

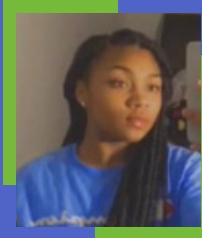
YOUTH ADVOCACY FOUNDATION

21st Annual Spring Celebration

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP IN  
JUVENILE JUSTICE



JOSH DOHAN



COMMITMENT TO  
JUSTICE AWARD



COMMUNITY JUSTICE  
AWARD



PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF  
THE YEAR AWARD

Thursday

MAY 19, 2022 5:30-8:30 PM  
Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor Hotel



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 2,000 children.



EdLaw PROJECT

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

## *Celebrating Leadership in Juvenile Justice*

### **OPENING REMARKS**

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

### **WELCOME**

Duci Goncalves  
*YAD Director & YAF Board Chair*

### **COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AWARD**

Peter Forbes  
*Former Commissioner of the MA Department of Youth Services*

### **CLIENT STORY**

Eliud "EJ" Benítez

### **PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR**

Laura Lerner  
*Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP*

### **COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD**

Mia Alvarado  
*Roxbury Youthworks, Inc.*

### **POEM**

Alondra Bobadilla  
*2020 Boston Youth Poet Laureate*

### **CLIENT STORY**

Dream Gillenwater

### **INTRODUCTION OF HONOREE**

Anthony Benedetti  
*Chief Counsel, CPCS*

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND HONOREE**

Josh Dohan  
*Former Director of The Youth Advocacy Division of CPCS  
& Founder of YAF*

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

### **CLOSING REMARKS AND SONG**

Deb Poppel & Cheo Bourne

# YOUTH ADVOCACY FOUNDATION : OUR PEOPLE

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Kevin Bryant	Steven J. Pacini
Jeremy Cohn, <i>Emeritus</i>	Deb Poppel
Josh Dohan, <i>Emeritus</i>	Krishna Ramaswamy
Ami Fatula	Suzanne Schlossberg
Amy Feinman, <i>Clerk</i>	Marlies Spanjaard, <i>President</i>
Theresa Flaherty, <i>Vice President</i>	Bridget Treco

## **Staff**

### **YAF**

Marlies Spanjaard, *President & CEO*  
Michele Scavongelli, *Executive Director*  
Jackie Stimpson, *Operations and Development Coordinator*

### **EDLAW PROJECT**

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

## **Event Host Committee**

Peter Alvarez	Gregg Katz
David Apfel	Joe Kociubes
Hon. Jay Blitzman	Amy Mariani
Tom Boreiko &	Bob McDonnell
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Lael & Charles Chester	Ken Nordstrom
Chris DiMeo & Robert Saoud	Kenneth Parsigian &
Jean Donnelly	Susan Shay Mayer
Allison Feaster	Hank Phillippi Ryan
Ann Gail & Justin Jaschke	Lisa Rechtschaffen
Vanessa Hernanadez	Alison Shapiro
Julia Hesse	Randi Stern
Carl & Natty Hoffman	Emmanuel Tikili

## LETTER FROM THE YOUTH ADVOCACY FOUNDATION

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been! So much has happened since we met virtually in May of 2021. Where do we start?

As has been the case for the past two years, the pandemic has devastated the education landscape for our clients. As students returned to school, we've seen the effect the last year has had in pushing many more young people off track and into the school-to-prison pipeline. 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. Students are coming back two grades ahead of where they were when the pandemic first hit, but with the skills and maturity they had when schools first went remote. This coupled with worsened mental health from the stress of the pandemic have led to increasing numbers of school exclusions, school arrests, and calls for help.

During this time, we have not stood still, thanks to your help. You have stepped up for the children of Massachusetts and we couldn't be more grateful! Over the past year, thanks to your support, we have represented over 204 families, answered 443 requests for assistance, and provided 39 trainings on education rights to over 1700 participants, including parents, students, lawyers and youth-serving professionals.

