

CAMPAIGN FOR  
**YOUTH  JUSTICE**

BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES AREN'T MINOR

March 2009 Newsletter

The Campaign for Youth Justice is a national organization dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system.

**In This Issue**

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

FROM THE HILL

RESEARCH AND POLICY

MEDIA WRAP

GET ORGANIZED

VOICES

NATIONAL MOMENTUM

ON THE CALENDAR

CFYJ WELCOMES NEW STAFF

GET IN THE ACTION

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

**Quick Links**

[READ MORE](#)

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

[ADVOCACY RESOURCES](#)

**ACROSS THE COUNTRY**



## Connecticut Allies Turn Out Hundreds for "Raise the Age" Rally, Press Conference, and Hearing

On Wednesday, March 4th, hundreds of Connecticut residents participated in a rally and press conference in Hartford. Wearing orange tee-shirts and buttons with the "Raise the Age" logo, residents called on their state legislators and elected officials to implement the law as scheduled, on January 1, 2010, to end the automatic prosecution of 16- and 17-year-olds as adults no matter what the offense in the adult criminal justice system.

Leading off the press conference, Abby Anderson, Executive Director of the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance (CTJJA), said the state has the capacity to serve youth more effectively in the juvenile justice system rather than the adult criminal justice system.

Katherine Gonzalez, a parent of a teenager who was prosecuted as an adult and is currently incarcerated at Connecticut's adult prison for youthful offenders, the Manson Youth Institute, stated, "I don't understand why they have this idea that sending kids to jail is gonna help them."

At the hearing, Sarah Bryer, Director of the National Juvenile Justice Network, testified before the Judiciary Committee that Connecticut has become a national leader in juvenile justice and that many other states are looking to Connecticut for leadership on these issues. Liz Ryan, of the Campaign for Youth Justice, who also testified before the committee, urged lawmakers to reject the Governor's proposal to delay the implementation date.

For additional information, visit the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance's YES campaign: <http://www.sayyesct.org/>.

Read more on the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance at: <http://www.ctjja.org/>.

Learn about the National Juvenile Justice Network at: <http://www.njjn.org/>.

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## Action for Children North Carolina Spearheads Statewide "Road Show" on Juvenile Justice Reform

Over the past month, Action for Children North Carolina has sponsored a series of forums on juvenile justice reform across the state in Raleigh, Winston-Salem, Fayetteville, Asheville, and Charlotte. The forums discussed best practices for steering youth away from crime, consequences of sending youth to the adult criminal system, and funding for local

juvenile justice service programs.

Expert panelists included:

- Shay Bilchik, Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown Public Policy Institute
- Bart Lubow, Director of Programs for At-Risk Youth, Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Chief Frank Palombo, New Bern Police Department
- Representative Rick Glazier, Cumberland County
- Eric Zogry, North Carolina Juvenile Defender
- Dr. Olson Huff, Senior Fellow in Health, Action for Children North Carolina
- Judge Louis A. Trosch Jr., District Court Judge, 26th Judicial District of North Carolina
- Judge William B. Reingold, Chief District Court Judge, 21st Judicial District of North Carolina

In Raleigh, Bart Lubow explained that the debate on juvenile justice reforms needs to address both the right thing to do and sound public policy that achieves public safety as well as positive youth development: "The 'my-child test' asks, 'what you would want if your 16- or 17-year-old got in trouble and had to be brought before a court?' I have no doubt that the overwhelming majority of parents in the state of North Carolina would prefer to see their kids, if they got in trouble, brought before a system more consistent with the developmental status of children, one that was more concerned with rehabilitation than punishment, one that had different sensibilities and different resources to apply not only to maximize public safety, but also to help kids get back on the right track."

Chief Frank Palombo of the New Bern Police Department said, "We have 31,000 [16- and 17-year-old] kids in North Carolina that now have an adult criminal record permanently. They own it for the rest of their life." In an op-ed in the *Fayetteville Observer*, Chief Palombo said, "Understandably, people want to know that children who commit serious crimes will do serious time. But in North Carolina, only 686 of the 31,000 youth who end up in the adult system are charged with a violent offense. We're throwing the baby out with the bathwater when it comes to handling nonviolent youth."

