Panelist Biographies

**Michelle Ashcroft** is a second year student at Temple Law School and a lifelong Philadelphian. She is interested in Special Education law and passionate about ensuring that disadvantaged youth have equal educational opportunities. She has helped to implement a Youth Court at Strawberry Mansion High School and hopes to continue her work with Youth Court throughout her legal career.

**Keith Bailey** is the Director of Interpersonal Violence Prevention Programs for Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR). His role with the organization is to directly oversee their violence prevention and restorative justice programs. Mr. Bailey has developed and overseen school based Youth Court programs since 1998 in Philadelphia including the first elementary school pilot program begun in 2012. He has conducted professional development sessions for educators on restorative justice and the Youth Court models and works as part of a state wide coalition to promote the growth of Youth Courts in Pennsylvania.

**Preeya Bansal** is a second year student at Widener University School of Law. She has been working with the Chester Youth Court, which is composed of 9th graders from Chester High School. Watching and helping these children reach their potential has been tremendously rewarding to her. She hopes, through this seminar, to make the public more aware of how much of an impact Youth Courts have on young people and to encourage others to get more involved.

**Dylan Batten** is a law student at Widener University School of Law and a volunteer at the Chester High School Youth Court. Dylan considers it to be an honor to be a part of this wonderful program, which encourages young students to actively participate in transforming the school's environment and to promote the students' education and growth. She also hopes that this seminar will be successful in relaying the positive impact and importance of Youth Courts.

**Heather Crimmins** is a second year law student at the University of Pennsylvania, where she currently runs the Penn Law Youth Courts pro bono project. Before law school, she taught 8th grade Social Studies at a public middle school in the Bronx, and would have loved to see a youth court there. She is most interested in how law students and legal professionals can work with educators and students to create youth courts that become authentic components of school culture.
Alex Dutton is working towards a dual-degree in law and social work at the Temple University Beasley School of Law. Alex has worked on a number of public interest projects and is facilitating the Youth Court at Strawberry Mansion High School in partnership with the U.S. Attorneys’ Office. Alex hopes that this seminar sparks a cross-disciplinary conversation about the potential for youth courts to improve school climate in Philadelphia’s public schools and how community stakeholders can get involved.

Eva Gold, Ph.D., is a founder of Research for Action (www.researchforaction.org) a Philadelphia-based education research and evaluation group, where she is now a Senior research Fellow. She is co-principal with Michael Norton of a March 2013 study, Youth Courts and their Educational Value: An Examination of Youth Courts in Chester, Pennsylvania, commissioned by the Stoneleigh Foundation. Research for Action’s mission is to strengthen educational opportunities and outcomes for traditionally underserved students through research-based recommendations, and to enrich the civic and community dialogue about promising educational programs and interventions.

Ann Haslanger is a social worker and a volunteer for the Chester Youth Court. During the past two years, she has worked with Chester Youth Courts in three different schools, including all grades between 8th and 12th. She is motivated to help develop the team concept for expanding the number of youth courts in Philadelphia and Chester.

The Honorable Curtis Jones, Jr. represents the 4th Council District in Philadelphia, which includes the sections of Overbrook, Manayunk, Belmont Village, Wynnewfield, East Falls, Allegheny West and Roxborough. Currently in his 2nd term, Councilman Jones is City Council Majority Leader and the Chair of Public Safety. In 2011, Councilman Jones was exposed to Youth Courts during a tour of the Red Hook Community Courts in Brooklyn, New York. Jones was impressed with what he viewed as a fresh and novel method of addressing juvenile recidivism rates, school violence and bullying, and intercepting the school to prison pipeline. Councilman Jones had an opportunity to witness the courts’ best practices, and how the diversionary tactic groomed citizenship through peer-to-peer communications and conflict resolution. In June 2012, Jones held hearings on Youth Courts and issued a report that provided recommendations for further implementation in Philadelphia. Recently, he created a working group on Youth Courts to discuss expanding Youth Courts in Philadelphia schools.

Jonathan Lauri is a third year Temple Law student, and co-coordinator of the Youth Court at Strawberry Mansion High School (SMHS). He has assisted in the training of the first class of students to run a Youth Court. He hopes to spark fellow law student’s interest in the Youth Courts and seeks the establishment of a sustainable Youth Court program at Temple Law.
Amber Marsano is a second year law student at Widener University School of Law. This is her first year volunteering at Chester High School's Youth Court and she plans to continue helping with the students next year. After seeing the positive impact it has on these students, she hopes that the legal community will get more involved to further this movement and make a difference in more students’ lives by supporting Youth Courts throughout Pennsylvania.

Zane David Memeger is the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, having been appointed to this position by President Barack Obama in May 2010. As United States Attorney, he oversees a staff of more than 250 people including 126 lawyers and directs all federal prosecutions of criminal cases in this district working with the FBI, DEA, ATF, U.S. Secret Service and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Mr. Memeger has greatly expanded the role of community outreach, including programs to prevent violence before it happens and to assist offenders through reentry initiatives. One of the violence prevention programs he has supported is the Youth Court program in the city of Chester and in Philadelphia.

Rachel Miller is an Assistant Public Defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. She became involved in the Youth Court movement while a law student at the University of Pennsylvania, and helped Gregg Volz research Youth Court statutes across the country. She also joined Mr. Volz and David Trevaskis in writing an article that was published in the Journal of Law and Social Change at Penn Law. She also assisted in starting youth courts at Bartram High School and Sayre High School in Philadelphia. She hopes to learn how law students and law schools can help, through pro bono work or clinics, to support the youth court movement.

