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## CHILDREN'S STUDIES 4900: PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES AND CHILDREN

### **DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES** **SPRING 2011**

MARCH 14, 2011

### **GUEST SPEAKER: JUDGE ESTHER MORGENSTERN** **Supreme Court Justice, Integrated Domestic Violence Court**

Judge Esther M. Morgenstern is a Supreme Court Justice presiding in the Integrated Domestic Violence Court. She has been a judge in Family Court, Criminal Court, and Civil Court. Before she worked as a judge she was a Law Clerk to New York State Supreme Court Justice Herbert Kramer for nearly ten years.

Judge Morgenstern received her Bachelors of Art in Political Science from Brooklyn College and her Juris Doctor from Cardozo School of Law. She is an Adjunct Professor in the Children's Studies program at Brooklyn College, where she teaches the course "Children and the Law."

Judge Morgenstern has presided over 100 jury and bench trials in the Family, Criminal and Civil Courts. She has handled thousands of motions, hearings, pleas, negotiations and sentences in the Criminal Court. The judge has written over 30 decisions on novel issues of Criminal, Civil and Family Law that have been published in the *New York Law Journal* and/or the *Official State Reporter*.

She served for over four years in the Domestic Violence Court in the Criminal Court, handling over 100 cases per day. She was instrumental in establishing many innovative programs within the Domestic Violence Court and believes that many lives were saved as a direct result of the programs within the court. She directed many defendants to treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration and watched as people turned their lives around.

She is the former delegate of the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association. She is the recipient of the Sybil Hart Kooper Award and the Pro Bono Award from the Brooklyn Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project. Judge Morgenstern served as a trustee of the Brooklyn Bar Association and continues to serve on several committees.