

# YOUTH ADVOCACY FOUNDATION'S



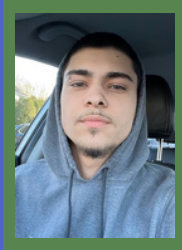
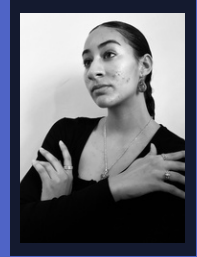
22nd Annual Spring Celebration



## Education Advocacy:

## Early Intervention to Emerging Adults

Friday, May 12, 2023 6-9 PM



### HONORING



COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AWARD



COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD



PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR



## YOUTH ADVOCACY FOUNDATION

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 2,000 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 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 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.

# EVENT PROGRAM

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*Education Advocacy:  
Early Intervention to Emerging Adults*

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Cheo Bourne, Emcee  
*Actor, Singer, Cabaret Artist*

## **WELCOME**

Andrea Campbell  
*Massachusetts Attorney General*

## **COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AWARD**

Katherine Hall Page  
*Award-winning Novelist*

## **PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR**

Patrick Archambault  
*Choate*  
Alexandra (Lexie) Reynolds  
*Proskauer*

## **COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD**

*JRI Juvenile Justice Division*

## **POEM**

Alondra Bobadilla  
*2020 Boston Youth Poet Laureate*

## **CLIENT SPEAKER**

*Alin Budencea*

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Reginald Dwayne Betts  
*Lawyer, Poet, MacArthur Fellow,  
and Founder of Freedom Reads*

## **RAFFLE & FUND-A-NEED**

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

# LETTER FROM THE YOUTH ADVOCACY FOUNDATION

Dear Friends,

Thank you for once again joining us at our annual celebration! This is a time to celebrate and recognize all that has been accomplished and remind us of the challenges ahead.

As has been the case for the past two years, the pandemic has devastated the education landscape for our clients. Transportation issues, zero-tolerance discipline, increased school violence, lost learning, and a shortage of appropriate professionals, all disproportionately affect students of color and students with disabilities. This coupled with worsened mental health from the stress of the pandemic have led to increasing numbers of school exclusions, school arrests, and calls to our helpline.

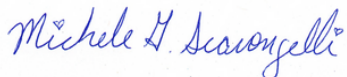
This past year, the EdLaw Project and the Youth Advocacy Division (YAD) of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) were recognized as nationwide leaders in the field of juvenile representation and received grants that have enabled us to launch two game-changing initiatives. In January, we launched a Special Education Advocacy Mentorship (S.E.A.M.) program that has appointed over 30 private attorneys across the state who have expertise in education law to be mentors to the youth defender attorneys in their courthouses.

The Youth Advocacy Division was chosen as one of three pilot sites across the country to create an office dedicated to representing “emerging adults” - young people ages 18 to 24. Brain science teaches us that the rational part of a young person's brain isn't fully developed and won't be until age 25 or so. This new office will serve those emerging adults using the Positive Youth Development framework for representation developed by Columbia University. This office will also have a dedicated EdLaw attorney providing support to meet the educational needs of clients.

Finally, we have a truly exciting announcement. The Youth Advocacy Foundation (YAF) was established with the mission of supporting the juvenile defender system and to fundraise for and support those initiatives needed to “ensur[e] that every child has access to zealous legal representation, essential and vibrant community-based services, and a quality education.” YAF has done that successfully and consistently for the past 22 years. Over the last 10 years, YAF has supported EdLaw to become a national model for education advocacy for court-involved children and youth. The EdLaw Project has become such an integral part of the operation of both the Youth Advocacy Division and the Children & Family Law Division, that CPCS has decided to assume the future funding of the EdLaw Project. And we could not have reached this milestone without all your help. Going forward, YAF will focus its fundraising on disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and structural racism in our juvenile courts and school rooms on many more fronts, building upon the strong base of advocacy done by the EdLaw Project.