As a result of the generous donations we received from our virtual events, COVID and annual appeals, and grant and fellowship awards, we have been able to significantly grow our staff. Kate Divasto, an Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by Dell Technologies and Baker Botts, LLP joined existing powerhouse attorneys, Elizabeth Levitan and Erin O'Sullivan in September. In October and January, we were extremely fortunate to have well-respected experienced attorneys Elizabeth McIntyre, formerly of GBLS, and Tim Sindelar, with 40 years of experience representing students and people with disabilities join our team. And Diana Howat, a previous undergraduate intern and then law school intern was awarded a Skadden Fellowship and will join EdLaw this September, bringing the number of attorneys on board to a historical high of eight!

Last fall, our founder and fearless leader, Josh Dohan retired. What can we say about Josh that won't make this letter go on for pages and pages? He had the vision for the work we do, started YAF over 22 years ago, and inspired and supported us every single day that we had the honor to work with him. We are thrilled to honor his legacy tonight and look forward to celebrating his impact on the juvenile legal system, both locally and nationally!

Josh's departure brought us a new and wonderful leader in Duci Goncalves. We had had the pleasure of working with Duci since she first joined YAD many years ago (and even before, when she was an undergrad intern with EdLaw!). She shares our passion for education equity and will lead us forward as we expand our advocacy to encompass systemic change and education mentorship throughout the CPCS private juvenile and child welfare bar.

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. YAF's main initiative, the EdLaw Project, is designed to assure equitable educational outcomes and will inevitably lead 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 after three long years we are able to once more celebrate together!

## OUR EMCEE AND SPECIAL GUEST

ACTOR, SINGER, CABARET ARTIST  
**CHEO BOURNE**  
EMCEE



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

2020 BOSTON YOUTH  
POET LAUREATE  
**ALONDRA BOBADILLA**  
SPECIAL GUEST



Born and raised in Boston, MA for most of her life, Alondra Bobadilla found and nurtured her love for writing since she learned her first letters. Besides writing, she has participated in multiple performance art forms since she was a little girl, finding ways to express herself beyond poetry alone. She's curious, lively and loves to learn. In her free time she spends it with friends and loved ones, always trying to put first the people that matter most. She is a student at Fenway High School, and was named Boston's first-ever Youth Poet Laureate in January 2020.

Website:  
<https://www.alondrabobadilla.com/>

YouTube:  
[www.youtube.com/user/ThePumpchick/](https://www.youtube.com/user/ThePumpchick/)

## OUR OPENING MUSICIANS

BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS



**ISRAEL ANSELME**

Israel is a 17 year old junior 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.



**MOUSSA GUEYE**

Moussa is a happy-go-lucky 17 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.

# COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AWARD

## PETER FORBES

FORMER COMMISSIONER OF  
THE MA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES



Peter Forbes was appointed Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS) in June 2013 by Governor Deval Patrick. In a highly unusual move given the change in administration, Governor Charles Baker re-appointed him in February 2015. Commissioner Forbes, served as DYS Commissioner for 9 years during which time the Department established itself as the best Youth Authority in the country.

For more than 30 years Commissioner Forbes provided, in numerous capacities, steadfast leadership to the Department of Youth Services. Forbes' long-standing service with the DYS began in January of 1983 when he was first hired as a direct-care worker at the Connelly Secure Treatment Unit. Following several years with the Department, he was promoted to DYS Regional Director for Boston and served in that role for more than 10 years. As Regional Director, Forbes established constructive relationships with numerous public agency and community-based partners that improved services and strengthened positive outcomes for DYS youth.

In 2005, Commissioner Forbes was promoted to DYS Assistant Commissioner for Operations. For seven years, Forbes supervised field-based operations, and initiated and implemented policy and practice changes including providing oversight to ensure that the residential continuum is safe for both youth and staff. Commissioner Forbes was also instrumental in the design and implementation of a structured community reentry model for youth who are returning to their home communities. Forbes was later appointed Deputy Commissioner where he managed field operations and ensured quality residential programming, community transition and supervision critical to the effective daily operations of the Department.