Shay Bilchik, in Asheville, said of the current state of juvenile justice in North Carolina, "Any public safety gains that are achieved by trying youth as adults, including any periods of incarceration, are offset when looking at more long-term recidivism rates."

The purpose of the forums is to engage communities in the public policy debate on juvenile justice as North Carolina is one of only three states that prosecute all 16- and 17-year-olds in the adult criminal system, no matter how minor the offense.

See more of Bart Lubow's remarks at:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/NorthCarolinajuvenilejurisdictionsspeech.pdf>

Read more on Shay Bilchik's presentation in Asheville at:  
<http://citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009903200323>

Learn more about Action for Children North Carolina at:  
[www.ncchild.org](http://www.ncchild.org)

Read Chief Palombo's op-ed in the *Fayetteville Observer* at:  
<http://www.fayobserver.com/article?id=321573>.

[Back to Top](#)

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### **CFYJ Seeks Stories of Youth Prosecuted as Adults**

CFYJ's Case Profiles Project is gathering stories of youth who have been tried, sentenced, or incarcerated as adults. We will use the stories to communicate to policymakers, the public, and the media the experiences, perspectives, and concerns of those who are impacted by this issue. CFYJ will also continue to highlight youth, parent, and family voices through reports, policy briefs, publications, newsletters, and the CFYJ website.

We need your help in collecting these stories. If you or someone you know of has been tried, sentenced, or incarcerated in the adult criminal justice system as a child, please share his or her contact information with us or encourage him or her to write a profile using the questions in the toolkit linked below as a guide. Additionally, please forward this request to your personal contacts and networks.

Two versions of the Case Profiles Toolkit are available, one for youth and one for parents and family members. The toolkits include questions, writing tips, sample profiles, and consent forms. Download them at:  
<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/yourstory.html>.

To see more sample profiles, visit the "Real Life" section on the CFYJ website at:  
<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/caseprofiles.html>.

Please share this message! Download an informational flyer here and post it or send it to your contacts.  
<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/caseprofilerecruiting.pdf>

Thank you for your participation in this project. To submit stories or for more information, please contact:

Kate Figiel  
Campaign for Youth Justice  
1012 14th Street NW, Suite 610  
Washington DC 20005  
Phone: 202.558.3580 x 29

Email: [kfigiel@cfyj.org](mailto:kfigiel@cfyj.org)  
<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org>

[Back to Top](#)

## FROM THE HILL



### **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act Reintroduced in the 111th Congress**

On March 24, 2009, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2009 was reintroduced in the United States Senate for the 111th Congress with bipartisan support! S. 678 was introduced by U.S. Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Arlen Specter (R-PA), Richard Durbin (D-IL), and Herb Kohl (D-WI).

A press release from the Senate Judiciary Committee, which also contains a section-by-section summary of the bill, can be found at:

<http://campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/JudiciaryStatementonJJDPa.pdf>.

A press release from the Act4JJ Campaign - a campaign of the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition working on JJDPa reauthorization - can be found at:

<http://campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/JJDPaStatement-3-24-09-FINAL.pdf>.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act as introduced in the 111th Congress is very similar to the bill as introduced in the 110th Congress - S. 3155. A summary of S. 3155 can be found at: <http://www.campaign4youthjustice.com/documents/S3155SummaryaspassedbyCommittee-81108.pdf>.

To view a summary of the bill or to check the current status of the legislation, please visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter S. 678 into the search box.

Action items - You can support the JJDPa reauthorization bill by:

- Calling or writing a letter to your Senators to co-sponsor and support S. 678;
- Calling or writing a letter to your Representative to urge the U.S. House of Representatives consider legislation to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act; or
- Sending a letter from your organization to Senators Leahy and Specter in support of the bill.