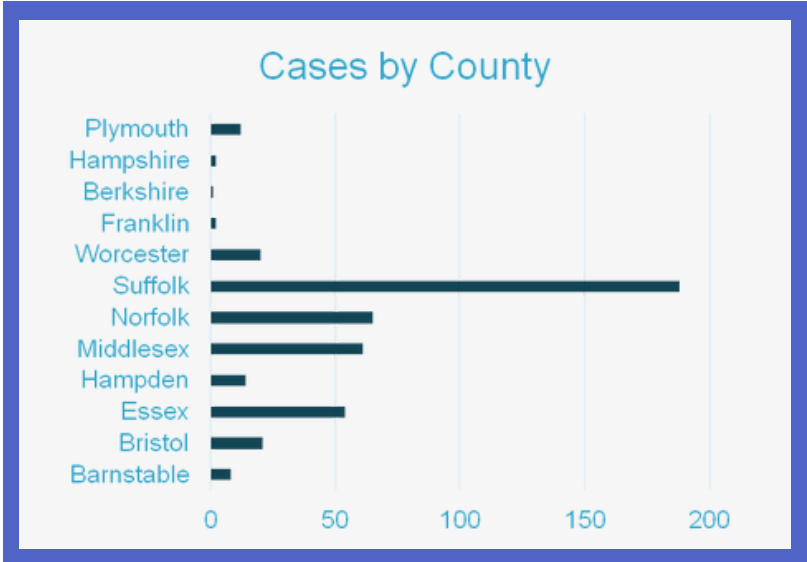
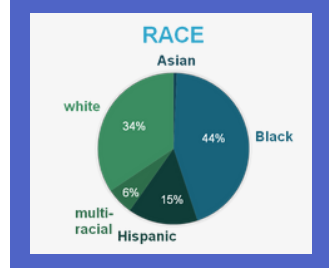
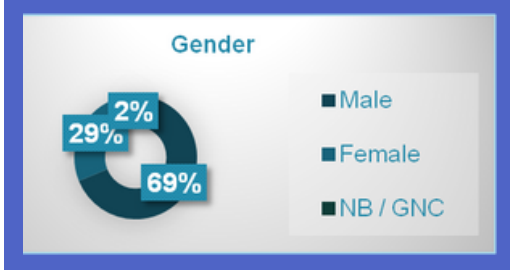
Children and youth who are given a meaningful opportunity to succeed in school are overwhelmingly likely to go to college and/or into the work force. Equitable educational for all leads to a substantial reduction in the number of people imprisoned in our state and nation and to pathways out of poverty for families and communities of color. As we fight for education equity for the most vulnerable children in the state, your continued support is critical. We appreciate you joining in the fight and are thrilled that we can once more celebrate together!

With Deepest Gratitude,

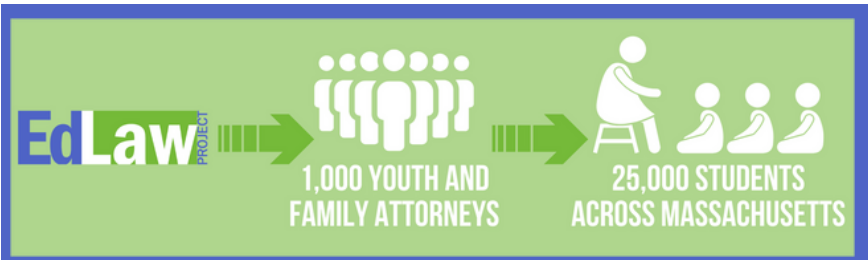


# OUR IMPACT 2020-2022

**448 cases, 102 pro bono cases**



**Over 875 requests for technical assistance**



**92 trainings for over 3,182 participants**



# YOUTH ADVOCACY FOUNDATION : OUR PEOPLE

## Board

Duci Goncalves, *Chair*

Edith Bazile	Camai Mazzulla
Laura Bickel, <i>Clerk</i>	Jeff McCarthy
Alondra Bobadilla	Steven J. Pacini
Jeremy Cohn, <i>Emeritus</i>	Calixto Perez, Jr.
Josh Dohan, <i>Emeritus</i>	Deb Poppel
Ami Fatula, <i>Treasurer</i>	Suzanne Schlossberg
Amy Feinman	Marlies Spanjaard, <i>President</i>
Theresa Flaherty	Bridget Treco-Bettez,
Katherine Hall Page	<i>Vice President</i>

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Michele Scavongelli, *Executive Director*  
Jackie Buchwald, *Operations and Development Coordinator*

### EdLaw Project

Marlies Spanjaard, *Director of Education Advocacy*  
Kate DiVasto, *Equal Justice Works Fellow/ Staff Counsel*  
Diana Howat, *Skadden Fellow/ Staff Counsel*  
Elizabeth Levitan, *Senior Counsel*  
Elizabeth McIntyre, *Senior Counsel*  
Erin Hehn O'Sullivan, *Senior Counsel*  
Michele Scavongelli, *Senior Counsel*  
Tim Sindelar, *Senior Counsel*

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Alison Coolidge	Gregg Katz
Lael & Charles Chester	Amy Cashore Mariani
Jeremy Cohn	Ken Nordstrom
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Allison Feaster	Rosemary Scapicchio
Henry Louis Gates Jr.	Alison Sclater
Martin Healy	Jonathan Shapiro
Dan Heffernan	Randi Stern

# **OUR EMCEE**

## **CHEO BOURNE**

ACTOR, SINGER, CABERET ARTIST



Cheo Bourne is an actor, singer, and cabaret artist. He is also a Massachusetts native and a product of its public schools, having grown up in Dorchester and attended Weston schools through the Metco program. Cheo toured for 3 years nationally and internationally with the famed singing group The Platters. He performs his own cabaret works and theater in and around New York City, where he was the first runner-up in Mama's Next Big Act competition 2016 at Don't Tell Mama's. Cheo's cabaret works include twice MAC nominated *Moy-Borgen* and *Bourne's Office Party*, *Two Faced*, *Touche*, *HELLO*, *Never Far From Home*, *You and I*, *Journey Home* and *Get Ready*.