Commissioner Forbes remained committed to sustaining efforts that ensure low-risk youth did not penetrate the deep end of the juvenile justice system, and that youth in DYS custody received appropriate services where and when they need them most. Under Commissioner Forbes' stewardship, the Department now prioritizes improved data-entry and quality directed at positive youth outcomes as well as providing valuable educational, employment and training opportunities for DYS youth. These priorities are centered on the Department's long-term goals of reducing recidivism and improving public safety.

In 2014, Commissioner Forbes was recognized for his leadership in implementing positive youth development practices, reducing the use of room confinement in residential treatment, and for fostering a forum for collaborative learning among national juvenile justice administrators by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrator's "President's Award." Forbes received the 2012 "Capstone of the Year" Award from the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University for his efforts in strengthening the case planning pathway for youth involved in child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

DYS evolved quite a bit during Commissioner Forbes' almost 40-year career. He didn't just evolve with it; he led a lot of that evolution. We are thrilled to honor his career and his dedication to the goal of a fair, equitable, effective, and developmentally appropriate juvenile justice system.

# PRO BONO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD



## Laura Lerner

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Laura B. Lerner is an estate planning attorney at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP. She earned her undergraduate, Masters of Accounting, and law degrees from University of Florida. She is a member of both the Florida and Massachusetts bars, and practiced law in Florida before relocating to Massachusetts in 1995. Laura focuses her practice on estate planning, estate and trust administration, tax planning, and business succession planning.

Laura has always made pro bono work and volunteering outside of work a priority, with her focus often being on children. In addition to her work with YAF, she has handled numerous other pro bono cases, including estate planning matters and CORI sealing cases. Laura far exceeds the 20 hours of annual pro bono representation that Morgan Lewis expects of its eligible lawyers; she regularly provides 100+ hours each year to her pro bono clients! She also serves on the firm's Pro Bono Committee.

The Youth Advocacy Foundation is fortunate to have many caring, dedicated and talented attorneys on our pro bono panel, many of them from Morgan Lewis. Laura Lerner, who has represented four students in securing the special education services and placements they need to succeed, stands out not only for the number of students she has represented and issues she has tackled, but for the incredible dedication and high caliber of work and organization she brings to each case. We are confident that the students she represents receive the most zealous advocacy, and we appreciate her readiness and ability to tackle whatever comes next.

# COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD



## ROXBURY YOUTHWORKS, INC.

Roxbury Youthworks, Inc. (RYI) is a 37-year-old community-based, minority non-profit organization. Their mission is to help youth caught in cycles of poverty, victimization, and violence transition successfully into adulthood.

Since its founding, RYI has provided community-based, non-residential services to area youth and currently provides diverse programming that is designed specifically to meet the varying needs of the clients. RYI's primary goal is to keep youth safe by strengthening their engagement with their families and community. RYI staff members work within a positive youth development framework and utilize their knowledge of, and relationships with community resources, to access what is needed for a youth and his/her family.

RYI has four programs across seven sites in Metro Boston. The Community Service Network supports youth committed to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) as they transition from secure treatment facilities back to their home or an alternative placement. Gaining Independence For Tomorrow (GIFT) provides prevention, intervention, support, stabilization and therapeutic services to young girls who are current victims, former victims, or are at high risk of becoming victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Being United In Leading our Destiny (BUILD) applies the successful model developed at GIFT, but exclusively serves cisgender males, transgender and gender nonconforming youth who are victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and/or sexual assault or are at high risk of becoming victims. And lastly, RYI's Dimock Street Lead Agency in Roxbury works with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to facilitate and monitor all contracted youth and family support and stabilization services so that children are not removed from their family or are reunited in a safe and timely manner.

Since 2008, RYI has benefitted from the extraordinary leadership of their Executive Director, Mia Alvarado. A Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Mia has worked extensively in the field of child welfare and juvenile justice. Prior to her current position, Mia was a Special Assistant to the DCF Commissioner's Office and Chief of Staff to former DSS Commissioner Harry Spence.

During her career, Mia has implemented many new programs and practices. She developed the first specialized foster homes in Boston in the late 1980's, brought Family Group Conferencing to DSS in 2001 and developed the Teaming Initiative in 2005. Mia has been a leader and champion for commercially sexually exploited youth since 2000.