Diana Aubourg Millner currently serves as a program officer with the Stoneleigh Foundation (www.stoneleighfoundation.org), which supports outstanding individuals whose work unites research, policy and practice to improve youth serving public systems. At Stoneleigh, she oversees the Stoneleigh Fellows program and the work of fellows engaged in cross-systems efforts that span the U.S. child welfare and juvenile justice systems. With a particular focus on the juvenile justice field, she provides guidance on new research, best practices and innovations as well as pursues opportunities for new fellowships that advance Stoneleigh’s mission. Diana earned a bachelor’s degree in policy studies from Syracuse University and a master’s in city planning from MIT. She is a 1997 Harry S. Truman Scholar and has served on the Truman Foundation Regional Selection Panels for Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey since 2006. Diana supported the work of Stoneleigh Fellow, Gregg Volz, who was awarded a fellowship to expand youth courts in Chester City and promote a youth court movement in Pennsylvania.
Paloma Perez is a political science and educational studies major at Swarthmore college. She has served as co-leader of Chester Youth Court volunteers, a Swarthmore College student volunteer based organization, since August 2012 training the Smedley-Allied Health's founding youth court. She hopes that from this seminar that we can come together as a group of educators, lawyers and other concerned community members so that we can interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline by empowering students in youth courts. Educate, Don't Incarcerate!

Mary Coyne Pugh, Esquire is an attorney specializing in child advocacy. She is the former Executive Director of Montgomery Child Advocacy Project, MCAP, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free legal services to abused and neglected children by pro bono lawyers in Montgomery County. As a member of the Montgomery Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association, she has served as chairperson of the PBA Child Advocacy Committee, member of the PBA Children’s Rights Committee, MBA Board of Directors, member of the MBA Child Advocacy Committee and MBA Outreach Committee. Mary is committed to justice for children, especially innovative ways to administer justice in an educationally productive fashion. By introducing the resolution supporting youth courts to the PBA Board of Governors in 2011, she demonstrated her devotion to youth courts and hope that it will be accepted as a statewide initiative.

Robert K. Reed is the Executive Assistant United States Attorney and is in charge of community outreach for the office. As part of his duties, Rob has worked closely with Gregg Volz and other Assistant U.S. Attorneys to assist in the operation of Youth Courts in the city of Chester. In addition, Rob has participated in the creation and operation of the Youth Court in Strawberry Mansion High School in Philadelphia.

Andrew Tanzer is a former attorney for the Commonwealth, who has participated in the Chester Youth Court program for over a year, and has trained four groups of students to run Youth Courts.

David Keller Trevaskis, Esquire, is an attorney and former third grade teacher with a Master’s Degree in Education. He is the Pro Bono Coordinator for Legal Services for the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA), responsible for assisting local bar associations, legal services programs and other groups who offer pro bono legal services across the Commonwealth to help improve the access to justice for the neediest among us. Trevaskis supports Youth Courts as part of his pro bono efforts and has been involved with youth court programming in schools since 1991.
**Joanna Visser** is the Associate Director and Staff Attorney in Penn Law’s Toll Public Interest Center (TPIC) overseeing 26 student pro bono projects, including Youth Court. A 2010 graduate of Penn Law, Joanna joined TPIC full-time after completing a Penn Law Postgraduate Fellowship at both TPIC and Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia, where she supported efforts to end the practice of sentencing juveniles to life in prison without parole, and mentored Penn Law students on local pro bono and public interest opportunities.

**Gregg Volz** is a public interest lawyer, former Stoneleigh Foundation Fellow, and director of the Youth Court Support Center at EducationWorks. He co-founded the Chester Youth Court in 2007, has trained 20 groups of students to run Youth Courts, and with law student and PBA support, drafted a Youth Court bill for Pennsylvania. He seeks help from the legal community to advance both the Philadelphia City Council Youth Court Resolution and a statewide Youth Court movement.

**Timothy Welbeck** is an attorney and educator with a wide array of professional experience. Timothy has also served as the College Preparatory Coordinator for an educational nonprofit, where he produced high-quality, cost-efficient college preparatory programming for underserved students. Moreover, Timothy has experience instructing at the middle school, high school and collegiate level, where he presently teaches Hip-Hop and Black Culture at Temple University. Timothy seeks to help advance the Youth Court movement as a means to continue and foster a greater sense of civic responsibility within Philadelphia youth.

**Jennifer Arbittier Williams** has been an Assistant United States Attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for over 10 years. In 2011, Jennifer read an article by Gregg Volz about his work with Youth Courts, and she immediately contacted him and offered her assistance. In the months that followed, Jennifer organized a team of Assistant U.S. Attorneys who adopted a Youth Court in Chester. Jennifer has been working with Youth Courts in the Chester schools for two years and it remains an important priority to her.

**Naudia Williams** is a junior at Swarthmore College, where she is the treasurer and co-president of the Chester Youth Court Volunteers (CYCV), a campus organization that works with Chester Youth Court students. She has been involved in CYCV since 2011, and has trained both high school and middle school students in Chester to run youth courts. She aims to participate in conversations about the merits of Youth Court and foster greater collaboration with its stakeholders.