

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

SOMERSET, HUNTERDON & WARREN COUNTIES

VICINAGE 13

YOLANDA CICCONE
ASSIGNMENT JUDGE

EUGENE L. FARKAS
TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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OMBUDSMAN



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For immediate release April 2, 2013

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Free Seminar on Cultural Competency Scheduled; Professional Development Credits Available for Attorneys and Educators

A free seminar on cultural competency will be held on Thursday, April 18, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Somerset County Courthouse, 20 N. Bridge St., Somerville.

Cultural competency is the ability to communicate successfully and respectfully with people whose cultures or backgrounds are different from one's own. Panelists will discuss its importance in relation to family, religion, mental health, and interactions with governmental agencies and schools. They will explore the idea of cultural competency in comparison to tolerance and sensitivity.

Speakers will include Marilyn Birnbaum, superintendent of North Plainfield Public Schools; Paula Rodriguez Rust, sociologist; Yolande Marlow, manager of the Minority Concerns Unit at the Administrative Office of the Courts; and Meera Bhatt of the Center for Advanced Counseling in Somerville. The seminar will include a question-and-answer session.

Seating for this seminar is limited. Participants should contact Denise Paternoster to register in advance at 908-231-7624 or SOMOmbudsman@judiciary.state.nj.us.

For attorneys, this program has been approved by the Board of Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of New Jersey for one hour of credit for ethics/professionalism. CLE credits are based on the total instruction time of the program and are an estimate. CLE advanced registration is \$25 on or before April 15 or \$35 after April 15. For information on CLE credits, contact Carol Ann Winder, executive director of the Somerset County Bar Association, at 908-685-2323 or cawinder@somersetbar.com.

Educators who attend will receive a certificate specifying that they have earned three hours of professional development credits. Contact Paternoster for more information regarding credits for educators.

The seminar is sponsored by the Vicinage 13 Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, the New Jersey Judiciary Children in Court Improvement Committee, the Somerset County Bar Association and the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. The Minority Concerns Committee includes Superior Court employees and community representatives. The committee develops programs that enable the court to better serve the community.

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