

20th ANNIVERSARY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of the* NEW YORK COURTS

2022 *Gala*

CELEBRATING OUR 20th ANNIVERSARY

Empowering Students Through Education:
Building Informed Citizens



NOVEMBER 3

The New York Public Library
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library
455 Fifth Avenue, NYC

CELEBRATING HOW IT ALL BEGAN



“Much of the history of the New York State courts lies buried in the memories of hundreds of judges and lawyers, as well as in storerooms and attics across the country. With the formation of the Historical Society, we put in place a vehicle to collect and preserve the wonderful history of the New York courts for future generations.”

Hon. Judith S. Kaye
Founder

As we look forward to the next twenty years of the Society’s work to preserve, protect, and promote the legal history of the State, we also look back on how the Society came into being.



In the Beginning

When Judge **Albert M. Rosenblatt** joined the Court of Appeals in 1999, Chief Judge **Judith S. Kaye** found a partner whose curiosity about the history of the Court matched her own. As they investigated the judges that came before them, their interest in the legal history of the state grew.

March 1, 2000

Over breakfast on a spring day in Albany, the two judges decided to develop a plan for a historical society dedicated to New York’s legal history—its Bench and Bar.

February 1, 2001

A hand-selected group of attorneys and judges met in Chief Judge Kaye’s chambers to discuss the plan for creating a historical society. This meeting laid the groundwork for what would come to be known as the Historical Society of the New York Courts.

April 23, 2002

The Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York, for and on behalf of the State Education Department, granted a provisional charter to the Society.

May 28, 2002

The first meeting of the Board of Trustees elected Trustees and officers; adopted a constitution and bylaws; established a committee structure; and launched initiatives including oral histories, preservation of books, and public programs.

Little did Judge Kaye and Judge Rosenblatt know how the Society’s mission would take flight...

EMPOWERING NYS STUDENTS



“I love putting law and history together, and I love teaching it. When I first started this fellowship, we worked in high school classrooms at Bard High School Early College. These students loved the course; they felt empowered by learning more about the law.”

Dr. Julia Rose Kraut

Inaugural Judith S. Kaye Teaching Fellow &
Incoming Resident Education Fellow

In 2010, the Society embarked on a new project: educating students about our democratic process, founding documents and the importance of New York’s legal history in understanding how our democracy works, with the goal of empowering students to become informed citizens. To date, the Society has reached over 3,000 high school, middle school, and community college students and teachers with this important, but often overlooked, curriculum.



Judith S. Kaye Teaching Fellowship

Having developed a longstanding relationship with **Bard High School Early College**, the Society began a new education project in 2015: bringing educators into classrooms. **Judith S. Kaye Teaching Fellows** teach semester-long courses on these themes and introduce students to judges and lawyers through guest speakers and trips to courthouses. This program continues to grow today.



Lesson Plans for the Classroom

Through a grant from the **New York Community Trust**, the Society is taking the lessons learned to develop a toolkit for teachers across the State, focusing on the constitution; federalism; voting rights and civic participation; and free speech, press, and assembly. These materials are presented in an accessible and flexible format to allow teachers to meet their students with appropriate levels of materials. The focus: to make the lessons relevant to the students.



Teaching Teachers

In partnership with **Bard College Institute for Writing & Thinking**, the Society produced workshops to reach underserved schools across the State and provide educators with tools to teach court-related materials. Thus far, eight workshops have been offered, providing strategies to teach the role of the courts to over 100 teachers, primarily in upstate regions.

RECORDING HISTORY AS IT UNFOLDS



Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic



“We interviewed judges, administrators, thought leaders, and friends and colleagues about the way in which the New York court system responded during the COVID pandemic—from the various ways in which the

courts ensured that they would remain open for business, to provide access to justice for New Yorkers who most needed it to the ways in which our New York legal community has come together and responded in resilient fashion.”

Alexander C. Drylewski, Esq.

Society Trustee

The New York State court system, with over 300 courthouses, converted from an in-person operating model to an online platform rapidly to ensure that the courthouses never closed and that every New Yorker received a day in court. To tell this story, two Society projects *Dispensing Justice from a Distance* and *NYS Lawyers’ Response to the Pandemic* interviewed judges, lawyers, and court staff to create a contemporaneous record of what they experienced and how they responded to an unprecedented event in the history of the court system, culminating in nearly 70 interviews.



