record, points on their driving record, or a school record of misconduct.

Individual youth courts are typically the creation of local communities, resulting in diverse structure, operations, caseloads, and characteristics. The court may handle cases that otherwise would be eligible for prosecution in juvenile court, traffic court, or the school's disciplinary process. Depending upon which of the many approaches is followed, young people may take on the roles of judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, community advocate, defense advocate, juror, presiding juror, bailiff, or clerk.

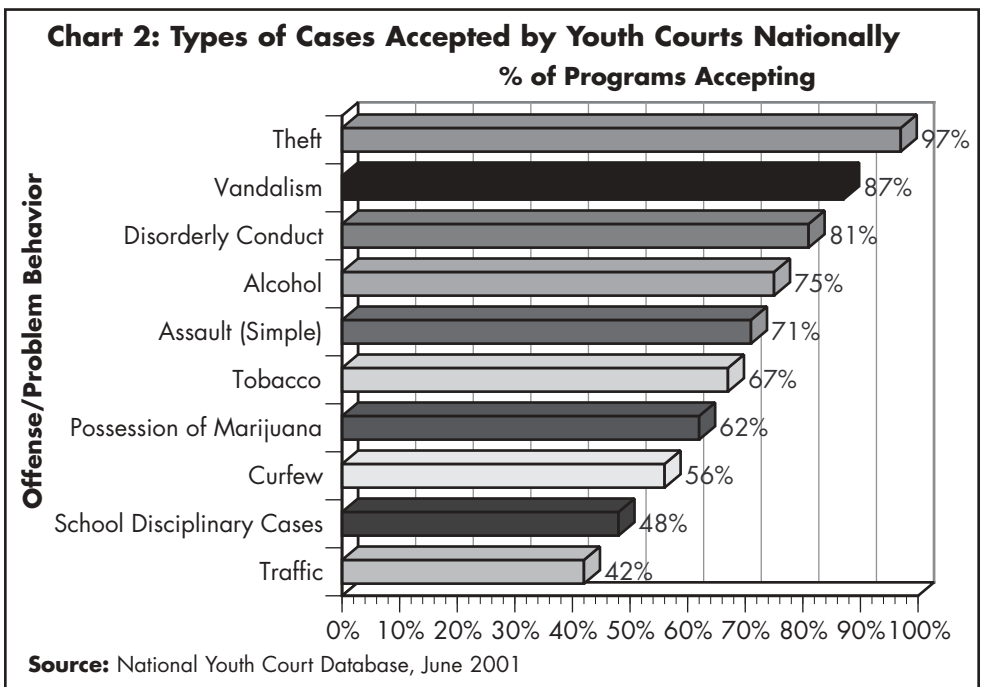


In most cases, young people must admit their wrongdoing or plead no contest to be eligible for youth court. In a few cases, youth courts also determine guilt. However, in all circumstances, both the parent and young person must give informed consent to participate in youth court.

Youth courts turn peer pressure into a positive tool; the youth volunteers, who represent the diversity of the community from which respondents are drawn, tell respondents clearly that their behavior is wrong. However, the underlying philosophy of youth courts is not merely to punish youth. Instead, the deliberators work through creative ways to have respondents understand that their behavior has harmed others and the community. To help bring closure, respondents are provided ways to repair the harm that they caused. Specific needs of the respondents are identified and the disposition is directed at building competencies in them. The disposition involves the community in new ways of working with offenders.

Quite commonly as part of the disposition, respondents themselves must serve on the jury near the end of their imposed sentence. This makes the point that they are not excluded from the circle of law-abiding peers, but are included once more within the community. It helps them to understand more fully the thinking that goes into sentencing and what has happened to them. Additionally, it helps to ensure a diverse youth jury that reflects the range of members of the community.

Other disposition options can include community service hours, educational classes, mediation, restitution, apology, essays, counseling, curfew, drug testing, school attendance, peer discussion groups, and other creative dispositions. These dispositions can be most helpful when the youth court hearing allows the jurors to learn enough about the respondent to tailor them to that youth's needs.



Failure to complete the disposition imposed by the youth court will generally result in referral back to the original agency. For example, youth failing to complete their disposition for crimes may be referred back to juvenile court or probation, traffic violators back to traffic court, and school rule violators back to the traditional school disciplinary process.

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## **STRUCTURE OF YOUTH COURTS**

Youth courts typically are categorized into four structural models: (1) youth judge, (2) adult judge, (3) youth tribunal, and (4) peer jury. However, within each of the models there are local variations and innovations.

**Youth judge model:** In this model, youth staff all the court positions. A young person presides over the disposition hearing as judge. Youth, as prosecutors and defense attorneys, present opening statements, evidence, and closing arguments to a jury. Depending upon the format of the youth court, the youth attorneys may receive a police report or other document detailing the misconduct some time prior to the hearing. They then begin their fact finding and formulation of their position on a recommended disposition. They may interview witnesses and prepare questions for the hearing. Typically, the prosecutor ensures that the impact of the respondent's behavior on all victims is presented. Victims may be involved in the disposition or the prosecutor may obtain a written victim impact statement or may rely on a more generalized community impact statement for the type of offense that occurred.

Defense attorneys make sure that the jury understands the broader context in which the misconduct has occurred, including any remorse, steps taken to remedy the harm prior to the hearing, and any consequences already imposed by the parent. Defense attorneys also attempt to bring to the attention of the jury what troubles or difficulties the respondents experience in their lives.

The youth clerk handles the paperwork during the hearing. The youth bailiff calls the court to order, announces the case, administers the oath, escorts individuals in and out of the courtroom, and closes proceedings. The youth jurors deliberate and determine a disposition for the respondent using restorative justice goals. An adult youth court coordinator or adult volunteer is present in the courtroom to ensure that the process runs smoothly.

**Adult judge model:** The only difference between this model and the youth judge model is that an adult, generally an attorney or judicial officer, presides over the hearings as judge.

**Youth tribunal model:** In this model a presiding youth judge and a panel of other (usually two) youth judges preside over the case. Youth attorneys may present the opening statements, evidence, and closing arguments to the panel of judges. It is the judges and not a jury who deliberate and decide upon the disposition. A youth court clerk and bailiff perform the roles described above.

**Peer jury model:** This model is distinct from the others. The peer jury court is composed of one presiding juror and a panel of jury members who all question the respondent, parent, and other witnesses and then deliberate and decide upon a disposition. A court clerk may read the charge and handle the paperwork. No youth attorneys are used, although in recent developments, courts may assign a community advocate to ensure

that the impact of the respondent's behavior is fully explored. These courts may appoint a defense advocate to support the respondent during the hearing and ensure that sufficient information is provided about the circumstances of the respondent. These advocates may even make opening statements and closing arguments.

In the three models using juries (all except the youth tribunal model), the jurors may be recruited and trained along with the other court members, or perhaps only a presiding juror goes through that training. In the latter case, the remaining jurors join the court on the date of the hearing without prior training, although they may be oriented to the process prior to the start of the hearing. Also, since the majority of youth courts include jury service as a part of the disposition, former respondents may also be part of the jury.

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## **FUNDING OF YOUTH COURTS**

As with much of the description of youth courts, funding sources vary widely. Since youth courts rely extensively on volunteers, the costs of running such a program are reduced, although there are core costs. A 1999 survey conducted by the American Probation and Parole Association found that the annual operating budget for youth courts is about \$33,000. Although funding issues are cited in a national survey of youth courts as the most pressing problem, this does not appear to have an impact on the national growth rate.

Youth courts in which the staff and office space are subsumed into an existing government or nonprofit agency have much lower operating budgets. State legislation may provide for funding of youth courts. According to a 1998 Urban Institute survey of all youth courts then known to exist, most youth courts reported that state or local government covered the majority of their costs, with only 33 percent reporting that they received more than 10 percent of their annual funding from private sources.

Typically, youth court programs solicit donations and grants to assist with program costs. A wide variety of federal and local sources help support youth courts, including grants from the key federal partners described above and grants and in-kind services from state and local bar associations; city, county, and state governments; juvenile courts; juvenile probation; school districts; and religious and civic organizations. In some cases, youth courts charge a fee for service to defray costs.

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## **EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUTH COURTS**

The first effectiveness question generally posed about youth courts is what impact does the experience of youth courts have on respondents. According to the OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin, *Teen Courts: A Focus on Research* by Jeffrey A. Butts and Janeen Buck, October 2000:

This Bulletin presents the results of a national survey of teen courts. The findings suggest that most teen courts are relatively small and were established very recently. ... The survey indicates that teen courts enjoy broad

community support. Their popularity appears to stem from favorable media coverage and the high levels of satisfaction reported by parents, teachers, and youth involved in teen court programs, rather than from evaluation research showing that teen courts have beneficial effects on respondents. Little research has been conducted on outcomes for teen court defendants, although some studies offer encouraging results. Recent studies have found that teen court participation may be associated with low recidivism rates, improved youth attitudes towards authority, and increased knowledge of the justice system among youth.

