

Madeline Singas  
Acting District Attorney



Long Island  
Youth Safety Coalition  
René Fiechter, Chair

# The Danger Zone

Keeping our youth safe after school

Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Hofstra University



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Hofstra University  
Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center, North Campus

Acting District Attorney Madeline Singas invites you and your colleagues to attend this year's Long Island Youth Safety Coalition major conference - *The Danger Zone: Keeping our youth safe after school*. The LIYSC was founded by then-District Attorney Kathleen Rice and is currently run by Acting District Attorney Madeline Singas, to engage our schools, youth agencies, and all who work with youth 25 and under, to work together to help youth survive the dangers of our times. Once again our team has gathered an array of talented presenters, workshops, and resources of practical value on a wide variety of challenges including bullying, internet safety, gangs, dangerous driving, immigration and gender issues.

### *Featured Presenter Meredith O'Connor*

L. I.'s own nationally acclaimed pop star and anti-bullying icon will perform along with her personal anti bullying campaign. Meredith has sold out headlining concerts around the world and her music is heard and loved by millions. Meredith has performed and spoken about her anti bullying message to over 50 schools, with countless letters of recommendation from administrators claiming it is the best presentation being offered globally. Students and fans of her music have claimed it saved their life, due to the fact that her message is so effective. O'Connor's has worked with Disney's Garret Clayton, and is known for radio hit song featured on Teen Nick "Just The Thing". Growing up in Cold Spring Harbor, Meredith became a star at an early age. Her songs have gone viral and become radio favorites, yet she dedicates her time to protecting youth while balancing an amazing career and being a student at Hofstra! You can check out more about her songs and work on some of these sites.



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4K7gdIC1Yktps](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4K7gdIC1Yktps) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJUjvd4iic](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJUjvd4iic)  
[www.newsday.com/entertainment/columnists/glenn-gamboa/meredith-o-connor-s-message-gets-sweetly-delivered-1.11003402](http://www.newsday.com/entertainment/columnists/glenn-gamboa/meredith-o-connor-s-message-gets-sweetly-delivered-1.11003402)

## PROGRAM DETAILS:

8:15-9:00 Registration and Breakfast  
9:00-9:10 Welcome: Assistant District Attorney René P. Fiechter

**Opening Remarks: Acting District Attorney Madeline Singas & LIYSC Founder Congresswoman Kathleen Rice**

9:15-10:15 Keynote: Meredith O'Connor  
10:20-11:15 Breakout Workshop - Session I  
11:20-12:15 Breakout Workshop - Session II  
12:15-1:00 Lunch  
1:00-1:55 Breakout Workshop - Session III  
2:00-3:00 Plenary Session: Working with Law Enforcement  
3:00 Raffle Drawing and Certificates of Completion

**BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS: Breakout Workshop Session I: 10:20– 11:15 a.m.**  
**Breakout Workshop Session II: 11:20 – 12:15 p.m.**  
**Breakout Workshop Session III: 1:00 – 1:55 p.m.**

**1. *MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING PRESENTS: POWER OF YOUTH:*** Teen drinking can have very bad consequences, and not everyone is doing it. In fact, less than 30 percent of teens have had a drink in the past month and only 1 out of 6 teens binge drink. That means that the majority don't drink. The teen years may be a confusing time, but one thing is clear – they are not kids anymore. We cannot make the choice for teens, but presenting them with great information will help them make good choices. PRESENTER: Sarah Haiken - MADD National Teen Influencer, [sarah.haiken@madd.org](mailto:sarah.haiken@madd.org)

**2. *SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH OF THE NEWLY ARRIVED STUDENT:*** The emotional state of the newly arrived student is important for educators to understand and be able to address. Entering a new school or starting a new school year are among the many transitions students and their families (and new staff) experience. The trauma the newly-arrived students experience either before they arrive, on their journey or acclimating to their new environment leaves them vulnerable to becoming victims of crime and fraud-related schemes. Hear from a school social worker, assistant DA and mental health provider on how to assist with these issues. PRESENTERS: Clara Rumore, Nassau BOCES Social Worker, Iris Wolfson High School, Claudia Boyle, Acting Associate Director, Hispanic Counseling Center & ADA Silvia P. Finkelstein, Director-Immigrant Fraud Investigations, Nassau County District Attorney's Office

**3. *GANG INTERVENTION: A HOLISTIC APPROACH:*** Members of STRONG Youth's intervention discuss the complex dynamics involved in gang and youth violence intervention, and break down the essential components of an effective program. PRESENTERS: Rahsmia Zatar, Executive Director of STRONG, Mike Vargas, Lead Counselor & Sharelle Allen, Case Manager

**4. *SEXTING, TEXTING AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE:*** How to make youths and young adults aware of the internet dangers. The laws, consequences and future implications of sending one photo, video, statement or joining the wrong social media club. It truly is forever and never goes away. PRESENTER: Officer John Groshans, 28 years in the Floral Park Police Department and school resource officer, [jgroshansfppd@yahoo.com](mailto:jgroshansfppd@yahoo.com)

**5. *SUBSTANCE ABUSE: STIGMA ONLY GROWS IN THE DARK.*** - This nationally recognized and Long Island based I Am Not Anonymous aims to shatter the stigma of addiction by putting a face and voice to a person in recovery. It's time we bring compassion to the conversation and start talking about solutions openly in our communities. PRESENTERS: Tom Goris - Co-Founder, Person in Recovery; Kate Meyer - Co-Founder, Recovery Supporter. [tom@iamnotanonymous.org](mailto:tom@iamnotanonymous.org)

