

# A lesson in lawyering

## Attorneys' briefings capture high school students' interest

By **BARBARA WILLIAMS**  
STAFF WRITER

**BUTLER** — Jade Castillo always thought she wanted to work defending people's civil rights.

But after hearing an immigration attorney speak, the high school sophomore's jaw line was clenched, and she said she is more determined than ever to pursue that path.

"I can't believe so many Hispanic people are prevented from coming into this country," Castillo, 16, said. "They are being denied equal rights, and I am more motivated now than ever to get into this line of work."

Castillo, from Jefferson, was one of about 16 students who attended a Speed Lawyering Symposium recently at the Morris County Law and Public Safety Academy. Four attorneys participated in the program, answering questions about their areas of expertise.

"This was very stimulating. I was fascinated by what the students were interested in," said Alan Krumholz, a lawyer from Jersey City who specializes in discrimination issues. "These kids are much more sophisticated than I was at that age, and much more so than I expected."

Modeled after a new trend — speed dating — the symposium was orchestrated by the law and

Much to the surprise of the students, behind-the-scenes incidents captured their attention even when the area of law did not interest them.

Cathleen Giuliana, who practices real estate law with a firm in Morristown, admitted her area is not the most glamorous in the legal field. But her nonchalance about dealing with big bucks grabbed the teens' interest.

"You may not get the attention that criminal lawyers get, but it is not an adversarial job," Giuliana said. "It is all business, and people usually don't get very emotional."

"It's easier closing a \$20 million deal than it is selling an individual home," Giuliana added. "Buying a house is emotional, leasing or purchasing a commercial site is just a business decision."

But the students quickly learned much of the law is not that objective.

Lloyd Bennett, the immigration attorney from West New York who inspired Castillo, was besieged with questions about Sept. 11. The students wanted to know how the terrorist attack was affecting those trying to get into the country, and those already here temporarily.

"There are about 10 million Mexicans and South Americans here illegally, and before Sept. 11, the government was looking to



CHRIS PEDOTÁ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Immigration attorney Lloyd Bennett of West New York, center, describing his area of expertise to students at a recent Speed Lawyering Symposium at the Morris County Law and Public Safety Academy.

time supporting a family, isn't it hard to separate your emotions?"

Bennett explained his advertising methods — admitting they

mayed to hear about the plight of so many immigrants, several were surprised to learn about something a lot closer to their daily lives. An attorney who spe-