

# P E N N S Y L V A N I A J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E

the newsletter of the

Pennsylvania  
Juvenile Court  
Judges'  
Commission

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Edward G. Rendell, Governor

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July 2007

## Governor Rendell Makes Appointments to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

## Shippensburg University Weekend Mast- ers Degree Pro- gram Accepting Applications for the Class of 2010

On June 8, Governor Edward G. Rendell reappointed Judge Kevin M. Dougherty (Philadelphia County), Judge Rea B. Boylan (Bucks County), and Judge H. William White (Venango County) to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC). Judge Dougherty, the administrative judge of the Philadelphia Family Court Division, is currently vice-chairman of the JCJC and has been serving as a member since October 2003. Judge Boylan and Judge White have been serving as members of the JCJC since June 2004.

Governor Rendell also appointed Judge Lori A. Dumas Brooks (Philadelphia County) to fill the remainder of the term of Judge Myrna F. Field. Judge Dumas Brooks, who sits in family court, was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County in February 2003 and was subsequently elected to the bench in November 2003.

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges Commission-sponsored weekend masters degree program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2010 will begin classes in the fall of 2008. The deadline to apply is Sept. 1.

The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in administration of justice. This is a 36-credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration and policy analysis. Also featured is a summer internship in which students have the opportunity to develop, implement and evaluate a program in their home county or to evaluate an existing program that serves juvenile offenders.

Classes in this two-year program are scheduled every third weekend in the fall, spring and summer, with no classes scheduled during July and August. This program is available to county juvenile probation officers who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Applicants who have an undergraduate grade point average of less than 2.75 must take and pass the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Visit the [JCJC website](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us) or contact [John Cookus](mailto:John.Cookus@pa.gov) for more information.

To sign up for the Governor's newsletter, click here [www.governor.state.pa.us](http://www.governor.state.pa.us)

# Ex-juvenile delinquent from East Liberty to testify before Congress

By Mike Cronin (Re-printed with permission)

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW, Thursday, July 12, 2007

In January 2006, Shannon Jones was arrested for conspiring to rob an East Liberty convenience store. Today, he will tell Congress how an Allegheny County juvenile probation program helped him quit smoking marijuana, get a job and improve from a D-student to one who graduated with honors from Peabody High School.

"I never thought about going to college before," Jones, 18, of Garfield, said Wednesday. "Now, it's a goal of mine. I'm not sure what I'm going to study. But I want to get into something I love and work hard at it."

Jones completed the six-month Community Intensive Supervision Program two weeks ago. It uses a "restorative justice" approach to teach young offenders how their crimes affect victims and neighborhoods, said Jim Rieland, director of the county juvenile probation department.

The program, which began in 1991, operates after-school activities, counseling sessions and tutoring for about 135 young men in Garfield, the Hill District, Wilkinsburg, Homewood and McKeesport. The House Committee on Education and Labor invited a representative from the county's program, and others throughout the country, to testify about their experiences in a juvenile justice program, Rieland said.

"We chose Shannon to represent us because he's well-spoken and took the program to heart," Rieland said. "He's someone who we can be proud of."

Jones was judged delinquent on a conspiracy charge for his role in the January 17, 2006, attempted armed robbery of the A-Plus Mini Market

near the intersection of North Highland Avenue and East Liberty Boulevard. He completed 100 hours of community service, cleaning churches and parks. He paid \$25 to the Pennsylvania Victims Crime Compensation Fund and \$10 to the Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Fund.

"It wasn't that hard at all," Jones said about replacing destructive habits with healthy ones. "If you want to change, it's easy to do."

Derrick Johnson, 43, said he is proud of his son. "The people in the program have put him on the right track," he said. "The program gave him a chance to see how bad a mistake what he did really was, and how a mistake can set you back. They were able to bring that out for him. He's well-respected by them and he respects them as well."

The House committee will use the testimony to determine whether and how to reauthorize the 1974 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which funds juvenile justice programs, said committee spokesman Aaron Albright. Congress authorized \$280 million for such programs last year, Albright said, down from a high of \$560 million in 2002.

Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Jill Rangos, who referred Jones to the program, said she was proud of him. "He did a great job," she said. "Shannon is a good kid who, like a lot of young men and women in their teenage years, can really benefit from some guidance, supervision and motivation. That's really what the whole point is of this program. He's got a lot going for him. He's a bright young man with a lot of potential." Jones is an assistant instructor at East Liberty's Parental Stress Center. He said he plans to enroll at the Community College of Allegheny County in the spring.

[Mike Cronin](#) can be reached at 412-320-7884.

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University.

Guest articles, especially those with photographs, are always welcome; please submit them by email.

John Cookus is the editor. Our address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299. [jcookus@state.pa.us](mailto:jcookus@state.pa.us)

## New Shuman Center Director

By Dan Onorato, Allegheny County Chief Executive



Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato named William "Jack" Simmons the new director of the Shuman Juvenile Detention center, effective June 1. Simmons is assuming the post due to the retirement of Shuman's current director, Alex Wilson, who worked at the Center for 27 years, including the last 16 years as its director.

"Jack Simmons is a consummate professional who will bring new ideas and energy to the Shuman Center," Onorato said. "Jack's experience as Pittsburgh's chief magistrate and magistrate court administrator will be an asset for the center and the county. I also want to thank Alex Wilson for 27 years of service to the residents of Allegheny County. Alex dedicated his career to helping young people and I wish him a healthy, happy retirement."

As chief magistrate, Simmons implemented procedures for child's court that resulted in more reliable testimony from child victims and witnesses. He also created the underage drinking court and enhanced domestic violence court policies, resulting in higher compliance rates. Simmons spent five years as chief counsel and deputy chief counsel in the Pennsylvania Auditor General's Office, and he practiced as a private attorney for eight years. He also served as a hearing officer with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control

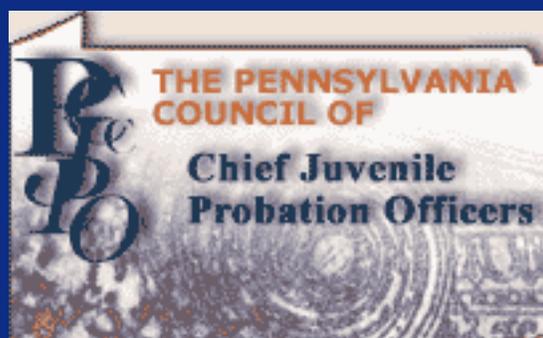
Board and was the founder of Pittsburgh Partners Against Domestic Violence.

"I am certainly excited about this tremendous opportunity and challenge to serve the people of Allegheny County as director of the Shuman Juvenile Detention Center," Simmons said. "I thank Chief Executive Dan Onorato for his faith in me in asking me to do this job. It's the efforts of the youth care workers and their immediate supervisors that make a difference at the facility, and I'm looking forward to working with them to make Shuman an even better place for our residents."

Simmons plans to reach out to many of the organizations and stakeholders associated with the Shuman Center, including the courts, providers, Allegheny County Sheriff's Office, Pittsburgh Police, and Pittsburgh School District Police.

Simmons holds degrees from the College of Wooster and University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He is a board member of the Birmingham Foundation, Women's Center & Shelter Advisory Board, Pittsburgh Community Services Inc. and Naomi's Place.

***Save this Date!***



**40th Anniversary  
Celebration**

**Thursday, November 29, 2007  
Nittany Lion Inn, State College**

# Once a mainstay of juvenile court, confidentiality has given way to substantial openness in many states

Reprinted with permission from the National Center for Juvenile Justice *“Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report”*

## The first juvenile court was open to the public, but confidentiality became the norm over time

The legislation that created the first juvenile court in Illinois stated that the hearings should be open to the public. Thus, the public could monitor the activities of the court to ensure that the court handled cases in line with community standards.

