

FY2025

JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025

ANNUAL REPORT





OUR MISSION

Established in 2001, the **Youth Advocacy Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) organization and non-profit arm of the state juvenile defender's office, whose mission is protecting and advancing the legal and human rights of children to promote their healthy development through active partnerships with local communities. YAF's primary focus remains to support YAD's EdLaw Project, which works to **Shut Down the Cradle-to-Prison™ Pipeline** in MA by ensuring that our state's most vulnerable students receive a stable and quality education through expert holistic, individual, and systemic racially-conscious, student-directed advocacy.

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OUR STAFF

Marlies Spanjaard

President & CEO, Director of Education Advocacy

Michele Scavongelli

Executive Director, Senior Counsel

Jackie Stimpson

Operations and Development Coordinator

Rachael Claborn

EdLaw Social Service Advocate

Richie Torres

EdLaw Social Service Advocate

Ileana Matamoros

Intake Coordinator/Paralegal

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Allyson Black-Foley

Alondra Bobadilla

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Chris DiMeo

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Marlies Spanjaard, *President*

Bridget Treco-Bettez, *Vice President*

Darnell T. Williams

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

We are so pleased to be able to share with you our first Annual Report. We have made great progress over the past 25 years thanks to the support of so many individuals, law firms, foundations, and corporations, and we are so glad to be able to create a Yearly Report going forward that will acknowledge the support we have received in the past fiscal year.

The past year has reminded us why our work is more critical than ever. Together, with your support, YAF continues to confront the school-to-prison pipeline and fight for equitable education for our state's most vulnerable children. We are deeply grateful for the tireless efforts of our staff, volunteers, attorneys, social workers, community partners, and supporters who make this possible.

Massachusetts is often celebrated for having the best public schools in the country, but we know the truth is more complicated. Deep racial and economic inequities persist, and the national climate is making things even harder. The current administration's attacks on public education through funding cuts, rollbacks of civil rights protections, and policies that weaken support for students

with disabilities and English language learners have taken a terrible toll. Families are struggling, educators are under strain, and far too many children are being left behind.

That is why YAF has doubled down on its commitment to the EdLaw Project. Through legal resources, social work support, our client support fund, and our VOICES group, we are working to shut down the cradle-to-prison pipeline in Massachusetts by ensuring that our state's most vulnerable students receive a stable and quality education through expert holistic, individual, and systemic racially-conscious, student-directed advocacy.

The challenges are real, but so is our resolve. With your partnership, we are proving that advocacy, persistence, and community can overcome harmful policies and open doors for the students who need us most. Thank you for continuing to stand with us, for showing up year after year, and for believing in the power of education justice. Together, we will keep moving forward.

With gratitude,



Marlies Spanjaard
President & CEO



Duci Goncalves
Board Chair



OUR MISSION

To Shut Down the **Cradle-to-Prison™ Pipeline** in MA by ensuring that our state's most vulnerable students receive a **stable** and **quality education** through expert holistic, individual, and systemic **racially-conscious, student-directed** advocacy.

THE PROBLEM

MA is the **#1 ranked state in Pre-K-12** education, but is ranked **#41 for racial equality in education**.

85% of all juveniles who interact with the **juvenile court system** are **functionally illiterate**.

In Boston, Black students make up **1/3 of the student body** but **2/3 of school-based arrests**.

3X Children who **fall out of the educational system** are more likely to **end up in adult prisons**.

HOW WE HELP

SOCIAL WORK

YAF recognizes the importance of holistic representation to address the underlying needs of our client families. YAF funds two social service advocates housed within the EdLaw Project, a unit within the state juvenile defenders office, ensuring that all court-involved youth have access to expert education advocacy. Our social workers develop strong relationships with clients to assess needs and provide critical social services our clients and their families may need.

CLIENT SUPPORT

Our Client Support Fund provides emergency funds for clients in multiple areas of need including food, school supplies, electronics, housing, transportation, and independent evaluations. These funds help remove some of the stressors impacting our client families.

LEGAL SUPPORT

YAF funds the legal and administrative tools needed by the attorneys of the EdLaw Project, thus helping them to provide the best support possible to clients. This includes legal research tools, ongoing professional development, stipends for interns, and HELPLINE support.

V.O.I.C.E.S.

The VOICES Project is an opportunity for parents and students who have been targeted by the school-to-prison pipeline to come together. The group meets monthly with the mission to identify systemic challenges, advocate for educational change, and support members of their community facing education challenges.

