

Chalking Up Our Success!

Youth Advocacy Foundation
2019 Spring Celebration
Thursday, May 16, 2019
5:30-8:00pm

YOUTH
ADVOCACY
FOUNDATION
YAF



The mission of the Youth Advocacy Foundation (YAF) is to end the school-to-prison pipeline in Massachusetts by ensuring that our state's most vulnerable children receive a quality education through expert legal advocacy. By envisioning a future in which all youth enjoy the full rights and protections of a fair and equitable justice system, YAF works to decrease the risk of chronic court involvement and to increase the chance that young people grow into healthy, thriving adults through zealous legal representation, vibrant community-based services, and equitable access to quality education. YAF's EdLaw Project has been in existence since 2001 and has provided direct representation to over 1,800 children.



The EdLaw Project exists to ensure that the most vulnerable children in Massachusetts – court-involved youth from low-income families, often with disabilities, and predominantly children of color -- have equitable access to a quality education by providing legal representation in matters of school discipline, academic failure and unmet special education needs. EdLaw offers training and support to court-appointed attorneys across the state to help them incorporate education advocacy into their practice. EdLaw attorneys are organized by region and support the 1000 person statewide juvenile bar that represents the 20-25,000 kids involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. By advancing education advocacy, the EdLaw Project seeks to address one of the root causes of the school-to-prison pipeline: children being pushed out of or failing in school. As a result of the work of the EdLaw attorneys, many children are remaining in school with the services they need to thrive.

Chalking Up Our Success!

2019 Spring Celebration

Thursday, May 16th

One Federal Street, 13th Floor, Boston, MA

5:30 to 7:00 pm – Cocktail Hour

Music, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and silent auction.

(Desserts will be put out at 6:30 pm)

(Silent auction will close at approximately 7:45 pm)

Music provided by Moussa Gaye & Israel Anselme, members of the Intensive Community Program (ICP) within the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra

7:00 to 8:00 pm – Evening Program

Welcome Remarks

Joshua Dohan, Director

Youth Advocacy Division

Welcome & Introduction of Community Justice Award Recipient

Marlies Spanjaard, Executive Director

Youth Advocacy Foundation

Acceptance of Community Justice Award

Andrea Perry, Executive Director

YouthConnect

Client Success Stories

Ashley David, introduced by Elizabeth Levitan, EdLaw Project

Tayvian Pucci, introduced by Laura McCarthy, Morgan Lewis

Heads or Tails Fundraiser

Client Success Stories (cont'd)

Schama Jacques, introduced by Elizabeth Levitan, EdLaw Project

Silent Auction Closes

Youth Advocacy Foundation Fund-A-Need

Michele Scavongelli, Deputy Director

Youth Advocacy Foundation

Host Committee

Peter Alvarez	Kenneth Parsigian
David Apfel	Hank Phillippi Ryan
Ariane Baczynski	Lisa Rechtschaffen
Lisa Stephanian Burton	Alison Sclater
Rebecca Cazabon	Jonathan Shapiro
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Letter from the Youth Advocacy Foundation

Dear Friends,

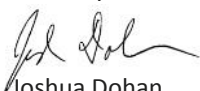
Thank you for joining us this evening to celebrate YAF's mission to end the school-to-prison pipeline and to ensure that our state's most vulnerable kids have access to expert education advocacy. We come together tonight to applaud the challenging and innovative work of staff, volunteers, attorneys, social workers, community organizations, and many others, to celebrate successful collaborations, and to thank our friends and supporters. You will have the chance to hear from one of our longstanding and valued community partners—YouthConnect and hear success stories from three of our clients.

Massachusetts is heralded as having the best public schools in the country. However our "best in the country" public schools have **worst in the country** racial inequities when it comes to educational attainment. Fewer than 1 in 3 Black and Latinx 4th graders are on grade level in reading, which is half the rate for the state's White students. Further, Black and Latinx students, students with disabilities, and English language learners are still far more likely than their peers to be disciplined for the same or similar behavior. We need to look no further than our state's detention facilities to see how our education systems are failing kids when studies show that up to 85 percent of youth in juvenile detention facilities have disabilities that would qualify them for special education services.

