Citizens for Juvenile Justice’s 28th Annual Leadership Celebration

December 06, 2022
5:00-7:00 PM

Artists For Humanity EpiCenter
100 W 2nd St, Boston, MA 02127
"Meeting the Moment For Our Youth"

As our youth are dealing with challenges and facing harsh narratives and an increasing push to criminalize their adolescence, can we as an advocacy meet the moment and ensure that they are treated in a developmentally appropriate way that meets their needs and the need for long term public safety?
Connecting the pieces, empowering those we serve.
JRI promotes and fosters positive change to help each person find their place in the world and open doors to opportunities.

Latham & Watkins proudly supports Citizens for Juvenile Justice
Latham joins CfJJ in honoring those who have advanced equity and justice for young people
Thank you to our Host Committee for their support in making CfJJ’s 2022 Leadership Celebration a success!

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*Affiliations are listed for identification purposes only
Welcome Remarks
Leon Smith, CfJJ Executive Director

Youth Empowerment Award
Framingham Families for Racial Equity in Education (FFREE)
Presented by Soledad Valenciano, CfJJ President

Thomas E. Coury Youth Justice Award
Cristina Freitas & Debbie Freitas
Presented by Soledad Valenciano, CfJJ President

Youth Justice Pro Bono Champion Award
Proskauer Rose LLP
Presented by Soledad Valenciano, CfJJ President

Panel Discussion
Nadia Harden, New Commonwealth Fund
Nichelle Sadler, UTEC
Emma Burke, Elevated Thought
Dr. Edie Alexander, Roxbury District Court
Ivana Boyd, Hopewell

Closing Remarks
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Framingham Families for Racial Equity in Education (FFREE) advocates on behalf of students in Framingham Public Schools to create a more fair and equitable education system. FFREE was founded in 2016 by parents seeking racial equity in the Framingham Public School District. FFREE is committed to addressing structural racism and educational inequity in Framingham. As an organization, FFREE is dedicated to centering the voices of those who are excluded from educational systems such as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and other People of Color), immigrants and people living with other identities and marginalizations. FFREE is focused on the following 4 platforms: 1) curriculum and instruction, 2) professional development, 3) hiring and retention of teachers and administrators of color and 4) policy and procedures. Since 2016, FFREE has held conversations with the school district's leadership and community conversations with parents at elementary, middle and high schools, advocated for the Racial Equity Committee at the School Committee level, advocated for the Assistant Superintendent of Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement and the Equity Audit, implemented racial equity trainings for district leadership and school committee, hosted a Know your rights seminar (2019), and much more. FREEE is actively working with the statewide coalition on school policing on limiting or removing SRO's.
The Freitas sisters have practiced for over 12 years, having served as both staff attorneys for a brief period at the Committee for Public Counsel Services before establishing their private practice, Freitas & Freitas LLP. Their practice concentrates primarily on representing indigent parents, children, and young adults in delinquency, youthful offender, care and protection, permanency, and child requiring assistance matters at the trial and appellate level, as well as representing children in school discipline and special education matters.

They deliver client-driven, community-embedded, holistic representation that supports and empowers their clients to meet their own life goals. They both live in the community they serve, volunteer after school at an inner city middle school teaching students about their rights and the legal system, and are part of several statewide coalitions where they engage with thought leaders and change agents to improve the experience of being systems-involved. Both Cristina and Debbie have Juris Doctors from Northeastern University School of Law and Masters of Public Health from Tufts University School of Medicine, after graduating from Boston University with bachelors degrees.
On CfJJ's 25th Anniversary Celebration, we created the annual Thomas E. Coury Youth Justice Award, honoring a CfJJ co-founder for his long-standing and staunch support since our inception. Mr. Coury has consistently supported not only our organization but the network of providers and advocates working to improve the lives of Massachusetts’ youth.

Mr. Coury is the Executive Director of the Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation, a Massachusetts-based private foundation that focuses its grant-making program in the fields of criminal and juvenile justice. He is responsible for managing the Foundation's funding and technical assistance initiatives aimed at improving the administration of criminal and juvenile justice in Massachusetts.
Proskauer Rose LLP is committed to advancing the cause of transparency, equity and justice for youth. Proskauer has been a tremendous partner in pursuing systemic reform through Amicus Briefs to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on key juvenile justice issues, attempting to leverage the court to create positive precedent that will benefit system involved youth for years to come.