OUR IMPACT

SINCE INCEPTION, YAF & THE EDLAW PROJECT HAVE:

-  represented over 2,000 students
-  advised over 5,465 students and their families
-  conducted over 589 trainings for over 11,000 attendees

NEWS

EdLaw Challenges the State's Failure to Provide Special Education in the County Houses of Correction

In April 2024, the EdLaw Project, in a partnership with the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee and the private law firm, Latham & Watkins, filed a class action complaint against the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to remedy the failure of DESE to assure that students confined in the county Houses of Correction (HOC) receive the special education services that are their right under state law. An investigation by Citizens for Juvenile Justice had concluded that only a very small percentage of eligible students were receiving any special education services and that those that receive any services are usually getting at most one to two hours per week of tutoring. More than 33 years ago, in a case entitled *Green v. Johnson*, the Federal District Court in western Massachusetts issued an opinion that found that eligible students in several counties in western Massachusetts were not being evaluated and identified for special education services and those who were identified were not receiving appropriate special education services. Since that ruling, DESE has fundamentally altered the process of providing special education services in the HOCs resulting in a repetition of the past failure to meet its legal obligations.

The class-action lawsuit is at present in its initial stages. DESE has filed a motion to dismiss the action. The plaintiffs have filed a motion for certification as a class. These motions, as well as discovery motions, are currently pending.

While this class-action litigation is pending, EdLaw continues to work with many individual students in HOCs to improve their current access to education. We would welcome the referral of any 18-22 year old students who have not received a high school diploma and who are confined in a HOC. EdLaw Attorneys Elizabeth Levitan, Diana Howat and Tim Sindelar are spearheading this work.

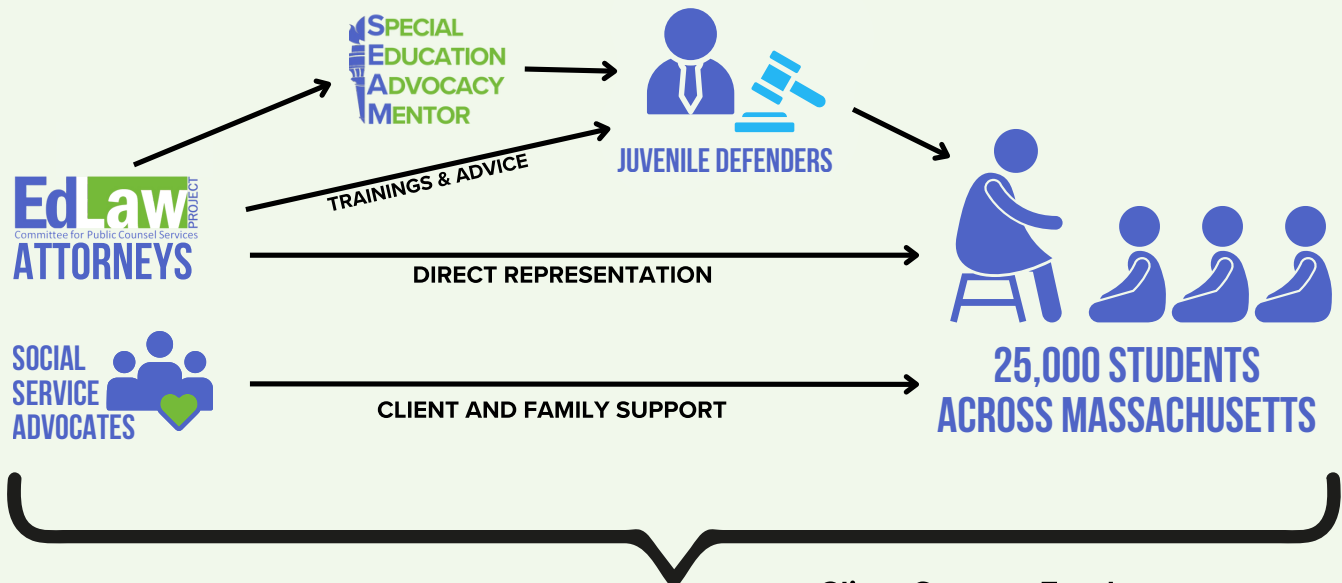
We hope that by obtaining the full assurance of the law to an appropriate education that our clients will improve their futures.

BY THE NUMBERS

- The School-to-Prison Pipeline disproportionately affects students with disabilities, students of color and low-income students
- In Massachusetts, Black students are 3x more likely than their White peers to be suspended for the same behavior
- Nationally, Black children comprise 18% of all students but 46% of students suspended more than once
- 85% of all juveniles who interact with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate
- Fewer than 1/3 of children who grow up in foster care graduate from high school and fewer than 2% graduate from college
- Prison funding has increased 530% more than education funding over the last 20 years
- It costs \$11,000 per year to educate a youth, while it costs \$90,000 per year to incarcerate one
- In Massachusetts 8.5% of students with disabilities are suspended, compared with 2.8% of students without disabilities
- On a national level, Black boys with disabilities make up 34% of suspensions, Black girls with disabilities make up 26% of suspensions, White boys with disabilities make up 16.2% and White girls with disabilities make up 7.3%
- Children who fall out of the educational system are 3x more likely to end up in adult prisons
- 2/3 of children who cannot read proficiently by the end of fourth grade will end up in jail or on welfare
- 75% of children in foster care are behind at least one grade level

YAF'S IMPACT MODEL

EDLAW STUDENT SUPPORT MODEL



- Client Support Fund
- Intake Coordinator
- Social Service Advocates
- Professional Evaluations
- Legal Support Tools
- V.O.I.C.E.S.

