



Who was Judge Edith Miller?

Edith Lorraine Meyer was born into poverty on December 3, 1929. Her parents Earl & Florence Meyer were considered the working poor. She lived with her sister Yvonne in a one bedroom apartment with a bath tub in the kitchen. It was one of the few flats to have a toilet inside the apartment. She brought herself from a place of poverty to a place of prominence by committing to school and education. Realizing the only way out of the cycle of poverty was college; she walked to school with cardboard in her shoes. This saved her the nickel bus fare so that she could attend Hunter College. She went on to St John's Law School and graduated as the only woman in her class. After passing the bar exam, she decided to focus on having a family. With a law degree under her belt she knew she would never be poor again. Five years later she started a job at The New York City Legal Aid Society in Harlem where she could assist people who were less fortunate. She quickly rose to the head of the office. She went on and was appointed by Mayor Lindsay to the Family Court of NY, where she became the administrative judge in 1982. During her time in family court, she was

the presiding Judge on the famous [Willie Bosket case](#) which became instrumental in helping to change NYS law. The ramifications of this case resulted in children under age 16 committing heinous crimes could be tried as adults. The moment that made her proudest was becoming the FIRST woman to be appointed to the Appellate Term of the NYS Supreme Court. Judge Miller is the first black woman judge to be appointed to the Appellate Term of the NYS Supreme Court. Judge Edith Miller passed on to her children, Brian and Janice the importance of education and because of this, Janice Newman, her daughter, founder of The Putnam Children's Discovery Center and the founder of the Tri County Science & Technology Fair created a fund in her honor. The Discovery Center annually hosts the Tri County Science & Technology Fair and in 2005 the over all middle school high scorer receives **The Judge Edith Miller Excellence in Education Award**. Judge Miller is survived by her two children and three grandchildren, Michael, Mark & Matthew and great grandchild Jasmine and Jace



2019 Winner

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PEARLS Hawthorne

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Rye Country Day School

2014 Helena O'Sullivan (tied)

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PEARLS Hawthorne

2012 Zury Culter

John Jay MS

2011 Zury Cutler

John Jay MS

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**2007 Chelsea Decaminada
John Jay MS**

**2006 Max Siegel
John Jay MS**

**2005 Jonahthan O'Hanlon (first recipient)
Edgemont Jr/Sr HS**