# HONORING 33 YEARS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE



## JOSH DOHAN

FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE  
YOUTH ADVOCACY DIVISION OF CPCS &  
FOUNDER OF YAF

Anyone involved in Juvenile Justice, be it as a practitioner, policy maker, or coalition leader, whether they work locally, statewide, or nationally, chances are knows Josh Dohan. You recognize his disarming rumpled appearance and modest demeanor that belies a brilliant tactician and tireless advocate for the children and youth of Massachusetts and beyond.

What started as a two-attorney unit, the Youth Advocacy Project (YAP), has grown into a nationally respected division of juvenile defenders and social workers under Josh's strategy and direction -- the Youth Advocacy Division (YAD) of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS).

Josh has anticipated every major area of growth in this field for the last 25 years.

- Youth need better lawyers? Create a statewide **unified and well-trained juvenile bar**.
- Children need better life circumstances to assure better legal outcomes? Adopt the principals of **Positive Youth Development** and **employ social workers** in every case.
- Schools are failing to educate the vast majority of system involved youth? Establish the **EdLaw Project** and educate delinquency and child welfare attorneys about the importance of education advocacy for their clients.
- Need funding to pay for these services? Create a nonprofit foundation to help fund this advocacy, the **Youth Advocacy Foundation (YAF)**.
- Understand that advocacy is most effective both at a case level and a system level? Establish the **Leadership Forum** that brings together the top leaders of nearly every youth serving agency in the state.

In addition, Josh has been instrumental in policy changes that have occurred in Massachusetts since the 1990's. Legislative victories include:

- Raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 18,
- Creation of a parent-child privilege (so parents cannot be forced to testify against their own children who have confided in them for help),
- Enhancement of sealing and expungement of records for youth,
- Appointment of counsel for youths faced with their revocation of liberty at the Department of Youth Services (DYS), and
- Adoption of the positive youth development framework by the Massachusetts juvenile justice system.

In addition, by successfully engaging stakeholders throughout the juvenile justice system, Josh has been laser-focused and been a driving force in **dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, improving the services available to youth** involved in the justice system, and shining a **spotlight on the racial and ethnic disparities** that plague our system.

Under Josh's leadership, YAD has been awarded the Clara Shortridge Foltz award for outstanding achievement by the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the first juvenile defense organization to ever receive this prestigious award, and been recognized by the National Juvenile Defender Center, the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, the MacArthur Foundation, and others for excellence in juvenile defense. Josh himself was the 1998 recipient of the Access to Justice Award from the Massachusetts Bar Association. However, as Josh is incredibly humble, he always, when complimented, redirects the praise to YAD staff and private attorneys, social workers and the entire team doing the day to day work to zealously and effectively represent clients, and to also help them grow up to become healthy and happy adults in our communities.

CPCS will miss Josh and his passion, energy, intellect and of course, his humor. I will miss his leadership, commitment, advice and friendship. (I will not miss his constant request for pepperoni pizza at every meeting!) All joking aside, I know of no one, over the last quarter century, who has done more to significantly contribute to the enhancement of human dignity and quality of life of juveniles who are unable to afford legal representation, and advance the principle and reality of equal justice for all under the law. He has singlehandedly been the driving force for creating in Massachusetts the best juvenile defense system in the country.

- Anthony Benedetti  
Chief Counsel, CPCS

# STUDENT STORIES

## Eliud "EJ" Benítez

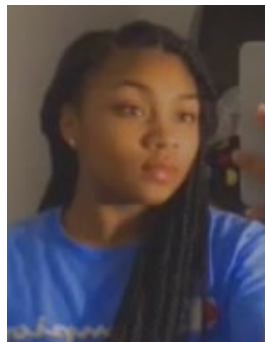


When we began working with Eliud, or EJ as he likes to be called, he was in a secure facility run by the Department of Youth Services. EJ had been there already for a year and a half and had not received either the special education or English language learner services he was entitled too. EJ has a communication disability, a specific learning disability and emotional challenges, and at the time, was a level 1 English language learner. Prior to entering DYS, EJ attended the McKinley School, a specialized school within Boston Public Schools purported to help students with similar emotional challenges as EJ. EJ did not receive appropriate services while at the McKinley and this failure to provide services meant that he particularly struggled with reading and was very behind in his credits.