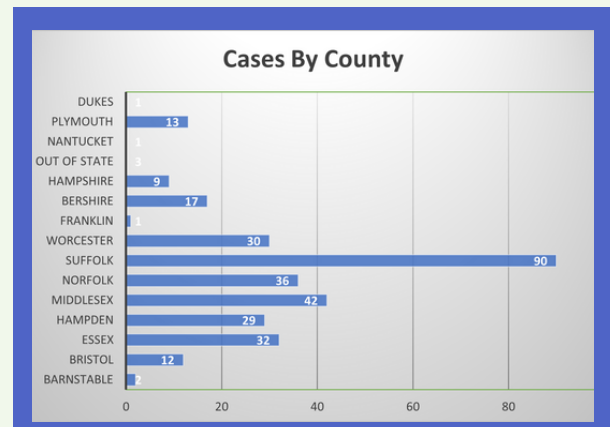
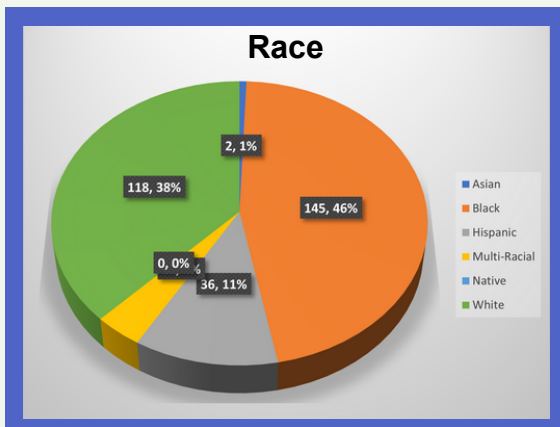
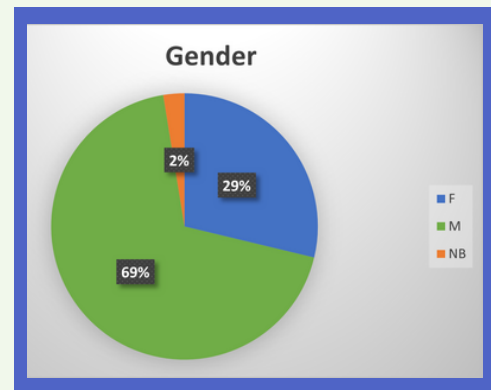
FY25 IMPACT

160 New Cases Opened

313 Cases Touched including

46 Pro Bono Cases

613 Request for Technical Assistance





THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATIONS



\$1,000

TRAVEL TO NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Allows an EdLaw attorney to attend and present at a national conference to exchange best practices to enhance the work being done for young people across the country



\$500

V.O.I.C.E.S. MONTHLY MEETINGS

Pays for the organizers and consultants' time for one monthly V.O.I.C.E.S. meeting



\$250

FOOD FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES

Provides a weeks worth of groceries, through our Client Support Fund, for a family struggling with food insecurity



\$100

SOCIAL WORKERS

Covers the cost of an initial client intake meeting with one of our social workers



\$50

BOOKS FOR INCARCERATED CLIENTS

Allows books to be sent to incarcerated clients through the Client Support Fund to keep them engaged in reading and learning



