



Bronx Family Court Judge Juan Merchan delivers keynote and welcomes a new class of Juvenile Counselors to DJJ.

The Honorable Juan Merchan Keynotes at DJJ Staff Graduation Ceremony

On Friday, September 12, 2008 the Department of Juvenile Justice welcomed into their ranks thirteen new Juvenile Counselors, all of whom graduated from the Department's Staff Education and Training Academy at a ceremony at the Department's 110 William Street headquarters.

Deputy Director of Training Lorraine Anderson opened the event, saying "I am pleased to be here to celebrate the graduation of this class of Juvenile Counselors of September 2008," and welcomed the new employees, who were joined by family, friends and DJJ colleagues.

After the invocation by the Reverend Everton A. Piggot and introductory remarks by the Director of the Staff Education and Training Academy (SETA) Torry Moorner, the Honorable Juan Merchan of the Bronx Family Court presented the keynote address.

Judge Merchan, who was appointed to the Family Court in August 2006, is a graduate of Baruch College and received his J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law. He began his career with the New York County District Attorney's Office and served with the New York State Office of the Attorney General, and as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in-charge of the Nassau County Regional Office.

Judge Merchan delivered an inspiring welcome to the new class of juvenile justice professionals, stressing the important role they will play in the lives of young people in detention. He spoke about his career path and how his wife had provided his initial inspiration as a judge, encouraging him to "remember the children." He has lived by that phrase and keeps it in mind while presiding at the Bronx Family Court. He urged the new counselors to follow the same advice, asking that they, too, "remember the children" as they embark on a career in public service.

Director of the Staff Education and Training Academy (SETA) Torry Moorner said, "This class represents the future of the Department of Juvenile Justice, and their potential is limitless within the Agency. We wish our new graduates every success."

The new employees will immediately join their colleagues, working throughout DJJ's secure facilities and group homes, where they will provide direct care and security for youth in detention

