

Foreword and Acknowledgments

We are pleased to welcome you to the First New York Listening Conference. This is an historic coming together of representatives from the New York federal, state and tribal justice systems, and we hope that this is indeed the first of many future listening conferences.

Three years ago next month, we convened the first meeting of the New York Tribal Courts Committee in Syracuse with members of the New York Nations. We acknowledge our appreciation to Kim Thomas, Director of the Native American Services for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, for her assistance in making that first meeting possible. At that meeting, Justice Kahn explained that the New York Tribal Courts Committee had been appointed by Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye and Chief Judge of the Second Circuit John M. Walker to explore the idea of establishing a tribal justice forum in New York. Justice Kahn noted that the Committee had no pre-conceived ideas of what could be done and offered some possibilities by way of suggestions: “We might focus on issues involving children, jurisdiction, restorative justice, law enforcement, cross-jurisdictional deputization, tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians, or traffic enforcement.” We note that those very topics are on the agenda for the First New York Listening Conference.

The New York Federal-State-Tribal Courts Forum Planning Committee grew out of that first meeting in Syracuse. Over the past three years, the Forum Planning Committee has held meetings in which all nine New York Nations and Tribes recognized by the State of New York have participated, and the Planning Committee has gradually transformed itself into the Federal-State-Tribal Courts Forum. Its efforts have provided this opportunity for New York state and federal judges and tribal court judges and justice system representatives to come together to learn from and understand one another.¹

We would like to thank all of those from our state and federal courts and from the Indian Tribes and Nations who contributed their ideas, experience and skills in putting together this Listening Conference. We are indebted to the Honorable BJ Jones, Director of Tribal Judicial Institute and to Robert H. Brown, Senior Policy Advisor, Tribal Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, United States Department of Justice, for their generous support of the First New York Listening Conference and for their enthusiastic and helpful assistance to us in the planning stages.

¹The Forum focuses on ways the federal, state and tribal justice systems in New York can work to improve understanding of one another, establish better ways to share information and to minimize and resolve conflict. As is the case with the Forum, this Conference will not address any issues of land disputes, gaming, taxation or the substance of any matters currently in litigation.

In addition to the sponsors and participating entities, special acknowledgment is due the following people who have made significant contributions to the success of the Listening Conference:

New York's State and Federal Courts

Honorable Judith S. Kaye
Honorable John M. Walker, Jr.
Honorable Jonathan Lippman
Honorable Ann Pfau
Honorable Robert G.M. Keating
Honorable Norman Mordue

The Conference Planning Committee

Peter Carmen, Esq.	Karen Milton, Esq.
Honorable John P. Collins	Valorie Perez, Esq.
Carrie Garrow, Esq.	Honorable Robert L. Pierce
Honorable Hugh A. Gilbert	Honorable Hugh B. Scott
Ms. Jamie Gilbert	Chief Harry Wallace
Honorable Lizbeth Gonzalez	Todd W. Weber, Esq.
Honorable Stewart Hancock	Sarah C. Anderson, Fordham University
Professor Jo Ann Harris	School of Law (2L)
Joseph Heath, Esq.	Kristen Sentoff, Pace University
Mr. Russ Jock	School of Law (2L)
Janice Kish, Esq.	

The Tribal Judicial Institute

Tahira Hashmi, Esq. Michele Rivard Parks

The Center for Indigenous Law, Governance and Citizenship

The New York State Judicial Institute

Trisha Conway	Leonie McCaulsky
Stephanie Grisanti	John Simonetti

We also express our appreciation to Arlene Young, Confidential Secretary to the Honorable Marcy L. Kahn, and to Nancy Venditti, Confidential Secretary to the Honorable Edward Davidowitz, for their tireless work.

In addition, we wish to acknowledge our thanks to the nine New York Nations and Tribes whose members have participated in the New York Federal-State-Tribal Courts Forum Planning

Committee

meetings and in planning this historic Conference:

The Cayuga Indian Nation
The Oneida Indian Nation
The Onondaga Nation
The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
The Seneca Nation of Indians
The Shinnecock Tribe
The Tonawanda Seneca Nation
The Tuscarora Nation
The Unkechaug Nation

We also want to offer special thanks to Patricia Ryan of the New York State Unified Court System Graphics Department, who designed and executed the wonderful graphics for the Listening Conference.

We thank you, as well, for joining us for this important first Conference. We hope that each of you will return to your community with a new understanding and appreciation of the other justice systems in our state, and with a new feeling of connection with those who make the justice systems work. We also hope you will share your ideas for other projects on which we can work together in the future, to promote justice and enhance understanding of all our respective cultures and justice systems.

Hon. Marcy L. Kahn
Justice of the New York State Supreme Court

Hon. Edward Davidowitz
Justice of the New York State Supreme Court

Conference Co-Chairs

Joy Beane, Esq.
Associate Counsel
New York State Judicial Institute

Conference Coordinator