\$25

EDLAW HELPLINE

Creates capacity for real-time legal consultation to families in crisis

YAF'S 2025 FY: IMPACT IN ACTION

47

**FULL REPRESENTATION
CASES OPENED**

162

**FULL REPRESENTATION
CASES TOUCHED**

16

**PRO BONO CASES
OPENED**

46

**PRO BONO CASES
TOUCHED**

33

ADVISORIES OPENED

105

ADVISORIES TOUCHED

29

TRAININGS

1096

PARTICIPANTS

YAF'S 2025 FY: CLIENT SUPPORT FUND IMPACT

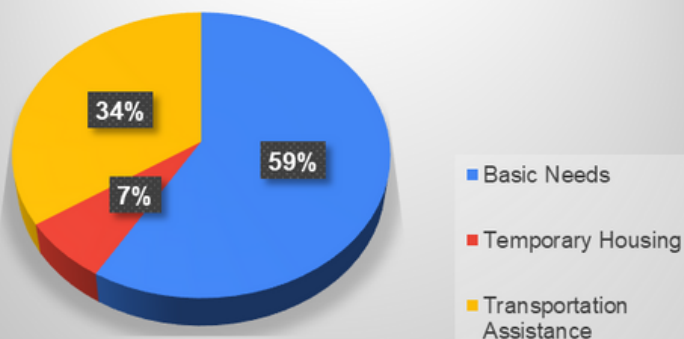
A student cannot focus on school without food in their stomach, a roof over their head, appropriate clothing and many other necessities. YAF's Client Support Fund is available to cover emergency expenses for transportation and basic needs that clients and their families require.

**TOTAL FUNDS SPENT ON CLIENT SUPPORT IN FY25:
\$17,864.84**

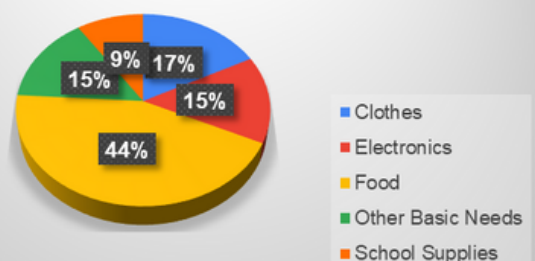
REQUESTS FULFILLED WITH CLIENT SUPPORT FUND IN FY25 BY CATEGORY:

Basic Needs (food, clothes, school supplies, electronics, etc.)	75
Temporary Housing.....	9
Transportation Assistance.....	44

Client Support by Category



Basic Needs Breakdown



In February of 2023, the EdLaw Project announced the launch of the Special Education Advocacy Mentorship (SEAM) program, a statewide initiative designed to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline in Massachusetts by ensuring our state's most vulnerable children receive a quality education through zealous legal advocacy. We were awarded a three-year grant in 2022 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to launch and manage the Special Education Advocacy Mentorship (SEAM) program.

Up until that point, the relatively small team of EdLaw Project attorneys was charged with supporting the 1,000-person statewide juvenile bar, including training and advising attorneys on how to prevent school exclusions, securing needed special education services for their child/adolescent clients, and ensuring school stability for homeless kids and children in foster care. The SEAM program will help the Youth Advocacy Foundation (YAF) deepen and sustain the reach of its mission so that all 20,000– 25,000 children in the Massachusetts child welfare and juvenile justice systems have access to effective education advocacy.

The SEAM program consists of 25–30 special education advocacy mentors from 11 Counties and 17 juvenile courthouses across the state and is The SEAM panel is overseen by SEAM & Pro Bono Panel Director, Michele Scavongelli, an attorney for the past 13 years with the EdLaw Project. These mentors are responsible for educating and supporting local delinquency and child welfare attorneys to include education advocacy in conjunction with their court representation. These mentors greatly expand the reach of the EdLaw Project through their presence in the courtrooms and local bars where the private youth bar practices.

Following is one story that exemplifies the power of the mentor/mentee relationship to deliver high quality advocacy to our clients:

A new private attorney recently represented a youth who had been out of school due to severe anxiety and lack of support from DCF. The attorney was determined to support this youth and despite many, many false starts his advocacy paid off! With the help of an experienced education attorney and SEAM mentor, the youth is now in a substantially separate therapeutic class at their local high school and has a transition plan in place.

This case is a great example of a zealous advocate building a strong relationship with his client and representing her interests to get her educational support and services. Without this attorney's determination, it is likely that this youth would have stayed in an online program which did not provide the services she needed. This case also demonstrates how valuable the SEAM program is because the youth was able to continue working with the attorney she trusted, and this attorney got the guidance and knowledge he needed to succeed in the educational case. The attorney, when speaking about his SEAM mentor said, "The truth is that my mentor's support was invaluable in this case. She guided and advised me through the special education wilderness. Her knowledge of the IEP process was impeccable. SEAM is clearly an excellent collaborative program, and I will spread the word."



V.O.I.C.E.S.

Voices of Impacted Communities Ending the School-to-Prison-Pipeline

The VOICES Project, the YAF initiative funded by the Schott Foundation and in partnership with I Have a Future (IHAF), is an opportunity for parents and students who have been targeted by the school-to-prison pipeline to come together. The mission of the group is to identify systemic challenges, advocate for educational change, and support members of their community facing education challenges. VOICES has seventeen members, fourteen young people and three caregivers. They meet in person monthly.



Thank you to Adrienne Young, Keturah Brewster, Alaa Saeo and Noor Toraif for helping uplift youth and families in your thoughtful planning and support of VOICES.

