LEGAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR YOUTH COURTS

I. LAW FIRMS

a) Help train Philadelphia area youth court students;
b) Mentor and supervise law students in youth court training teams (YCTT);*
c) Encourage creation of law school youth court clinics and internships;
d) With law student support, adopt and administer 1 school-based youth court;
e) Advance argument that youth court training is bona fide pro bono service;
f) Encourage bar association support for youth court legislation;
g) Host youth court trainings for law firm corporate clients;
h) Support the youth court public-private partnership;
i) Provide financial support for the Youth Court Support Center (YCSC)**.

II. LAW SCHOOLS (Faculty, Administration, Students, Alumni)

a) Provide pro bono credit to law students who support youth courts;
b) Promote law student support for youth courts e.g. clinics, internships, externships;
c) Encourage collaborations among law students, lawyers and corporate counsel;
d) Help coordinate YCTT among law school and undergraduate students;
e) Spur a youth court dialogue among bar associations and public interest entities;
f) Encourage law student leaders to speak and publish on youth court issues.

III. LAW STUDENTS

A. Contributions Of Law Students

1) Work with lawyers and other professionals in YCTT;
2) Adopt and administer 1 youth court;
3) Help draft lesson plans responsive to a youth courts unique educational needs;
4) Mentor and act as role models for youth court students;
5) Improve communication between lawyers and educators.

B. Benefits To Law Students

1) Learn about, and help implement, Pennsylvania’s restorative justice law;
2) Become more familiar with court rules and roles by teaching them to others;
3) Work with experienced lawyers, developing helpful relationships;
4) Satisfy law school pro bono requirements;
5) Interact with and help underprivileged youth.

*YCTT are combinations of lawyers, law students and other volunteers who train students and administer youth courts.

**The YCSC at EducationWorks provides regional support for youth courts.