NEWSLETTER

WHAT WE STAND FOR

JUSTICE

FREEDOM **EQUALITY**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

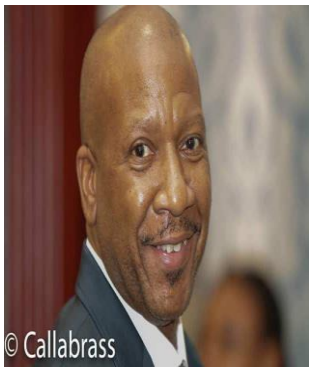
Gwendolyn, Fuller

The purpose of the Guardians Association of the New York State Courts, Inc., is to effectively promote justice and fairness in the court system. The organization was established to act as a mechanism to recruit minority Court officers, Clerks and Court Assistants to ensure the African American community that the court system can be a positive institution. Today, we have extended our objective to promote equal opportunities of appointment, assignment and promotion for ***all*** members of the Unified Court System and our concern extends to judicial issues as they affect the total community.

MEET THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

GWENDOLYN FULLER, PRESIDENT

TODD TAYLOR, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT



SIDNEY MOSES, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

EUGENE JORDAN, TREASURER

ROBIN KING, SECRETARY

DEBORAH KILPATRICK-JONES

SARGEANT-AT-ARMS

AARON MANLEY, CHAPLAIN

ABOUT US

The Guardians Association of the New York State Courts, Inc. is a not-for-profit Fraternal Organization comprised predominantly of African Americans individuals in law Enforcement and was founded in 1986. The Association membership consists of employees working within the New York State Court system in the title of Court Officer, Court Clerk, Court Assistant, Judges and court support staff.

It also has a support staff consisting of person's ineligible for organizational membership who are supportive of the goals and purposes of our Association. Our affiliations include the Grand Council of Guardians, The National Organization of

Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), and the National Black Police Association (NBPA) to name a few.

The purpose of the Guardians of the New York State Courts, Inc., is to promote Justice, ensure fairness in our field of employment, and build supportive relationships within the court communities we serve. Additionally, our goal is to address issues involving the court that affect our community. For more information take a moment and visit the Guardians website: www.guardiansnysc.org. There you can find a wealth of information not only for yourself but to share with family members and friends. We've included information on what to do when stopped by the police and photos of the communities we've serviced. Sign up to receive e-mailed updates, and link up with affiliated organizations like those shown below.

PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHMENT

To improve the relationships between the Unified Court System as an institution and the African American communities under its jurisdiction.

To act as a mechanism and support system for the recruitment of minority Court Officers, Clerks, Court Assistants and other court support personnel.

To ensure the African American community that the court system can be a fair and impartial institution for all.

To create and maintain a diverse system within the courts.

To be a contributor to programs in the court system whose goal is to establish equality amongst our members and minority applicants regardless of race, religion or national origin.

To work toward reform that eliminates corruption and discrimination within the court system.

To team up with affiliated organizations in sponsoring exam prep sites for court employment.

To evaluate the effects of the policies and programs within the court system and how they impact the African American and minority communities.

PROGRESS

History was made when the Guardians elected their first female president, Gwendolyn Fuller. (Photo by Callabrass)

President, Gwendolyn Fuller

President with members of the board sworn in 2015

(Photo on left by Callabrass)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Guardians of NYS Courts community outreach mission is to spread goodwill and respect in our community. We accomplish this by committing ourselves to the following:

Parades

Marching yearly with our fellow law enforcement organizations in the African American Day Parade in Harlem, NY during the month of September.

Law Day

Law Day 2003 - Christian Cultural Center, Brooklyn, NY

Once a year in spring, visit a church within a community chosen by the Judicial Friends in celebration of their Annual Law Day Sermon. Why??? To fellowship with our community up close and in person for a day of spiritual fulfilment and to support the Judicial Friends in Showing the various employment opportunities within the court system that are open to minorities.