The group has defined the school-to-prison pipeline together:

The school-to-prison pipeline is a “systematic” process of victimizing youth of color who may be facing other forms of structural oppression (be facing homelessness, foster care, low-income families but not exclusive to these issues) through stereotypes, harsh and unequal punishment, and lack of resources that escalate into sending them to law enforcement or other punitive systems and ultimately setting them up for failure.

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

Thank You

ANDERSON
KREIGER

 GOODWIN

 MassMutual

 BARNES &
THORNBURG LLP

LATHAM &
WATKINS LLP

SHOOK
HARDY & BACON

CHOATE

 Liberty Mutual.
INSURANCE

Ogletree
Deakins

 FOLEY
HOAG LLP

Morgan
Lewis

Proskauer 

Each day, throughout Pro Bono week in October 2024, we highlighted firms and people volunteering their time to ensure Massachusetts' children and emerging adults are able to receive access to an equitable education, by sharing some of the incredible work they're doing or have done in the past year. You can read these stories again here:

- We'd like to thank Michael Gass and Seth Mennillo for acting as Pro Bono Coordinators of Choate, Hall & Stewart and Rebecca Cazabon for being Pro Bono Counsel of Foley Hoag.
- We'd like to thank Kelly Crosby and paralegal Janet Nolan of Liberty Mutual for representing a 17 year old ELL student with neurological, physical and intellectual disabilities. The student recently moved districts and his complicated profile has made the transition difficult. The legal team is working to make sure the new district can adequately support the family.
- Thank you Nicholas Anastasi of Foley Hoag for advocating for appropriate services for a six year old student with ASD to receive appropriate IEP and services in his school setting.

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

- We'd also like to thank Jasmine Brown and John Shope of Foley Hoag for representing twin six year old boys with physical and occupational therapy needs. Their family moved districts over the last year and was seeking appropriate special education services. The Foley team helped the family transition to appropriate services in the new district.
- Thank you Stefano Sharma and Robert Shames of Choate, Hall & Stewart for advocating for a student with a learning disability and cognitive delays to receive appropriate inclusion supports to support him in the classroom.
- Thank you Natalia Smychkovich of Choate, Hall & Stewart for representing a young elementary school student who is deaf/hard of hearing. Thanks to her advocacy, this student is now receiving an appropriate placement. The student and their family are moving to a new town and Natalia is helping to ensure a smooth transition of school district responsibility for the student.
- Thank you Seth Mennillo and Silvia Faria of Choate, Hall & Stewart for representing a 7th grade student with emotional and learning disabilities. They secured placement in a substantially separate classroom within the school district and when that could not provide for all this student's needs, they secured a placement at an out of district special ed school. Seth and Silvia continue to represent the student to ensure that this school is a fit.
- Thank you Conor O'Sullivan-Pierce of Choate, Hall & Stewart for representing a third grade student with severe non-verbal ASD, Thanks to Conor, this student obtained placement in private therapeutic day school.
- We'd like to give a huge THANK YOU to Carolyn Rosenthal the Director of Pro Bono at Goodwin Procter.
- Thank you to the team of Gregg Katz, Laura Wood and Maria Smith of Goodwin Procter for representing a 5th grade student with autism who is not receiving the needed services at school. They are currently arranging for an observation of his program by an expert to determine what his needs are.
- Thank you Gregg Katz and Gaebriella DeLisle of Goodwin Procter for representing three students over the course of this year! This team provided representation for two siblings, each with unique struggles in their school district. One of the siblings, a 7th grade student with developmental, physical, and emotional disabilities, has already been placed in a more appropriate out-of-district placement and great progress is being made to secure the necessary services for the other sibling, a fourth grade student in need of language-based program. They are also representing a 5th grade student who is struggling both academically and emotionally. Gabriella and Gregg worked with an independent evaluator to update the child's IEP with appropriate services.
- Thanks again to Gregg Katz and Laura Wood of Goodwin Procter who, in addition to the student they represented with Maria Smith, represented two other students in the past year. They provided Pro Bono representation of an eight-year-old boy who was hospitalized due to aggressive behaviors as a result of a brain injury at birth. His school was not providing appropriate supports. They immediately jumped in to advocate for student and as a result, he received placement at an appropriate specialized school and was able to be discharged from the hospital and is now attending school and thriving at school and at home. This team of exceptional attorneys are also representing a high school student in need of therapeutic day program. A placement was made in early 2024, but the student is currently having issues with that placement and they continue to help the student find a program to fit the student's needs.

