

## **Former NFL quarterback, lawyer to bring special message to Alfred campuses**

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Alfred University and Alfred State College are inviting Janet P. Judge Esq. of SportsLaw Associates LLC and Donald G. McPherson, former NFL and CFL quarterback and NCAA College Football Hall of Fame Inductee to Alfred to present "The Ties that Bond: Exploring College Bonding through Sports, Greek Life and Other Organizations," on Monday, Sept. 8. Program topics will include creating meaningful team/organization bonding activities; re-examining gender roles; violence prevention; and legal implications of hazing and violence on campus. Kathy Woughter, vice president for student affairs at Alfred University, noted, "I am thrilled to be able to work with our colleagues at Alfred State College to bring Don McPherson and Janet Judge to campus. Both are excellent speakers who have seen first-hand effects of unhealthy group bonding practices and who are great at helping students figure out better ways to develop team relationships." Alfred State College Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Steve Tyrell added, "Alfred State College continues to enjoy working on collaborative projects with Alfred University that focus on enhancing student learning." The message that Judge and McPherson will bring "is important to both campuses continued commitment to promote a safe and positive collegiate experience for athletes and other student organized activities. It should be a great series of events for both campuses." Judge and McPherson will begin their presentations at 2:30 p.m. in a workshop for faculty/staff in the Allegany Room, Central Dining Hall on the Alfred State College Campus. At 5:30 p.m. there will be a dinner and meet-and-greet with up to 14 selected students, seven from each school, at the AU Welcome Center. Following that, at 8 p.m., there will be a session for students, with an emphasis on Greeks, athletes, and club/organization officers on the AU campus. Judge is admitted to practice law before state and federal courts in both Maine and Massachusetts. She is included in "Best Lawyers in America" in the area of sports law and was recently invited to address the Knight Commission in Washington D.C. on the issue of Gender Equity in Athletics. She presented the legal side of hazing at the NCAA's (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Hazing Summit and addressed issues related to pregnancy and athletics at the NCAA Convention in January 2008. She is a graduate of Harvard/Radcliffe College where she was an eight-time varsity letter winner in soccer, basketball, and track and field. McPherson was an NFL and CFL quarterback drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1988 after a college career at Syracuse University, during which he finished second in the 1987 Heisman Trophy voting. He was inducted into the NCAA College Football Hall of Fame in May 2008. After retiring from football in 1994, McPherson joined the staff of Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, before becoming the first executive director of the Sports Leadership Institute at Adelphi University, Garden City, NY. He has founded several outreach and mentoring programs and speaks regularly on college campuses about gender roles. Earlier this year he was a speaker at the NCAA Hazing Summit.