A major evaluation effort is underway. The Urban Institute is conducting the Evaluation of Teen Courts Project to assess the impact of youth courts on juveniles accused of misdemeanors and generally nonviolent offenses. The evaluation is collecting data on youth outcomes such as post-program recidivism and changes in the youth's perceptions of the justice system, including respect for authority, trust in the police, and other attitudes. This evaluation is comparing the outcomes of cases of youth who went through youth court with those who entered the traditional juvenile justice system.

It is focusing on four established youth courts in various parts of the country that use different structural models. They include youth courts in Anchorage, AK; Maricopa County, AZ; Rockville, MD; and Independence, MO. The jurisdictions were chosen to maximize the number of case processing models used by the programs, the mix of geographic locations represented, and the overall quality and length of service of each program.

At the December 3, 2001 American Youth Policy Forum Congressional Briefing, the Urban Institute presented some initial findings from self-reported questionnaires completed by youth court respondents and parents. These preliminary findings indicate that there is no clear evidence that one structural model (adult judge, youth judge, youth tribunal, or peer jury) is more effective than another, that client satisfaction is high, that parents' and respondents' satisfaction with youth court is high even after court, and that program impact may be greater among already pro-social youth.

The final results, including the recidivism findings of the Evaluation of Teen Court Project, will be released in April 2002 and available at [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org).

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## **LAW-RELATED EDUCATION OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERS**

Recent studies have indicated that youth participating in youth court as respondents and volunteers have improved attitudes toward authority and have increased knowledge of the justice system. These are traditional goals of law-related education.

Broadly, law-related education provides youth with active learning experiences that permit them to explore their rights and responsibilities under the law, confront and resolve disputes, and discuss and analyze public issues. It is through these undertakings that youth develop the lifelong skills all citizens need: to think critically; to gather, interpret, and act appropriately on information; and to participate effectively in a law-based society.

A landmark research project conducted for the U.S. Department of Justice indicates that law-related education when properly conducted reduces delinquency. Alternatively stated, it has a positive effect on youth behavior. Therefore youth court volunteer training that embodies those characteristics of law-related education can be expected to have a positive impact on delinquent and problem behavior.

In youth courts, volunteers learn about the role of law in society and its application to young people. In addition, as key participants in the justice process, they have the opportunity to apply the law to real respondents, to analyze and argue cases, and to shape the legal process and its outcomes. Participation in these efforts as youth opens the door to active civic involvement in a law-based society in their futures. The expectation is that young persons will respond more readily as adults to their civic responsibilities, such as jury duty, community service, and voting.

## YOUTH COURT LEGISLATION

Twenty-five states out of the 45 states that presently have youth courts also have authorizing state legislation. The other 20 states and the District of Columbia rely on existing diversion statutes or delegation policies to authorize the use of youth courts. For example, the Whatcom County Youth Court in Washington state relies on the state’s general diversion statute to refer juvenile cases to youth court. Another example, the Dundalk (MD) High School Student Court relies on the county board of education policy that grants principals the authority in suspension matters to designate other administrators and school professionals to discipline students.

Youth court legislation serves varying purposes in different states. It may provide for funding of youth courts, list them as an authorized option for the formal courts, set out the jurisdiction and operational methods, or any combination of the above. The primary motivation for creating youth court legislation is to legitimize youth courts. Some judges feel more secure in participating or authorizing a program when the statute specifically mentions youth court as an option. Other judges and school administrators are satisfied that existing diversion or delegation authority provides for youth courts. In some states, youth court legislation establishes standards or mandates particular practices. The legislation may regulate youth courts or establish discretionary guidelines to regulate youth courts.

**Chart 3: Existence of Youth Courts and Legislation - 2001**

STATES	YOUTH COURTS	LEGISLATION	STATES	YOUTH COURTS	LEGISLATION
Alabama	Yes	No	Missouri	Yes	No
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Montana	Yes	No
Arizona	Yes	No	Nebraska	Yes	No
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Nevada	Yes	No
California	Yes	Yes	New Hampshire	Yes	No
Colorado	Yes	Yes	New Jersey	No	No
Connecticut	No	No	New Mexico	Yes	Yes
Delaware	Yes	No	New York	Yes	Yes
District of Columbia	Yes	No	North Carolina	Yes	Yes
Florida	Yes	Yes	North Dakota	Yes	No
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Ohio	Yes	No

STATES	YOUTH COURTS	LEGISLATION	STATES	YOUTH COURTS	LEGISLATION
Hawaii	Yes	No	Oklahoma	Yes	Yes
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Oregon	Yes	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Pennsylvania	Yes	No
Indiana	Yes	No	Rhode Island	No	Yes
Iowa	Yes	No	South Carolina	Yes	No
Kansas	Yes	Yes	South Dakota	Yes	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Tennessee	Yes	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	No	Texas	Yes	Yes
Maine	No	No	Utah	Yes	Yes
Maryland	Yes	No	Vermont	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	No	No	Virginia	Yes	No
Michigan	Yes	No	Washington	Yes	No
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	West Virginia	Yes	Yes
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Wisconsin	Yes	Yes
			Wyoming	Yes	Yes

Michelle Heward, "The Organization and Operation of Teen Courts in the United States: A Comparative Analysis of Legislation," *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, Vol. 53, No. 1 (Winter 2002).

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## NATIONAL YOUTH COURT GUIDELINES

Through an intensely collaborative effort, the National Youth Court Center developed the *National Youth Court Guidelines* that were published in 2000. These guidelines are designed to increase “program accountability and integrity of the ‘youth court field.’” These voluntary guidelines specifically acknowledge the diversity of youth courts nationwide. The guidelines establish a foundation from which newly organized youth courts can pattern their operations and from which existing youth courts can measure their programs. Additionally, they form the starting point for states that are establishing their own youth court standards.

The guidelines address nine program areas: program planning and community mobilization, program staffing and funding, legal issues, identified respondent population and referral process, program services and sentencing options, volunteer recruitment and management, volunteer training, youth court operations and case management, and program evaluation. This publication can be downloaded from the Web site of the National Youth Court Center, [www.youthcourt.net](http://www.youthcourt.net).

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## A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

Youth courts are the result of collaboration among many people who have a stake in the community: the judiciary, juvenile probation, bar associations, law enforcement, gov-



ernment agencies, the education community, community organizations, and, most importantly, the young people of the community. Typically, individual youth courts have their own advisory board, which is separate from the overarching statewide associations discussed later. Youth courts reflect the uniqueness of their community. While each court reflects the community values and approaches, there are common benefits and roles identified with each of the stakeholder groups.

Typically, a youth court is created through the leadership of an individual or organization that calls the stakeholders together to plan and implement. Youth courts handling cases diverted from juvenile or traffic court must get the consent of the presiding judge of the court.

Youth courts based exclusively on school rule violations require the consent of school administrators and generally the involvement of a school resource officer, a law enforcement officer assigned to the school.

## **THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND YOUTH COURTS**

As mentioned above, involvement of the judiciary is essential to creating youth courts that divert youth from the traditional court process. In some states, legislation mandates the consent of the judiciary to the creation of youth courts. The judiciary frequently provides oversight to youth courts, ensuring that sound practices are used. The judiciary may do this by adapting rules and regulations on youth court operations that may include youth court forms; by recruiting, selecting, and swearing-in the youth court volunteers; or by treating youth court dispositions as recommendations for the court to adopt, modify, or reject.

The judiciary also may be involved in actual youth court operations, including having judicial officers serve as the judge in the adult judge model youth court and providing use of their courtrooms for the hearings. The judiciary may provide for youth courts in their budgets or assign youth court duties to court administrative staff who organize, support, and monitor youth courts.

Additionally, judicial officers may participate in training the volunteers and serve on advisory boards. Another role for the judiciary is taking a policy stance encouraging youth courts, including support of youth court legislation and state standards, and dissemination of information about youth courts at judicial conferences and programs.

Juvenile probation officers are involved in youth courts nationally. They may refer youth to youth courts. They may even operate youth courts through probation offices. They are integral members of advisory boards and have the expertise to identify community resources that may provide educational classes and community service placements for young people. They may provide training and supply the organizational base that keeps the paper work, schedules the hearings, and monitors compliance with the dispositions. They may also take a policy stand on youth courts and promote them among their membership.

Youth courts assist the judicial branch with their mission as well. They help to educate the public about the judicial process and the roles played in actual court processes. They encourage youth to fulfill their roles as jurors and as knowledgeable citizens when voting on court issues. In some jurisdictions, they reduce the court's caseload by hearing some cases that otherwise would have been heard in court.

Youth courts address other issue of interest to the judiciary. Courts nationwide are concerned with lower rates of return on jury summonses. Young people who have positive experiences in youth court may welcome later jury service.

A 1998 American Bar Association survey of the public's understanding of and confidence in the justice system identified education about the courts as an important strategy in combating distrust and lack of confidence. Youth courts offer an opportunity to educate members of the public who serve as youth and adult volunteers in the court as well as the respondents who come before the court.