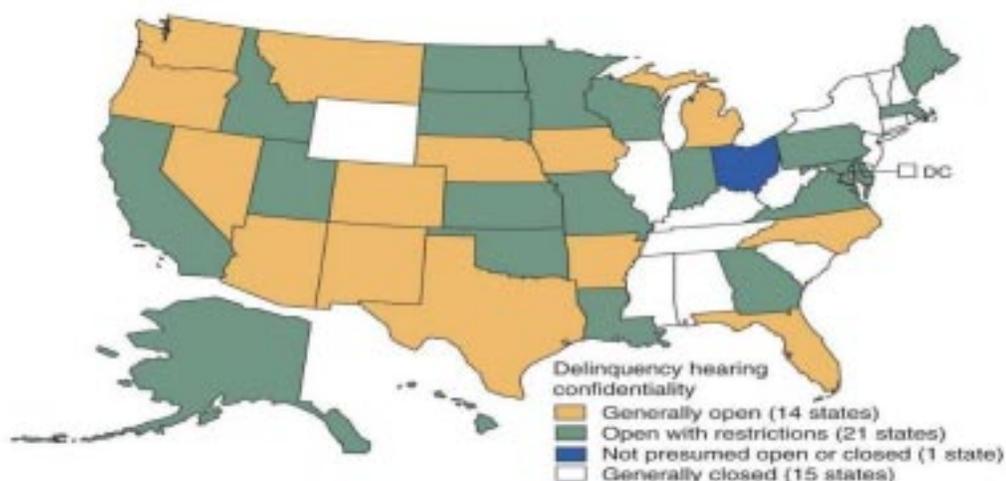
In 1920, all but seven of the 45 states that established separate juvenile courts permitted publication of information about juvenile court proceedings. The Standard Juvenile Court Act (1925) did not ban the publication of juveniles’ names. By 1952, however, many states that adopted the act had statutes that excluded the general public from juvenile court proceedings. The commentary to the 1959 version of the act referred to the hearings as “private, not secret.” It added that reporters should be permitted to attend hearings, with the understanding that they not disclose the identity of the juvenile. The rationale for this confidentiality was “to prevent the humiliation and demoralizing effect of publicity.” It was also thought that publicity might propel youth into further delinquent acts to gain more recognition.

As juvenile courts became more formalized and concerns about rising juvenile crime increased, the pendulum began to swing back toward more openness. By 1988, statutes in 15 states permitted the public to attend certain delinquency hearings.

## Delinquency hearings are open to the public in 14 states

As of the end of the 2004 legislative session, statutes or court rules in 14 states open delinquency hearings to the general public. Such statutes typically state that all hearings must be open to the public except on special order of the court. The court may close hearings to the public when it is in the best interests of the child and the public. In seven of the 14 states, the state constitution has broad open court provisions. Ohio has a similar open court provision; however, in 2000, the Ohio supreme court ruled that juvenile proceedings are not presumed to be open or closed to the public. The Ohio court held that the traditional interests of confidentiality and rehabilitation prevent the public from having a constitutional right of access to juvenile delinquency proceedings.

## Delinquency case proceedings are open in some states, closed in others, and in some states, it depends on the type of case



**PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION ON PROBATION, PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS**

87<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

*Working Together/Working Smarter For Safer Communities*

May 18-21, 2008 – The Inn at Pocono Manor

**2008 CALL FOR PRESENTERS**

PROPOSALS ARE DUE BY September 12, 2007

**PAPPC invites you to submit topics for consideration on subjects that will help juvenile and adult criminal justice practitioners and related service providers deal more effectively with the challenges of today's workplace. Workshops will explore winning strategies, promising practices and Evidence-Based Practice in the field of adult and juvenile, county and state probation, parole and institutional care. Systems approaches to addressing public safety, cross system networking, treatment and victim concerns will be appreciated. Topics can include the following: Institutions, Adult Probation and Parole, Juvenile Probation, Administration and Management Issues, Academic and Research, Terrorism and Critical Instance Response, Victim Advocacy and Awareness, Offender Treatment, and other relevant topics.**

**PROPOSAL FORM**

Please attach this form to the front of your submission. More than one proposal is acceptable.