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

- Our next thank you goes out to Gregg Katz and Daniela Sanchez of Goodwin Procter for representing a 19-year-old student with emotional disabilities who attends a private therapeutic school. This student recently received an autism diagnosis and the team is working to update the student's IEP to accurately reflect their needs.
- Thank you Matt Leno and Sean Phipps of Barnes & Thornburg for representing a fourth grader who was in the hospital at the time of intake. The team was able to obtain a new placement within the school district for this student. They are now looking at making the case for an out-of-district placement to better fit this student's needs.
- We'd also like to thank the team of Matt Leno, Derek Roller and Alex Nagorniy of Barnes & Thornburg for their representation of a fourth grade student with dyslexia. Through their advocacy, the district found the student eligible for special education and then they secured a placement at a school designed to support his needs as well as targeted 1:1 tutoring over the summer. This student is now thriving in school.
- Thanks to Kiara Vaughn for acting as Pro Bono Coordinator of Latham & Watkins Boston office.
- Thank you Cory Lewis of Latham & Watkins for helping a young adult student with autism receive a residential school placement and transitional supports to appropriately meet their educational and behavioral needs.
- Thank you Kenneth Parsigian, Allison Carbonaro and Matthew Duffy of Latham & Watkins for filing a class action challenging the failure of the state to provide special education services to young adults confined in County Houses of Correction.
- Thank you Christopher Lloyd and Samuel Townsend of Latham & Watkins for representing a student with emotional and learning disabilities who Latham attorneys have represented over four years. Initially they helped secure a residential placement for the student and just this year they secured a day placement, so the student could go home. They also secured specialized language-based tutoring for this student.
- And last, but certainly not least, we want to thank the team of Priyanka Krishnamurthy, Avery Boreliz and Annabel Kupke of Latham & Watkins for representing a second grade student to secure his eligibility for special education and many services to meet his learning, speech, and social needs.
- A big thank you to Lisa Burton and Laurielle Howe of Ogletree Deakins for advocating for a middle school student with multiple suicide attempts. They were able to obtain a therapeutic day school placement for this student.
- Thank you Alexandra "Lexie" Reynolds and Hayley Kronthal of Proskauer for their representation of a 7th grader with dyslexia who was reading at an early elementary grade level. Despite advocating with the district for years, his guardians were unable to secure the appropriate services. Thanks to the Proskauer team, he received specialized tutoring over the summer and has started at a school designed for students with his profile and he is thriving.
- We'd like to thank Brandon Arber, Lisa White and Katie Groves of Shook, Hardy & Bacon for representing a 9-year-old non-verbal student with autism who is currently at home due to concerns about the safety of her school program. This team of attorneys are arranging for independent evaluations of the student and the program, assisting family with applying for DSS services, and as a result of their representation, a "Failure to Send" case against the parent was dismissed.
- Another thank you to Brandon Arber for representing a student when the district was threatening the student's parent with a hearing, because they were not able to support him in the public school. The student is now at a more appropriate program where he is doing well.

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

- We'd like to thank Alison Sclater for acting as Pro Bono Counsel of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius.
- Thank you Stephanie Faraci and Laurie Burlingame of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius for representing a 9-year-old girl who was attending a charter school. She has ADHD and dyslexia and the charter school was not supporting her special education needs. Instead, the school retained her in a lower grade which led to serious bullying by other students. She is now back in her home district public school in a language-based program at her appropriate grade level and she is feeling more confident and better about herself.
- We'd like to give a big thank you to Laura Lerner of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius for helping four students this year through her pro bono representation. Laura represented this first student over the past two years and secured an appropriate out of district placement for her, after trying an in-district program with a 1:1 aide. This year there have been challenges with transportation and Laura has stepped up to help. Laura also continues to support two brothers, both on the autism spectrum with respect to their special education needs. Additionally, Laura continues to support a student with dyslexia, who she represented when he was back in 6th grade, and now he is in his last year of high school.
- Thank you Stephanie Faraci of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius for representing two more students this year in addition to the student discussed earlier. Stephanie is representing a student whom her firm has worked with since 3rd grade and who is now a junior in high school. This student has dyslexia and over the years, Morgan Lewis attorneys have ensured this student received the appropriate services in school and also secured tutoring services throughout the summer. The student is now attending a vocational school and is excelling in all subjects with a bright future on the horizon. Additionally, last year, Stephanie secured an appropriate out-of-district placement for a non-verbal student who came home from her public school with unexplained bruises. She continues to advocate for this student at IEP meetings and as transportation issues have arisen.
- We'd like to thank Steve Miklus and Nicola Sullivan of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius for representing a 14-year-old multilingual learner with autism, depression, and anxiety. He has struggled for years, being bounced from one out-of-district placement to another without a real understanding of what supports and programming he needs to be successful. This Morgan Lewis team helped get him an independent evaluation that laid out clearly what he needs and he has just started at a new school. The family and the attorneys are optimistic that he will be able to flourish here.
- We'd also like to thank Shannyn Henke of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius and Melissa Waite of MassMutual for representing an 8-year-old boy with an emotional disability who was punished with seclusion at his public school. He is in a new program and they are monitoring his progress there.
- Thank you to Kristen Gagalis of Anderson Kreiger for representing a 17-year-old autistic young woman, who, thanks to Kristen's advocacy last year, was appropriately placed in a day school that is able to meet her needs. It has been a tough transition for the student and Kristen is working with the new school to make sure the student's needs are properly being addressed.
- Thank you to TJ Roskelley also of Anderson Kreiger for successfully fighting for improved transition services, assistive technology, and inclusion support for a teenager with autism who had made no progress in his district high school for years. He is now on-track with a terrific program to support him until he ages out of high school in a few years.
- We'd also like to thank Shannyn Henke of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius and Melissa Waite of MassMutual for representing an 8-year-old boy with an emotional disability who was punished with seclusion at his public school. He is in a new program and they are monitoring his progress there.