[Back to Top](#)

## RESEARCH AND POLICY

### **Georgetown Hosts Symposium on Juvenile Justice and Poverty, Featuring CFYJ's Neelum Arya**

On March 26, a collaboration of four justice organizations (the Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy, the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University, and Georgetown Law Center Juvenile Justice Clinic) held a symposium entitled "The Intersection of Juvenile Justice and Poverty." Over a dozen panelists, all experts in their fields, were invited to share their opinions on the state of juvenile justice and how our youth can be better served.

The first panel discussed how supports for at-risk youth, such as education, health care, and housing, are deeply intertwined with youth becoming involved in the justice system.

Panel two featured a conversation about poverty and equity in the juvenile justice system. Katayoon Majd, Senior Staff Attorney at the National Juvenile Defender Center, spoke about the lack of access to adequate representation for low-income youth in the justice system. Neelum Arya, Research and Policy Director at the Campaign for Youth Justice, shared research on the negative impact of the transfer of youth to the adult criminal justice system, highlighting the particular impact on communities of color, where transfer leads to lasting negative economic consequences.

Panel three addressed strategies for breaking the cycle of offending and poverty, as panelists presented information on the importance of reentry and aftercare services as well as a summary of reform projects currently being undertaken in the District of Columbia's Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services.

Panelists included lawyers, advocates, social scientists, and a judge. Those in attendance included law students, veterans of juvenile justice law and advocacy, parents, and concerned individuals.

[Back to Top](#)

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### **Annie E. Casey Foundation Releases Issue Brief on Juvenile Justice Reform**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation released a new issue brief in January 2009 entitled "Reform the Juvenile Justice System." The report offers ways for the new administration to "jumpstart a long-overdue renaissance in our nation's approach to adolescent crime."

The first of three recommendations made by the report is funding the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to levels not seen since 2002 (after which funding was cut by nearly 60%).

Second, the report recommends focusing on the crucial and pervasive shortcomings in the juvenile justice system, including over-incarceration for minor crimes, abuse of youth in facilities, and disproportionate minority contact. One of the major shortcomings of the juvenile justice system listed as a priority is the number of youth tried in adult court.

Another shortcoming that must be a focus is to strengthen the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), including extending sight and sound separation, currently available only to youth in the juvenile justice system, to youth tried as adults.

The third recommendation of the brief is to improve the juvenile justice workforce through partnerships with universities, internships, and tuition subsidies to encourage new professionals in the field.

To read the report, please visit:

<http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org/Docs/Documents/BriefJJFinalPDF.pdf>

[Back to Top](#)

## MEDIA WRAP



### *Juvenile Justice Matters: The Month in Review*

It's been another greath month on *Juvenile Justice Matters* with hosts Eric Solomon and Jessica Sandoval and guest host Grace Bauer. Here's a summary of shows from this past month:

March 5: Bart Lubow, Director of Programs for High Risk Youth at the Annie E Casey Foundation, discusses the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAD); "Kids Count," the recent Annie E. Casey publication focusing on juvenile justice reform; and other hot topics in juvenile justice reform.

March 12: Elias Elizondo discusses his experience being tried as an adult at the age of 16 and spending many years in prison. Now 32, Elias was recently paroled.

March 19: Grace Bauer interviews Simone Gonsoulin, the former Director of the Office of Youth Development in Louisiana and the current Director of the National Evaluation and

Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk (NDTAC).

March 26: Nancy Gannon Hornberger gives the scoop on the introduction of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act (JJDPRA) in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The JJDPRA is the major piece of federal legislation that provides protection to youth in the justice system. Learn how to help pass this important legislation!

Listen live to *Juvenile Justice Matters* every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time at: [www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters). Don't forget to call in with questions to 347.843.4360.

If you miss the live broadcast, you can download the show later from Blog Talk Radio at the link above, or listen on the CFYJ site:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/radio.html>.

[Back to Top](#)

## GET ORGANIZED

A Monthly Column by Grace Bauer

### Finding Allies in Your State

Most of you already know that in order to build a successful campaign, you need lots of allies. In addition to large numbers of allies, you need to ensure that your ally base is diverse. Diversity in your allies gives strength to your campaign and helps bring additional allies into the fold. I am repeatedly asked, "Where do I find the allies we need?" Let's take a look around your community and state and see whom we find.