Additionally, there is an increase in therapeutic or problem-solving courts across the United States. Examples of these courts include drug courts, mental health courts, domestic violence courts, unified family courts, and youth courts, even though youth courts are not formal courts. The concept of these therapeutic or problem-solving courts is to address the cause of the misconduct while using the sanction of return to the traditional punitive judicial process as one incentive. (Additional information about unified family courts can be found in the ABA *Roadmap* entitled *Unified Family Courts: Justice Delivered*. A forthcoming *Roadmap* will focus on therapeutic or problem-solving courts.)

Youth courts offer this approach. Respondents who choose to go through a youth court program are helped to see how their actions have harmed others but given a chance to redeem themselves by repairing the harm. The youth court considers what the respondents need, whether it is drug and alcohol support, counseling, or just more friendships with other youth. However, if the respondents fail to complete their youth court dispositions satisfactorily, they will be sent back to the original referring agency.

Another issue of concern to the judiciary is providing adequate court access to low-income persons involved in civil cases. More than 15 states have access to justice efforts started by state supreme court order or initiative, or at the initiative of the state bar association. Education of the public is one strategy of the access to justice movement and as such includes youth courts within its reach. (Additional information about access to justice efforts can be found in the ABA *Roadmap* entitled *Access to Justice: State Planning for Access to Civil Legal Services*.)

## **BAR ASSOCIATIONS**

State and local bar associations and their members are essential players in youth courts. Bar associations may provide financial support or assist in fundraising. They may also involve attorneys as mentors and trainers, as well as judges in the adult judge model youth courts. Bar associations may also take policy stances to encourage youth courts, including educating its membership on the benefits and value of youth courts, serving on advisory boards, and supporting youth court legislation.

Bar associations throughout the United States are involved in law-related public education efforts. Youth courts are another avenue to educate a portion of the population about the rule of law and the legal process.

Bar associations are also concerned about the negative stereotypes of lawyers. Involving its members in youth court efforts breaks down those stereotypes and give youth court members an appreciation for the hard-working, generous contributions of lawyers toward solving societal problems. It also provides a sense of professional and personal satisfaction to attorneys to work in a positive endeavor with youth colleagues.

Another thread that weaves the involvement of the state and local bar associations is access to justice or an equal justice initiative. The primary focus of this initiative is providing civil representation to low-income people. One strategy embraced by this effort is education of the public to avoid legal problems and to do self-help in some situations. Youth court programs involve educating the public in legal process and come within the scope of this initiative. (Additional information on these topics can be found in the ABA *Roadmaps* entitled *Alternate Dispute Resolution: Alternatives to Litigation* and the forthcoming *Litigants without Lawyers: Courts Meeting the Challenge of Self-Representation*.)

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Law enforcement professionals are essential partners in youth courts. They may be the source of referrals to youth court, collaborate in educating youth court members, and serve as mentors to youth court members. They also may supervise compliance of the respondents in the completion of their dispositions. They may be fundraisers, spokespersons for the program, and catalysts to get things started.

In specific youth court cases, law enforcement officers may give testimony. Law enforcement may facilitate educational classes that are assigned as part of the disposition, for example, discussion sessions with inmates and jail tours.

Having law enforcement take a supportive policy stance in regard to youth court encourages their development statewide and promotes the cooperation needed for successful functioning.

Youth attitudes toward authority figures and particularly toward law enforcement tend to be more negative than positive. When youth work as colleagues with law officers and understand better the nature of their work, youth's attitudes toward them changes for the better.

## **EDUCATION COMMUNITY**

The education community participates in many ways in youth courts. The education community supplies many youth volunteers; sometimes schools even take the lead in recruiting youth volunteers. Schools may award a variety of education credits for their students' participation – community service credit or academic credit in social studies, vocational learning, or a senior project course. As part of school reform nationally, schools are trying to ratchet up the academic learning of students. They are devising authentic learning experiences for their students that teach citizenship and other important life skills, and that expose students to a variety of career choices. Youth courts do all these.

The education community is an essential player in authorizing any academic or service learning credit for youth court participation, in establishing a youth court with jurisdiction over school rule violations, and referring school cases to the youth court. The school may also supply the site for the hearings or recognition events and provide other logistical and staff support.

Members of the educational community may play a role in training volunteers, establishing community service placements for respondents, and promoting youth courts within the educational system.

Depending upon the jurisdiction of the youth court, the education community may benefit from new approaches to intractable problems of truancy and other school rule violations. This relieves the school administration of having to handle all school violations through traditional school discipline.

## **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Many youth courts exist because a community organization has taken on the time-consuming yet rewarding job of coordinating a youth court. Private nonprofit agencies (e.g., the YMCA, Youth Service Bureaus, or Boys and Girls Clubs) are frequent hosts to youth courts. They have ready access to young people and a desire to involve youth in important and engaging activities. They may serve as fundraisers for the costs of youth court and as coordinators, tracking the compliance of respondents with the disposition, keeping records, and setting up and conducting training of adult and youth volunteers.

The community also provides sites and programs for community service placements and staff to supervise youth respondents. The community supplies adult volunteers for the youth court program and may play a role in lobbying the legislature and in fundraising for the program. Community members also serve on advisory boards.

Community civic groups may fund local youth courts and arrange for recognition events and awards for volunteers and the program.

Community organizations benefit from having popular, high profile programs that allow youth to make a significant contribution to their communities. They get to work as colleagues with young people to achieve worthwhile goals. The community also benefits from increased numbers of its youth becoming positive members of society, discovering that they are wanted and needed in their communities.

## **YOUNG PEOPLE**

“Youth courts are youth driven and youth led” is a key philosophical statement of the youth court movement. Without the commitment, participation, and leadership of young people in the court process, youth courts would not exist. In the articulation of best practices in youth courts, young people are also involved in setting policy on boards and in associations; making decisions; assisting in the training, mentoring, and recruiting; and reflecting on the youth court process. They are important in the fundraising and outreach of youth court programs and in efforts to work with the legislature in support of youth courts.

Young people benefit from youth court in many ways. At this point in their social development, many are looking for ways to make their world a better place. They want to experience making a difference for others. They want to learn more about law-related careers and have a chance to try out a variety of court roles in real cases. Some want to work in the legal field later in life, as an attorney or police officer. Some want to practice public speaking skills.

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## TIMELINE FOR CREATING A YOUTH COURT

Experienced youth courts organizers suggest that it takes about one year to establish a youth court within a community. See *Peer Justice and Youth Empowerment: An Implementation Guide for Youth Court Programs* for a timeline of tasks to create a youth court. The first phase of work requires bringing the stakeholders together to identify the needs and resources of the community and then to create an action plan to address them. During this initial phase, the stakeholder group must identify and secure the legal authorizations and needed support for the program.

This stakeholder group transforms into a committee or advisory board to forge ahead with the next phase of creating the program. This phase involves establishing an office with staff to carry out the day-to-day implementation of the youth court. In some cases, an existing office such as the prosecutor's office, state attorney general's office, police office, administrative office of the courts, juvenile probation office, community organization site, or school provides staff and office space. In other cases, the advisory board must create a functioning office by locating office space, developing a job description, determining a budget, recruiting and hiring staff, establishing financial procedures, and securing outside funding.

With staff and an office in place, the next phase is a focused examination of the specific mission of the youth court and the decision-making on jurisdiction of the court, structural model, recruitment strategies, sources of referrals, identification of disposition options, and community resources available.

Another strand to develop is the evaluation of the youth court, including identification of what outcomes are being sought, the instruments to be used, and how the data will be collected and analyzed.

Staff, with input from the advisory board, should then develop the necessary agreements with partner agencies and develop the forms needed for youth court operations. In all of these areas, there are sample instruments, forms, and procedures available for local adaptation from the National Youth Court Center and from its publications, as well as from other youth courts that operate throughout the United States. In states having statewide youth court associations, the state association will generally have these types of materials available.

A case management system must be set up. A software program that was developed specifically for managing youth court caseloads, *TEAM YC: Case Management Software for Youth Courts*, is available to youth courts at no cost from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services at [www.teamyc.com](http://www.teamyc.com). (See the Resources section for additional information.)

During this phase, the staff and advisory board should expand their community outreach and recruit volunteers to help with the implementation. Developing clearly defined job descriptions for volunteers makes this process easier. Information also should be prepared and disseminated to the media to increase community awareness of the program.