We must do better. We know that advocacy in the courtroom, while essential, is not enough to help kids break out of the school-to-prison pipeline. That is why YAF has made the EdLaw Project a priority. Through legal representation, technical assistance, and training to families, youth-serving professionals, public defenders, and pro bono counsel, EdLaw is creating a workforce of almost one thousand knowledgeable advocates. This model has enormous economic and social leverage. Our small but experienced group of education law attorneys provides training, advice and case support to the 1,000 attorneys across the state representing the 20,000 to 25,000 kids who become involved in the juvenile and child welfare systems each year. By ensuring that attorneys can advocate for their child clients in school as well as in court, we are giving these kids a better chance at success in school and success in life.

Thank you for being part of our 2019 Spring Celebration. We appreciate the fact that you continue to show up for our students and support our work year in and year out. We look forward to chalking up more successes together in the year to come!

Sincerely,



Joshua Dohan
Board President



Michele Scavongelli
Deputy Director



Marlies Spanjaard
Executive Director



2019 Community Justice Award
**YouthConnect, & its
Executive Director
Andrea Perry, LICSW**

YouthConnect is an innovative advocacy and intervention program of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, in partnership with the Boston Police Department. Since YouthConnect's inception in 1996, the program has served more than 15,000 of the city's most at-risk youth and families. YouthConnect places licensed clinical social workers inside BPD police stations that are experiencing the highest rates of youth violence and gang activity. Social workers receive referrals from officers and provide a range of community-based, voluntary, flexible, and individualized services to youth and their families. YouthConnect social workers develop relationships with youth at risk for arrest, as well as those who are already part of the juvenile justice system, and works to strengthen families, reduce risky behaviors that lead to incarceration and improve youths' long-term life options.

YouthConnect has become a national model for urban areas dealing with youth delinquency and violence. In 2016, YouthConnect was recognized as a finalist for the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network's Social Innovation Award, as well as a finalist for the Classy Awards. Additionally, YouthConnect's leadership has trained and consulted law enforcement, social workers, and youth-serving agencies from abroad on best practices and strategies used when working with youth involved with the juvenile justice system.

Andrea has over 20 years of experience working with Boston's at-risk youth around the city, including her work as a VISTA volunteer creating mentoring programs for Boston Public Schools, in a juvenile court clinic, with a teen parenting program, and as a member of an on-call trauma response team. She received her undergraduate degree at Smith College, and her MSW at Boston College School of Social Work. In 2012, Andrea was named by the White House as a "Champion of Change" for youth violence prevention. She an alumna of Boston University's Institute for Non-Profit Management and Leadership program, and a 2015 graduate of LeadBoston.



Ashley David

Ashley is a resident of Randolph, a nursing student, a loving mother, and a fierce advocate for her children and students with disabilities. Two of Ashley's three children, Cameron and Jordan, have Hunter's Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder which causes low levels of a necessary enzyme that breaks down waste in the body. As a result, harmful molecules build up leading to a wide array of symptoms impacting physical appearance, brain development, organ function and physical abilities. Fortunately, neither Cameron nor Jordan has had significant physical symptoms. However, both boys have experienced some delays in their behavioral and social development.

Ashley reached out to the EdLaw Project after Cameron was suspended and referred to the juvenile court by his middle school. Cameron, who was 12 years old at the time, was playing robots with a female peer. When the young girl pretended to run out of batteries, Cameron changed them, which he assumed would be in the same location as a human heart. This imaginary battery changing resulted in some contact with the young girl's breast, and he was suspended for sexual assault and charged with indecent assault and battery on a child under 14, which could have put Cameron on the sexual offender registry. Although the court dismissed the charges, Cameron became terrified of going to school. He did not understand what he had done wrong, and was afraid that something else would happen and he would be brought back to court. Moreover, the staff at his middle school began watching him closely and seemed to view him as a threat.

The EdLaw Project worked to secure him a special education day school where he is appropriately supported, understood, and now thriving. Cameron is now excited to go to school in the morning, and optimistic about his future. Ashley has been thrilled with his progress. She is now using her new advocacy skills to help her younger son, Jordan, and to support other families advocating on behalf of their own children with disabilities.



