

Voices for Change

Judge Fernando Camacho

One of the founding principles of Herstory is addressing the cracks in the Liberty Bell.

One such crack is how our communities treat young people whose suffering has caused the light inside of them to dim.

How do we fix this crack. It is indeed a daunting task. The Herstory methodology gives us one answer - Writing. Writing down our experiences- good and bad, our doubts, our mistakes, our concerns and all that has caused us pain, leads to self-reflection. It gives us comfort, eases our suffering and leads to self-healing. Then, once we begin to confront our own inner turmoil, we become empowered and share our stories with others. The power of our stories changes hearts and minds, and is the cement that begins to repair the cracks in the Liberty Bell.

Young people, find those among you who are unable to speak for themselves, the marginalized, the mistreated, the forgotten, the abandoned, and the betrayed. Be their voice. Then, help empower them to find their own voice. Finally, encourage them to use their own voices to help others. This never-ending circle of love, compassion and humanity is one of the most powerful forces in the universe. Be a Voice for Change.



The Honorable Fernando Camacho,
Judge of the New York State Court of Claims and Acting
Supreme Court Justice

Judge Fernando Camacho partnered with Herstory to provide ongoing memoir writing workshops for court-involved youth. His belief in the Herstory pedagogy led him from providing a voice for young people to helping them find their own voices.

Judge Camacho started in Brooklyn as a NYC Criminal Court Judge, then served as Deputy Supervising Judge in Queens, presiding over Domestic Violence Court. He created a specialized court to stop the incarceration of young people charged with prostitution. Later, as County Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters he created the Supreme Court Youth Diversion Part, a specialized treatment court for adolescents charged with felony offenses.

In 2013, he moved to Suffolk County Supreme Court and started the Suffolk County Felony Youth Part, providing alternatives to incarceration for young people charged with felonies. There he founded the Suffolk County CONCEPTS Court, providing alternatives to residential placement for youth charged as Juvenile Delinquents.