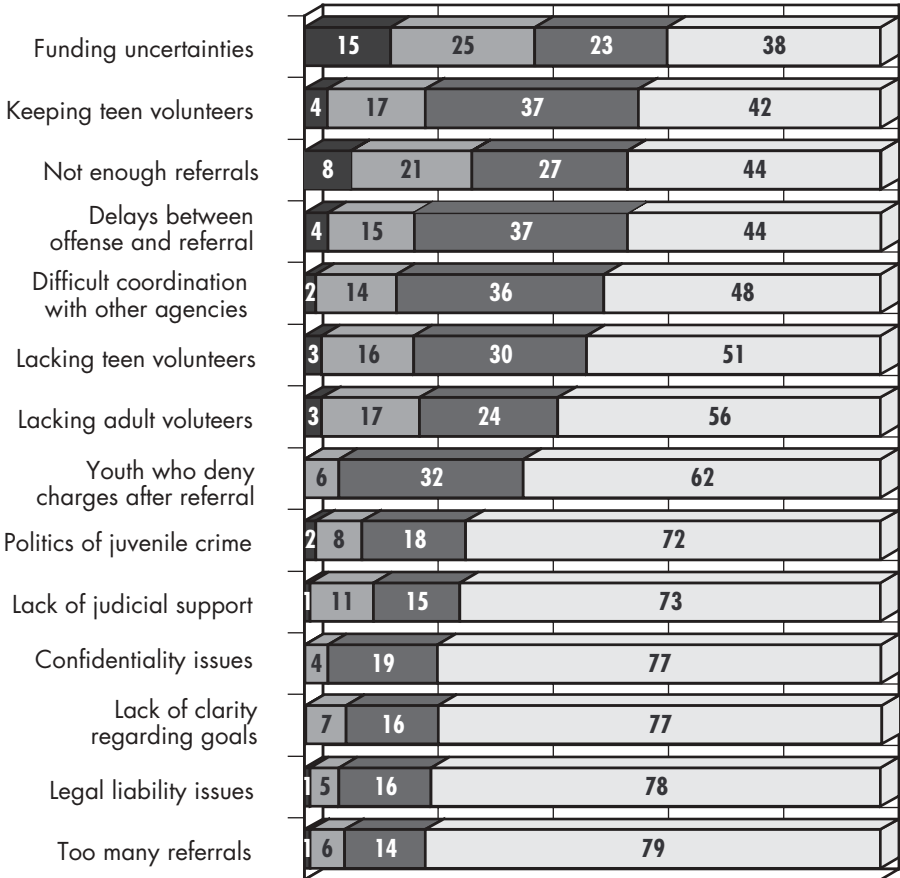
Tackling the training of adult and youth volunteers falls in the next phase. The American Bar Association's Division for Public Education has published a youth volunteer pre-service curriculum, including an instructor's guide, youth volunteer handbooks for the four youth court models, a video, and a CD of the text of the curriculum to assist

in localizing the national curriculum. The instructors need to be recruited and oriented to the youth court and the interactive nature of the instruction.

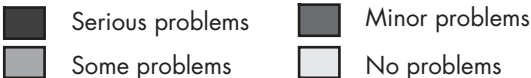
Once both the adult and youth volunteers are trained, the court is ready to begin hearing its first case. The case docket needs to be drafted, the court members sworn in, and the first session held. On-going training of volunteers continues and evaluation of training and the court process continues.

## CHALLENGES

**Chart 4: Extent of Problems Reported by Teen Courts**



**Percentage of U.S. Teen Courts**



**Note:** Percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.  
**Source:** The Urban Institute, 1998. National survey of youth courts and teen courts

According to a survey reported in the OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin, *Teen Courts: A Focus on Research*, youth courts reported a range of obstacles and challenges that they faced. They were asked to indicate whether the court had experienced the issue as a serious problem, a minor problem, something in between, or not a problem at all. See the results in the figure above.

As with many community-based programs, consistent funding is a problem. It was the most frequently cited operational problem in the youth courts survey. Many times these small, grassroots programs are patched together with small grants that need to be renewed or replaced at regular intervals. The two other problems most frequently cited in the survey were keeping youth volunteers active in the program and having enough case referrals to keep volunteers engaged.

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## EXAMPLES

[For more information about the organizations described here, see the Contact Information list below or visit the National Youth Court Center Web site [www.youthcourt.net](http://www.youthcourt.net) for its directory of youth courts.]

### JUVENILE JUSTICE SETTINGS

Using the definitions from the *National Youth Court Guidelines*, juvenile justice system-based youth courts include those administered or operated within a juvenile justice system agency (e.g., juvenile or municipal court, law enforcement agency, juvenile probation department). Specifically included in this category are courts that hear traffic infractions, which may be civil or criminal.

#### Juvenile Justice Settings: New York

The Colonie Youth Court has operated as a not-for-profit youth court since 1993. It is a textbook case, involving the collaboration of a wide range of agencies and organizations. These include the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Colonie Police Department, Albany County Probation Department, Albany County Family Court, Town of Colonie Youth Bureau, school officials and principals from North and South Colonie School Districts, and the Colonie Justice Department.

The Town of Colonie Justice Department provides the office, courtroom space, and telephone. The New York Bar Foundation and Albany County Bar Foundation both provided start-up and operation grants. OJJDP provided demonstration grant funds to help establish the Colonie Youth Court.

On average, this youth court handles 90-100 cases per year. The Colonie program uses the youth judge model and it hears nonviolent misdemeanors and violations. Seventy percent of the cases are shoplifting, 15 percent are unlawful possession of marijuana, 10 percent are criminal mischief, graffiti, possession of stolen property, and trespassing, and 5 percent are traffic-related cases.

The Colonie program has a 99 percent successful completion rate among respon-



dents due in part to the community service sentencing program. The youth court director schedules projects and educational classes that are completed in the town of Colonie. In addition, the director oversees and supervises all projects and classes. By monitoring the respondents at each project or class session, the youth court staff members provide role models, get to know each respondent, and more readily detect further problems, such as drug or alcohol issues.

### **Juvenile Justice Settings: Oregon**

The Beaverton Youth Peer Court program is the result of collaboration and support from the Beaverton Police Department, Washington County Juvenile Department, Beaverton Together, Beaverton School District, and Washington County Bar Association, but the initiative to start the youth court came from the police department.

The school resource officer, a member of the city police assigned to work with students in secondary schools, perceived that youth were learning that there were no consequences to certain misbehavior. The courts were overloaded with more serious offenses and therefore let youth charged with minor misdemeanors and violations get off lightly.

Inspired by the success of other communities, the police department worked with the youth and education community to create the Beaverton youth court. The Beaverton Youth Peer Court uses an adult judge model. The process begins either with a recommendation by the prosecuting attorney from the juvenile department, or more often by a police officer who encounters a youth who he believes has committed a misdemeanor (e.g., nonvictim vandalism, theft) or a violation (possession of alcohol, tobacco, curfew). Instead of arresting the juvenile, the officer issues a citation that is signed by the juvenile, stating that he or she agrees to meet with his or her parents and the school resource officer in charge of youth peer court. At that meeting, the school resource officer discusses the options of either entering the juvenile court system and risking a possible criminal record, or entering the peer court system.

In choosing youth peer court, the juveniles admit guilt and agree to accept the court's decision as final and binding. They also forfeit specific rights, including the right to confront witnesses. The school resource officer then sets a court date and a location for the respondents to appear with their parents for the hearing. Generally, the youth peer court takes place in the Beaverton City Hall council chambers.

The officer also works with attorneys and judges in the community who have volunteered to train young people. Youth volunteers are instructed in legal procedures, research techniques, and court conduct. Attorneys from the community sit as judge *pro tem*, rule on questions of law, and make sure that court proceeds smoothly.

### **Juvenile Justice Settings: North Carolina**

The Durham County Teen Court was established in 1994 through the initiative of the juvenile court prosecutor, making it the second youth court in North Carolina. There are now 32 counties in North Carolina with youth courts and an active North Carolina Teen Court Association. The Durham youth court was created with the consent and support of the district court judge, whose approval is now mandated by statute. The advisory board that was active in the implementation of the program was



composed of representatives from the district attorney's office, the public defender's office, juvenile court, the local bar, the school system, and members of county and nonprofit agencies.

The Durham youth court follows the adult judge model, although it occasionally uses the student judge model with graduating high school seniors or students who are returning from college serving as the judges.

Its jurisdiction is limited to first-time respondents of misdemeanors, with occasional felony cases if considered appropriate by the judge, district attorney, and the youth court coordinator. Cases are diverted from juvenile court and district court, and some are referred directly by law enforcement personnel (including school resource officers).

## **COMMUNITY SETTINGS**

The *National Youth Court Guidelines* define community-based youth courts as those incorporated as, or administered or operated by a private, nonprofit organization (e.g., youth bureau).

### **Community Settings: Alaska**

The Anchorage Youth Court in Alaska got started in 1988 when new attorneys from the young lawyer's section of the Anchorage Bar Association began to explore youth court models in other states. They investigated the model from Ithaca, NY, and then arranged a series of town meetings for representatives of the courts, the state's juvenile intake, police, school district, students, parents, and the business community. This needs assessment resulted in a youth court program designed to copy the adult criminal court so that Anchorage youth would learn more about the functioning of the legal system and develop a greater appreciation for its operations.