Proskauer partnered with us to conduct legal research and to draft an Amicus Brief in Commonwealth v. Karen K, a juvenile, a case involving a police search of an African American juvenile based strictly on alleged body languages cues. This brief challenged doctrinal issues regarding the tendency of courts to qualify police officers as expert witnesses based on their training and experience to draw conclusions that certain behaviors create the level of reasonable suspicion to justify searches.

Perhaps most significantly, Proskauer Rose successfully represented CfJJ in litigation on the municipal level, ensuring compliance with our state’s public record laws creating access to crucial data that will bring much needed transparency of important issues, impacting young people.
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Panel Discussion

Meeting the Moment for Our Youth

Amidst calls for more punitive treatment for youth and hardening of our schools, how can we center the response to youth on developmentally appropriate responses.

Moderator

Nadia Harden
New Commonwealth Fund

Panelists

Nichelle Sadler
UTEC

Dr. Edie Alexander
Roxbury District Court

Emma Burke
Elevated Thought

Ivana Boyd
HopeWell
**Panel Discussion**

**Nadia Harden, New Commonwealth Fund**

As Chief of Program & External Relations, Nadia is responsible for designing and implementing a comprehensive strategy for engagement with current partners, enhancing how we leverage their collective capacity building as well as managing team members and consultants to deepen current partnerships and coalitions, leverage resources, and strengthen collaboration and leadership.

Nadia joined NCF from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston where she served as the Sr. Manager of Audience Development & Engagement. In this role she designed opportunities to engage new and existing audiences at the MFA by developing, supporting, and maintaining a wide range of relationships with community-and neighborhood-based organizations, with a focus on identifying collaborative opportunities, talent, and reciprocal partnerships for events and programs. Prior to joining the MFA Nadia served as the Campaign & Annual Fund.

**Nichelle Sadler, UTEC**

Nichelle served as a senior program director at UTEC in 2012-2013 and then, in 2018, rejoined UTEC as Interim Chief Program Officer. She is now serving as the Director for the Training Center for Excellence (TC4E), the premier training facility in Massachusetts for addressing gun violence through both a public health and racial equity lens. Between her UTEC roles, Nichelle served as Chief of Staff to District Attorney-Elect Rachael Rollins and Chief of Staff to Boston City Councilor Tito Jackson. Raised in Boston, she actively participated in Boston’s local community centers throughout her youth. Following college, she joined the staff of Boston Community Centers’ Streetworker program where she began her career working high-risk youth at a very difficult time for the city when crime among youth was high. Prior to her work at UTEC, Nichelle was the Boston Area Director for Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps, where she oversaw two community-based programs. Nichelle’s experience provides her with the kind of leadership and experience that is needed to undertake community initiatives serving impact young adults.
Panel Discussion

**Dr. Edith Alexander, Roxbury District Court**

Edith Alexander is a Probation Officer of the Boston Municipal Court (BMC)-Roxbury Division. She has a constant caseload of nearly 100 men and women. Her job is to make sure that probationers meet the terms of their sentences. But Alexander wants much more for them. She wants them to build full, stable lives. Edith has worked with the CHOICE Program which now includes a meal program that feeds breakfast and lunch to participants and those who come before the court and are hungry. CHOICE is a comprehensive 18-month program to reduce recidivism among this group of young adults who are on probation at BMC-Roxbury. Since the start of CHOICE in 2010, there have been approximately 150 participants. The CHOICE Program requires offenders who are on administrative and supervised probation to meet with Alexander, attend educational and job training programs.

**Emma Burke, Elevated Thought**

Emma Burke (she/her) is a first-generation African immigrant from Frankfort, Kentucky. Her work strives to encourage nuance in conversations about race and Blackness, specifically as it relates to the experiences of Black women and gender marginalized people. Burke holds a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in Africana Studies from Wellesley College. She currently works as the Social Justice Coordinator at Elevated Thought in Lawrence, Massachusetts where she supports the development and execution of the programming for both young people and the community more broadly. Burke is also a writer and a mixed media artist specializing in collage.

