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Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention U.S. Department of Justice

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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Organization: Adam Spector
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Nicole Rabner
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FROM: Sarah Ingersoll, Special Counsel
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Chris
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Cout

Number of pages, including cover sheet:

Please call to confirm receipt:

Yes

No

Additional comments:

From: Sarah Ingersoll
To: kzalesne, rseidman
Date: 7/27/99 2:09pm
Subject: Youth Court Idea

Rickl and Kinney,

I've got an event the AG or White House might be interested in, perhaps in relation to Back to School....

OJJDP in partnership with the Departments of Education and Transportation are announcing the establishment of a National Youth Court Center. (OJJDP contributed \$800,000 and ED and DOT are contributing a combined \$200,000). The center is being established at the American Probation and Parole Association. It will provide training and technical assistance across the country and a web site with information and resources.

Along with announcing this, OJJDP will be announcing the results of a survey which shows that there are over 700 youth courts in the U.S. and that teen courts are the fastest growing crime prevention program. Teen courts have demonstrated reduced recidivism, and a cost effective way to promote youth leadership. Many U.S. Attorneys are involved in teen courts -- the AG went to visit a teen court run by a U.S. Attorney not long ago.

In Florida, State legislation just passed requiring that for every payment for a traffic or criminal citation, \$3 goes to establishing teen courts across the State.

U.S.A. Today recently ran a two page full article on teen courts (and a response letter to the editor from Shay). The FBI also did an article.

The new \$1 million National Youth Court Center complements OJJDP's \$800,000 evaluation of (4) teen courts; our Teen court document; our funding (\$100,000) for the Alaska Native Justice Center - teen court; and the \$2 million of Byrne funds that are supporting the development of 50 new teen courts in New York State.

September 14 might be a good day for the AG or the White House to participate in the announcement. On that day, there is a National Youth Court meeting in Washington, D.C. which will include participation from APPA, American Bar Association, FBI, and others.

I'll fax you the background for your review. Please let me know if this piques your interest (6-3650).

CC: PETERSON, DONNI, OJP2.PO4.SPECTORA, OJP2.PO4.BRENN...

NATIONAL YOUTH COURT CENTER

The newly created National Youth Court Center at the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) provides training and technical assistance and serves as an information clearinghouse to Youth Court programs through a variety of services and training opportunities with the support of other organizations. Created by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and funded by OJJDP's Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants Program, in collaboration with the U.S. Department's of Transportation, Education, and Health and Human Services, the National Youth Court Center aims to assist communities in developing and operating effective Youth Court models that strengthen the ability of the juvenile justice system to hold youth accountable for their behavior, while enhancing public safety through active youth participation in the juvenile justice system. The National Youth Court Center will offer the following services;

- Youth Court Resource Guidelines.** This technical assistance guide will identify best practices for operating a Youth Court with consideration given to the various models of Youth Court. (APPA)
- Training Curriculum:** A training curriculum will be based on the Youth Court Resource Guidelines to serve as an overall plan for how information will be delivered during the pilot and regional training programs around the country. (APPA)
- Regional Training Programs:** Five three to four day regional training programs will be offered around the country with additional training programs expected. (APPA)
- Technical Assistance:** On-site technical assistance will be offered to selected jurisdictions. (APPA)
- National Youth Court Inventory:** An inventory will be conducted to determine the number of Youth Court programs in the U.S. and to provide insight into the most current operational practices of Youth Court programs. An eight page OJJDP technical assistance bulletin will be written and distributed to share this most up to date information with the juvenile justice community. (APPA)
- National Youth Court Web Site:** A national Youth Court web-site will be operational to provide a wide range of information and resources on Youth Court. The web-site will list services offered both through the center and affiliated agencies offering Youth Court services. (APPA)
- Student Membership Manuals:** Four Youth Court student membership training manuals will be written and distributed to assist Youth Court programs in the training of youth to assume the roles of the court. These manuals will outline the course of instruction to take place over approximately ten weeks to prepare youth to serve as prosecutor, defender, and other court roles. Each of the four manuals will represent one of the four models of Youth Court. American Bar Association (ABA)
- Volunteer Instructor Guide:** A volunteer instructor guide will be written to assist adults in the community to volunteer as instructors for the Youth Court membership training program. This manual will pertain to the student manuals being prepared. (ABA)
- Lawyer/Law Student Recruitment:** This initiative will reach out to lawyers and law students through the largest law fraternity in the United States to engage them in volunteering as an instructor or a case advisor for youth who are involved in Youth Court. (Phi Alpha Delta Public Service Center)
- National Youth Court Conference:** This national Youth Court conference will take place in the year 2000 in

the state of New Mexico. (APPA)

