

**ELIZABETH A.
JUSTESEN, ESQ.; MSW**

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Education

May 2006 - **Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center**, Huntington, NY
SUNY Stonybrook, School of Social Welfare, Stonybrook, NY
JD/MSW Dual Degree Program Graduate, Magna Cum Laude

Dec. 2001 - **St. Joseph's College**, Patchogue, NY
B.A. Human Relations

Dec. 1998 - **Suffolk County Community College**, Selden, NY
Associates in Liberal Arts

Experience

August 2007 - Present

Legal Aid Society of Suffolk Inc., Central Islip, NY; sclas.org

Chief Community Outreach Officer (June 2019- Present)

Incorporate all responsibilities from previous Director position, as well as oversee current Community Outreach Director. Oversee internship program, collaborating with numerous schools for student placements. Continue to create and present trainings for community and for attorneys. Involved in numerous county-wide projects including Access to Justice, VOAD, Touro Disaster Relief Project (COVID related)

Community Outreach Director; Social Work Bureau Coordinator (June 2017 to June 2019)

Oversee the Social Work Bureau, collaborating on new methodologies and improving the working relationship between attorneys and social workers; continue to create and expand the Community Outreach legal programs for the Society, as well as cultivating relationships and partnerships with communities and agencies

Currently work with New Hour, ECLI, HALI, Outreach (Brentwood and Bellport), Talbot House, YMCA, Huntington and Wyandanch Resource Centers, SNUG, NY and Suffolk DOL, Department of Parole, and the Yaphank and Riverhead jails

District Court Bureau Staff Attorney (2010-2017)

Represented clients charged pre-indictment felonies for purposes of plea bargaining; includes investigation, subpoena, and working with collaborating staff and agencies to improve outcomes for clients

Prior to pre-indictment felony part, staff attorney in a district court part handling all types of criminal proceedings, investigation, pre-trial motions, hearings, and trial

Staff Attorney Children's Law Bureau and District Court/Family Court Bureau

(2007-2010) Represented children in all types of Family Court proceedings; and then petitioners and respondents in child custody and family offense proceedings. Included all aspects of proceedings through trial and post-trial appellate work

Additional Projects

August 2015 - Present

Suffolk County Re-Entry Task Force; Chair for Resources Sub-committee

Monthly collaboration with other members to create a Resources Handbook for parolees and probationers with contact information for all necessary and needed services (awaiting final approval for printing)

Coordinated First Annual Resources Fair, April 2017 - 57 service providers gathered at Brentwood SCCC campus to network and provide information for attendees, conferences; organized subsequent years

November 2014- Present

Breaking Barriers Pro Bono Project, Touro Law Center

Co-Founder and Supervising Attorney

All volunteer project where students, supervised by practicing attorneys, assist clients in obtaining their NY RAP sheet (Report of Arrest and Prosecution), evaluate for mistakes, assist in correcting, and then help clients apply for eligible Certificates of Relief of Disabilities and Certificates of Good Conduct, as well as sealing motions

March 2015 - Present

New Hour Women and Children, Long Island, Brentwood, NY

Board Member as of June 2016

Currently Vice President (July 2020), previous Secretary (2017-2019)

Assist with legal educational programming with clients currently incarcerated, and then as they transition into the community; assist with fundraising; assisted in New Hour Restorative Justice Symposium, April 2017

2019 – Present

Suffolk County Bar Association

Pro Bono Committee

Speaker's Committee

Restorative Justice Symposium, May 2020 – planning committee

Adjunct Teaching

St. Joseph's College – “Race, Class, Gender and Crime” (2018-2020)

SUNY Stony Brook, School of Social Welfare – “Forensic Social Work” (2018-present)

Touro Law Center – Criminal Defense Clinic (2020-present)