



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Advocacy Institute Is Pleased to Present

An Introduction to the Center for Justice Innovation and Community Courts in New Jersey

**May 12, 2023
1:00 p.m. –2:15 p.m.**

WEBINAR

Program Summary

The Center for Justice Innovation (Center) seeks to create a more effective and humane justice system by promoting equity and combatting racism. Since 1996, the Center has designed and implemented community-led, data-driven programs to advance equity and access to criminal and civil legal systems in underserved communities. This includes assisting in launching community courts in Newark and Jersey City. The community courts offer judges an opportunity to provide municipal court defendants charged with low-level offenses that are motivated in part by substance use, mental health, and/or poverty, sentencing options aimed at addressing behavioral health concerns, such as counseling, treatment, educational assessments, and referrals for housing and employment, in lieu of jail time, probation, or fines. The Center also conducts research and provides training and technical assistance to court staff, judges, community-based organizations, faith communities, and victims' services professionals.

The presenters will provide an overview of the mission and work of the Center, defining community justice and its values, guiding principles, and models. The presenters will also discuss their work in assisting the development and launch of community courts in Newark and Jersey City, including how operations were impacted through COVID-19, and the current expansion of this work to the Paterson Municipal Court. Further, they will discuss how the community court model addresses racial justice and equity concerns by offering virtual court options and alternatives to the burdensome fees and fines present in Superior Court.

Eligibility

This program is open to attorneys in the Department of Law and Public Safety and county prosecutors' offices.

Faculty

Kelly Mulligan is a Deputy Director of Regional Programs for the Center for Justice Innovation (formally the Center for Court Innovation). She supports all Center programs in Staten Island and New Jersey including Newark Community Solutions (NCS), New Jersey's first community court program. Ms. Mulligan has been with NCS since its inception, serving as the project's first resource coordinator. Before joining the Center, she worked as a state-certified psychiatric screener with The Psychiatric Emergency Screening Program at Bergen Regional Medical Center in Paramus, NJ. She also worked in case management and jail diversion for the Integrated Case Management Services unit of Care Plus NJ. Ms. Mulligan holds an undergraduate degree from Lafayette College and a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Stacey Dix-Kielbiowski is the Program Director for Jersey City Community Solutions, a community justice program in Jersey City Municipal Court. She has been with the court program since its inception as part of the 2016 Community Court Grant Program awarded by the US Department of Justice-BJA and Center for Court Innovation. Prior to working for the Jersey City Municipal Court, Ms. Dix-Kielbiowski provided mental health services in the Hudson County, NJ, and New York City court systems for over 15 years, primarily supervising a hospital-based Behavioral Health-Justice Involved Services unit. She holds Master's Degrees in Forensic Psychology and Forensic Mental Health Counseling from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and is a Licensed Professional Counselor in New Jersey.

CLE Credit

NJ CLE Credit: This program has been approved by the Board on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for 1.5 hours of Alternative Verifiable Learning Format (AVF) total CLE credit. Of these, 1.5 qualify as hours of credit for ethics/professionalism in the Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias category.

Registration

Those who are eligible to apply should use the Zoom Webinar registration link in the Program Announcement email. Students who are registered will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the program.

Students must download Zoom before the webinar in order for the AGAI to record polling responses that are required for attendance verification and CLE credit.

The AGAI will be unable to verify attendance or grant CLE credit to students who have not downloaded Zoom before the webinar.