Cheo's regional theater credits include *Shine!* and *The Water Dream* (New York Musical Theater Festival, NYMF); *The Battles* (The Gym at Judson); *Xanadu*, *Jerry Springer - The Opera* (SpeakEasy Stage Company); *Passing Strange*, *Hot Mikado*, *Cabaret* (New Repertory Theater); *Of Mice and Men*, *Animal Farm* (New Rep On Tour); *Harriet Jacobs* (Underground Railway Theater); *HONK!* (Wheelock Family Theatre, Best Actor IRNE and Broadway World Award nominations); *The Comedy of Errors* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Co.).

Keep up with Cheo via  
his website [www.cheobourne.com](http://www.cheobourne.com)  
or on social media @cheobourne

# **OUR OPENING MUSICIANS**

BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS

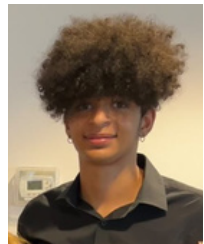
## **ISRAEL ANSELME**



Israel is a 18 year old senior at Brookline High School. He has been a member of the Intensive Community Program and Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra since he was 5 years old. He loves playing the viola and the violin and talking about his favorite pieces. He is an avid reader who plays sports and video games, and if you can't find him he is probably binge-watching anime. After he graduates this spring he'll be attending the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY in the coming fall.

## **MOUSSA GUEYE**

Moussa is a happy-go-lucky 18 year old, who studies carpentry at Minuteman Regional Technical High School. Moussa is a violist with the Intensive Community Program and the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, and has been playing violin and viola since he was 5. He loves mentoring younger students and going to music camp in the summer. In his free time he plays video games with Israel and also loves to do tricks on his scooter. He frequently whistles while he works, to the joy of those around him. After graduating this year, he'll be attending The Mannes School of Music part of The New School in New York in the fall.



# **COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AWARD**

## **KATHERINE HALL PAGE**

AWARD WINNING NOVELIST



Katherine Hall Page was born and grew up in New Jersey. She received her BA from Wellesley College, majoring in English and went on to a Masters in Secondary Education from Tufts and a Doctorate in Administration, Public Planning, and Social Policy from Harvard. College had brought her to Massachusetts and she continues to reside there. Before her career as a full-time writer, Ms. Page taught at the high school level for many years. She worked with the Department of Youth Services (DYS) where she developed a program for adolescents with special emotional needs, a school within a school model, that dealt with issues of truancy, substance abuse, and family relationships. Many of her students had learning disabilities that resulted in the

behavior unfairly characterized as acting out by the school system. As a result of her experiences working with youth in detention with learning disabilities, YAF was a natural fit for her. From the time YAF was first founded, 22 years ago, she volunteered her time to help grow the foundation and was a constant supporter of YAF's annual event. Katherine joined the YAF Board in 2018 and has continued to remain actively involved and spread the word about the YAF's mission and clients. When we thought about who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to justice, Katherine naturally came to mind both through her trailblazing work with DYS and her constant generous support of YAF. Katherine, her husband Alan, and their son Nick, are dear friends and supporters of YAF and we are so pleased to honor her with this award.

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# **COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD**

## **JRI Juvenile Justice Division**



JRI's juvenile justice division has its roots in the origins of the agency. The founders of JRI were former leaders in the state's juvenile justice system and responded to a need for specialized services partnered with the state, providing excellent care and state-of-the-art rehabilitative treatment. Today, JRI offers a range of forensic, residential and community-based services, including secure treatment for the most challenging juvenile offenders. JRI remains on the forefront of juvenile justice services, a resource and respected advisor to the communities we serve.



# **PRO BONO ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR**

## **PATRICK J. ARCHAMBAULT CHOATE**



Patrick J. Archambault works with clients of Choate's Finance & Restructuring Group. He has experience in a broad range of complex financing transactions, including leveraged buyouts and acquisition financings, mezzanine and equity co-investments, senior secured transactions and second lien credit facilities, as well as out-of-court restructurings and workouts across a variety of industries.

Patrick's pro bono work includes representing students in special education matters and dyslexia advocacy. Additionally, Patrick is on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association where he focuses on a range of issues including expansion of remedial resources for adults with dyslexia.

## **ALEXANDRA (LEXIE) REYNOLDS**

Proskauer >



Lexie Reynolds is a Labor & Employment attorney at the law firm Proskauer Rose with a focus on internal employment investigations. Her matters involve various employment issues, including discrimination, sexual harassment, retaliation, wage and hour, and pay equity. Lexie has represented private and public companies, boards of directors and their committees, and individuals across many industries, including entertainment, financial services, non-profit, and technology.