Special Education Advocates: You may find that special education advocates have a stake in the issue of youth tried as adults because they are typically in their own struggle to keep children in school. According to Wright's Law, the leading website about special education law and advocacy, "70% of children in the juvenile justice system have educational disabilities -- the vast majority have an Emotional Disturbance (ED) and/or Specific Learning Disabilities." In our advocacy for keeping youth in the juvenile justice system, we believe that it is important to treat youth in the least restrictive environment possible; this is also a cornerstone of special education work. An added bonus in working with these groups is that they often have direct links to families and youth in their communities and many times provide educational trainings to their communities, thereby increasing your opportunities to educate the public on "adultification" and likely broaden the ally base.

Mental Health Advocates: Mental health advocates are waging many battles to serve those with mental illness and their families, not the least of which involves juvenile and criminal justice reform. According to the Physicians for Human Rights, federal studies estimate that 50 to 75% of children in the juvenile justice system have diagnosable mental health disorders, and nearly half have substance abuse problems. Many of these youth could have avoided the system had they received proper care and treatment. Here again, you can gain insight and wisdom on mental health issues from these advocates and also gain access to the families they serve.

Disability Rights Advocates: Disability rights advocates are working to keep the people they serve in their communities with supports and services. Given the large overlap between children with disabilities and children in the justice system, it is logical to believe that disability rights advocates are very often working for the same kids you are, sometimes at a different point in system bureaucracies. Often, children can be better served in their own communities with appropriate supports and services rather than being shipped far from home and their families.

Civil Rights Organizations: It is with frustration and anger that I tell you after decades of talk we have come nowhere close to ending Disproportionate Minority Confinement/Contact (DMC) in this country. Minority youth comprise only 34% of the juvenile population, yet they represent 62% of the nation's detained youth. In addition, nationwide, three out of four young people admitted to adult prison in 2002 were youth of color. Many activists that I have worked with consider the juvenile and criminal justice systems to be another method of social control over those of color and/or the poor, and there are mountains of evidence to support this belief.

Business Associations and the General Public: These often remain untapped allies, though they present a great opportunity. Businesses need skilled employees and consumers. If we continue to be the nation with the highest incarceration rate and continue down the path of mass incarceration of the last few decades, businesses will suffer just as all taxpaying citizens will. It is expensive to incarcerate 1 in every 100 adults, and evidence is mounting that it is ineffective as well. There are 1.6 million people behind bars in this country, nearly a million of those for non-violent offenses. For every dime we spend on incarceration, there is one less dime to spend on education, health care, and community services which provide better outcomes for public safety than mass incarceration.

National Partners: On the Campaign for Youth Justice website you will find lists of national partners and allies. Look around your community for local groups of these partners and pay them a visit.

New research is emerging that says we can't sustain mass incarceration as we did in the '80s and '90s. We have to give up on the old sound bite from politicians of "being tough on crime" and instead start getting smart on crime. Each and every day we receive calls from people around the country asking for information and assistance; give us a call to find out who these folks are and if they are close to you.

Search for national partners and allies on the CFYJ website at:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/statecontacts.html>.

Read about the relationship between special education and juvenile justice at Wright's Law at:

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/jj.index.htm>.

Find out more about the Physicians for Human Rights at:

<http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/>.

[Back to Top](#)

## VOICES

### **Cathy is the mother of David, a young man serving adult time in Nevada for juvenile offenses**

In March 2001, when David was only 15, he ran away from home and was missing for 10 days. When his mother Cathy called the police, they told her that runaways were not a priority because they had more serious problems to deal with. David finally returned home, followed by the police not ten minutes behind. They said they had come to question David for his knowledge about a crime that had occurred. Cathy, overwhelmed and distraught, encouraged the police to take her son into juvenile detention to teach him a lesson about running away.

Later in the evening, when the police still hadn't brought her son home, Cathy called around unsuccessfully to three different police stations and finally the jail. At that point Cathy learned that David had several charges, one of which meant that he would be tried as an adult. Cathy was scared; she didn't understand what it meant to be charged as an adult, and she had no knowledge of the facility where David was being taken. "Oh my God," she thought, "he's in a jail with adults!" Because her son was being charged as an adult, Cathy quickly learned, officials would give her no information about what her son had done, whether he was safe, or what would happen next. Cathy found herself learning the details of what had happened the same way the rest of the city did: on the evening news.