Tayvian Pucci

Tayvian is a 12-year-old student at Learning Prep School in Newton, MA. He is a friendly, outgoing and very bright young man. Tayvian is a hands-on student who loves to build things and work with recycled art. He is very creative and a visual learner. He also enjoys riding his scooter and listening to music.

Tayvian's family reached out to the EdLaw Project for help in June of 2017, when Tayvian was a fourth grade student in the East Bridgewater public schools. Previously diagnosed with dyslexia, he was in a general education classroom with no access to specialized reading teachers and having a hard time with decoding and encoding skills. As a result he had fallen several grades behind and was exhibiting significant. During fourth grade he was asked to sit in a separate area of the classroom from November through May and the family was told in writing that he can't learn with other students!

The high retainers required by private law firms that the family contacted were a barrier to getting Tayvian help, but EdLaw was able to reach out to its pro bono panel and attorney Laura McCarthy of Morgan Lewis quickly volunteered to take Tayvian's case with the assistance of EdLaw attorney, Michele Scavongelli.

As a result of the efforts of Tayvian's attorneys to secure independent expert evaluations and advocate on his behalf with his school district, Tayvian received intensive work on his reading, writing and math skills at Lindamood-Bell Academy and with the progress he was able to make there was then placed at the Learning Prep school in Newton, a school that serves students with Language-Based Learning Disabilities.

Since starting at Learning Prep last September, he has thrived in its speech and language intensive environment! He has formed new friendships and impressed his teachers with his progress and success. Tayvian's mother is very happy that he is closing the gap from years of falling behind academically and she is very proud of his achievements! Without the advocacy provided by Laura McCarthy and the EdLaw Project this would not have been possible.



Schama Jacques

Schama is an 18 year old senior at Tech Boston High School. She is a driven student who plans to go to college and hopes to one day open a restaurant.

Schama attended Brighton High School for her freshman and sophomore year and loved it. She had great friends, was engaged in extracurricular activities and felt at home.

During her junior year she was in the hallway between classes when a new Assistant Headmaster approached Schama and a friend and asked them where they were supposed to be. Because she was where she was supposed to be Schama brushed the administrator off and walked away. Later that day the Dean pulled her out of class and told her that the Assistant Headmaster had claimed Schama had hit her and she had to leave. Schama was shocked. She had certainly not intended to hit nor did she remember making any contact with anyone. A police report was completed and although charges were never filed Schama was suspended and ultimately expelled for "assault."

Schama reached out to the EdLaw Project after her expulsion. EdLaw appealed the decision to the Boston Public Schools Operational Superintendent, who upheld the decision. EdLaw then appealed the decision to the Department of Education who overturned Schama's expulsion, and required that Boston Public Schools clear her record, ensure that her grades were adjusted so that the expulsion did not negatively impact her GPA, and provide any tutoring she may need to catch up. While Schama decided not to return to Brighton High she will be graduating from Tech Boston this spring! Schama has chosen to share her story today because she knows she came close to falling into the school-to-prison pipeline and wants to do what she can to ensure that other students like her do not experience the same injustice.

*The Youth Advocacy Foundation would like to thank our
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Please consider patronizing these donors on your next outing.

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Boston Crawling	Leone Hinzman	Hank Phillippi Ryan
Boston Organics	Huntington Theatre Company	Pink Tulip
Brookline Booksmith	Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston	Porter Square Books
Ben Buchwald	Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum	Krishna Ramaswamy
Celebrity Series of Boston	Joye	Rapscallion's
Charles River Canoe & Kayak	JP Licks	Samantha Rosa
Cinquecento	Juju	Savor's Market
The Concord Bookshop	Kimball Farm	Michele & Peter Scavongelli
The Concord Cheese Shop	Kitchenwitch	Debbie & Larry Silverstein
The Concord Museum	Kathryn Lasky	The Spanjaard Family
Concord Recreation Department	Loon Mountain	Speakeasy Travel Supply
Coolidge Corner Theatre	Lucky Strike Social Boston	Lisa Stephanian Burton & Jordan Burton
Coolidge Yoga	Gregory Maguire	Stephanie G. Jewelers
David D'Alessandro	Mass Audubon	Max Stern
deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum	Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art	Jackie Stimpson
Michael Dick	Haley Mastropoll	Stop & Shop
Discovery Museum	Michaels	Swan Boats, Inc
Down Under School of Yoga	Milk Bar	Total Wine & More
Priscilla Duffy	Milk Street Cooking School	Toscana
Elements Massage Wayland	Elizabeth R Monaghan	Tree & Vine
Elite Island Resorts	Montague Gallery	Twisted Tree Cafe
	Myers + Chang	W.S. Badger Company
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		Zoo New England

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The Youth Advocacy Foundation would like to thank the following people for their commitment to serving Massachusetts children.