White House Press Conference on the newly created "National Youth Court Center"

The newly created National Youth Court Center is "Federal Four" initiative to include the Department's of Justice, Education, Health and Human Services, and Transportation. The National Youth Court Center is operated through the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Youth Court is rapidly expanding across the United States and is the fastest growing juvenile crime prevention and diversion program. Youth Court is one of the finest examples of actively involving youth in the community decision process dealing with juvenile crime, while educating our youth about the legal system, providing consequences for youth who commit crimes, and teaching youth the rule of law. As sates such as Florida, New York, and Alaska are moving to implement statewide legislation to support Youth Court, others are beginning to see the benefits of Youth Court and are implementing these programs at rate incomparable to other crime control programs for youth. This is evident by the recent article in USA Today which highlight this movement by states. See chart below:

Youth Court Movement in the United States:

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Youth Courts</u>	<u>States with Youth Courts</u>
1976	2	2
1991	50	14
1994	78	17
1997	340	36
1999	560	47

Invitees for a White House Press Conference on the new created "National Youth Court Center"

Federal Four Partners:

Department of Justice:	Attorney General
Department of Transportation:	Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services:	Secretary
Department of Education:	Secretary
DOJ/OJJDP:	Administrator
DOJ/OJP	Assistant Attorney General

Active Supporters:

U.S. Attorney for NDNY - Actively involved with Youth Courts in Syracuse and Albany.
 U.S. Attorney for Minnesota - Actively involved with Youth Courts in Minnesota.
 U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman (D) - Strong supporter of this concept and his states efforts.
 U.S. Senator Ted Stevens (R) - Secured 2 hard earmarks for Alaska Youth Court Projects.
 Congressman Michael McNulty (D) - Big supporter and assists with NY State efforts.

Non-Federal Agencies providing services as part of the new National Youth Court Center:

American Bar Association
American Probation and Parole Association
Phi Alpha Delta Public Service Center
Street Law, Inc.

Representatives from each of the four models of Youth Court

Texas-Fort Worth Teen Court - Ninfa Mares (Hispanic)
Colorado-Aurora Teen Court - Connie Stevens (African American)
Alaska-Anchorage Youth Court - Sharon Leon (Native Alaskan)
New York-Colonie Youth Court - Violet Colydas (Greek)
Arkansas-Weslington County Teen Court - Scott Gage (White)

Representative from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges:

Hawaii-Judge Michael Bryant - Serves as judge in "Adult Model Youth Court"
Kentucky-Judge Richard Fitzgerald - Instrumental in the Kentucky Teen Court Movement.

Youth Court State Association Presidents:

Florida -Katie Self, Director of the Sarasota Teen Court and President of the Florida State Teen Court Association (62 counties in Florida now have Teen Courts and Florida just passed legislation to add a \$3 surcharge to all traffic and criminal fines to support Teen Court).
Texas - Tammy Hawkins, Director of the Odessa Teen Court and President of the Texas Teen Court Association which is the state with the most Teen Courts in the U.S.
New York - Mike Elmendorf, A founding Director of the Colonie Youth Court and the point of contact for the New York State effort to establish these programs on a state wide level, with proposed state wide legislation, a state wide listserv, and establishment of a state wide management information system created to collect data uniform across the 62 programs in New York - This was funded by a \$150,000 direct grant from BJA to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Other Notes:

New York State has allocated over \$2 million dollars of BJA money to support 43 Youth Court programs in the past two years based on the OJJDP demonstration Youth Court in New York titled the "Colonie Youth Court". This appears in Governor Pataki's executive budget.

The new National Youth Court Center is one of only two federal projects ever to support Youth Court on a national level and this center is the largest and most comprehensive effort to date nationally.



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

*Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention*

Washington, D.C. 20531

To: Jim Wright, U.S. Department of Transportation
Bryan Williams, U.S. Department of Education
Karen Dodge, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Tracy Godwin, American Probation and Parole Association
Paula Nessel, American Bar Association
Lee Arbetman, Street Law, Inc.
Frank Paddock, Phi Alpha Delta Public Service Center
Jeff Butts, Urban Institute
Lara Galinsky, DO SOMETHING

From: Scott Peterson *Scott*

Re: National Youth Court Update Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 14, 1999

You are invited to attend the upcoming Youth Court meeting to be held in Washington, DC at OJJDP's offices on Tuesday, September 14, 1999 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The address is listed on the attached agenda. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss current federally funded initiatives and share information that will be useful for both organizations undertaking Youth Court projects and for the four federal agencies involved in supporting these projects.

