



# **NEWS ADVISORY**

**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Kevin M. Carter  
Administrative Judge  
Eighth Judicial District**

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## **8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Juvenile Justice Coalition to Present Youth Empowerment Program with the Buffalo Bills**

**BUFFALO, NEW YORK**—The **Eighth Judicial District and Juvenile Justice Coalition** will hold the second annual “Youth Empowerment Program” with the Buffalo Bills on **Friday, November 1, 2024 at 1:00 pm** in the Old County Hall’s Ceremonial Courtroom, located at **92 Franklin Avenue, Buffalo, New York**. The program will pay tribute to a group of young people who, formerly involved with the justice system, have taken proactive steps to lead productive, law-abiding lives.

“We are delighted to celebrate these youths, who have worked hard to turn their lives around, as well as their parents and caregivers who have supported them and helped them achieve their successes,” said **Erie County Family Court Judge Brenda M. Freedman**, who chairs the Juvenile Justice Coalition. In addition to the Eighth Judicial District, the Coalition is made up of justice partners that include Erie County’s Probation Department, Department of Social Services, and Attorney’s Office, along with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, and the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo Attorneys for Children.

As part of the day’s festivities, **Mayor Byron Brown, County Executive Mark Poloncarz, and DJ Anthony** will join players from the Buffalo Bills team to celebrate the honorees. There will also be panel and small-group presentations led by speakers who, having been incarcerated or otherwise justice-involved at some point in their lives, will discuss the challenges they overcame to get back on track—with their inspirational journeys encouraging the young honorees to continue down the right path.

The honorees will also receive congratulatory gift bags, donated by the Buffalo Bills, Buffalo Sabres, Buffalo Bisons, New Era Cap Company, Little Smiles of WNY, UPS, and Michael Cimasi, Esq., among others. Additionally, the Zach Liberatore Foundation will award two college scholarships in memory of the Buffalo man who, losing his struggle with mental illness, succumbed to a drug overdose at age 24.

**\*\*The honorees have consented to media presence and being photographed.\*\***

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