Anthony Benedetti and **CPCS**, thank you for having the vision and leadership to invest in comprehensive representation and support of children.

Youth Advocacy Division and **Children and Family Law Division staff** and **private bar**, we salute your passion and dedication in demanding justice for children and youth.

Karen Souza and **Kevin Lucchetti**, for your financial guidance and patience.

Phylliss Hill, for guiding us into mobile bidding.

Thank you to **Moussa Gaye** and **Israel Anselme** from the **Intensive Community Program (ICP)** within the **Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra** for providing tonight's musical talent.

Thank you to the **Boston Police Department** and the **Boys and Girls Club of Boston** for supporting our Community Justice Awardee, **YouthConnect**.

Elizabeth LeBlanc and **Courtney Lowenstein** at **Morgan Lewis** for helping to coordinate this beautiful evening.

Jeremy Cohn and **Jean Donnelly**, for continuing to provide YAF with guidance and support beyond your many years of service on the board.

Bob McDonnell and **Alison Sclater**, thank you for your steadfast support and for making this beautiful space available to us.

Ken Parsigian and **Shay Mayer**, thank you for being our partners in this work for many years in all areas, legal and philanthropic.

Jon Zaff, **Willie Rodriguez** and **Ann Tobey** for your assistance with the Speaker Series and leadership in developing a juvenile justice workforce.

Thank you to **Danielle Voss**, for being our event planner extraordinaire.

Thank you to **Samantha Calero**, for your leadership and for your continued commitment to social justice.

Citizens for Juvenile Justice, thank you for leading the charge to reform the Massachusetts juvenile legal system.

Many thanks to the **MA Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum** for your commitment to increasing equitable access to a bright future for all young people in the Commonwealth.

Thanks to the efforts of our incredible Pro Bono Panel, 45 additional students have received education advocacy this year.

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Jeremy Cohn*
Holly Lynch

** Worked on more than one pro bono case*

Many thanks to our partners who provided
independent evaluations to our clients:

Achieve New England

Nathan Doty, Ph.D.

Life Dimensions Neuropsychological Services

John Fahey, Ph.D.

**Lurie Center for Autism --
Massachusetts General Hospital**

Kirsten Birtwell, Ph.D.

Gretchen Timmel, M.Ed.

Jill Pineda, Ph.D.

**Neuropsychological and
Educational Services for Children
and Adolescents**

Erin Gibbons, Ph.D.

Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D.

Kathleen Pignone, M.Ed., CRC

**Neuropsychological Assessments of
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Nancy Norton, Ed.D

Proven Behavior Solutions

Andrea Hendershott, MEd, BCBA

Lindsey Snider, MS, BCBA

Scott Snider, MPA

**Tufts Center for
Children with Special Needs**

Cathy Mason, M.Ed.

Kathleen Reilly, M.S., CCC-SLP

Additional Practitioners

Taylor L. Benson, Ph.D.

Susan Bruce, Ph.D., *Boston College,
Lynch School of Education*

Barbara Bruno-Golden, Ed.D.

Kathleen Grabowski, M.S., CCC

Carol Leavell, Ph.D.

Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes

Meaghan Maguire, M.S., BCBA, LABA

Russell Maguire, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Susan Shea, Ed.S., BCBA

Dina A. Traniello, Ed.D.

To YAF and EdLaw interns:

Amanda Bradley
Diana Howat
Katherine Dullea
Sam Kiss
Becky Reindel
Sarah Shaw Thomas
Valarie Timms
Meg Ziegler

Your passion, energy and support have been vital. We are a stronger organization because of your contributions.