The Anchorage youth court primarily handles juveniles between the ages of 12 and 18 who are arrested for misdemeanors. Division of Juvenile Justice intake officers refer about 400 cases annually. The youth court, using a tribunal model, hears and decides the sentence for each case. Most defendants plead no contest, however, in a unique variation, youth may plead not guilty and go to trial in front of a youth court. Defendants may choose a judge or jury trial. If they choose a jury trial, a jury of seven youth determines guilt. Youth attorneys select jurors through *voir dire*. Trials usually take three weeks to prepare and one week in court, with court occurring between 4 and 7:30 p.m. during the school year. Alaskan youth courts have subpoena power through the Commissioner of Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services. An adult attorney volunteer advises each side, while a staff attorney advises youth judges.

A pilot effort was created in 1999 after a perceived gap in services was identified for 9- to 11-year-olds arrested in Anchorage. In 1999, there were 400 children in this age range who had been arrested. A secondary process was created including simple language, one youth judge in a robe, one prosecutor, and one defense attorney, all sitting around a table in a children's courtroom with defendant, parents, and a legal advisor for the initial hearing. Parents are required to attend. The sentence includes homework, service to repay the community and the parents for fees, essays, appropriate classes, and a joint parent and child effort to develop one or two assets that they

choose or that the judges assign if the family fails to choose them. The respondent generally has one month to complete the sentence. The respondent and the parents must attend a second hearing upon sentence completion with the same youth court representatives in court. The referring intake officer attends, if possible. At this hearing, the respondent receives praise for a job well done and encouragement to continue good citizenship. In the last quarter of 2000, juvenile intake had referred seven cases and in 2001, 35 cases.

### **Community Settings: Maryland**

The Baltimore City Teen Court is a collaborative effort that is housed at the Citizenship Law-Related Education Program for the Schools of Maryland, a 501(c)(3) corporation. This collaboration got underway in 1999 with a teen court committee comprised of judges, public service attorneys, educators, police officers, and juvenile justice specialists. The initiative for this effort came from the judiciary, with two judges taking the lead and volunteering over six hours each month to preside in youth court hearings.

The design of this youth court is to serve city youth who are charged with non-serious misdemeanors and who typically would receive little or no intervention from the traditional juvenile justice system. The most common offenses heard by the Baltimore City Teen Court are assaults, disorderly conduct, trespassing, and theft. It uses both an adult judge model and a peer jury model, depending upon the circumstances of the youth court participants and the availability of adult volunteers. Since its founding, there has been a success rate of nearly 90 percent.

Most cases (80 percent) are referred by the Baltimore city school police. The volunteers are recruited from public and private schools all around the city. More than 600 volunteers participate in varying degrees in the youth court. About 100 youth volunteers attend youth court monthly. The court hears about 6 to 10 youth cases monthly, and all respondents are required to serve as jurors in subsequent youth court hearings. Upon completion of their sanctions, many respondents return to serve on youth court as volunteers.

### **Community Settings: Indiana**

Reach For Youth, Inc., Teen Court program in Indianapolis has been in operation for more than 10 years. In 1989, the Indiana Department of Mental Health, Division of Addiction Services awarded funds to the Indiana Youth Services Association to implement teen court programs in six sites throughout the state to address underage drinking and driving. Reach For Youth, Inc. was designated as one of the sites. The award was for 36 months. Funding was terminated on June 30, 1991, 20 months into the program, because of state reprioritization. Reach For Youth, Inc., committed to keeping the program, sought out other funding sources, and eventually secured funds through United Way. Teen Court has always been operated by paid staff and as a program of a youth/family-counseling agency.

Reach For Youth, Inc., uses the adult judge model. The judge is a practicing attorney or presiding judge from the community. The offenses include theft, battery, fighting, disorderly conduct, and criminal mischief plus a few referrals for minor in possession, resisting law enforcement, indecent exposure, and trespassing.

Juveniles have 90 days from the date of their diversion contract to complete their disposition. An initial assessment by the diversion coordinator determines the circumstances of the offense and the need for additional services for both the juvenile and the family. The juvenile is then scheduled for a court session.

The consequences include community service, restitution, apologies to victims, educational program, and counseling recommendations. Successful completion of the program by the juvenile will result in no formal charges being filed in juvenile court. Failure to comply or complete the diversion program will result in the juvenile being referred back to the juvenile court system, where formal charges can be filed.

Reach For Youth, Inc., Teen Court is the largest youth court in Indiana with a success rate greater than 85 percent. In 2001, the court received more than 400 referrals from two counties. In October 2001, the program expanded to include a restorative justice conferencing program. Restorative justice conferencing is a structured meeting among victims, respondents, their families, and friends affected by the offense. The conferencing provides victims and others the opportunity to confront the respondent, express their feelings, ask questions, and have a say in the respondents' consequences.

## **SCHOOL SETTINGS**

School-based youth courts are defined by the *National Youth Court Guidelines* as those operated or administered by the schools. Some school-based youth courts are contained completely within a school setting and handle only school disciplinary issues. Other school-based programs may be administered and operated by the school, but may also accept cases from the juvenile justice system or community.

### **School Settings: Maryland**

The student court program at Dundalk High School in Dundalk, MD was created to reduce the high rate of school suspensions and the large number of minor criminal charges placed against students.

The Dundalk High School Student Court derives its authority to operate from the state Board of Education and Baltimore County Board of Education rules, regulations, and policy. While youth court is not specifically mentioned in either legislation or the regulations, the principal is given the authority in matters dealing with suspension, to designate specific matters to other administrations and school professionals. At Dundalk, this extension is made to student court for specified school infractions as an alternative intervention instead of a possible suspension, criminal proceeding, or both.

Students are referred to Dundalk High School Student Court at the discretion of the administration with the consent of the student and the parent. Using program goals, the administration must evaluate the referred student and offer student court if this alternative process is in the best interest of the student and Dundalk High School. There are no behaviors that automatically result in student court. The administrator, who makes the decision to recommend student court, must examine individual cases along with the student's behavior. In order to be recommended to student court, respondents must admit guilt. If the decision is made to accept student

court and the sanctions imposed by the court are fulfilled, respondents will not have anything placed in their permanent record. Offenses that have been recommended to student court have included disrespect to teachers, truancy, smoking, possession of a cell phone, refusing to cooperate with school rules, tardiness, violation of the computer rules, foul language, destruction of property, assault, and disruptive behavior.

In the academic year 2000-2001, the court heard 72 cases. Dates are preassigned and the administration creates a docket. The docket is summarized by the administrative coordinator (a teacher) and used by the hearing officer (a teacher) during court proceedings.

The Dundalk High School Student Court is held in the school library, which is set up as a courtroom. The respondent faces the peer jury. The setting is as formal as possible in order to stress to respondents the seriousness of student court.

The Dundalk High School Student Court is based on the peer jury model. There are no attorneys on either side. The respondent is asked questions directly by the jury under the supervision of the hearing officer. The peer jury deliberates and imposes sanctions on the respondent. The sanctions must fit the needs of the student, the needs of the victim(s), and the needs of Dundalk High School. The sanctions that may be imposed by the peer jury include peer jury appearances, school service hours, written or verbal apology, essay, counseling, and tobacco cessation education. Each of these sanctions holds students accountable for their actions.

All students who attend Dundalk High School may volunteer to serve on the jury. The teachers in charge assign the specialized roles of the Dundalk High School Student Court.

### **School Settings: Washington State**

The Granite Falls Boys & Girls Club is located between the high school and middle school. The teen members of the club regularly complained to staff about the high number of school suspensions. They reported that most of these suspended students used their three-to-five days off from school to sleep in late, watch television, and then meet their friends later in the afternoon. The indignation over the three-to-five day “vacations” was the catalyst that sparked the development of a youth court in Granite Falls, focusing exclusively on school rule violations.

The Boys and Girls Club staff called a meeting in 1997 with the high school principal and superintendent, members of the County Federated Health & Safety Network, community members, and high school students. With a modest start-up grant, the court was launched. Two sophomores went into the secondary schools and did presentations to recruit students. A variety of training sessions was offered, using volunteer judges, attorneys, law professors, and police as instructors to work one-on-one with youth volunteers.

The youth court put on a public mock trial that was televised and reported in the newspaper. This significantly boosted public support for the program. Youth court members have testified before state legislative committees on youth court legislation.

The court receives referrals from the high school and police department. It handles cases ranging from parking violations up to excessive disorderly conduct. The high school principal screens referrals from teachers and other school personnel. Before a referral is made to the court, the student is informed of the program and must volun-

tarily accept youth court. Referral paperwork is placed in a youth court box in the principal's office and the student court clerk processes the paperwork. The clerk sends out the hearing date and time, paperwork for parents and respondent to sign, and information about the program. The youth court uses the youth judge model. The consequences assigned by a jury may include one jury duty, community service, apology letter, research papers, and visiting hospital emergency rooms. There is significant follow-up with respondents to make sure that they are completing their sentences.

## **INNOVATIONS IN YOUTH COURTS**

Almost every youth court has some innovative aspect to it. However, a few particularly noteworthy innovations are described here.

