



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. H. Patrick Leis III
District Administrative Judge,
Tenth Judicial District (Suffolk Co.)**

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Suffolk County Courts Hold Domestic Violence Awareness Program

CENTRAL ISLIP, NY – District Administrative Judge, H. Patrick Leis III, is pleased to announce that the Suffolk County courts and the Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, will be presenting a very special program on the impacts of domestic violence on children on October 26, 2004 at 2:00 p.m., in the Supreme Court Ceremonial Courtroom, S-24, located in the Cohalan Court Complex, Central Islip, New York.

In addition to opening remarks by Justice Leis and the Honorable David Freundlich, Supervising Judge of the Family Court, featured speakers will include the Honorable Joseph Farneti, Presiding Justice, Integrated Domestic Violence Part; Professor Daniel O'Leary, Ph.D., State University of New York at Stony Brook; Barbara Walsh Clarke, Esq., Law Guardian Bureau, Legal

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Aide Society and Cindy Agals MSW and Katie Holmes CSW, Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. It is expected that this program will attract nearly 100 attendees. Among those expected to attend will be members of the judiciary, attorneys, representatives from Suffolk County government, including the Departments of Social Services, Health, Police, Sheriff and Probation, as well as representatives from various advocacy and treatment agencies.

“I am very pleased that we are able to provide this very special seminar on the effects of domestic violence on our most precious gift, our children,” said District Administrative Judge H. Patrick Leis III. “As we recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, it is my hope that this program, through the thoughtful insight of our distinguished panel, will help to increase awareness of this very serious issue in our society.”

The Honorable Hertha C. Trotto, Chair of the Women in the Courts Committee, said “The aim of our program is to increase awareness of the impacts of domestic violence on children, especially among those who deal with these very sensitive cases on a daily basis and to provide an opportunity for participants to strengthen existing resources and ongoing cooperative efforts.”

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