



## **Bill Long Instrumental in Development of Bennett High School Youth Court Program**

NOVEMBER 2012

Over the course of the spring and summer months of 2012, The Long Firm, LLP through Bill Long had the opportunity to work with a number of dedicated administrators and teachers at Bennett High School to establish, and ultimately fund, The Bennett High School Youth Court which is a student operated, adult supervised court, in which student offenders who have violated school rules of a non-violent nature, and have, along with their parents/guardians, voluntarily submitted to a judgment imposed by their peers (trained judicial officers) after all the relevant facts of their case and any mitigating circumstances have been presented to the Court by peer/student prosecutors and defense attorneys. The roles of the Court Clerk and Bailiff are performed by students as well.

In addition to instilling in these students the concepts of accountability, rehabilitation, deterrence and justice, it is the hope that each student's participation in Youth Court will spark an interest in the students of Bennett High School to consider the pursuit of a career in the law.

This program was introduced to the Bennett High School students on November 29th, 2012. The selected students participating in the program will undergo three months of classroom training under the guidance of Buffalo City Court Judge Hanna two days per week from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The Bennett High School Youth Court will begin adjudicating cases in March 2013.