Law Day photos at First Central Baptist Church by Rod Randall

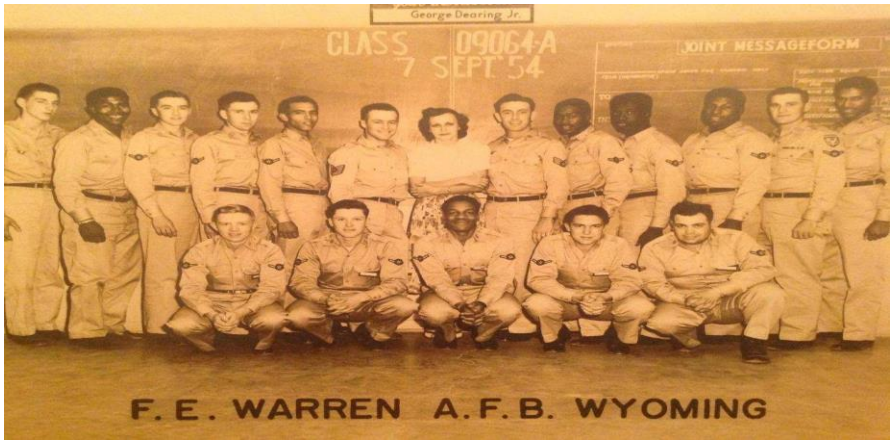
Career Opportunities

Every summer a booth is set up on Harlem Day by the Guardians, NYS Courts, Inc., to inform the community of career opportunities within the NYS Unified Court System.

We will also be expanding our website as “go to” place for job resource centers and locations for you to share with your family members seeking employment and for test prep locations for court employment and affiliated organizations. Additional employment information can be found on the website – www.nycourts.gov.

Veterans

In 2016, we pledged to not forget the Veteran’s housed within Veterans community facilities to remind them that we have not forgotten that they put their lives on the line for our country. Our first Cookies and Kindness event was held at the St. Albans Living Community facility in St. Albans, Queens where we sat at the table eating cookies and drinking “fraps” thanking them for their service and hearing their stories from past and hopes for the present. Moreover, the best part by far was the presentation of toiletries collected by family and friends from the court community. The vets were brought to tears as a display of their gratitude but told us they wanted people to visit that will come back not just forget about them. A ping pong table was also donated in memory of Jessie Lee King, Airforce Class of 54’ (now deceased, 3rd from top row, right) that will find a home in their new Brooklyn facility late 2017.



We needed the support from our court family to make this event a success and not only did they come through as always, so did the Westchester, NYS Corrections Department, the Grand Council of Guardians, NYS Court Officers, friends and family.

The Guardians plan to revisit the vets, as promised, on Veterans Day 2017. This year's goal is to distribute more than 100 "Thank You" or "Thinking of You" cards, collected from our court family and friends. Your assistance is always appreciated in soliciting your friends and family to participate so we can continue to make this a yearly event.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN THE COURTS

14th Annual Caren Aronowitz Cultural Diversity Program at Supreme Court, NY County 2017

We Support Diversity

Diversity Day is an opportunity to join forces with all the court wide organizations in the Rotunda of the Supreme Court in New York County located at 60 Centre Street. Formerly "The Cultural Diversity Program," it was re-named "The Caren Aronowitz Cultural Diversity Program" after a long-time employee of Supreme Court in NY County who took joy in bringing organizations within the court of different cultures together once a year in the Rotunda for a time of celebrating life and getting along together no matter what race, creed or color. We spend this day sampling foods and deserts from all cultures and meet with members of the community to explain face to face what each participating organization's mission is, provide literature about our organizations, and offer an opportunity for anyone to join.

Women's History Month

March 20, 2017 Grand Council Women's History Month Program – Mt. Vernon City Hall – Honoree, Hon. Faviola Soto

In honor of women who have paved a path for minorities to move forward in the courts, the Guardians, NYS Courts, choose a role model to represent our organization yearly at the Grand Council's Women's History Month Program. About 13 organizations participate and our honoree is a prime example of someone who is a magnet that latches onto everything positive a community role model should stand for. Some of our past honorees are to name a few are Sr. Court Clerk – Charlotte Williams, our current Secretary – Robin King, Hon. Robin Sheares, Hon. Lottie Wilkins, Hon. Ta-Tanisha James and Hon. Faviola Soto.