**6. “ALL4UDAD” – A DAUGHTER’S HONOR; TEXTING/DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS PROGRAM:** Karen’s presentation is a powerful approach to helping adults and teens understand the deadly consequences of distracted driving. Her well-designed, audiovisual presentation, will keep you engaged while she makes a true connection to your heart and mind. Adults and teens will see first-hand how one poor decision can change their life forever. PRESENTER: Karen Torres, daughter of victim. [karen@textingawareness.com](mailto:karen@textingawareness.com)

**7. THEN AND NOW: 10 YEARS OF PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD:** The threat of child sexual exploitation is very real whether it takes place in the home, over the internet, on the street, or in a foreign land. With a goal of reducing the incidence of child sexual exploitation, the Department of Justice began the Project Safe Childhood Initiative in 2006. In this workshop Assistant United States Attorney Allen Bode will highlight some of the challenges and victories of the Project Safe Childhood Initiative on Long Island over the past 10 years. PRESENTER: Allen Bode, US Attorney's Office

**8. COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SUPPORT:** Strong families are core to the development of healthy children, youth, schools, and communities. Clearly, there is a growing need to explore new and effective practices to foster meaningful collaborations between families, schools and communities that capitalize on the strengths and resources of each. This workshop will briefly explore key elements of family engagement; building organizational cultures that promote community and family engagement; and, some effective ways to engage families. PRESENTER: Angela Zimmerman, Coordinator Family Support L.I. Molloy College

**9. USING THE POWER OF HIP-HOP TO END GUN & GANG VIOLENCE:** During our 4th annual Hip-Hop Against Gun & Gang Violence Week celebration (May 15-21, 2015) we received a “Presidential Message” from Barack Obama in recognition of our outstanding work to end Gun & Gang Violence. We will now share our formula with you. 86 citizens, including 8 teens and children, die daily from guns. Mass Shootings are on the rise. The FBI identifies a mass murderer as one who kills 4 or more people in a single incident (not including himself), typically in a single location. Our workshop will enlighten participants on topics such as Gangster Rap, Emoji’s, Social Media, Cyberbullying, Music Videos, TV, Films, Videogames and the dangers they present to your child. PRESENTER: Randy Fisher, Hip Hop Youth Summit Council, [randyf@hhsyc.org](mailto:randyf@hhsyc.org)

**10. TRANSGENDER YOUTH: FROM SCHOOL TO THE STREETS:** After school ends, many youth may head out into the streets before they make their way home, and often, there is a lack of safety and structure outside of school. Transgender youth are more likely to turn to the streets for support that they may not be receiving at school or at home. Transgender youth are more likely to turn to drugs, crime, and are at a higher risk of violence. This workshop will provide a brief overview of what it means to be transgender and discuss the importance of positive and safe school and community settings for transgender individuals. PRESENTER: Aaron Braun

**11. WANT YOUR KIDS TO BE SAFE? JOIN YOUR COALITION – OR CREATE ONE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!** It does take a village - learn how Coalitions play an important part in keeping kids safe - by working to make communities safer, healthier places. Working with key leaders and organizations from all areas of the community, coalitions are uniquely positioned to make changes in the community culture to help create safety for youth. Learn how to identify institutions, policies and procedures which can help improve the environment our kids inhabit after school. PRESENTER: Judi Vining, Long Beach Aware, [jvining@lbcoalition.org](mailto:jvining@lbcoalition.org)

**12. USING TECHNOLOGY TO CREATE A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE:** Today, schools have Smart Boards and the best curriculum and student management systems online, but what about technology to create positive climate in schools? Now schools have the opportunity to do just that through Bridg-it School, the school safety platform that addresses the lifecycle of a bullying, cyberbullying or harassment incident from reporting to resolution. Jeff Ervine, Bridg-it's Founder, will show you the proactive platform that engages the entire community in the effort to reduce bullying and cyberbullying and improve school climate on and off campus. PRESENTER: Jeff Ervine, Founder of Bridg-it



**The Danger Zone – Registration**  
**Hofstra, Mack Center, Friday December 11**

**REGISTRATION FORM:**

**RETURN REGISTRATION INFORMATION to:**

**Betsy Salemsen, Director**  
**School of Education, Office of Professional Development Services**  
**113 Hagedorn Hall**  
**119 Hofstra University**  
**Hempstead, NY 11549-1190**  
**Telephone: (516) 463-5750, Fax: (516) 463-6006**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$20 (Event includes registration, breakfast and luncheon)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
School District / School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**To register by phone, please call: (516) 463-5750**  
**To FAX this form: (516) 463-6006**  
**Method of Payment:**

- Check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Hofstra University) is enclosed. [NOTE: \$20 per person.]
- Purchase Order #\_\_\_\_\_ for the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed/attached.
- Visa/Master Card is accepted. To electronically register by credit card, go to: <http://hofstra.edu/edworkshopreg>

**Attendee Names and Breakout Session Choices:**

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>WORKSHOP CHOICES</u>
Attendee #1: _____	Circle three (3): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Attendee #2: _____	Circle three (3): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Attendee #3: _____	Circle three (3): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

For directions to campus and a printable campus map, please visit **Hofstra.edu/directions**  
In case of inclement weather, please call **516-463-SNOW**. For information on all conferences, visit **Hofstra.edu/educationworkshops**

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**THE COALITION NEEDS YOU!** The *Long Island Youth Safety Coalition* offers periodic island wide forums on critical topics effecting youth and provides a forum for discussions and information exchange via our website [www.liyouthsafetycoalition.org](http://www.liyouthsafetycoalition.org) . Meetings are open and are usually held the last Friday of the month at 1 pm. If you are interested in joining or obtaining more information, contact René Fiechter Director of Community Affairs for the Nassau County District Attorney at (516) 571-1090, [rene.fiechter@nassaуда.org](mailto:rene.fiechter@nassaуда.org)  
We could use your ideas!