To YAF volunteers:

Ken Nordstrom
Deb Poppel
Danielle Voss

Thank you for donating your time and expertise to help us reach new heights as an organization. Your work has been invaluable.

A sincere thank you to the foundations that have been instrumental to the success of YAF and EdLaw:

Boston Bar Foundation
Cornell Law School Frank HT Rhodes Public Interest Fellowship
Cummings Foundation
Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation
Massachusetts Bar Foundation
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
Nord Family Foundation
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Frank Reed & Margaret Jane Peters Memorial Fund
Skadden Fellowship Foundation

Thank You #TeamYAF

We had an incredible group of runners on our marathon team who raised \$70,103! You rock!

Ami Fatula

Leigh Ann Johnson

Becca Keddy

Elizabeth Levitan

Many thanks to

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for the opportunity to be a part of their marathon Non-Profit Program and to David D'Alessandro for his generous donation of two additional numbers, doubling the size of #TeamYAF.



We are proud to support the Youth Advocacy Foundation in its efforts to ensure the fundamental right to a quality education is realized by all Massachusetts youth.

-The Boreiko-Coolidge Family

End School Exclusion

Black students are **3x** more likely to be suspended than their white peers for the same or similar behaviors.



Of the Massachusetts students who were **pushed out** in the 2016-2017 school year,

42%
are
Latinx

15%
are
Black

53.1%
are
economically
disadvantaged

and **76.5%** are high-needs, despite constituting **only 39.5%** of high-school enrollment.

Prison funding has increased **530%** more than education funding over the past 20 years.



The **Youth Advocacy Foundation** defends the right of every child to an education.



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In 1992, we gave the Youth
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first grant award.

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We are so proud of all that
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down the school-to-prison
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To mom & dad,

We are inspired by your ability to not only care for each other, but for your children, grandchildren, and everybody around you.

Your 62+ years of marriage have shown all of us the enduring power of love.

-Deb, John, Steph, Johnny, Patty and Josh



The Ainley Family is a
proud supporter of YAF



A huge THANK YOU to Josh
and the hardworking YAF
staff for their pioneering and
tireless advocacy work.

Never stop doing what you
do!

We are proud to support YAF's efforts to ensure our state's most vulnerable youth have access to a quality education.

-Ken Parsigian & Shay Mayer

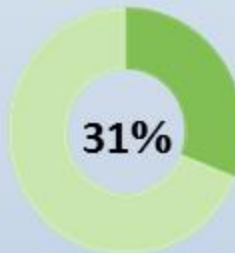
Education Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care



...of children in foster care are behind at least one grade level.



...of foster students have a disability, compared to 10 % of the general Population.



...of children who grow up in foster care graduate from high school. Less than 3 % graduate from college.

We need to stop the cycle of inadequate and inequitable access to education for youth in foster care. The Youth Advocacy Foundation is training child welfare attorneys statewide to support youth in foster care.

Pearl Meyer



Pearl Meyer
is Proud to Support the
Youth Advocacy Foundation

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Way to go YAF!

-Jeremy Cohn

2018 in Review

Direct Representation

220 cases, 110 new

83 cases closed:

Prevented 12
suspensions/expulsions

Helped 65 students
receive appropriate
Special Ed. services



Pro-bono Partnerships:

100 active, trained
pro-bono partners
Represented 49 students



Workshops/ Trainings:

26 workshops
726 attendees in
total



Advisories:

414 phone calls,
emails, and walk-ins
supporting families
and advocates



THE YOUTH ADVOCACY
FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE
TO THANK OUR CLIENTS AND
THEIR FAMILIES FOR
TRUSTING US TO ADVOCATE
ON YOUR BEHALF.



We are joining with the Youth Advocacy Foundation to keep kids healthy so they can find success in school, life and at work.

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Thank You to Our Incredible
Event Planning Committee!

We are so grateful for all the
time you put into making this
event possible!

Laura Bickel

Theresa Flaherty

Vanessa Hernandez

Katherine Hall Page

Bridget Treco

“The opposite
of poverty is
not wealth...in
too many
places, the
opposite of
poverty is
justice.”

-Bryan
Stevenson

The Treco Family Foundation