Oral Histories of the Bench and Bar



“I have been fascinated by the work the Society does capturing oral histories of many of our esteemed judges and also some of the practicing lawyers whom we have seen go

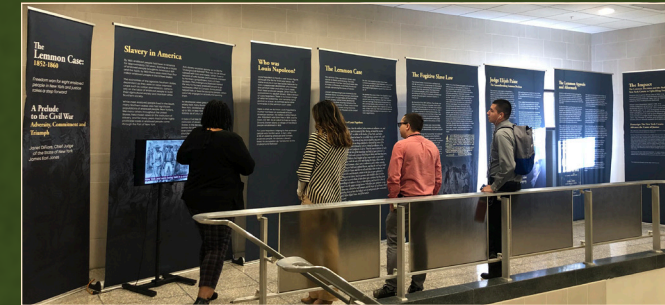
before us. Capturing these oral histories on top of the written histories is magic.”

Lynn K. Neuner, Esq.

Gala Vice-Chair

The Society’s Oral History Project captures the personal recollections of legal luminaries of the Bench and Bar. It provides future generations firsthand understanding into the path these figures took to the law and service to the public, as well as insights into how the legal process works. To date, the Project features nearly 30 interviews, including four of the most recently sitting NYS Chief Judges through Chief Judge **Jonathan Lippman**.

REACHING THE PUBLIC



Lemmon Slave Case Exhibit & Audiostory Podcast



“One of the things that the Society is working on has been the Lemmon Slave Case. That’s a great case dealing with how efforts were made during a very bad time in American history to deal with the problem of slavery.

We’re very honored to be part of helping to do this podcast and then get it out to younger people so they can understand how important equality, freedom, and all the good efforts that were made 150 years ago to make the United States a better country.”

Robert J. Giuffra, Jr., Esq.

Society Trustee & Honorary Gala Chair

The Society collaborated with the court system to bring a traveling exhibit *The Lemmon Case: 1852-1860, A Prelude to the Civil War* to 45 courthouses across 90 weeks. The exhibit, which features text panels and a video narration by **James Earl Jones**, tells the story of the heroic action of free Black people and abolitionist lawyers to bring eight enslaved young women and children before the New York courts. This led to the historic and brave decisions in New York to free these enslaved people in the name of humanity when slavery was the law of the land.

To continue this theme, through the generosity of a grant from the **Sullivan & Cromwell Foundation** and the efforts of **Robert J. Giuffra, Jr.**, the Society is working on an audiostory that features the events surrounding the *Lemmon* case from the view of the enslaved people.



Programs Open to the Public



“The Society is invaluable because we live in a society in which our differences are supposed to be resolved peacefully in courtrooms, and if you don’t appreciate the

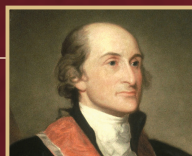
history that got us this far, then you don’t appreciate the value of that system.”

Evan R. Chesler, Esq.

Society Supporter

The Society’s made its formal public debut on April 22, 2003, when it sponsored its inaugural program on New York’s role in framing the U.S. Constitution—a theme that has continued through many Society programs. In the 20 years since, the Society has hosted over 70 public programs on themes related to our founders and founding documents—both federal and New York State, how the courts have addressed diversity issues historically and in the present, celebrating the State’s courthouses and the arts, and a multitude of legal history’s little known stories that uncover the past to inform the present.

The Society is especially proud of its long-standing partnership with the **Supreme Court Historical Society** which has brought partnered programs to New York that feature Supreme Court Justices as participants. This includes a memorable program with Chief Justice John Roberts looking back on the tenure of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes.



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November 3 • The New York Public Library
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PROGRAM

WELCOME

Richard A. Edlin

Trustee & Gala Chair, Historical Society of the New York Courts

REMARKS

Hon. Jonathan Lippman

Former Chief Judge of the State of New York
President, Historical Society of the New York Courts

Marilyn Marcus

Executive Director, Historical Society of the New York Courts

Dr. Julia Rose Kraut

Inaugural Judith S. Kaye Teaching Fellow
Incoming Resident Education Fellow

VIDEO PRESENTATION

Inspiring Our Future by Illuminating Our Past:
Making the Constitution Matter in the Classroom
A Lesson on the First Amendment

2022 Gala Supporters

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