The Salt Lake City Peer Court assigns a youth mentor from the peer jury panel at the time the disposition is imposed. An attempt is made to have the mentor come from the same school as the respondent. The mentor's job is to determine compliance and problem-solve with the respondent through weekly contact at the school or by phone. This provides for real two-way communication and education about the experiences and lives of others.

Another interesting feature of their program is that there are advisors and youth who speak both English and Spanish. They also have access to translators from the school district to translate forms and instructions for Spanish-speaking respondents.

In addition, the Salt Lake City Peer Court refers appropriate cases (fighting) to mediation with a return date set in peer court. The mediators are two-person teams comprised of a youth and adult. At the return date, the respondent reports on the success or failure of the mediation. Cases may be resolved by the mediation or they may be scheduled for handling through the peer jury court.

The Time Dollar Youth Court in Washington, D.C., was established in an inner city context. To create a subculture in which youth would feel safe to tell peers that their behavior was wrong, the program offers rewards in the form a local currency that can be used to purchase a computer or a scholarship to a local college. In a court held at a district law school, the entire peer jury is made up of former respondents. Law students help conduct the hearings by monitoring compliance with dispositions and serving as buddies and mentors to the volunteers.

The Time Dollar program is the only one to move beyond service delivery to system reform. To address the issue of unresponsive systems and gaps in delivery, a youth grand jury was created. The youth grand jury, staffed by a law professor and law students and facilitated by a youth facilitator, collects and analyzes facts and then speaks to adult decision makers about what needs to happen to make the system work better for young people.

## **STATEWIDE YOUTH COURT ASSOCIATIONS**

A pattern that typically emerges is that once a state has a few youth courts established in various locations, the next step is to form a statewide youth court association or advisory board. This is a distinct entity from the advisory board organized to support an individual youth court. There are 15 such statewide entities currently in existence. Individual youth courts quickly learn that there is value in learning from other youth

courts' experiences. Sometimes a rogue youth court calls attention to the need for state standards. The idea of conferences for adults and youth on relevant youth court topics all point toward the establishment of some type of larger organizational structure.

Many of these statewide entities receive outside funding and many have paid staff. Legislation may have established the entity and the majority of them are 501(c)3 organizations. Almost all have statewide conferences and all provide some level of coordination of the youth courts in the state. All of them provide education and almost all of them have been involved in setting standards for youth courts in their states. Many have as a specific mission helping to form new youth courts, improving the ones that exist, and increasing the communication among existing youth courts in the state.

### **Youth Court Associations: Illinois**

The Attorney General of Illinois established the Illinois Youth Court Association in 2000 due to growing interest in developing youth courts in the state. The Attorney General's Office provides staff, funding, and office space for the association. It has developed a youth court directory, created a Web page, offered technical trainings, created an information clearinghouse, and conducted youth court recognition events. It plans to develop state guidelines for youth court operations and create a newsletter for members

### **Youth Court Associations: Utah**

Utah Youth Court State Advisory Board is also located at the state's Attorney General's Office. Utah youth court members were concerned about the lack of youth court guidelines. Interested individuals met to discuss problems they had in their youth courts, what training should be like, and what they would like to see in legislation. This formed the basis of the Youth Court Advisory Board, now codified in the Utah statutes, Utah Code Ann. § 78-57-108.

A unique aspect of that legislation is that membership on the advisory board is mandated to include the attorney general or designee who will provide staff support assistance, the Utah Prosecutors Council, the Board of Juvenile Court Judges, the Juvenile Court Administrator or designee, the state Criminal and Juvenile Justice Board, the state department of education, two representatives from youth courts based in schools, two representatives from youth courts based in community organizations, one representative from law enforcement, and one from the community in general.

This advisory board meets every other month. It offers one statewide youth court convention for about 300 young persons each year and two conferences each month for adult advisors or coordinators. In addition it offers small grants to local programs. The board is seeking funds from the Legislature for money to support conventions for the youth and adults.

The state advisory board has its own Web site at the state attorney general's office at [www.attygen.state.ut.us](http://www.attygen.state.ut.us). Utah is the only state that certifies that existing youth courts meet state standards, although Vermont certifies its youth volunteers.

### **Youth Court Associations: Washington State**

The state of Washington approached its statewide effort in a unique way. The Council on Public Legal Education, housed within the Washington State Bar Association, has

as its mission the education of the people of Washington about their legal rights and responsibilities in order to help them participate effectively in a democracy and in the justice system. It launched a statewide effort to create new youth courts and strengthen existing youth courts because of their value in educating the volunteers about the law and legal system.

A youth court committee of the council was created to solicit funds and sponsor awareness sessions for potential youth court sites, implementation training, and professional development seminars. The Washington State Bar Association is providing support with a listserv for the Washington youth court members; participating in the awareness, implementation, and professional development seminars; and supporting pending legislation on youth courts. The stage is now set to solicit additional funding to create a more permanent youth court association in the state.

**Chart 5: Statewide Associations**

	Date Created	Outside Funding	Paid Staff	Legislation	501(C)3	Statewide Conference	Coordination	Education	Standards
<b>United Youth Courts of Alaska</b>	1998	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Florida Association of Teen Courts</b>	1996	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Illinois Youth Court Association</b>	2000	●	●	●			●	●	●
<b>Indiana Youth Services Association</b>	1989	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Youth and Teen Court Association of Kansas</b>	2001			●	●		●	●	●
<b>Kentucky Teen Court Association</b>	1992	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
<b>Missouri Peer Court Association</b>	1997				●	●	●	●	●
<b>New Mexico Teen Court Association</b>	1994			●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Association of New York Youth Courts</b>	2001				●	●	●	●	
<b>North Carolina Teen Court Association</b>	1998			●		●	●	●	●
<b>Oregon Youth Court Association</b>	1997	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
<b>Texas Teen Court Association</b>	1990			●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>Utah State Youth Court Advisory Board</b>	1999			●		●	●	●	●
<b>Washington State Youth Court Committee</b>	2000	●				●	●	●	
<b>Wisconsin Teen Court Association</b>	2000	●	●		●	●	●	●	●

Washington State Youth Court Committee, Council on Public Legal Education, 2002.



## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For further information about the organizations described in the Examples section, use the contact list below.

Anchorage Youth Court, Sharon Leon, Executive Director, P.O. Box 102735, Anchorage, AK 99510; 907-274-5986; Fax: 907-272-0491; Email: ayc@alaska.net

Baltimore City Youth Court, John Saraceno, Teen Court Coordinator, Citizenship Law-Related Education Program for the Schools of Maryland, Maryland State Bar, 520 W. Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201; 410-706-5364; Fax: 410-706-5576; Email: jjs@clrep.org

Beaverton Youth Peer Court, Gary Dodson, Teen Court Coordinator, Beaverton Police Department, P.O. Box 4755, 4755 SW Griffin, Beaverton, OR 97005; 503-526-2267; Fax: 503-526-2484; Email: gdodson@ci.beaverton.or.us

Colonie Youth Court, Violet Colydas, Director, Public Safety Building, 312 Wolf Road, Latham, NY 12110; 518-782-2638; Fax: 518-786-7326; Email: youthcrt@capital.net

DC Time Dollar Youth Court, Mark Chisholm, Coordinator, c/o Time Dollar Institute, P.O. Box 42160, Washington, DC 20015; 202-686-5200

Dundalk High School Student Court, James E. Haupt, III, Esq., Coordinator, 1901 Delvale Ave., Baltimore, MD 21222; 410-893-7100; Fax: 410-887-7025; Email: jehaupt@home.com

Durham County Teen Court, Jane Volland, Program Director, 212 W. Main Street, Durham, NC 27701; 919-682-1960; Fax: 919-530-1907; Email: jvolland@mindspring.com

Granite Falls Youth Court, Susan Goettsch, Monroe Boys and Girls Club, P.O. Box 781, Monroe, WA 98272; 360-794-4775; Email: sgoettsch@bgcsnoco.org

Illinois Youth Court Association, Jessica Ashley, Project Coordinator, c/o Illinois Office of the Attorney General, Gang Crime Prevention Center, 318 W. Adams St., 12<sup>th</sup> Fl., Chicago, IL 60606; 312-793-0001; Fax: 312-793-2400; Email: jashley@atg.state.il.us; [www.ag.state.il.us/programs/safe2learn/iyca/iycamain\\_2.htm](http://www.ag.state.il.us/programs/safe2learn/iyca/iycamain_2.htm)

Reach for Youth, Inc., Julie Deckard, Teen Court Program Manager, 3505 N. Washington, Indianapolis, IN 46205; 317-920-5900, ext. 28; Fax: 317-920-5912; Email: jdeckard@reachforyouth.org

Salt Lake Peer Court, Kathleen Zeitlin, Program Director, 645 South 200 East, #101, Salt Lake City, UT 84111; 801-322-1815; Fax: 801-322-4498; Email: slpcourt@xmission.com; [www.amsquare.com/Lre](http://www.amsquare.com/Lre)

Utah Youth Court State Advisory Board, Michelle E. Heward, Chairperson, Weber State University, 1206 University Circle, Ogden, UT 84408-1206; 801-626-6151; Fax: 801-626-6145; Email: mheward@weber.edu; [www.attygen.state.ut.us](http://www.attygen.state.ut.us)

Washington State Youth Court Committee, Council on Public Legal Education, c/o Washington State Bar Association, 2101 4th Ave., 4th Floor, Seattle, WA 98121-2317; 206-727-8226; Email: pami@wsba.org

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# RESOURCES

## ORGANIZATIONS

- **American Bar Association Office of Justice Initiatives** The ABA's Justice Initiatives Program works to improve public trust and confidence in our justice system by encouraging bar associations and courts at the state and local levels to reach out and involve the non-lawyer community in justice improvement projects. The program is led by the ABA Coalition for Justice and staffed by the Office of Justice Initiatives. The program holds an annual forum, surveys state and local bar associations and courts on their justice improvement activities, produces *Roadmap* booklets, provides modest grants, partners with nonlegal organizations in justice reform, and maintains an information clearinghouse.