Through EdLaw's advocacy, EJ began receiving necessary services while in custody to make progress towards his high school diploma and prepare him for the transition to adulthood. He worked very hard to complete his credits, and ultimately graduated from High School while in DYS in October 2020! EdLaw was able to secure some ongoing supports post-graduation to help EJ continue to strengthen his English and reading skills. When he returned home, he completed an industrial cleaning program and continued to work on his education. Despite a brief and challenging period where he was unjustly held in an adult jail for 6 months for a case that was ultimately dismissed, he never lost sight of his long-term goals. He continued to work on his reading and English language skills with the supports EdLaw had secured, and when he was finally released, he stayed just as dedicated to that work. He has now been home for over 5 months, and has a great job working in industrial cleaning and is doing very well!

## Dream Gillenwater

When the EdLaw Project first met Dream, she was held in a secure facility of the Department of Youth Services. Dream had a series of charges, many school-based, that involved moments of emotional dysregulation that were largely the result of unaddressed trauma. In school, Dream had an individualized education plan (IEP) that was supposed to provide her with the appropriate services to help her access her education. This unfortunately was not Dream's experience. Rather, in a 24 month period, her school district referred her to the police an astounding 22 times. The district then moved her to their in-district therapeutic program. Again, instead of finding therapeutic support, the staff at the school failed to appropriately support her emotional disability, and instead relied on the court system to circumvent their responsibilities to educate her. In one instance, staff from the school addressed a letter to the court suggesting that what Dream needed was to be locked up. But Dream is a fighter. She is incredibly resilient and is a fantastic self-advocate. She knew that she deserved better.



After connecting with the EdLaw Project, she worked with her attorney to get the services and supports she needed at a new school placement. Together, they worked to obtain appropriate services going forward and to address the failures in her education both before and during her time in the youth facility. Dream is set to graduate this June, and through the work with the Edlaw Project will have ongoing educational resources post-graduation to support her in her transition to post-secondary life. She hopes to one-day work with young people who have had similar experiences to her.

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Alison Coolidge and Tom Boreiko

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David Apfel & Lisa Rechtschaffen

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# PRO BONO PANEL

Thanks to the efforts of our incredible Pro Bono Panel, 17 additional students have received education advocacy this year, bringing to a total of 32 families receiving support in the last year. The total number of students represented by our pro bono panel has grown to 127.

## **Anderson Kreiger, LLP**

Kristen Gagalys\*  
Annie Lee

## **Choate Hall & Stewart LLP**

Peter Alvarez\*  
Daniel Brutti  
Patrick Archimbault  
Jack Cinquegrana\*  
Julia Hesse\*  
Patrick M. Kennedy  
Seth Mennillo  
Andrew Norkiewicz  
Conor O'Sullivan-Pierce  
Robert Shames  
Stefano Sharma\*  
Reggie St. Louis  
Gustav Stickler  
Meg Ziegler

## **Foley Hoag**

Rebecca Cabazon  
Urszula Nowak  
Emma Winer

## **Goodwin Procter LLP**

Carolyn Rosenthal, Pro Bono Manager  
Tova Dardashty  
Gabiella DeLisle\*  
Gregg Katz\*  
Leon Peschel  
Sam Stone

## **Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP**

Marissa Delinks  
Kathleen E. Kelly  
Joseph P. Murphy

## **John Hancock**

Addie Ireland Forster

## **Kirkland & Ellis LLP**

Kristina Cary  
Alex Roggio\*  
Luke Schafer\*

## **Latham & Watkins LLP**

Cory Lewis\*  
Christopher Lloyd  
Lee Staley  
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Melissa Waite\*

## **McLane Middleton**

Susan E. Schorr

## **Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**

Alison Sclater, Pro Bono Counsel  
Ariane Baczynski  
Michael Blanchard  
Marjorie Crider\*  
Stephanie Faraci  
Kristen Ferris\*  
Bill Harb  
Laura Lerner\*  
Diana Li  
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Sean P. O'Neill  
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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.