In addition to her employment practice, Lexie is dedicated to pro bono work and has a passion especially for helping children. At Harvard Law School, Lexie interned at the Boston Juvenile Court, Massachusetts Office of the Child Advocate,

the Youth Advocacy Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, and represented juvenile clients at Dorchester Juvenile Court. After leaving law school, her pro bono work initially involved adult clients in matters involving discrimination, veteran benefits, and immigration. However, her passion for helping children led her to volunteer with the organization Discovering Justice to mentor middle school students in a mock trial program that helped develop students' public speaking skills, self-confidence, and awareness of legal rights. In the last three years, Lexie has been grateful to be able to dedicate her pro bono work to the realm of education law through the firm's partnership with the EdLaw Project.

# CLIENT SPEAKER

## **Alin Budencea**



When the attorneys from the Youth Advocacy Division first met Alin he was 15 years old, in a youth detention facility, and facing charges out of the Massachusetts Juvenile Court. At the time, Alin was a high school honors-level student with a record of exceptional scholastic achievement. Unfortunately, because of his involvement in juvenile court, his school district held a hearing for a long-term suspension.

Alin's YAD attorneys coordinated with the staff at the EdLaw Project, to fight the exclusion and return Alin to school. Despite our zealous advocacy, the school administration issued a long-term suspension. Again, with the support of the attorneys at the EdLaw Project, Alin's YAD attorney appealed the decision to the superintendent of the school district. Although he eventually lost his appeal, Alin appreciated having a multi-disciplinary team of attorneys and a social worker and felt heard and supported throughout his education journey and the pendency of his juvenile court charges.

Later, when the juvenile court matter was in front of the judge for sentencing, the judge remarked on the incredible talent and depth of Alin's character believing that Alin could accomplish anything that he set his mind to. He noted that Alin was a young person that could achieve success and give back to his community. He ordered Alin to a period of probation that he successfully completed.

Now Alin is a 19-year-old emerging adult. He has completed his HiSET (high school equivalency exam), has been working in food service, and hoping to apply to college. He has had many aspirations including being a police officer, lawyer, and business professional. He provides support to his younger brother and mother whom he deeply loves and cares for.

# STUDENT STORY

## **Sophia Guedes**

When the pro bono team of attorneys first met Sophia and her parents back in February of 2020, she was attending a local charter school and struggling in school. She had transferred to the charter school after her parents were concerned about the education she was receiving in the public school. She was repeating second grade, but was still having trouble keeping up in reading, math, and writing, despite having above average intelligence. The team arranged for the first of several independent evaluations, and the evaluator diagnosed her with dyslexia - a language-based reading disorder, which requires specialized instruction that the charter school was unable to provide. Sophia's parents returned her to the public school system based on our advice that they should have more resources.



After delays from the COVID-19 pandemic and another unsuccessful year in an inclusion class, and with the support of additional independent evaluations, we convinced the school district to place Sophia in their substantially separate language-based classroom. After three months there, it was clear that Sophia was not a good fit for this classroom as she was capable of so much more.

Her attorneys and evaluators ultimately successfully demonstrated to the school that Sophia needed the opportunity to attend a different program at an out-of-district school. As a result of the referrals made by the district to various specialized language-based schools and the advocacy of her team, Sophia was accepted into the Landmark School in Beverly, MA. She has been in 5th grade there this year and is thriving. This is thanks to her hard work, the diligence of her parents in not giving up on finding the help they needed, and the attorneys from Choate and Proskauer who have represented her for the past three years. Tonight, we celebrate her success and their advocacy.

# **SPECIAL GUESTS**

## **ANDREA CAMPBELL**

MASSACHUSETTS ATTORNEY GENERAL



On January 18, 2023, Andrea Joy Campbell was sworn in to be the 45th Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, pledging to build economic prosperity and stability for all residents, prioritize the mental health and well-being of children, stop cycles of incarceration and violence and ensure the people across the state have access to the AG's Office regardless of their zip code, language or ability.

Growing up in Roxbury, Andrea's life was filled with instability. When Andrea was eight months old, she lost her mother to a car accident while going to visit her father in prison. She and her brothers bounced around - living with relatives and sometimes in foster care - until her father got out of prison when she was eight years old, and she met him for the first time.

Andrea and her family relied on public housing and food assistance while her grandmother struggled with alcoholism. Her two brothers sadly cycled in and out of the prison system. She lost her twin brother Andre, when he passed away while in the custody of the Department of Corrections as a pre-trial detainee.

Through all of this, Andrea persevered. Thanks to loving relatives, community support and a network of teachers who encouraged her, she turned pain into purpose. She graduated from Boston Latin School and then worked her way through college with the help of grants and student loans, graduating from Princeton University and UCLA Law School. After earning her law degree, she worked as a legal services attorney for the EdLaw project, defending the rights of children and their families - particularly those with disabilities.

