

2007 JUSTICE CENTER PROGRAMS

Family Court Forum

In July 2007, NYCLA and Columbia Law School co-sponsored a second forum to discuss the recommendations and working group reports from the October 2006 conference, "The Family Court in New York City in the 21st Century: What Are Its Roles and Responsibilities?." Over 100 participants interacted with two panels—one of experts from around the country and the other of local experts and stakeholders in the Family Court. Prior to the conference, a symposium issue of the *Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems* was published containing the recommendations, working group reports, commissioned papers and reply articles from the earlier conference. A task force has been empanelled, co-chaired by Professor Jane Spinak, Columbia Law School, and Hon. Howard Miller, Appellate Division, Second Department, to analyze the recommendations and develop concrete proposals for action by the Association.

Youth Law Education Project

In March 2007, the *NYC Youth Law Manual*, the centerpiece of NYCLA's Youth Law Education Project, was published. Written in an easily understandable format by a team of lawyer volunteers, the *Manual* is designed to educate high school students about their rights and responsibilities as citizens and provide information about law-related careers. The 113-page second edition of the *Manual* informs students about an array of legal topics such as voting rights, family law, government assistance and cyberspace law, as well as offers them an overview of the United States system of government and useful resources such as hotline numbers and websites. The *Manual*, coupled with teacher training seminars, citywide student conferences and career days, delivers current, accurate information about legal issues of critical importance to the approximately 35,000 students enrolled in law-related programs in New York City high schools.