For further information, contact: American Bar Association, Office of Justice Initiatives, 750 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60611-4497; Phone: 312-988-6138; Fax: 312-988-6100; Email: [justice@abanet.org](mailto:justice@abanet.org); Web site: [www.abanet.org/justice](http://www.abanet.org/justice)

- **National Youth Court Center** The National Youth Court Center, created by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, is a central point of contact for youth courts in the United States. The National Youth Court Center, operated by the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), provides training, technical assistance, and resource materials to developing and existing youth courts. Its extensive Web site contains a national directory of youth courts, full text of or contact information for a variety of relevant publications, information about trainings and the national conference, message boards, and a wealth of additional useful information.

For further information, contact: National Youth Court Center, c/o American Probation and Parole Association, PO Box 11910, Lexington, KY 40578-1910; Phone: 859-244-8193; Fax: 859-244-8001; Email: [nycc@csg.org](mailto:nycc@csg.org); Web site: [www.youthcourt.net](http://www.youthcourt.net)

- **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention** OJJDP, U.S. Department of Justice, provides national leadership, direction, and resources to assist the juvenile justice community in preventing and controlling delinquency throughout the country. The Special Emphasis Division provides discretionary funds to replicate tested approaches to delinquency and juvenile drug abuse prevention, treatment, and control. The Research and Program Development Division provides demonstration programs. The States Relations and Assistance Division manages OJJDP's Formula Grants, Title V Delinquency Prevention, and State Challenge Grant programs, which provide direct support to state and local governments to prevent and treat delinquency, including drug abuse, and improve their juvenile justice systems. A list of the juvenile justice specialists who administer OJJDP funds on a state level, and other state resources of OJJDP may be found on the following link on OJJDP's Web site: [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/resources/asp/search\\_states.asp](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/resources/asp/search_states.asp).

For further information, contact: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Dept. of Justice, 800 K. St., NW, Washington, DC 20531; Phone: 202-616-2368; Fax: 202-353-9095; Email: [peterston@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:peterston@ojp.usdoj.gov); Web site: [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org)

- **American Bar Association Division for Public Education** The ABA Division for Public Education promotes public understanding of the law and its role in society. The division conducts conferences; sponsors youth programs; publishes periodicals, books, and other resources; sponsors national awards programs; serves as a national law related education information clearinghouse; and provides assistance to educators, lawyers, students, and others.

For further information, contact: American Bar Association, Division for Public Education, 541 N. Fairbanks Ct., Chicago, IL 60611-3314; Phone: 312-988-5735; Web site: [www.abanet.org/publiced](http://www.abanet.org/publiced)

- **Constitutional Rights Foundation** Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) is a non-profit, nonpartisan, community-based organization dedicated to educating America's young people about the importance of civic participation in a democratic society. Under the guidance of a board of directors chosen from the worlds of law, business, government, education, the media, and the community, CRF develops, produces, and distributes programs and materials to teachers, students, and public-minded citizens all across the nation.

For further information, contact: Constitutional Rights Foundation, 601 South Kingsley Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90005; Phone: 213-487-5590; Web site: [www.crf-usa.org](http://www.crf-usa.org)
- **Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago** The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC) helps schools foster critical thinking skills and responsible civic action in students. Nonprofit and nonpartisan, CRFC has been a national leader in the design and implementation of quality law-related education programs for elementary and secondary school students and their teachers. Founded in 1974 as part of the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles, the Chicago office established itself as an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 1990.

For further information, contact; Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, 407 S. Dearborn, Ste. 1700, Chicago, IL 60605; Phone: 312-663-9057; Email: [crfc@crfc.org](mailto:crfc@crfc.org); Web site: [www.crfc.org](http://www.crfc.org)
- **Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse (National Criminal Justice Reference Service)** OJJDP's information center, the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse (JJC), provides information and services to juvenile justice professionals and policy-makers, produces and distributes the agency's publications, and prepares customized responses to information requests. The Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse is one of the specialized information centers for the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). NCJRS serves as a national and international clearinghouse for the exchange of information in the criminal justice area.

For further information, contact: Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse: 800-638-8736 or National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000; Tel: 800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500; TTY Service for the Hearing Impaired (toll-free): 877-712-9279, (local): 301-947-8374; Email: [askncjrs@ncjrs.org](mailto:askncjrs@ncjrs.org); Web site: [www.ncjrs.org](http://www.ncjrs.org)
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** NHTSA, an agency of the U. S. Department of Transportation, seeks ways to reduce motor vehicle crashes, injuries, and fatalities and to improve highway safety programs in the United States. Each state has a Governor's Highway Safety Representative who is responsible for administering federal dollars allocated to the state to dispense locally for programs that address highway safety concerns, such as underage drinking and impaired driving.

For further information, contact: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20590; Phone: 202-366-9588; Fax: 202-366-2766; Web site: [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)
- **Street Law, Inc.** Street Law, Inc. provides practical, participatory education about law, democracy and human rights. Through its philosophy and programs, Street Law empowers people to transform democratic ideals into citizen action. Street Law's programs do not end at the door of the classroom. Each student gains essential lessons that can be used for life.

For further information, contact: Street Law, Inc., 1600 K St., NW, Ste. 602, Washington, DC 20006-2801; Phone: 202-293-0088; Web site: [www.streetlaw.org](http://www.streetlaw.org)
- **Urban Institute** The Urban Institute is a nonprofit policy research organization established in Washington, D.C., in 1968. The institute's goals are to sharpen thinking about society's problems and efforts to solve them, improve government decisions and their implementation, and increase citizens' awareness about important public choices.

For further information, contact: Urban Institute, 2100 M St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037; Phone: 202-833-7200; Web site: [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org)

## PUBLICATIONS

[NOTE: Visit the National Youth Court Center Web site at [www.youthcourt.net](http://www.youthcourt.net) for information about new youth court publications.]

- **Community Service Education Lessons** Street Law, Inc. has developed *Community Service Education Lessons* for local youth courts to use as an information resource for their community service programs. These interactive lessons focus on the most frequent offenses for which youth are referred to youth court: theft, possession of alcohol, possession of marijuana, vandalism, and traffic violations. The lessons include instructor's guides, lesson plans, and handouts for youth participants, and are designed to complement community service group learning projects, jury duty, and other youth sanctions. Through a subcontract from the National Youth Court Center, Street Law, Inc. will create four additional lessons related to youth court offenses as a supplement to its current publication. The new lessons should be available by April 2002. To download a copy of the lessons, go to [www.street-law.org/youthcourts.html](http://www.street-law.org/youthcourts.html). To receive a print copy, contact the NYCC at [nycc@csg.org](mailto:nycc@csg.org).
- **Giving Back: A Community Service Manual for Youth Courts** The Constitutional Rights Foundation/Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRF/CRFC) has developed *Giving Back: A Community Service Manual for Youth Courts*. The manual provides youth court coordinators with information on how to plan and implement meaningful community service projects to be used as sentencing options in their youth court programs. Included within the manual are about 25 examples of projects that can be done in a day. For more information on availability, contact the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago at 312-663-9057 or the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles at 213-487-5590. Order information also will be available on the NYCC Web site at [www.youthcourt.net](http://www.youthcourt.net).
- **National Youth Court Guidelines** The *National Youth Court Guidelines* are designed to give youth courts direction for developing and operating effective programs for the ultimate purpose of increasing program accountability and integrity of the "youth court field." Guidelines have been developed in the following program areas:
  - Program Planning and Community Mobilization
  - Program Staffing and Funding
  - Legal Issues
  - Identified Respondent Population and Referral Process
  - Program Services and Sentencing Options
  - Volunteer Recruitment and Management
  - Volunteer Training
  - Youth Court Operations and Case Management
  - Program Evaluation

Each chapter begins with a brief overview of the guidelines that are recommended for that particular program area. Afterward, each guideline is discussed in more detail. A rationale for each guideline, as well as tips for implementing each guideline, is included. At the conclusion of each chapter, there is a section that identifies some outcomes youth court programs might reasonably expect if they adhere to the recommendations made in the guidelines.