**Person submitting Proposal:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Presentation Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Presenter name (s), Title (s), Licensing (i.e., Ph.D. LSW), Organization (s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Length of Presentation** (check one): 1 ½ hrs. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 hrs. \_\_\_\_\_ 6 hrs. \_\_\_\_\_

**I have enclosed the following:**

- 200 word description of topic on 8 ½" x 11" paper
- Objectives of Presentation
- An outline of the presentation
- Biographies of presenters

**Presenter Agreement:**

If this proposal is accepted by PAPPC, the undersigned guarantees that he/she is the sole proprietor of this material, that no proprietary rights or copyrights belonging to any other person exists. The undersigned further agrees to deliver in advance, to the Program Committee the proposed session materials and handouts. The undersigned agrees that no fees or reimbursement of expenses will be paid by PAPPC unless agreed upon otherwise.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail, fax or email by September 12, 2007 to:

Gregory Young  
Parole Supervisor  
Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole  
Phone: (717) 787-5699  
Fax: (717) 705-1778

### **In 21 states, limits are set on access to delinquency hearings**

In addition to the 14 states with open delinquency hearings, 21 states have statutes that open delinquency hearings for some types of cases. The openness restrictions typically involve age and/or offense criteria. For example, a statute might allow open hearings if the youth is charged with a felony and was at least 16 years old at the time of the crime. Some statutes also limit open hearings to those involving youth with a particular criminal history. For example, hearings might be open only if the youth met age and offense criteria and had at least one prior felony conviction (criminal court) or felony adjudication (juvenile court).

### **Most states specify exceptions to juvenile court record confidentiality**

Although legal and social records maintained by law enforcement agencies and juvenile courts have traditionally been confidential, legislatures have made significant changes over the past decade in how the justice system treats information about juvenile offenders. In most states, the juvenile code specifies which individuals or agencies are allowed access to such records.

Formerly confidential records are now being made available to a wide variety of individuals. Many states open records to schools and youth-serving agencies as well as individuals and agencies within the justice system. However, access is not necessarily unlimited or automatic. It may be restricted to certain parts of the record and may require a court order.

As of the end of the 2004 legislative session, juvenile codes in all states allow information contained in juvenile court records to be specifically released to one or more of the following parties: the prosecutor, law enforcement, social services agencies, schools, the victim, or the public.

In all states, laws allow those with a "legitimate interest" to have at least partial access to juvenile court or law enforcement records. Interested parties generally must obtain the court's permission to gain access. Many states allow access by the juvenile who is the subject of the proceedings (35 states), the juvenile's parents or guardian (40 states), or the juvenile's attorney (40 states).

### **All states allow certain juvenile offenders to be fingerprinted and photographed; most store information in repositories**

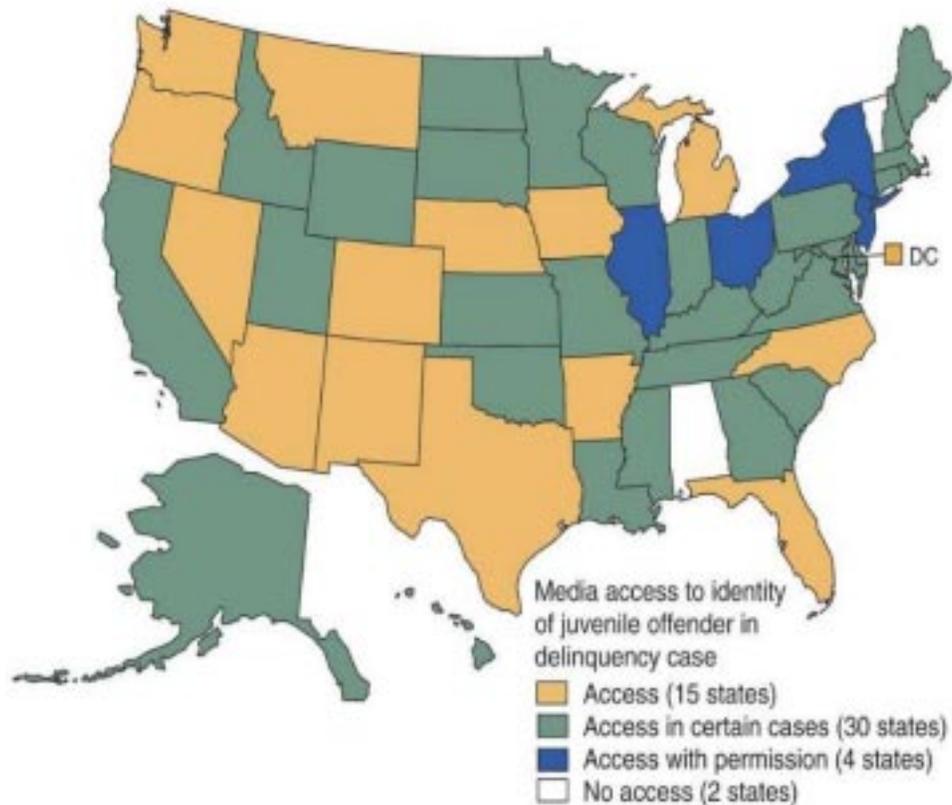
As of the end of 2004, all states allow law enforcement agencies to fingerprint juveniles who have been arrested for felonies or who have reached a certain age. All states allow juveniles to be photographed for their criminal history records under certain circumstances.