Organizations listed on the agenda should bring 25 copies of a one to two page description of the activities being funded in the Youth Court area. Descriptions should include tangible services and products to be produced/delivered through your grant. Please be prepared to discuss completion dates and distribution and/or offering of these services to the public. This may include a particular written product, training seminar, etc. Please be prepared to present this material in the time that has been allocated to you on the agenda.

For any of the federal agencies attending, please feel free to invite any other representative at your agency that has an interest in attending. Youth Court is rapidly expanding around the country and this meeting will assist in creating a picture of where we are at with providing services to the public and what areas are in need of services.

Please call me at 202-616-2369 to confirm your participation. I can also be reached by E-mail at Peterson@OJP.USDOJ.GOV

As always, please do not hesitate to call me with any ideas or questions. See you all soon.

National Youth Court Update Meeting

Date: September 14, 1999, Tuesday
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Place: OJJDP
800 K Street, NW
North Tower, 3rd Floor, Main Conference Room
Washington, DC 20531
202-616-2368 (Scott's Number)

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | Scott Peterson, OJJDP
Introductions/Purpose of the Meeting | 9:30 - 9:45 |
| 2. | Updates on National Youth Court Initiatives | |
| | Tracy Godwin, American Probation and Parole Association
National Youth Court Center | 9:45 - 10:00 |
| | Paula Nessel, American Bar Association | 10:00 - 10:10 |
| | Lee Arbetman, Street Law, Inc. | 10:10 - 10:20 |
| | Frank Paddock, Phi Alpha Delta Public Service Center | 10:20 - 10:30 |
| | Jeff Butts, Urban Institute | 10:30 - 10:40 |
| 3. | Discussion on Youth Court Initiatives | 10:40 - 11:00 |
| 4. | National Youth Court Conference in 2000 | 11:00 - 11:10 |
| 5. | Federal Four Initiative/Planning for the Future/Closing | 11:10 - 11:30 |

(Group Lunch in China Town following the meeting for anyone interested)

Juveniles deserve a second chance

By Terence Hallinan

When I was a teen-ager, I was kicked out of school and arrested several times for fighting. A juvenile court judge eventually got so tired of my misbehavior that he literally kicked me out of my home county of Marin, Calif.

During my "banishment," I worked as a longshoreman and attended the University of California, Berkeley. There I was able to channel my pugilistic ways into a spot on the varsity boxing team, falling two bouts short of making the U.S. Olympic team. Over time — which is what the juvenile court gave me — I went on to practice law for 20 years, was elected to two terms on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and, in 1996, was elected San Francisco's district attorney. Since I took office, violent juvenile crime is down 27% in San Francisco — the sharpest decline of any large county in the state.

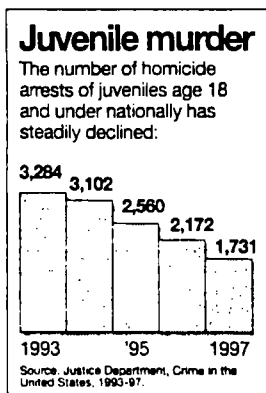
A unique perspective on court system

Yes, I appreciate the irony. But as a prosecutor and a graduate of the juvenile court system, I also believe I have a unique perspective on the court's operation — and a personal investment in maintaining its core tenets.

Founded 100 years ago by a group of reform-minded women

led by Chicago's Jane Addams, the juvenile court was part of a series of century-shaping changes in how our country viewed childhood. Others included compulsory, universal education, child labor laws and the creation of parks and recreation spaces for children.

The court's founders viewed childhood as a sacred time during which adolescents needed the guidance of caring adults. They were shocked to find at the time that hundreds of children as young as 8 were jailed alongside adults. So they fashioned a court that separated kids from adults, focused on individual care and rehabilitation, as well



USA TODAY

as fair punishment, and maintained youths' confidentiality so that youthful indiscretions didn't ruin adult promise.

Yet, as it celebrates its centennial, this American invention never has been in more jeopardy. A juvenile crime bill sponsored by Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., would allow 13-year-olds to be jailed with adults, would curtail confidentiality protections, would create a mandatory sentencing scheme for kids, and would give prosecutors sole discretion, with no judicial oversight, to try juveniles as adults in federal court.

Likewise, an initiative on California's 2000 ballot sponsored by former governor Pete Wilson would also strip judges of decision-making power over whether certain juveniles should be tried as adults, and abolish confidentiality protections. These proposals follow actions by 41 states that passed laws between 1992 and 1995 making it easier for kids to be tried as adults.