Andrea also practiced law at Proskauer LLP as an employment attorney, and ultimately left to serve the public as General Counsel at the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, working across 101 cities and towns to address regional challenges like health care access, transportation, affordable housing, and climate change. Andrea served as legal counsel to Governor Deval Patrick, working to improve our education and transportation systems and move forward an agenda of equity across the state.

In 2015, Andrea successfully ran for the Boston City Council becoming the first woman to represent District 4 on the Council. Her first piece of legislation was the Community Preservation Act, which still generates over \$20 million annually for new affordable housing, historical preservation, and parks and open space. In 2018, she was unanimously elected City Council President - the first Black woman to hold the title.

## **ALONDRA BOBADILLA** 2020 BOSTON YOUTH POET LAUREATE

Alondra Bobadilla was named Boston's first-ever Youth Poet Laureate in January of 2020. Alondra uses her writing to highlight social issues that impact her and her community. Through her own work, she demonstrates how creative expression can be a powerful tool for youth to examine feelings around issues, find their voice, and speak up about the changes they want to see for their future. She is the author of a collection of poems entitled "With Clipped Wings" and is a student at UMass Boston majoring in International Relations.



Website: <https://www.alondrabobadilla.com/>  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/ThePumpchick/](https://www.youtube.com/user/ThePumpchick/)

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS

LAWYER, POET, MACARTHUR FELLOW, AND FOUNDER OF FREEDOM READS

In October 2018, The New York Times Magazine published Reginald Dwayne Betts' long essay "Getting Out." Several months later, the piece was awarded a National Magazine Award. The publication was another example of Betts entering into a new genre and bringing the same depth and richness of self-reflection and exploration of the central problem on this generation: incarceration and its effects on families and communities.

Betts transformed himself from a sixteen-year old kid sentenced to nine-years in prison to a critically acclaimed writer and graduate of the Yale Law School. He has written two collections of poetry, the recently published and critically acclaimed *Bastards of the Reagan Era* and *Shahid Reads His Own Palm*. When he was awarded the PEN New England Award for poetry for his collection, *Bastards of the Reagan Era*, judge Mark Doty said: "Betts has written an indelible lament for a generation, a necessary book for this American moment."



His memoir, *A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison*, is the story of a young man confined in the worst prisons in the state of Virginia, where solitary confinement, horrific conditions, and the constant violence threatened to break his humanity. Instead, Betts used the time to turn himself into a poet, a scholar, and an advocate for the reform of the criminal justice system.

Betts' latest collection of poetry, *Felon*, interrogates and challenges our notions of justice. Longtime New York Times critic, Michiko Kakutani calls Betts' work both "haunting and harrowing." A recent collaboration with visual artist Titus Kaphar lead to *The Redaction*, an exhibition of prints at MoMA PS1. Drawing inspiration and source material from lawsuits filed by the Civil Rights Corps on behalf of people incarcerated because of an inability to pay court fines and fees, *The Redaction* features poetry by Betts in combination with Kaphar's etched portraits of incarcerated individuals. Together, Betts' poems and Kaphar's printed portraits blend the voices of poet and artist with those of the plaintiffs and prosecutors, reclaiming these lost narratives and drawing attention to some of the many individuals whose lives have been impacted by mass incarceration.

A widely requested speaker, Betts often gives talks about his own experience, detailing his trek from incarceration to Yale Law School and the role that grit, perseverance, and literature played in his success. In addition, he has given lectures on topics ranging from mass incarceration to contemporary poetry and the intersection of literature and advocacy. Betts has given commencement speeches at Quinnipiac University and Warren Wilson College and has lectured widely at universities and conferences, including Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, the University of Maryland, the Beyond the Bench conference, and a wide range of organizations across the country.

Between his work in public defense, his years of advocacy, and Betts' own experiences as a teenager in maximum security prisons, he is uniquely positioned to speak to the failures of the current criminal justice system and presents encouraging ideas for change. As a result of that work, President Barack Obama appointed Betts to the Coordinating Council of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and, more recently, Governor Ned Lamont of Connecticut appointed him to the Criminal Justice Commission, the state body responsible for hiring prosecutors in Connecticut.

Named a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow and a 2018 NEA Fellow, Betts' poetry has long been praised. His writing has generated national attention and earned him a Soros Justice Fellowship, a Radcliffe Fellowship, a Ruth Lilly Fellowship, an NAACP Image Award, and New America Fellowship. Betts has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Washington Post*, as well as being interviewed on NPR's *Fresh Air*, *The Travis Smiley Show* and several other national shows. He holds a B.A. from the University of Maryland; an M.F.A. from Warren Wilson College, where he was a Holden Fellow; and a J.D. from Yale Law School, where he was awarded the Israel H. Perez Prize for best student note or comment appearing in the *Yale Law Journal*. He is a Ph. D. in Law candidate at Yale and, as a Liman Fellow, he spent a year representing clients in the New Haven Public Defender's Office. Betts was also one of 25 selected for the 2021 MacArthur Fellowship—a prestigious honor, also known as a genius grant, that awards exceptionally talented and creative individuals with a significant, unrestricted grant.

