



Correctional Association Executive Director Robert Gangi discusses the future of juvenile justice at DJJ forum.

DJJ and Kramer Levin Host Forum on Juvenile Detention

On Tuesday, June 30th, The Department of Juvenile Justice and Kramer Levin Naftalais & Frankel LLP co-hosted a forum titled “Juvenile Detention in Focus: Admissions, Utilization and Strategies to Keep Youth Home.” The event was held at the offices of Manhattan law firm Kramer Levin. Kramer Levin partner Steven Sparling and DJJ Commissioner Neil Hernandez provided opening remarks.

The forum panel included Laurence Busching, Family Court Division, New York City Law Department; Robert Gangi of the Correctional Association of New York; David Long, Queens Engagement Strategies for Teens; and Marsha Weissman of The Center for Community Alternatives. Christopher Fisher, DJJ’s Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning, moderated the event. Nicole Halsey, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, planned and executed all aspects of the event, in concert with Kramer Levin.

The panelists discussed admission patterns, utilization of detention and ongoing strategies to keep youth home, before an audience of juvenile justice professionals, advocates and human service providers. The forum demonstrated through discussion and example the powerful effect bringing various stakeholders together can have on enhancing the results achieved by the Bloomberg Administration through its reform and restructuring of the Juvenile Justice System. The ultimate impact of this reform has been experienced by those court-involved youth who have been able to remain in their communities and at home with their families.

“As we continue to reform the Juvenile Justice System, it’s important to understand the young people who are coming into detention and, just as importantly, why, ” DJJ Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning Christopher Fisher said. “By knowing this, we can better understand the youth that is most likely to benefit from our new and continued reform efforts.”