**Ivana Boyd, Hopewell**

Ivana Boyd joined HopeWell in 2022, working to support youth who are aging out of foster care in Massachusetts. Prior to joining HopeWell, Ivana worked closely with community partners and youth advocates as CfJJ's Community Engagement Coordinator. A 2019 graduate of Boston University Wheelock College and a 2022 graduate of Boston University School of Social Work, Ivana comes to this work with an unwavering passion for equitable youth justice.
In addition to the proceeds of the Leadership Celebration, CfJJ’s work is supported by foundation grants, membership dues, and donations. Thanks to all who have supported us so generously in the past year!

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Thank you to each one of CfJJ's donors!
Our Programs

The Multi-System Youth Project seeks to address the over-representation of child welfare-involved youth who “cross over” into the juvenile justice system. Through research and advocacy, the project is researching barriers and advocating for model interventions to promote stability for foster youth and to advocate for mental health and educational supports to prevent their entry into the juvenile justice system. The Multi-System Youth project also involves our School-to-Prison Pipeline work which seeks to reduce both school-based arrests and the exclusion of young people from the classroom for school discipline matters.

CfJJ’s Community Engagement takes a culturally competent approach that centers and elevates the voices of youth and parents in policy matters, valuing the voices of directly impacted people who are experts in their own experience in their communities and in contact with systems. This includes assisting and supporting youth in successfully advocating on issues that align with our mission and vision, educating and informing on laws and systems, and creating increased pathways for youth and community voices on the state level through our coalition and legislative campaigns.

CfJJ’s Legislative Advocacy program convenes a statewide coalition of key stakeholders to advocate for a vision of youth justice that improves public safety and promotes better outcomes for youth. As the state’s juvenile justice watchdog, we are the lead advocates pushing for transparency in the system. Our reforms include advancing racial equity in the justice system and promoting developmentally appropriate reforms so that children exit the justice system back on the right track.
TRAININGS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS

CfJJ offers trainings and information sessions as a part of our mission to educate the public on key juvenile and youth justice issues. These trainings and information sessions can be customized to meet the needs of youth, parents, community-based and grassroots organizers.

Topics:

- Juvenile Justice 101
- Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System
- Cradle to Prison Pipeline
- Education and Trauma
- School Discipline and Advocacy
- Social Media and the Law
- Special Education Law
- School to Prison Pipeline
- Bullying
- Collateral Consequences
- Police Encounters
- Social Media and the Law
- Protest and Civil Disobedience for Youth
- Sexting: Legal, Social, Emotional, College and Career Implications
- Advocacy in Legislative Campaigns or Meetings
- Your Vote Matters!

For more information, visit www.cfjj.org/training-and-information-sessions

Please contact Jillie Santos at jilliesantos@cfjj.org to coordinate trainings & information sessions.
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2019: Dr. Jennifer Davis Carey, Dr. Heather C. Forkey, and Center for Teen Empowerment
2018: I Have A Future and Kids In Need of Defense
2017: More than Words
2016: Adam Foss, Prosecutor Integrity; Teens Leading the Way
2015: Sen. Karen Spilka and Ken Smith, Executive Director of YouthBuild Boston
2014: Hon. Gail Garinger, Massachusetts Child Advocate
2013: Dr. Thomas Grisso, UMass Medical School
2012: Maurice "Moe" Boisvert, President of Y.O.U. Inc.
2011: Scott Harshbarger, Senior Counsel, Proskauer LLP
2010: Edward Loughran, Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators and former Commissioner of the Department of Youth Services
2009: Hon. Martha Grace, former Chief Justice, Massachusetts Juvenile Court
2008: McDermott Will & Emery and The Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts
2007: Dr. Yitzhak Bakal, Founder & President of NAFI
2006: Susan Wayne, former President of the Justice Resource Institute
2005: Jarrett Barrios, State Senator
2004: Thomas Coury, Executive Director of the Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation
Citizens for Juvenile Justice (CfJJ) is the only independent, non-profit, statewide organization working exclusively to reform and reimagine the juvenile justice system in Massachusetts. We advocate, convene through community engagement, conduct research, and educate the public on important juvenile and youth justice issues.

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