RECENT CITATIONS/AWARDS GIVEN AND RECEIVED

Citation given to NYS Court Guardians by Eric L. Adams, Brooklyn Borough President and Certificate of Recognition Presented by Guardians, NYS Courts to US Veterans at St. Albans Assisted Community Living Facility.

Membership

Sound the alarms, we're coming to host membership drives in each of the following boroughs: Bronx, New York City, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island. Membership must be increased in order for our jobs and employment status to be protected. Statistical data shows a lack of African American and other minorities at an all time low in many of the courts and supervisory positions. We are being passed over for positions we are well educated and qualified for. On October 24, 2017 a "Meet & Greet" membership drive was held at the Bronx Family Court. It was attended by over 30 concerned officers and non-uniformed court personnel. The Guardians Association of the NYS Courts wants you to

know we will be there fighting for your jobs every step of the way. We are not your union. We are a court approved fraternal organization that has your back and are a phone call away. Information for Meet & Greet drives in other boroughs is listed below.

You can help keep our mission for job fairness and equal opportunity for all alive by becoming a member, delegate or supporter of the Guardians, NYS Courts, Inc. **Membership applications is attached.** Additionally, you can join online at www.guardiansnysc.org. Membership is $24.00 yearly and don't forget…tell a few court friends!!!

Sponsors

We welcome the help from sponsors to keep our organization flourishing, assist with our needs to host meet and greet and fundraising efforts. Donations accepted of any denomination. **Application is attached**.

BOARD MEMBERS LEFT TO RIGHT: TRES. LT. EUGENE JORDAN, 1ST VP – TODD TAYLOR, SECY – ROBIN KING, SGT @ ARMS – DEBORAH KILPATRICK-JONES, PRESIDENT – GWENDOLYN FULLER, 2ND VP- SIDNEY MOSES, AND MEMBER- JANICE BORDEN AT BRONX FAMILY COURT MEET AND GREET

WHEN ARE THE MEETING DATES FOR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

General membership meetings are held three times a year - January, April and September. The 2018 meeting dates are January 17, 2018, March 18, 2018 and September 19, 2018 (place to be determined). Mark your calendars so you can be there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Rooms and exact location of courts not listed to be announced soon)

Meet and Greet Lunch Membership Drive Sessions

Bronx Hall of Justice: 215 East 161st St, Bronx, NY on October 24, 2017

Manhattan Supreme Court – 60 Centre Street, NYC, NY on November 13, 2017

Room (TBA)

Queens Courts – November 27, 2017

Brooklyn Courts – December 12, 2017

Staten Island Courts – TBA (early 2018)

Special Thanks

Special thanks to New York County Clerk Milton Tingling, Chief Clerk John F. Werner, Michelle Gonsieski, L. Austin D'Souza, Esq., Sgt. Jessica Pena our Webmaster, SCO Cecily Hernandez, SCO Gina Volcey, SCC's Charmayne Moss and Charlotte Williams, our sponsors, everyone who assisted in making our events a success, to those who came before us paving the way for change and **YOU** for taking the time to check out what we do and support us in any way you can.

THE GUARDIANS ASSOCIATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE COURTS, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in joining the Guardians Association of the New York State Courts, Inc. Membership is **$24.00** a year. We would appreciate you providing us with the information below to smoothly process your application for membership within our organization:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE #: EMAIL:

COURT FACILITY LOCATION:

POSITION OF COURT EMPLOYMENT:

_____
Signature & Date

HOW TO PAY

You can simply pay by check or money order. These methods of payment should be made payable to:

THE GUARDIANS ASSOCIATION OF THE NYS COURTS, INC.

Mail your payment with this form to:

THE GUARDIANS ASSOCIATION OF THE NYS COURTS
P.O. Box 524021 - Bronx, New York 10452

Other methods of payment: Website Application - www.guardiansnysc.org (See Join Us)
Pay pal account is not required for payment.

SPONSOR THE GUARDIANS

If you would like to sponsor the Guardians by making a tax deductible monetary donation, please fill out information below and return payment with this form using the same methods listed above:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE #: EMAIL:

AMOUNT DONATING: $_____

_____
Signature & Date

The Guardians Association of the NYS Courts, Inc., is an affiliate of the Grand Council of Guardians National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers, Inc.