



Deputy Commissioner Herman Dawson discusses CFI and other DJJ initiatives with new Legal Aid attorneys at Horizon Juvenile Center.

DJJ Continues Tradition Of Welcoming New Legal Aid Attorneys With Facility Tours And Opportunities To Meet Agency Staff

The NYC Department of Juvenile Justice welcomed new staff attorneys, paralegals and social workers in the Juvenile Rights Division of The Legal Aid Society by providing tours of two of its secure detention facilities, plus opportunities to meet facility staff.

On Wednesday, February 6th, eight new staff members from The Legal Aid Society toured the Horizon Juvenile Center in The Bronx. Horizon Executive Director Eduardo Marcial began the tour with an overview of the Department’s operations. Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs Herman Dawson, Assistant Commissioner Christopher Fisher, Assistant Commissioner Scott Trent and Horizon’s Director of Operations Tahia Johnson, Deputy Director of Operations Louis Watts and Deputy Director of Programs Susan Campos participated in the presentation and tour.

On Thursday, February 7th, eight staff attorneys, paralegals and social workers from The Legal Aid Society also toured the Crossroads Juvenile Center in Brooklyn. Crossroads Executive Director Migdalia Aldea, Director of Operations Rhonda Moore and Deputy Director of Operations James Jones participated in the presentation and tour.

DJJ Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs Herman Dawson said, “The Department's continued commitment to providing newly appointed Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Division attorneys with first hand insight into the Department's facilities allows these dedicated advocates to readily connect to the youth we both serve and gives them an appreciation as to the social and programmatic supports the Department provides. Today's meeting provided an excellent opportunity to continue the dialogue on some of the agency's most important and innovative programs, including the Collaborative Family Initiative (CFI) and the Release to Parent Program (RTP). More importantly, it allows a continued collaboration on moving youth out of detention and back into the community with their families.

Attorneys from the Juvenile Rights Division of The Legal Aid Society represent many of DJJ’s juvenile residents in matters before New York City Family Courts and Criminal Courts.

In a December 2007 ceremony keynoted by Mayor Bloomberg, DJJ recognized the Brooklyn Juvenile Rights Division team of The Legal Aid Society for distinguished public service in promoting judicial economy and efficiency in New York City’s Family Courts for the benefit of detained youth.