There is no question that many of us profiled in the new book *Second Chances* simply would not be where we are today if such laws were in effect when we were young. The book, published by the Justice Policy Institute, a criminal justice think tank, recounts the stories of 25 juvenile court "graduates." They include politicians and probation officers; academics, attorneys and authors; students, stockbrokers and salespeople; firefighters and football players; and judges and juvenile counselors. As kids, every one of us was in trouble with the law; as adults, we're all productive, successful contributors to society.

Don't take away discretion from judges

Permanently staining the lives of young people due to youthful arrests is harmful and counterproductive. Taking discretion away from judges to make individual decisions about young people is a form of cookie-cutter justice that ignores their problems and strengths, to everyone's detriment. And jailing young people with adults is inhumane, dangerous and tantamount to giving up on kids — something we should never do.

In San Francisco, we've taken a bite out of juvenile crime through a balanced approach that combines community-based programs to help kids turn their lives around with fair but certain prosecution of youthful offenders. I have no problem fighting to lock up a kid or to have him tried as an adult if it is necessary to protect public safety. I also have no problem letting a neutral judge make the final decision after having heard all of the evidence. But a system that focuses only on punishment and ignores rehabilitation is ineffective and morally bankrupt.

On its 100th anniversary, we need to reinvigorate our juvenile court system so that it can address today's problems with solutions relevant to the 21st century, not hamstringing them. Juvenile courts should hold youths accountable for their behavior without crippling them for life. They should continue to give kids a chance to make a better choice — the same chance that I and countless other young Americans had during this century.

Terence Hallinan is the district attorney of the city and county of San Francisco.

Camus —

Juvenile Court

Today's debate: Stock market

Fed speaks, but high-rolling investors aren't listening

OUR VIEW Too bad: Rate hikes address sobering economic signs.

An old axiom of the stock market is never to fight the Federal Reserve. Its power to raise interest rates can slow economic activity and reduce the profits that feed stock growth.

But today's investors appear ready not only to disregard Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's oft-repeated words of warning about overexuberance, but also recent Fed actions.

In the wake of a double quarter-point hike in the Fed's two short-term interest rates Tuesday, investors heaved a mighty ho-hum.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped a mere 16 points; the Nasdaq index actually showed a 32-point gain by the end of the day.

All of this followed market run-ups of 6% in the previous 10 days, including a nearly 200-point increase in the Dow on the eve of the Fed's vote. An increase that nearly dared the board to raise rates for the second time in two months.

Stock gains, of course, are one thing. But they are only a marker of a wider phenomenon that has bubbled into every cranny of the economy. This effervescent attitude is leading investors, consumers and businesses to overlook other potential signs of danger, including:

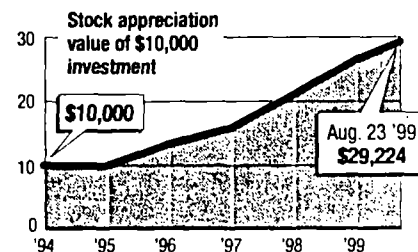
- Rising labor compensation even in the face of a slowing of productivity growth, one key sign the Fed looks at for potential inflation. Even if businesses can't pass off their labor charges to consumers, investors need to be wary, as firms might then see reduced profits. And workers' expectations, as a USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll found this week, are for bigger wage hikes down the road.

- Increasing corporate indebtedness. Businesses are borrowing heavily for capital equipment that has yet to show a payoff despite the good economy. Indeed, the default rate for business junk bonds is more than twice what it was a year ago.

- Consumer borrowing. Greenspan two years ago expressed worries about the possi-

Feeling wealthy?

As stock prices have soared over the past five years, households have seen the value of their investments boom. But in the process, the personal savings rate has dropped from 3.5% in 1994 to -1% in June. Value of \$10,000 invested in an index of the S&P 500 as of January 1994 through Monday:



Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bloomberg News

By Grant Jerding, USA TODAY

bility that Americans might begin feeling too wealthy, spending their stock market gains and reducing their savings. That scenario has come to pass. Consumer spending for luxury goods, bigger houses and imports has spurred higher long-term interest rates and created record trade deficits. At the same time, personal savings rates are now negative for the first time in memory.

- A faltering dollar. Recent declines in its value against foreign currencies presage higher import prices that can boost inflation.

This news and the rejuvenation of the economies in Europe and Asia gave the Fed little choice but to raise interest rates to reduce inflationary pressures here.

Those higher rates will take a real bite from consumers' pockets in credit-card, mortgage and other interest rates. And even the headiest investors may finally have reason to re-examine their expectations that unrealized stock gains can pay for everything.

The Fed rate hikes this week are merely telling borrowers, consumers and investors a prudent truth: A high price is a high price, whether for a loan, a home or a stock. So be wary.