PRO BONO PANEL

Thanks to the efforts of our Pro Bono Panel, we have 38 additional families receiving support over the last year. The total number of students represented by our pro bono panel has grown to 155. And note how many panel members have helped more than one student!

Anderson Kreiger, LLP

Matt Bowser
Kristen Gagalys*
TJ Roskelley

Barnes & Thornburg, LLP

Matthew Leno*
Sean Phipps
Alex Nagorniy
Derek Roller

Choate Hall & Stewart LLP

John Calhoun
Silvia Faria
Michael Gass
Lo McMann
Seth Mennillo*
Nicholas Shamberger
Stefano Sharma
Robert Shames
Natalia Smychkovich*

Foley Hoag

Rebecca Cabazon, Pro Bono Counsel
Spenser Angel
Nicholas Anatasi
Jasmine Brown
Susanna Chi
Christopher Hart
William Holt
Rachel Kerner
John Shope
Emma Winer

Goodwin Procter LLP

Carolyn Rosenthal, Pro Bono Manager
Gaebriella DeLisle*
Shannyn Henke*
Gregg Katz*
Daniela Sanchez
Maria Smith
Laura Wood*

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Kristina Cary
Miriam Domer
Alex Roggio *

Latham & Watkins LLP

Genevieve Bates
Avery Borreliz
Allison Carbonaro
Danielle Cheffo
Matthew Duffy
Priyanka Krishnamurthy
Annabel Kupke
Cory Lewis*
Ken Parsigian*
Sam Townsend

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company

Kelly Crosby
Andrea McCullough*
Janet Nolan

Mass Mutual

Melissa Waite*

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Alison Sclater, Pro Bono Counsel
Laurie Burlingame
Stephanie Faraci*
Laura Lerner*
Sofia Lopez
Stephen Miklus*
Nicola Sullivan

Ogletree Deakins

Lisa Stephanian Burton*
Brian Pansius
Laurielle Howe
Mariah Micca

Proskauer Rose, LLP

Hayley Kronthal
Alexandra "Lexie" Reynolds

Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP

Brandon Arber*
Katie Groves
Lisa White

Troutman, Pepper Locke

Patrick Archambault

Solo Practitioners

Abra Allexenberg
Ellen Saideman

OUR 2025 FISCAL YEAR

(JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025)

REVENUES

CAMPAIGNS

Annual Appeal	\$ 37,459.08
Giving Tuesday	\$ 1,354.50
Back-to-School Campaign	\$ 5,413.50

CONTRIBUTIONS

Individual	\$ 53,154.09
Corporate/Firm	\$ 13,500.00

EVENTS

Spring Celebration	\$ 208,883.61
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GRANTS

John W. Alden Trust	\$ 20,000.00
Annie E. Casey (Emerging Adults)	\$ 50,000.00
Frank Reed & Margaret Jane Peters Memorial Fund	\$ 20,000.00
Boston Bar Foundation	\$ 15,000.00
Boston Foundation Safety Net Grant	\$ 25,000.00
Court Improvement Program	\$ 18,907.80
Cummings Foundation	\$ 55,000.00
Equal Justice Works	\$ 2,423.29
Nord Family Foundation	\$ 30,000.00
Center for Public Representation	\$ 7,500.00
Schott Foundation	\$ 2,000.00

BANK INTEREST

UBS Treasury Account	\$ 47,441.98
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Total Revenue	\$ 613,037.85
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OUR 2025 FISCAL YEAR

(JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025)