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Ami & Dave Fatula



Katherine Hall Page & Alan Hein



Deb Poppel

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# **PRO BONO PANEL**

Thanks to the efforts of our Pro Bono Panel, we have 34 additional families receiving support over the last year. The total number of students represented by our pro bono panel has grown to 146. And note how many panel members have helped more than one student!

## **Anderson Kreiger, LLP**

Matt Bowser  
Kristen Gagalys\*  
Annie Lee  
TJ Roskelley

## **Barnes & Thornburg, LLP**

Matthew Leno  
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Rebecca Cabazon  
Susanna Chi  
Rachel Davidson  
Christian Garcia  
Urszula Nowak  
John Shope  
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## **Foley Lardner**

Noah Brown

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Carolyn Rosenthal, Pro Bono Manager  
Ivanka Canzius  
Tova Dardashty  
Gaebriella DeLisle\*  
Gregg Katz\*  
Leon Peschel  
Daniela Sanchez  
Sam Stone  
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\* Worked on more than one pro bono case

# **INDEPENDENT EVALUATION PARTNERS**

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

**Achieve New England**  
Nathan Doty, Ph.D.  
Brian Willoughby, Ph.D.

**Boston Child Study Center**  
Alex ("Allie") Keller, Ph.D.

**Lurie Center for Autism -- Massachusetts General Hospital**  
Kirstin Birtwell, Ph.D.  
Lisa Nowinski, Ph.D.  
Nicole Simon, Ed.M, LABA, BCBA  
Deanna Toner, M.D.

**Neuropsychological and Educational Services  
for Children and Adolescents**  
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Erin Gibbons, Ph.D.  
Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D.  
Kathleen Pignone, M.Ed., CRC

**Proven Behavior Solutions**  
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Scott Snider, MPA

**Tufts Center for Children with Special Needs**  
Cathy Mason, M.Ed.  
Kathleen Reilly, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Christine M. Sadowski, Ph.D.

**Additional Practitioners**  
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Ellen O'Donnell, Ph.D., MGH  
Jonathan Simmons, Ph.D.  
Dina Traniello, Ed.D.

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- **Lisa Hewitt** for her unyielding support in integrating education advocacy into effective representation of children and youth.
- **Karen Souza** and **Kevin Lucchetti**, for your financial guidance and patience.
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- Our wonderful **YAF Board** for all your guidance and generosity through the years.
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- Our many partners fighting the school-to-prison pipeline including: **Boston Education Justice Alliance, Black Educators for Educational Excellence, Children's Law Center of Massachusetts, Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, Greater Boston Legal Services, Center for Law and Education, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, Citizens for Juvenile Justice, Parent Professional Advocacy League, Health Law Advocates** and **Community Legal Services**.
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# **SPECIAL THANKS: EVENT EDITION**

**Without the following people our event would not have been possible:**

- Our **Host Committee** for your steadfast support of this event.
- Thank you to **Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra Musicians Israel Anselme and Moussa Segars** for providing our pre-event music.
- **Cheo Bourne** for giving so generously of your time and talent to make this evening a smashing success.
- **Allison Feaster** for her continuous friendship and support. Go Celtics!!
- **Alondra Bobadilla**, Boston's 2020 Youth Poet Laureate for gracing our event with your amazing talent and youthful perspective on the problems facing the youth we serve.
- **Alin and Sophia** for inspiring us and for sharing your stories.
- A huge thank you to **Jackie Buchwald**—stage manager, website editor, and video producer among the many roles you took on to pull this event off seamlessly.
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- **Josh Selinger** for stepping up and coming through everywhere and anywhere we've needed your help to make the event audio visual spectacular.
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- And of course...

## **Our Amazing Event Planning Committee:**

Laura Bickel  
Theresa Flaherty  
Jeff McCarthy  
Katherine Hall Page  
Cal Perez  
Deb Poppel  
Randi Stern  
Suzanne Schlossberg  
Bridget Treco

*Without your many hours of attending meetings and continuous help this event would just be an idea. Thank you for believing that we could do this!*

# **MORE THANKS**

## **To YAF and EdLaw Interns & Volunteers:**

Zosia Allar, Northwestern University  
Phoebe Demeerleer, Boston University Law School  
Chris DiMeo, intake volunteer  
Amanda Harrison, Harvard Law School  
Lauren Ladino-Saunders, Boston College Law School  
Lily Moens, Harvard Law School  
Mariatu Okonofua, Boston College Law School  
Jackson Sternling, paralegal

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



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

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# MORE THANKS

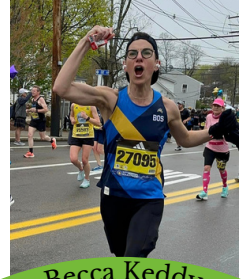
Thank You #TeamYAF!!