Limited quantities of the *National Youth Court Guidelines* are available by calling 859-244-8193, or you can download a copy of the *National Youth Court Guidelines* on the National Youth Court Center's Web site at [www.youthcourt.net/guidelines.pdf](http://www.youthcourt.net/guidelines.pdf).

- **National Youth Court Center Quarterly Newsletter: In Session** *In Session* provides timely articles and other information that is of interest to youth court programs.

Contact the National Youth Court Center at 859-244-8193 for a free copy or view *In Session* online at [www.youthcourt.net](http://www.youthcourt.net).

- **OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin: Teen Courts: A Focus on Research** This 16-page Bulletin (October 2000) presents the results of a national survey of teen courts conducted by the Urban Institute. It provides information about the characteristics of established teen courts and the operational and managerial challenges they face. It also summarizes the evaluation literature on teen courts. Contact the National Youth Court Center at 859-244-8193 for a free copy of this publication, or view it online at [www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/183472.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/183472.pdf).
- **Peer Justice and Youth Empowerment: An Implementation Guide for Teen Court Programs** This manual, published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with support from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), provides program organizers with baseline information on developing, implementing, and enhancing teen court programs within their jurisdictions. Rather than endorsing one particular model of teen court, this manual provides program organizers with a general overview of issues to consider and guides them through a decision-making process for the implementation of a teen court program that fits local needs. Sample forms and other helpful resources also are included as supplementary materials. The manual is available for free by calling the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800-638-8736. Portions of the document are available at the following Web site: [www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/PUBS/peerhome.htm](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/PUBS/peerhome.htm).
- **The Role of Restorative Justice in Teen Courts: A Preliminary Look** The National Youth Court Center convened a focus group in March 2000 to examine and discuss the role of restorative justice in teen court programs. This publication addresses the key issues that serve as a promising foundation from which teen courts can begin to move toward integrating more restorative justice-based practices within their programs. Contact the National Youth Court Center at 859-244-8193 for a free copy of this publication or view it online at [www.youthcourt.net/article1.pdf](http://www.youthcourt.net/article1.pdf).
- **Youth Court Youth Volunteer Training Package** The American Bar Association Division for Public Education has developed a training package to assist youth court programs in the training of youth volunteers. This training package outlines a course of instruction to prepare youth to serve as prosecutor, defense attorney, jurors, and other court roles. The full set of the Training Package includes four volunteer training manuals based on each of the four models of youth court (i.e., peer jury, adult judge, tribunal, and youth judge models), one instructor's guide, one video, and a CD-ROM. Contact the American Bar Association at 800-285-2221 (PC#4970104P) or [abapubed@abanet.org](mailto:abapubed@abanet.org) for more information. The full set costs \$45. Individual items also can be ordered.

## ARTICLES

- **"The Organization and Operation of Teen Courts in the United States: A Comparative Analysis of Legislation"** by Michelle Heward, *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, Vol. 53, No. 1 (Winter 2002).
- **"The Sudden Popularity of Teen Courts,"** by Jeffrey A. Butts and Janeen Buck, *The Judges' Journal* (Winter 2002).

## SOFTWARE

- **TEAM YC: Tools to Evaluate and Manage Youth Courts** TEAM YC is an easy-to-use software program that youth courts use to manage cases and evaluate programs. The software tracks cases from arrest to sentence completion, schedules and credits sentence activities, writes case completion letters, provides extensive reports, and generates questionnaires for evaluating how youth and their guardians regard their youth court experience. TEAM YC can be adjusted to each court's needs and adapted to any state's criminal codes. Technical support for New York State Courts is provided by grants from the New York State Juvenile Justice Delinquency Program. Technical support for other courts is provided as resources permit. It can be downloaded from the Web site, [www.teamyc.com](http://www.teamyc.com) free of charge. Contact: James Nelson at 518-457-3724 or Email: [nelson@dcjs.state.ny.us](mailto:nelson@dcjs.state.ny.us).

## VIDEOTAPES

- **Beaverton Youth Peer Court** (1996 – 16 minutes) This video, written and produced by youth volunteers and staff of the Beaverton Youth Peer Court, highlights their program. To order, contact Beaverton Youth Peer Court, Beaverton Police Department, Attn: Gary Dodson, P.O. Box 4755, Beaverton, OR 97076; Phone: 503-526-2267; Email: [gdodson@ci.beaverton.or.us](mailto:gdodson@ci.beaverton.or.us). No cost, limited quantities.
- **Changing Lives: America's Youth Court** (2001 – 20 minutes) Developed by the American Bar Association Division for Public Education, this short video introduces the concept of youth courts. To order, contact the ABA at 800-285-2221. Specify product code number 4970206. Cost \$25.
- **How Teen Court Gave Me Another Chance** (1998 - 26 minutes) This video describes the Knox County Teen Court (Adult Judge Model) and documents how two high school students created their award-winning teen court Web site ([library.thinkquest.org/2640](http://library.thinkquest.org/2640)). To order, contact Knox County Teen Court, 55 W. Tompkins St., Galesburg, IL 61201; Cost \$25.
- **Kentucky Teen Court** (1993 - 13 minutes) This video gives an overview of the teen court system in Kentucky as operated by the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts. To order, contact Teen Court Program Manager, 100 Millcreek Park, Frankfort, KY 40601; Phone: 502-573-2350. Cost: \$5.
- **Odessa Teen Court** (1993 - 11 minutes) This video describes the Adult Judge Model teen court used in Odessa, TX. To order, contact Odessa Teen Court, Municipal Court, 201 N. Grant Ave., Odessa, TX 79761; Phone: 915-335-3352. Cost \$25.
- **World in Action: Boys and Girls of the Jury** (1996 - 25 minutes) A British television program that examines an Adult Judge Model teen court in Sarasota, FL, and considers whether teen courts would be effective in Great Britain. To order, contact Sarasota Teen Court, PO Box 48927, Sarasota, FL 34230; Phone: 941-951-4278. Cost: \$12.
- **Youth Court: A National Movement** (1988 - 2 hours) Hosted by former OJJDP Administrator Shay Bilchik, this tape of a satellite videoconference provides an overview of the teen court concept and examines three teen court programs: Colonie Youth Court, Latham, NY; Odessa Teen Court, Odessa, TX; and Donald P. McCullum Youth Court, Oakland, CA. To order, call OJJDP's Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800-638-8736 (reference NCJ #171149). Cost \$17.

*“Just as war is too important to leave to the generals, reform of the justice system is too important to be left to lawyers and judges.”*

—Chief Justice William Rehnquist



**The ABA’s Justice Initiatives Program encourages improvement of public trust and confidence in our justice system by involving non-lawyers in justice improvement projects at state and local levels.**

Visit our Web site at [www.abanet.org/justice](http://www.abanet.org/justice), call 312/988-6138, or Email: [justice@abanet.org](mailto:justice@abanet.org) to learn about an array of resources we provide to assist you in your justice improvement effort. Among the resources are:

- ◆ **Periodic surveys** of state supreme courts, state and local bar associations, and metropolitan trial courts to find out what is new in justice reform. The results, including state-by-state reports and summaries of activities in each justice reform area, are published in the *Summary of State and Local Justice Improvement Activities* and posted on our Web site.
- ◆ **“...And Justice for All” Ensuring Public Trust and Confidence in the Justice System**, an ABA/NIF package created in cooperation with the Kettering Foundation and the National Issues Forum to encourage discussions of the justice system in communities around the country.
- ◆ **Conferences** to provide an opportunity for court and bar leaders and members of the community to discuss key justice issues.

THE ABA JUSTICE INITIATIVES PROGRAM IS PART OF THE ABA JUSTICE CENTER.



# About the Roadmaps Series

The Roadmaps series has been developed by the American Bar Association's Coalition for Justice to help implement recommendations for reform and change in the justice system. Individual booklets are available for sale through ABA Publications Orders. Titles in the Series are:

- **Alternate Dispute Resolution: Alternatives to Litigation** (PC# 3460008)
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- **Litigants without Lawyers: Courts Meeting the Challenges of Self-Representation** (PC#3460011) [Coming Soon!]
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- **Unified Family Courts** (PC#3460010)
- **User-Friendly Courts: Customer Service in the Courthouse** (PC#3460007)
- **Youth Courts: Young People Delivering Justice** (PC#3460012) [Free]

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## Roadmaps Ordering Information

The booklets are available for \$5 each, 2-10 @ \$4, 11-19 @ \$3, 20+ @ \$2, plus shipping and handling. To order contact:

ABA Publication Orders  
P.O. Box 10892  
Chicago, IL 60610-0892  
phone: (800) 285-2221, fax: (312) 988-5568  
World Wide Web: [www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org)  
e-mail: [abasvcctr@abanet.org](mailto:abasvcctr@abanet.org)

**Office of Justice Initiatives**

**American Bar Association**

**750 North Lake Shore Drive**

**Chicago, Illinois 60611**

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