In 44 states, information (typically fingerprints and other identifying information) about certain juvenile offenders can be reported to a statewide repository. Some states include such information in the criminal history repository for adult offenders; others maintain a separate repository for information on juvenile offenders.

### **School notification laws are common**

As of the end of the 2004 legislative session, 44 states have school notification laws. Under these laws, schools are notified when students are involved with law enforcement or courts for committing delinquent acts. Some statutes limit notification to youth charged with or convicted of serious or violent crimes.

## Media can access juvenile offenders' identities in most states



### Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report



**Access:** In 14 of the 15 jurisdictions, media can gain access to the juvenile offenders identity by attending delinquency hearings, which are open to the public. In the District of Columbia, the statute allows the media to attend hearings (although hearings are not public) but prohibits the media from revealing the juveniles identity.

**Access in certain cases:** In 30 states, media can access the juvenile offenders identity for certain cases. Media access is tied to public access to hearings or records, which statutes limit by case characteristics such as the juveniles age, offense, criminal history, or whether the case is transferred to criminal court.

**Access with permission:** In 4 states, media access to delinquency hearings or records (and thus to juvenile offender identities) can only occur if the court gives permission or the media discover the information independently. In these states, statutes require that the court decide the issue on a case-by-case basis.

**No access:** In 2 states, statutes prohibit release of the names of all juvenile offenders. In 3 states (Maryland, New Jersey, and Wisconsin), under certain circumstances, the media may be prohibited from revealing the juveniles identity.

Source: Authors adaptation of Szymanski's *Releasing names of juvenile offenders to the media and/or the public* (2005 update).

## Office of the State Fire Commissioner Offers Training

The Office of the State Fire Commissioner is offering free juvenile firesetting assessment and safety training. This uniquely structured training is ideal for fire service, law enforcement, mental health, social service, juvenile justice, educators and other agencies or professionals who may assess/screen juveniles engaged in firesetting activity and present fire safety education as a juvenile fire-setter intervention.

The training includes juvenile firesetting assessment on the first day and fire safety education on the second day of training. Participants will receive a CD of the assessment tool and a copy of the fire safety education curriculum.

Participants will receive information on general awareness of the juvenile firesetting problem, regional concepts for JFS programs, interviewing and screening juvenile firesetters using the state's written protocol and recommended screening tool, how to present fire safety education to juvenile firesetters and their caregivers using the state's recommended curriculum, networking with professionals in multiple disciplines who work collectively to prevent and mitigate the problem of juvenile firesetting.

### 2007/2008 schedule

Harrisburg - August 23-24, 2007  
Washington county - September 20-21, 2007  
Scranton - October 25-26, 2007  
Altoona - November 29-30, 2007  
Williamsport - December 20-21, 2007  
Philadelphia - January 24-25, 2008  
Allentown - February 21-22, 2008  
Pittsburgh area - March 20-21, 2008  
Butler county - April 24-25, 2008  
Erie county - May 22-23, 2008

The exact location of each training will be announced when registration is confirmed.

