

CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES AREN'T MINOR

May 2010 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.

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Virginia Governor Holds Bill Signing Ceremony on New Jail Bill

On Monday, May 17, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell (pictured at left) hosted a bill signing ceremony on a measure, SB 259, to reduce the number of youth awaiting trial in adult jails. Earlier this spring, SB 259 was passed unanimously by the Virginia

House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate and signed into law on April 13, 2010. The legislation creates a presumption that youth who are being tried as adults are held in juvenile detention centers pretrial and will only be placed in an adult jail if they are found by a judge to be a security or safety threat. The new law goes into effect on July 1, 2010.

Virginia State Senator Louise Lucas, who championed the legislation, attended the ceremony along with Nancy Shepherd, wife of the late Bob Shepherd from the University of Richmond who worked on children's legal issues and chaired the American Bar Association's Juvenile Justice Committee. Also in attendance were attorneys Andy Block of JustChildren and Melissa Goemann and Margaret Bacigal of the University of Richmond. Others at the ceremony included two representatives of groups supportive of the bill, Carlos Hopkins, Training and Attorney Certification Director of the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, and Guy Tower, Executive Director of the Virginia Bar Association as well as the newly appointed Director, Helivi Holland, and Deputy Director, Sam Abed, of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice.

Kate Duvall, a staff attorney with JustChildren, told CFYJ, "JustChildren would like to thank the Governor for his support of SB 259 and for taking this important step to protect the youth of our Commonwealth. We would also like to thank the many supporters of the Don't Throw Away the Key Campaign for their work to get SB 259 passed."

Congratulations to [JustChildren](#), [Families and Allies of Virginia's Youth \(FAVY\)](#), the many families and youth, and the wide range of organizations who were instrumental in supporting the passage of SB 259 as part of the Don't Throw Away the Key Campaign. For more information, visit www.dontthrowawaythekey.org.

Colorado "Direct File" Bill Headed to Governor's Desk

On May 16, the Colorado Senate passed legislation, HB 1413, to increase the minimum age at which certain youth are eligible to be charged in adult criminal court by a prosecutor without a transfer hearing. The legislation also establishes limitations on when prosecutors have sole discretion in the process on whether or not youth are prosecuted in adult court.

The bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 55-8 on May 3, 2010.

Championed by Representative Claire Levy (D-Boulder) and cosponsored by House Minority Leader Mike May (R-Parker), the legislation is on its way to Governor Bill Ritter's desk and is expected to be signed into law by the governor.

"This is a great first step in reducing the use of 'direct file' for youth to be prosecuted in adult criminal court," says Sandy Mullins of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar. "We applaud Colorado's legislature for taking this positive action on behalf of our state's youth."

In testimony provided earlier this spring, former Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Administrator Shay Bilchik, who currently heads up the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University, stated that, "Colorado House Bill 1413 provides a step in the right direction by providing some 14- and 15-year-olds judicial oversight over the critically important question of whether they should be subject to adult criminal court jurisdiction." The full text of Shay Bilchik's testimony is available at [here](#).

Congratulations to Sandy Mullins and Maureen Cain of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, Kim Dvorchak of the Colorado Juvenile Defenders Coalition, and Mary Ellen Johnson of the Pendulum Foundation for spearheading this important change and to the many Colorado advocates, attorneys, and families who were part of this effort!

The full text of the legislation is available [here](#).

Bill Passed to Remove Most 17-Year-Olds from Adult Criminal Court in Mississippi

On April 27, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour signed into law SB 2969 which returns most 17-year-olds to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Youth charged with rape, murder, or armed robbery would stay in adult criminal court. Prior to this legislation all 17-year-olds were automatically prosecuted in adult court for any offense. Earlier this spring the Mississippi Legislature approved SB 2969, and the new law goes into effect on January 1, 2011.

Sheila Bedi, Deputy Legal Director at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) stated, "This is a major step forward for Mississippi and we would like to thank all the state legislators who championed this legislation and Mississippi's juvenile and adult corrections departments for supporting this measure."