As a mother, all Cathy wanted to do was to talk to her son and tell him, "I love you. What's going on? Don't worry; I'm your mother; I'm here; you're only 15." She was devastated at what had happened and even more so that she was unable to provide any support or comfort to her son.

When David was arrested and taken down to the police station, he was refused his right to a lawyer and his right to have a parent present during questioning. Bail was set at \$250,000 cash. David's 18-year-old codefendant's family could afford this amount, and as a result, the other boy had 18 months of freedom, family support, and productivity on the outside. "The system is all about money," Cathy says, "It's not about rights. If you have money, you're considered to be safe on the streets."

Meanwhile, David was denied any visitation for over a week when he first went to the jail. He was kept on 47-hour lockdown, known as "protective custody." As far as Cathy was concerned, there was nothing protective about isolating a vulnerable young boy in "the hole" without books or anything to pass the time. When she tried to send crossword puzzles, they were returned as contraband. David received no educational services of any kind for the 18 long months he spent in jail. Cathy had visitation once a week for about an hour and a half. David could also call her during the week, but it had to be during his hour of time out of his cell, which would occur at unpredictable times, so she often missed his call at work.

Punishments at the jail were swift and harsh. Once, David lost visitation privileges for 30 days for having a toothbrush which could only have been given to him by the chaplain or prison staff. He lost visitation for 60 days for possession of a book and for 30 days for holding an orange from dinner to be eaten later.

"I watched my son grow up behind the glass," Cathy says. "I watched him growing a beard. I watched him go from 5' tall to 5'9." She worried about him being around people who might influence him in the wrong ways. She held out hope that like anyplace else, the jail had many good people who had made bad choices, and that these would be the people with whom David would form relationships.

David was tried as an adult, even though only one of his charges warranted adult court. He was ultimately acquitted of this charge and convicted only for charges that could have been handled in juvenile court. Nonetheless, David received an adult sentence in an adult facility for what were essentially juvenile crimes. Despite the outrageousness of this fact, there is no mechanism in Nevada law that specifies that such a case should be moved back to juvenile court. If David had been adjudicated in juvenile court, he would have received a much lighter sentence and had access to education and other services which would have put him on track toward a better life.

"Until I had to go through it, I always thought the system would work for us. We believe in our country. We believe that if you do what is right, it works for you. But the system is failing miserably for our children," Cathy sadly explains.

Since being sent to prison, David has been able to earn his GED and then his high school diploma. He has recently been offered an opportunity to earn his BA in art through an organization called the Polaris Foundation that makes educational grants to at-risk kids interested in getting their lives on the right track. David will be able to work on his bachelor's degree through written correspondence. He wants to be able to help and give back, and he dreams of becoming an art teacher some day.

Read more stories from youth in the adult criminal justice system and their families at:

<http://www.campaign4youthjustice.org/caseprofiles.html>.

[Back to Top](#)

## NATIONAL MOMENTUM

### County Officials Hear from Experts on Juvenile Justice

On Sunday, March 8th, national experts Bart Lubow and Dwayne Betts discussed challenges and solutions in juvenile justice, including youth in adult court, before the Public Safety Committee of the National Association of Counties at their annual legislative conference in Washington, D.C.

Bart Lubow of the Annie E. Casey Foundation led off the discussion, highlighting some of the major challenges in juvenile justice as set forth in the 2008 *Kids Count* essay, "A Road Map for Juvenile Justice Reform." Bart focused on approaches such as the Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) that are cost-effective, reduce incarceration, and improve public safety outcomes. Bart explained how programs like JDAI can lead to other system reform efforts, such as the recent Multnomah County resolution spearheaded by former Commissioner Lisa Naito that will reduce the placement of youth in adult jail. Bart shared some of the successes of JDAI and recommended that county officials explore the possibility of bringing JDAI to their counties. "Many children are incarcerated for lack of available alternatives," said Lubow. "We know enough and have enough experience now to turn these systems around."