You may register by completing the JFS workshop registration form and mailing it to the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, 2605 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110. You may also fax a completed registration form to (717) 651-2210. Emailed registration forms should be sent with "JFS Training" in the subject line to [Paul Reichenbach](mailto:Paul.Reichenbach@pa.gov). Participants may also register by phone by calling (800) 670-3473, ext. 2203 or (717) 651-2203.

## JDCAP 2007 Annual Conference

The Juvenile Detention Centers Association of Pennsylvania (JDCAP) is sponsoring its 2007 annual conference on "Juvenile Detention: Keeping Communities Safe." It will be held October 3-5 at The Nittany Lion Inn, State College, Pennsylvania.

Conference registration includes plenary sessions, workshop sessions, handouts, breaks, Wednesday's reception, continental breakfast, lunch, workshop sessions and Thursday's dinner. A breakfast buffet and closing speaker are also included on Friday.

You can register by completing the registration form and mailing it to JDCAP, 17 North Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17101. Completed registration forms can also be faxed to (717) 232-2162. Emailed registrations should be sent to [Melissa Valentine](mailto:Melissa.Valentine@pa.gov).

Additional information and registration forms are available from the [JDCAP](http://www.jdcap.org) website.

## SOAB Offers Training

The Sex Offender Assessment Board is offering statewide trainings for sex offender management and containment. This training session on Pennsylvania's Sex Offender Containment Model (Adult and Juvenile) is for policy makers and field staff including probation officers, prosecutors, treatment providers, victim advocates, court officials, educators and community stakeholders. This free training session will cover best practices for sex offender containment, best practices for investigations, assessment treatment and supervision and updates to Megan's Law and the Federal Adam Walsh Act of 2006.

The free training sessions will be held Sept. 11 at the Ramada Inn, Wilkes Barre and also on October 2 at the Genetti Hotel, Williamsport.

You can register online by using the [Sex Offender Assessment Board](http://www.sexoffenderassessmentboard.org) (SOAB) website.

## 2008 PAPPC Conference CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The Pennsylvania Association on Probation Parole and Corrections ([PAPPC](#)) has announced their call for presenters in anticipation of the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Institute to be held May 18-21, 2008, at The Inn at Pocono Manor. PAPPC invites presenters to submit proposals for consideration no later than Sept. 12, on subjects that will help juvenile and adult criminal justice practitioners and related service providers deal more effectively with the challenges of today's workplace. The conference theme is "Working Together/Working Smarter for Safer Communities." Workshops will explore winning strategies, promising practices and evidence-based practice in the field of adult and juvenile, county and state probation, parole and institutional care. Proposals in the areas of systems approaches to addressing public safety, cross system networking, treatment and victim concerns will be appreciated. Topics can include the following: institutions, adult probation and parole, juvenile probation, administration and management issues, academic and research, terrorism and critical instance response, victim advocacy and awareness, offender treatment and others. The call for presenters can be mailed, faxed or emailed to [Gregory Young](#), parole supervisor, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, 1101 South Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17104, Phone: (717) 787-5699, Fax: (717) 705-1778. The deadline for submission is Sept. 12.

## Communities That Care (CTC) Staff Announce Training to a Juvenile Justice Audience

On Sept. 19 at the Holiday Inn West in Mechanicsburg, the five CTC regional strategic consultants will present a training program on the topic of "Community Engagement to Build Competencies in Youth" as part of the Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research Fall 2007 calendar.

Several techniques and methods required to engage the citizens of a community to implement positive change will be reviewed. Participants will also learn about a variety of research-based programs currently being implemented across the Commonwealth and gain a better understanding of the role they can play in ensuring the success of these programs.

If you are interested in attending this session, register on line by using the [Juvenile Court Judges' Commission](#) (JCJC) website. Follow the training links found in the left column. Other inquiries related to the training may be directed to either [Stephen Bishop](#) at 717-477-1294, or [John Herb](#) at 717-477-1185.