**Lurie Center for Autism -- Massachusetts General Hospital**  
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Lisa Nowinski, Ph.D.  
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Deanna Toner, M.D.

**Neuropsychological and Educational Services  
for Children and Adolescents**  
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Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D.  
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**Proven Behavior Solutions**  
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# SPECIAL THANKS

The Youth Advocacy Foundation would like to thank the following individuals and organizations:

- **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.
- Our wonderful **YAF Board** for all your guidance and generosity through the years.
- **Karen Souza** and **Kevin Lucchetti**, for your financial guidance and patience.
- Thank you to **YouthConnect, Justice Resource Institute, Home for Little Wanderers, Children's Services of Roxbury, Roxbury YouthWorks, UTEC** and the many other **youth-serving organizations** who partner with us to ensure that our state's most vulnerable kids have access to the services and supports they desperately need.
- Our many partners on education-rights focused coalitions including: **Children's Law Center of Massachusetts, Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, Greater Boston Legal Services, Center for Law and Education, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, and Community Legal Services.**
- **Jeremy Cohn**, 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.
- **Ken Parsigian** and **Shay Mayer**, thank you for being our partners in this work for many years in all areas, legal and philanthropic.
- **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.
- **Tim Sindelar** and **James Baron** for your leadership of the "Massachusetts Attorneys for Students' Education Rights" group.

# 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.
- **EJ and Dream** for inspiring us and for sharing your stories in the hope that other students and families will learn that help exists.
- A huge thank you to **Jackie Stimpson**—stage manager, website editor, and video producer among the many roles you took on to pull this event off seamlessly.
- **Deb Poppel** for being the creative spark behind our communications, the humor she brings to all of our meetings, and the hard work and networking she did on YAF's behalf.
- Heartfelt thanks to **Randi Sterrn** and **Chandra Lynch** for the many hours you spent contacting potential silent auction donors and for uploading most of the items into the Greater Giving platform.
- A special shout out to **Katherine Hall Page** for everything you both did to make sure our silent auction was successful.
- **Phylliss Hill**, for guiding us into mobile bidding.
- **Encore** for donating some of the equipment rental.
- **Josh Selinger** for coming through with live-streaming our event.
- And **Ashlynn Healy** of the Hyatt Regency, for all of your incredible help and support in the planning of our event.
- And of course...

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

Laura Bickel  
Theresa Flaherty  
Katherine Hall Page  
Chandra Lynch  
Deb Poppel  
Randi Sterrn  
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:

Christina Breitbeil, Harvard Law School  
Jasmine Echeona, Boston University  
Yoko Hsieh, Brandeis University  
Joseph Jung, Harvard Law School  
Brendan Kelly, Suffolk University Law School  
Julia Lester, Tufts University  
Claire Macleod, Boston College Law School  
Eva Rosenzweig, Northeastern University School of Law  
Maya Shapiro, Northeastern University School of Law  
Marissa Torelli, Brandeis University  
Chris DiMeo, intake volunteer

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



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

Bank of America - Frank Reed and  
Margaret Jane Peters Memorial Funds  
Boston Bar Foundation  
The Celtics Foundation  
Chirag Foundation  
The New Commonwealth Fund  
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Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation  
Massachusetts Bar Foundation  
Nord Family Foundation  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
Trecos Foundation  
Skadden Arps

# MORE THANKS

Thank You #TeamYAF!!

We had an incredible group of runners for both the 2021 Boston Marathon on October 18, 2021 and the 2022 Boston Marathon on April 18, 2022.



In total these 6 runners raised \$79,117!

## Boston Marathon 2021

Aliali Belkus

Ami Fatula

Becca Keddy

Michele Scavongelli



## Boston Marathon 2022

Ben Buchwald

Stephen McLaren



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 for the 2021 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!

*John Hancock*

**MARATHON  
COALITION**  
Empowering Others Through Running

*We love you and are proud of you, Josh!*



*Love, The Ainleys*



Jumping for joy to support the mission of the Youth Advocacy Foundation. Every child deserves the right to a quality public education. Let us together shut down the school to prison pipeline.