Reginald Dwayne Betts, a poet and activist who was prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system, spoke about his experiences in the justice system and his current work as a teacher, a college student at the University of Maryland on full scholarship, and the author of an upcoming memoir, *A Question of Freedom*, that will be published by Avery/Penguin sometime this year. Dwayne recommended that county officials include youth who have been involved in the justice system in reform efforts to effectively improve public safety and positive outcomes for youth. "Look to people who have been in the system as a resource," Dwayne Betts told the audience. "We need a culture shift in the way we believe children can be rehabilitated."

Learn more about the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative at:

<http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/JuvenileDetentionAlternativesInitiative.aspx>.

Read the Multnomah County resolution on juveniles in custody at:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/>

[MultnomahCountyResolutionJuvenilesinCustody.pdf](#)

Hear more from Dwayne Betts in this past episode of Juvenile Justice Matters at:  
<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters/2009/01/26/-An-interview-with-a-formerly-incarcerated-youth-who-has-turned-his-life-around->.

[Back to Top](#)

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### **Experts Discuss Juvenile Justice Challenges and Solutions, Including Youth in Adult Court**

National experts discussed challenges and solutions in juvenile justice, including the trial of youth in adult court, at the March 13 National Conference on Juvenile Justice in Orlando, Florida. The conference was sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA).

Bart Lubow, Director of Programs for At-Risk Youth at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, led off the panel with a keynote address highlighting major challenges in juvenile justice from the Foundation's *Kids Count* essay, "A Road Map for Juvenile Justice Reform." Panelists included Vincent Schiraldi, Director of the D.C. Department of Youth and Rehabilitative Services; Grace Bauer, a parent of a youth in the justice system, founder of the Lake Charles chapter of Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC), and CFYJ's Parent Organizer; The Honorable Jerrauld C. Jones, a juvenile court judge who serves on the Norfolk Circuit Court in Virginia; Reginald Dwayne Betts, a poet and activist who was prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system and now attends the University of Maryland on full scholarship; and William Rivera, a college student who was prosecuted as an adult while a teenager.

As Liz Ryan of the Campaign for Youth Justice moderated, the panelists discussed major challenges in juvenile justice today such as the prosecution of youth as adults, the negative impact of placing youth in adult jails and prisons, over-incarceration and disparate treatment of youth of color in the justice system, and conditions of confinement in juvenile detention and correctional facilities. "Historically, we have recognized that children are different," Judge Jones told the audience of over 300 that included juvenile court judges and prosecutors. "It is our willingness to treat them differently that is in question."

Panelists also talked about solutions to these issues, including the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), the "Missouri" approach to juvenile corrections, and recent changes to state laws that reduce the prosecution of youth in adult court. The panelists also warned that many effective evidence-based juvenile justice programs may be on the chopping block as states face the current fiscal crisis. "The instinct will be to preserve bureaucracy and cut community-based providers, and it will be the wrong one," said Bart

Lubow.

The panel concluded with recommendations from the panelists on next steps for the audience members focusing on sharing information about best practices, spearheading reform efforts, and involving youth, parents and families in juvenile justice reform efforts.

"You cannot ignore the people who the systems were intended to serve," added Grace Bauer. "We should spend our money on fixing the underlying problems instead of making them worse."

[Back to Top](#)

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### **California Group Sponsors Juvenile Justice Sabbath**

On May 22-24, 2009, Faith Communities for Families and Children (FCFCLA), a Los Angeles-based advocacy group, is encouraging faith-based communities to observe the Juvenile Justice Sabbath by hosting events which will draw attention to the plight of children who have been victims of violent crime as well as incarcerated children. Juvenile Justice Sabbath is an opportunity for faith-based groups to make a unified call for action. Some of the various ways in which faith-based congregations will observe the Juvenile Justice Sabbath are listed in the endorsement form for the event.

Please involve your faith community in this project and help raise awareness of the needs of children and families impacted by violent crime and society's systemic response to crime.