EXPENSES

Payroll Expenses	\$ 342,046.75
Benefits	\$ 60,162.64
Accounting & Bookkeeping	\$ 40,750.83
Campaign Specific Expenses	\$ 4,216.87
Spring Celebration	\$ 67,055.38
Other Events (Book Signing)	\$ 1,052.92
Fundraising	\$ 10,565.72
Grant Expenses	\$ 73,492.11
Insurance Expenses	\$ 4,331.34
Legal Support Expenses	\$ 21,251.85
Expert Evaluations	\$ 6,600.00
Office Expenses	\$ 5,032.68
Travel	\$ 8,677.75
Board	\$ 77.00
Regulatory Fees	\$ 255.98
Bank Fees	\$ 3.46

Total Expenses	\$644,520.36
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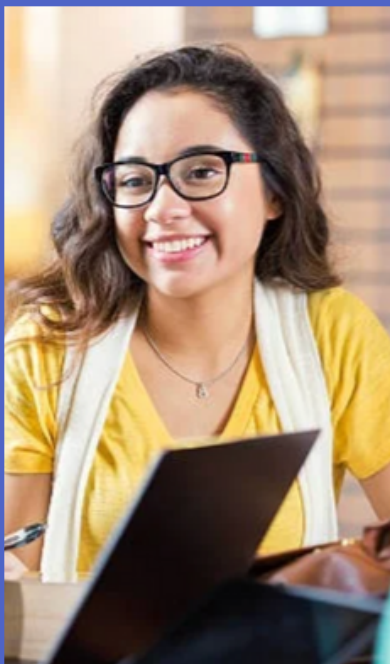
Student Stories

*The Impact of Social Work and
Education Advocacy*



Joshua*, recently achieved a significant milestone—admission to college! One of our EdLaw Social Service Advocates, Richie Torres, had joined his legal council about a year ago to support him in school reentry. Within a year, Richie had worked closely with Joshua to remove barriers to education; re-enroll him in school, secure a laptop, apply for jobs, obtain his ID and drivers permit, and navigate the college admissions process. With only a few credits left, Joshua is on track to graduate from high school and will become the first in his family to attend college—an achievement worth celebrating and a testament to his unwavering dedication.

Serena*, is a 9-year-old student with severe autism who was removed from school for two years due to the home district's failure to provide adequate education and care. As we engaged more deeply with the case, we discovered it was compounded by ongoing legal and family issues, all of which have directly impacted the student's access to education. Her mother has been subjected to ongoing abuse—verbal, physical, and financial—by her husband, with Serena often witnessing these traumatic events. Financial control and withholding of support by the father have further destabilized the family's situation. Since taking on this case, our team has worked with great care and diligence to ensure the family receives the support they need. After two years without a proper placement, Serena has now been offered interviews and tours at two respected programs that hold strong potential to positively impact both her and her mother.



When EdLaw first connected with Susan's* delinquency attorney, Susan's family just lost their housing and had moved into a motel over 30 minutes away from their previous home. Susan missed her friends and wanted to be able to attend school with them rather than starting at a new school. EdLaw supported Susan's attorney in enforcing Susan's right to continue to attend the high school in the district in which she previously lived as required by law to ensure school stability for students experiencing homelessness. When the school district initially delayed getting a bus for Susan, the attorney was able to advocate for transportation to start promptly. Susan has enjoyed the start of the school year with her friends and is glad that she did not have to switch schools!

Student Stories

The Client Support Fund

EdLaw helped Olivia* receive a new and appropriate special education placement right before the start of the school year. Olivia was excited to start her new school but as the first day grew closer, she still didn't have transportation. Her school district was saying her bus wouldn't be assigned to her until the 11th of September. The district suggested the family transport her until the bus was ready but the family was not in a financial situation to upfront that cost. Olivia's EdLaw attorney was able to request to pay for multiple days of Ubers from the Client Support Fund for her so she didn't have to miss school while she was waiting for the bus to get assigned.



James* is an EdLaw client with significant learning challenges. His attorney is working to ensure that he has appropriate services. Despite his struggles, James has remained dedicated to his education and continued to persevere in his academic career. When he finally had the opportunity to attend his high school prom, in celebration of all that he has accomplished, he needed help buying a prom ticket and renting a tux and some nice shoes. Thanks to the client support fund, YAF was able to help him so he could attend prom and look his best!



Isabel*, faced financial barriers when starting a new job at a popular restaurant. She needed essential work attire, including a black button-up shirt and non-slip shoes, but lacked the funds to purchase them. These items were critical for her job success, which in turn could positively impact her ongoing legal case. With support from YAF's Client Support Fund, Isabel secured the necessary items and gained skills to advance in her career. Today, she mentors Dorchester youth, advocating for voter education and pushing for 'Yes' on Question 5, supporting a minimum wage for tipped workers.



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*Thank!
You.*

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Andrea Rhee, Boston College
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