Congratulations to Josh on his retirement and kudos to him for his 33 years of transformational leadership!

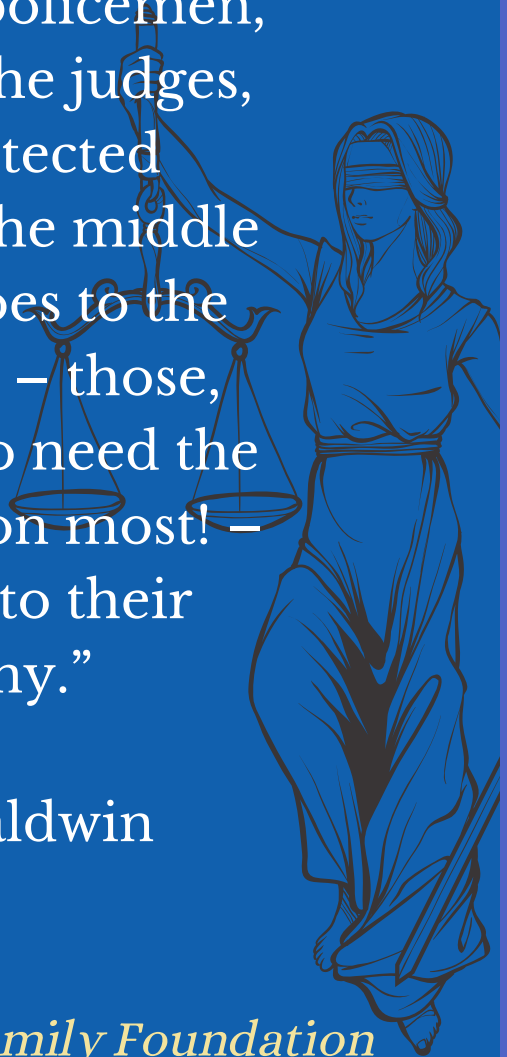
We look forward to the next chapter of this wonderfully impactful organization.

Sincerely,  
The Boreiko/Coolidge Family —  
Alison, Ali, Tom and John

“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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The key to a successful and happy life is to take what you do very, very seriously but to laugh heartily and regularly at who you are. In that regard, Josh, my friend, among others, you are my hero.

Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your many years of amazing service on behalf of so many people in the Commonwealth.

*Ken Parsigian and Shay Mayer*



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We proudly support the

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and congratulate our colleague

**Laura Lerner** on being recognized as  
**Pro Bono Attorney of the Year** for her  
outstanding service to Youth Advocacy  
Foundation and its EdLaw Project.



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Dear Josh,

Maybe being a high school student kicked out of chemistry class for alleged misbehavior and briefly experiencing truancy, kindled your desire to make your surroundings and world a fairer, better place. Your now-amazing skills at working cooperatively with others to achieve a common goal, were furthered when you employed both your cousin, Marc, and sister, Deb, in your summer painting business and then quietly repainted everything they did.

Your generosity and kindness were again displayed when you moved to Ghana, West Africa. You spent two years working to make life better for villagers in rural Ghana (and learned everything there is to know about breeding rabbits). Not surprisingly, contracting malaria and miscellaneous parasites were small inconveniences on a path to improving the lives of others.

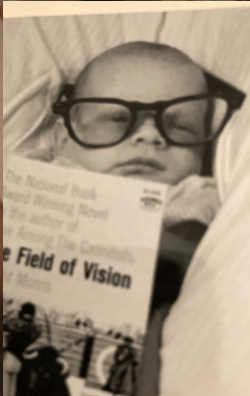
You are being honored tonight for all the good that your long career as a public defender and over 23 years as Director of the Youth Advocacy Division (“YAD”) of CPCS (including founding the Youth Advocacy Foundation in 2000), has had on the lives of Massachusetts’ youth. Under your leadership, YAD, YAF and EdLaw not only provide competent lawyers to juveniles, but also employ social workers and education advocates to help these kids stay in school and have better life outcomes. YAD’s track record and numerous awards and grants speaks for itself. In addition, you have been instrumental in the fight to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and in the campaign to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction. For further validation, other states and municipalities have called on you to educate them so that they can provide similar services to the youth in their areas.