Read the letter from FCFCLA about the JJ Sabbath at:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/JJSabbathintroletter.pdf>.

To download the endorsement sheet and make a commitment for your faith community to observe the Juvenile Justice Sabbath, visit this link:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/JJSabbathendorsementform.pdf>.

Join the Facebook event for FCFCLA's Juvenile Justice Sabbath at:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=69272320856>.

View and print an informational flyer about the event at:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/JJSabbathflyer.pdf>.

To download the FCFCLA fact sheet on juveniles tried as adults, visit this link:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/CAYouthAdultFactSheetforJJSabbath.pdf>

[Back to Top](#)

## ON THE CALENDAR

### **Calling for Nominations for Mother of Distinction Award**

CFYJ and the National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) are once again eagerly accepting award nominations for the Mother of Distinction Award from members of the National Juvenile Justice Network. Members are encouraged to submit for recognition the names of up to 5 mothers who have been significantly involved in juvenile justice reform.

To nominate a mother, please complete the nomination form accessible on the CFYJ website:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/infoandnominationform09.pdf>.

To submit a nomination for the Mother of Distinction Award, please mail, fax, or email the nomination form to:

Kate Figiel  
Campaign for Youth Justice  
1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 610  
Washington, DC 20005  
Email: [kfigiel@cfyj.org](mailto:kfigiel@cfyj.org)  
Fax: 202.386.9807

The deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2009.

Thank you for your participation!

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### **Organize Your Own Mother's Day Event**

We hope you will join the Campaign for Youth Justice in recognizing mothers who are working to change the justice system for their children as well as so many others. The Mother's Day toolkit, available now, provides ideas and sample materials for connecting mothers and their children on Mother's Day, engaging more mothers in your advocacy efforts and raising awareness about this important issue.

Together, we can make this Mother's Day special.

Download the Mother's Day toolkit here in PDF (312 KB):

[http://campaignforyouthjustice.org/Downloads/start/2008\\_Mothers\\_Day\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://campaignforyouthjustice.org/Downloads/start/2008_Mothers_Day_Toolkit.pdf).

Or, download the Mother's Day toolkit as a Word Document here:

[http://campaignforyouthjustice.org/Downloads/start/2008\\_Mothers\\_Day\\_Toolkit.doc](http://campaignforyouthjustice.org/Downloads/start/2008_Mothers_Day_Toolkit.doc).

[Back to Top](#)

## CFYJ WELCOMES NEW STAFF

**Christina Gilbert** joins CFYJ from Northeastern University's Law School, where she is a third year student. Christina has previously worked with Casa Myrna Vasquez, the Vera Institute of Justice, and the W. Haywood Burns Institute. Christina will be working full time as a policy fellow. In her free time, she loves to run and do yoga.

**Nate Stice** joins us on a part-time, short-term basis as Community Organizer. Originally from Oregon and formerly a part of the Obama Campaign, Nate brings his organizing expertise to CFYJ to mobilize grassroots community interests in DC this month in a series of town hall events and a community forum to encourage discussion of positive juvenile justice reforms.

## GET IN THE ACTION WITH CFYJ

**Send** us your story of a youth tried as an adult or refer a friend to participate in CFYJ's [Case Profiles Project](#).

**Support** [reauthorization](#) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act by writing to your Senator or Representative.

**Listen** to [Juvenile Justice Matters](#) radio show.

**Call in** to the show with questions at (347) 843-4360.

**Nominate** a special mother who works for system change for CFYJ/NJJN's [Mother of Distinction Award](#).

**Organize** events with your community or advocacy group to make [Mother's Day](#) a special

time to recognize mothers and youth affected by policies that put youth in the adult justice system.

**Engage** your faith community by observing the [Juvenile Justice Sabbath](#) May 22-24.

**Join** the Campaign for Youth Justice group on Facebook and connect with hundreds of advocates across the country at:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=22937084155&ref=ts>.

**Visit** the Campaign's YouTube channel at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/jjreform>.

**Read** JJ Today, Youth Today's blog on juvenile justice at:

[www.youthtoday.org/jjtoday](http://www.youthtoday.org/jjtoday).

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