

BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE



**MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CHIEF DEFENDERS
AND OF THE COMMUNITY ORIENTED DEFENDER NETWORK:**

Greetings!

On behalf the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law and the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, we are very excited to announce our combined ACCD-COD New York City conference extravaganza! The dates are July 30th to August 2nd. We very much hope to see you there! This conference will be a unique opportunity for ACCD and COD members – it will consist of two half-day planning meetings, plus a two-day substantive training session – *Public Defense: Leading the Way to Racial Justice* – in which we will explore opportunities for public defenders to fight racial injustice in courts and communities. We plan on seeking MCLE credits for the training portion of the conference.

Conference Overview

July 30th (Wednesday afternoon) – COD Planning Meeting (ACCD members are welcome!)

July 31st & August 1st (Thursday and Friday) – *Public Defense: Leading the Way to Racial Justice*. Highlights of this combined training will include:

- Plenary and small group discussions with defenders who have successfully pursued racial justice reforms, and
- Small group strategizing about unique racial justice issues you would like to resolve in your jurisdictions
- Guidance for leaders who see the need for change in their offices as the first step toward fighting for racial justice

August 2nd (Saturday morning) – ACCD Planning Meeting (Chief COD members are welcome!)

Meeting Registration Fee

The registration fee for the conference is \$275. A registration form will be distributed shortly.

COD members – A small fund is available to support waiver of the registration fee. If the fee is a significant barrier to your attendance, please send a short written statement of need to Jennifer O’Neal c/o the Brennan Center (jenoneal@optonline.net). We want everyone to be able to attend.

Dorm and Hotel Options

This unique conference opportunity brings with it a unique housing opportunity. Recognizing the budget tightening that is being experienced around the country, we are pleased to suggest the following options: 1) Comfort Inn Chelsea, \$225/night; and, 2) NYU Dorms, \$65/night (YES! Stay in New York City, in the Village, for \$65 a night!). We are holding a limited number of rooms at these locations for COD and ACCD members on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for requesting a room is Tuesday, July 1, 2008. To reserve a room, email Jennifer at jenoneal@optonline.net or call (718) 757-9565.

More on the NYU Dorms:

Think of it as returning to those good ole college days or maybe as a unique opportunity to bond with your colleagues. The dorm facilities available to COD and ACCD members are at Hayden Hall, 33 Washington Square West, on the west side of Washington Square Park. The dorm is just across the park from Furman Hall, where the conference will take place. Each suite has a bathroom shared by all occupants of the suite. Note that some suites in Hayden Hall are configured in a manner that requires the occupant(s) of one bedroom to pass through the other bedroom in the suite in order to enter or leave the suite. Rooms are air conditioned, but NYU does not provide telephone, cable television or internet service to short-term residents, nor does it provide toiletries. Residents are responsible for daily upkeep of their own room. Some rooms are available for shares. To see a picture of a two person bedroom in Hayden Hall, please click [here](#).

A Third Option

The Washington Square Hotel is also nearby. We have found rooms online for as low as \$195/night, but we are not holding rooms at this hotel. If you are interested, make your reservations as soon as possible by visiting www.washingtonsquarehotel.com. You can also reach the hotel by phone at (212) 777-9515.

If you have any questions about logistics, please don't hesitate to contact Jennifer O’Neal at (718) 757-9565 or by email at jenoneal@optonline.net.

A Note About COD Membership

The COD Network has room for six more defender programs to join the COD network. If you are new to the COD idea, and would like information about benefits and responsibilities of membership in the COD network, email jenoneal@optonline.net.

**ACCD and COD in New York, NY!
Start Spreading the Word!**