Sam Harold

We had an incredible group of runners for the 127th Boston Marathon on April 17, 2023

Sam Harold  
Becca Keddy  
Marc Steir  
Scotty Monteiro  
Cal Perez



Becca Keddy

In total, these 5 runners raised \$68,261!



Scotty Monteiro



Marc Steir



Cal Perez

Thank you to John Hancock for the opportunity to be a part of their non-profit program and to David D'Alessandro for his generous donation of two additional numbers and to First Republic Bank for an additional number as well for the 2023 Boston Marathon.

We also want to thank Coach Rick Muhr and the Marathon Coalition coaches for sharing their wisdom and expertise while training our runners to run Boston!

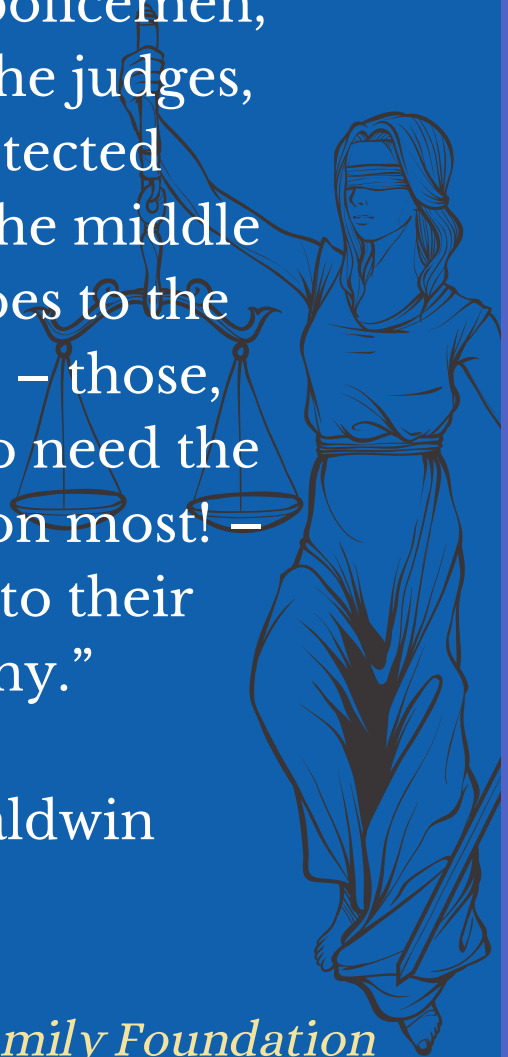
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**MARATHON  
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Empowering Others Through Running

“If one really wishes to know how justice is administered in a country, one does not question the policemen, the lawyers, the judges, or the protected members of the middle class. One goes to the unprotected – those, precisely, who need the law’s protection most! – and listens to their testimony.”

-James Baldwin

*The Treco Family Foundation*







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## **Youth Advocacy Foundation's Annual Spring Celebration**

Latham applauds Youth Advocacy  
Foundation's mission to protect and defend  
Massachusetts' most vulnerable youth.



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# KEN PARSIGIAN AND SUSAN SHAY MAYER

are helping to shut down  
the School-to-Prison Pipeline

The School-to-Prison Pipeline is the process by which vulnerable youth are pushed out of the classroom and into the juvenile justice system due to inadequate educational programs and zero tolerance policies and practices. This school-to-prison pipeline devastates communities, undermines public safety, and is far more expensive than keeping kids in school. By providing education advocacy to Massachusetts' most vulnerable youth, YAF disrupts this pipeline.





Gardiner Howland  
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[www.shawfoundation.org](http://www.shawfoundation.org)

In 1992, we gave the  
Youth Advocacy  
Foundation their first  
grant award.

Look at you now!

We are so proud of all  
that YAF has  
accomplished to shut  
down the school-to-  
prison pipeline in  
Massachusetts.

