

Collective Justice Impact Message:

A Collaborative Session with District Court Judge Soonhee “Sunny” Bailey

Speaker Bio: Judge Soonhee “Sunny” Bailey

Judge Bailey holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Washington and a J.D. from Seattle University School of Law. A former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and Deputy Public Defender, she served as a Pro Tempore Judge in Pierce County, WA, and later in Las Vegas, NV. Judge Bailey founded the DAAY Court in 2018, focusing on helping youth with ASD remain out of the criminal justice system. She was elected to the Eighth Judicial District Court in 2020. Judge Bailey also co-authored the Courtroom Handbook on Nevada Evidence, which is now in its 18th edition.

Session Title: Autism Awareness: The Detention Alternative for Autistic Youth Court – A Diversionary Court Created to Improve Access to Justice for Neurodiverse Youth

Session Description: This powerful session will be enjoyed by all attendees following lunch and will highlight the pioneering Detention Alternatives for Autistic Youth (DAAY) court, created by Judge Soonhee “Sunny” Bailey. Judge Bailey is especially poised to divert at-risk youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) from the criminal justice system as she is not only a Judge, but is also a mother of a young adult child with autism. Attendees will gain a deep understanding of the court’s mission, the key symptoms and treatments for ASD, and behavioral interventions used to reinforce positive outcomes for neurodiverse youth. Judge Bailey will provide insights into the process of establishing a DAAY court and the necessary resources to ensure its success. This session will conclude with an engaging Q&A, where attendees will have the unique opportunity to ask questions to both Judge Bailey and 20th District State Representative Peter Abbarno, an attorney and advocate for justice reform and strengthening families. Together, they will answer questions and discuss the broader implications of ASD and the justice system, sharing their perspectives and strategies for fostering greater equity.

Learning Objectives:

Attendees will:

Understand the key features of the DAAY court program and its impact on neurodiverse youth.

Learn about the symptoms, treatments, and behavioral interventions for individuals with ASD.

Gain insights into how DAAY court serves as a model for alternative justice programs.

Participate in an interactive Q&A with Judge Bailey and Rep. Abbarno, discussing broader implications of ASD and the justice system.

News Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjd13CZzxJk>

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