

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

HUDSON VICINAGE

CHAMBERS OF
MAURICE J. GALLIPOLI
ASSIGNMENT JUDGE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COURT MINORITY CONCERNS COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Superior Court of New Jersey Hudson Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns seeks volunteers to assist the court in its ongoing efforts to improve access and fairness at all levels of the court system in Hudson County. The court is particularly interested in recruiting members with an interest or background in juvenile justice or youth development. In addition, the court seeks representation from the financial and law enforcement communities.

“The Advisory Committee gives vicinage leadership the opportunity to hear from a diverse body of committed and concerned community members. Their unique insights and perspective are a valuable addition to our efforts to enhance court services and programs.” said Hudson Vicinage Assignment Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli. “Just as important, the Committee offers a meaningful opportunity for community members to observe and participate in their court system.”

Established in 1992, the Committee advises the assignment judge on matters pertaining to fairness, impartiality, equal access and full participation of the communities served by the court. This court-community partnership works to eliminate bias at all levels of the court system by examining court policies and procedures and participating in the development of programs and services.

During the coming term, the Committee will address as a priority the issue of disproportionate minority confinement in the juvenile justice system and disparate justice outcomes for minority youth. The Committee also plans to devote its time to presenting various community education forums. In May 2008, the Committee presented a Court Night Program of free legal workshops on a variety of topics, including immigration, landlord/tenant, criminal record expungement, and various Family Court matters. About 200 community members attended this event, which was co-sponsored by the Hudson County Bar Association.

The chair of the Committee is Belinda Daughtry, the founder of Lamont Arms, a nonprofit prison reform organization focused on providing resources, empowerment, and educational opportunities to inmates, former inmates and their families.

Members are appointed by the assignment judge, usually for two years. The committee meets at the Hudson County Superior Court, 595 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, NJ approximately six times a year in plenary sessions. Subcommittee groups meet periodically at various locations.

Members of the Committee also serve on one of four subcommittees: Minority Access to the Courts; Minorities and Juvenile Justice and the Family Court; Minority Participation in the Judicial Process; and Criminal Justice and the Minority Defendant.

Individuals interested in being appointed to the Committee should contact Pauline Daniels at 201-795-6610.