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We proudly support the

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and its commitment to  
closing the gap in education



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**Thank you YAF, all of CPCS, and all of your supporters for your sustained investment in a just and equitable future for our children and our Commonwealth.**

*When Massachusetts has some of the worst racial and ethnic disparities in the country...*

*When only 3% of foster children graduate from college...*

*When 80% of adults in prison are functionally illiterate...*

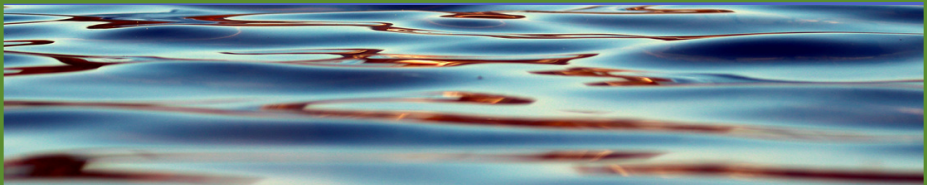
*When states and school systems are banning books...*

*When states and school systems are forbidding teachers and students from talking about being gay and for wanting to explore the true history of Black and Indigenous Americans...*

*When, instead of holding our leaders accountable for undermining public safety by pouring billions of dollars into discriminatory and ineffective law enforcement and corrections practices, while denying children of color and other poor communities the educational resources they need and to which they are entitled, we reward them with high paying no show jobs, such as at the NCAA...*



**It is clear that there is still something terribly wrong with the lake.**



Refusing, generation after generation, to meet the well-known social, emotional, and educational needs of children living in poor communities is a powerful and self-sustaining societal structure that has the effect of keeping those communities poor and disenfranchised, and law enforcement, judges, and prison guards fully employed. **AND** Education remains the surest path out of chronic poverty, the most cost effective public safety strategy, and the most powerful protective factor for a free, equitable, and democratic society. No one is doing more to rid our lake of the toxic school to prison pipeline than all of you supporting the Public Defender effort to assure that schools honor the educational rights of every court-involved child in the Commonwealth. We need you now more than ever.

**The Streck, Garin, Dohan Family**



# CHOATE

**Choate** supports the **Youth Advocacy Foundation's** mission to ensure the state's most vulnerable children have access to expert education advocacy.

Congratulations to our own **Patrick Archambault** on being honored as a **Pro Bono Attorney of the Year!**

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**Peter & Michele Scavongelli  
celebrate the work of the  
Youth Advocacy Foundation &  
The EdLaw Project.**

**SPECIAL SHOUT OUTS TO:**

**KATHERINE HALL PAGE -**  
for all she has done for YAF as a  
long-time supporter and wonderful  
Board member and great friend

**PATRICK ARCHAMBAULT & LEXIE REYNOLDS -**  
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representing Sophia Guedes. It was  
a pleasure to partner with you.

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for supporting Michele's second act.

**MICHELE'S COLLEAGUES AT THE EDLAW PROJECT -**  
I am lucky to be a part of our team of incredibly  
talented, caring, and experienced attorneys

**OUR DAUGHTER JACKIE -**  
for your talent, organization and creativity.

**THE AMAZING ATTORNEYS WHO HAVE DEDICATED  
THEIR LIVES TO PUBLIC DEFENSE -**  
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“ —

Education is not the filling of a pail,  
but the lighting of a fire.

- William Butler Yeats



Thank you to everyone at The EdLaw Project, YAF, and YAD for the work you do as change agents and voices for deserving young people across Massachusetts.

All the best for your continued success.

-Jeremy Cohn

Boston Children's Office  
of Government Relations  
is proud to support the  
work of the Youth Advocacy  
Foundation.



**Boston  
Children's**

[governmentrelations.childrenshospital.org](http://governmentrelations.childrenshospital.org)

Katherine, it is such a privilege to honor you as you accept this honor from the Youth Advocacy Foundation. "Committed to Justice" is the perfect way to describe your dedication. You have been an inspiration to so many of us. Congratulations on this well-deserved award!


Lia and William Poorvu



**BOSTON CELTICS**  
**SHAMROCK**  
**FOUNDATION**  
*teaming up for kids*

is proud to team up with the Youth Advocacy Foundation to fight for equity in education for Massachusetts' most vulnerable youth!



A photograph of a person riding a pink LeMond bicycle on a road. The person is wearing dark jeans and black shoes. The bicycle has a pink frame with 'LeMond' written on the down tube. The background is a blurred road with a yellow line.

Thank you to Greg Lemond  
& LeMond Bicycles for  
supporting equitable  
education for all!

**LeMond**



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

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Commission for Public Counsel Services



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**THANK YOU, YAF, FOR  
YOUR UNWAVERING  
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VULNERABLE YOUTH.**

**-AMI AND DAVE  
FATULA**



**Securing a  
brighter future**

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---

*Hurray for YAF!*

*Katherine Hall Page,  
Alan Hein &  
Nicholas Hein*



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KNOWLEDGE.  
SPECIALIZED  
EXPERIENCE.**

Foley Hoag supports  
the mission of **Youth  
Advocacy Foundation**  
and congratulates the  
organization on its  
22nd Annual Spring  
Celebration.



LET'S RAISE A QUAFF  
AND TOAST TO YAF\*!

- Deb Poppel

\*only if you're 21+!



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Education Advocacy:  
Early Intervention



Emerging Adults



# YOUTH ADVOCACY FOUNDATION

PROTECTING THE EDUCATION RIGHTS OF MASSACHUSETTS' MOST VULNERABLE YOUTH

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