Notwithstanding a lifetime of good deeds and contributions to improving young lives, you have not been content with these reforms. You also spent over 3 months in Palestine as part of the International Legal Foundation (“ILF”), helping the attorneys there set up their public defender services for youth. You have stayed in touch with the many friends you made in Palestine and you continue to mentor each other. And, you continue to work with the ILF with the hope of traveling to other countries to reduce reliance on prisons and teach more appropriate criminal justice interventions and services for juveniles. Although you love to lecture on criminal justice, and are always 100% right, you are incredibly humble, never discussing personal successes, but rather using your audience to further their understandings of the injustices you see daily.

Love,

Mom, Patty, Deb, John, Steph, and Johnny

We know Hawkeye would be beaming tonight, but he would have preferred a Celtics T-shirt for such a special occasion.



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



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

Josh,

It's been a pleasure and privilege to serve on the YAF Board alongside you and the teams you cultivated and encouraged all these years. You helped Jay start something special and led so many to do great things on behalf of children. What an honor to see, time and again, your thoughtful vision and nascent ideas come to fruition, flourish, and inspire so many others.

Thanks for always making it fun and for your friendship.

Jeremy



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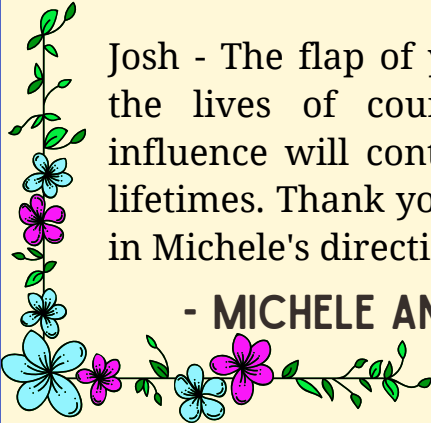
*It has been said that something as small as the flutter of a butterfly's wing can ultimately cause a typhoon halfway across the world.*

- CHAOS THEORY



Josh - The flap of your wings has improved the lives of countless people and your influence will continue across many, many lifetimes. Thank you for flapping your wings in Michele's direction back in 2011.


- MICHELE AND PETER SCAVONGELLI



THE LYNCH FOUNDATION

Peter S. Lynch and the Lynch family are proud to support the important work of the Youth Advocacy Foundation. We congratulate Chris DiMeo and Robert Saoud on hosting such a successful event.





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.

*In Praise of Josh*

- For his penchant for fine dining, especially pizza
- For his refined sense of humor, except for his jokes
  - For his sartorial selections
  - For his prowess on the golf course (true)
  - For one of the best smiles on earth
  - For his excellent choice of a spouse
- For his heart as big as all outdoors and world-encompassing empathy
  - For his passion for justice
- For his years of advocacy for children and youth in Massachusetts and beyond
- For his vision that is now YAF and EdLaw, tackling the school-to-prison pipeline barehanded
  - For his next chapter, whatever it may contain, a continuation of his deep convictions
- For his, above all, years of friendship with us, an honor and a joy

*From Katherine Hall Page, Alan and Nicholas Hein*

**BEST WISHES, JOSH.**

**FONDLY,  
TOM AND SARAH REED**



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

- Deb Poppel

\*only if you're 21+!



*In honor of Josh Dohan,  
who helped so many children  
become amazing adults,  
including our own.*

*With love and endless respect,*  
THE APFEL FAMILY



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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  
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*It takes a village  
to raise a child*

African Proverb

**To:**

*All those fighting for the rights of others  
(CPCS, YAF, EdLaw, YAD, CAFL, Mental  
Health, PDD & the private bar) -*

**There is still important  
work to be done for  
marginalized communities.**

**Thank you to everyone  
fighting for justice for  
vulnerable people and  
oppressed communities.**

*- Josh Dohan and Patricia Garin -*