Congratulations to Mississippi State Senator and Judiciary Committee Chairman Gray Tollison (D-Lafayette, Tallahatchie, Yalobusha), Mississippi State Representative and Juvenile Justice Committee Chairman Earle Banks (D-Hinds), the Mississippi Coalition for the Prevention of Schoolhouse to Jailhouse, the Mississippi Youth Justice Project, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the community organizations who supported this measure. For more information, visit the SPLC Mississippi Youth Justice Project [here](#).

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FROM THE HILL



We Need Your Help: Contact Your Senators to Promote JJDPA Passage!

Erin Davies

With the 2010 elections drawing closer, the window for reauthorizing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) is closing quickly. In order to reauthorize the JJDP A this year, we need your help to encourage the US Senate to pass S. 678, the JJDP A reauthorization legislation, through the full Senate.

The JJDP A was first enacted in 1974 and provides federal funding to states that comply with a set of best practices aimed at avoiding the detention and incarceration of young people in juvenile and adult facilities. However, this law is three years overdue for reauthorization! The Senate Judiciary Committee has approved a JJDP A reauthorization bill (S. 678) but it is awaiting action on the Senate floor.

Please help us by weighing in with your State's two Senators as soon as possible - even if you have contacted your Senators before - and urge them to put juvenile justice reform on the Senate schedule for a vote before the end of the year!

Actions you can take:

(1) Call: Call your two Senators and urge them to cosponsor S. 678, the JJDP A reauthorization bill, and ask them to contact Majority Leader Harry Reid to urge him to put S. 678 on the Senate schedule for a floor vote as soon as possible. Let them know you'd like to get a response to your request in writing and provide them with your name and address. Senator offices can be reached by calling the Capitol switchboard at 202.224.3121.

(2) Write a Letter: If you would prefer to contact your Senators in writing, click [here](#) to send a letter.

(3) Call Media: Contact your local media outlets and urge them to produce a news story on juvenile justice reform and interview your Senators to find out what they are doing to ensure that the JJDPA is voted on by the full Senate as soon as possible.

(4) Share: Spread the word with your friends by sharing this Action Alert!

Thank you for your support in this important effort for our nation's youth.

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RESEARCH AND POLICY

Supreme Court Restricts Life Without Parole Sentences for Youth

On Monday, May 17, the US Supreme Court ruled that youth may not be sentenced to life in prison without parole except in cases of homicide. The court ruled that such sentences violate the Constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment and oppose "global" consensus. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote the majority opinion, joined by Justices John Paul Stevens, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer and Sonia Sotomayor. Justice Kennedy stated that, "By denying the defendant the right to reenter the community, the state makes an irrevocable judgment about that person's value and place in society.... This judgment is not appropriate in light of a juvenile nonhomicide offender's capacity for change and limited moral culpability."

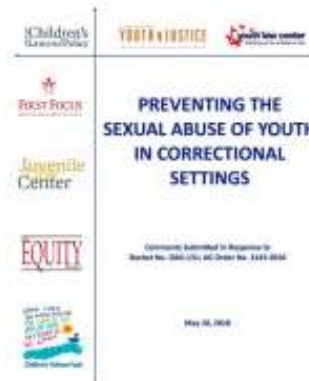
Congratulations to everyone who devoted their time and effort into challenging the positive Supreme Court ruling. This will help our nation move forward in advancing children's rights. A special thanks to Jody Kent at the [Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth](#) and the many lawyers, advocates, and other supporters who played a role in this victory. We want to thank the lawyers who represented both Terrance Graham and Joe Sullivan and the many organizations and private law firms who were involved in the amicus briefs to demonstrate that children are in fact different than adults. Although we know there were many people involved in this effort, and not all of their efforts are reflected in the list below, we do think special recognition of the 69 lawyers who submitted documents to the court are certainly in order. In alphabetical order by first name, please help CFYJ recognize:

Aaryn Urell, Alicia D'Addario, Ann Marie Bredin, Anne Harkavy, Anthony Barkow, Avidan Cover, Benjamin Maxymuk, Brian Matsui, Brian Stevenson, Brian Wong, Bryan S. Gowdy, Carly Munson, Carolyn Polowy, Charles Ogletree, Jr., Christina Swarns, Christopher Falcone, Corrine Irish, Dale Ho, Danielle Spinelli, David DeBruin, Debo Adegbile, Donald Falk, Drew Days, III, E. Joshua Rosenkrantz, Eric Haren, George Kendall, Grace Davies, Gregory Schwegmann, H. Thomas Wells, Jr., Jeffrey Fisher, Jennifer Condon, Jessica Feierman, Jessie Harrell, Ji Seon Song, Jin Hee Lee, John Gibbons, John Mills, John Payton, Johnathan Smith, Jonathan Olin, Jordan Barry, Katayoon Majd, Kenneth Schmetterer, Khai LeQuang, Lawrence Lustberg, Lawrence Wojcik, Mark Heyrman, Marsha Levick, Matthew Shors, Michael de Leeuw, Nathalie Gilfoyle, Neil Soltman, Nicholas Stephanopoulos, Patricia Soung, Paula Pearlman, Rebecca Creed, Richard Taranto, Richard Willard, Robert Smith, Robin Walker Sterling, Sara Zdeb, Sarah Blackman, Seth Galanter, Shannon Pazur, Sherri Morgan, Shirley Woodward, Shobha

Mahadev, Stephanie Nickelsburg, and Vincent Southerland.

Children's Advocates Call on DOJ to Halt Placing Youth in Adult Jails and Prisons

In a response released May 10, *Preventing the Sexual Abuse of Youth in Correctional Settings*, children's advocates called on the US Department of Justice (DOJ) to halt the placement of youth in adult jails and prisons to ensure the safety and protection of children in the adult criminal justice system. The response was authored by the Campaign for Youth Justice, the [Center for Children's Law and Policy](#), the [Children's Defense Fund](#), [First Focus](#), the [Juvenile Law Center](#), the [Youth Law Center](#), and [The Equity Project](#) and issued in response to a call for public comments by May 10 on the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape.



"In light of the overwhelming research demonstrating the extreme risks youth face in adult jails and prisons, we are calling on the US Department of Justice to implement these standards without delay and to ensure that these standards ensure the removal of youth from adult jails and prisons," says Neelum Arya, Research and Policy Director for the Campaign for Youth Justice and one of the authors of this response.

The response cites research by the Bureau of Justice Statistics that shows that 21% and 13% of all substantiated victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual violence in jails in 2005 and 2006 respectively, were youth under the age of 18 (surprisingly high since only 1% of jail inmates are juveniles). Additionally the response cites research documenting that youth have the highest suicide rates of all inmates in jails. Youth are 36 times more likely to commit suicide in an adult jail than in a juvenile detention facility. According to testimony before the Commission, an expert testified that 80% of her youth clients sentenced to adult prison were sexually assaulted within the first year of their incarceration.

Among a compilation of carefully considered recommendations, the document's authors strongly support the adoption of the standards overall and also recommend improvements to the standards, noting that "the language in the Standards and discussion do not adequately protect youth in light of the available evidence about the high risk of sexual abuse of children in adult facilities." The authors urge that "the adult standards should be modified to remove youth from adult jails and prisons altogether."

The recommendations are consistent with long standing policies from adult and juvenile correctional professionals such as the Association of State Correctional Administrators, the American Correctional Association, the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, American Jail Association, and the National Juvenile Detention Association that show their endorsement for keeping youth in separate facilities.

Although there is no national data system that collects data on youth transferred to the adult system, researchers estimate that as many as 200,000 youth are prosecuted as adults each year. According to recent reports from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Justice, youth who are tried as adults are more likely to reoffend than youth retained in the juvenile justice system.

The full text of the response, *Preventing the Sexual Abuse of Youth in Correctional Settings*, is available [here](#).

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NATIONAL MOMENTUM



Dwayne Betts Continues to Travel the Country Speaking About Youth Justice

This month CFYJ spokesperson Dwayne Betts continued speaking about juvenile justice and promoting his memoir, *A Question of Freedom*, which describes his prosecution as an adult at age 16 and 8-year prison sentence. The paperback version of the book was released on May 4. The picture at the left is from his May trip to Charlotte, North Carolina where he read and signed books at Joseph-Beth Booksellers and spoke at a community event at the Greenville Recreation Center sponsored by Action for Children North Carolina and Project Challenge North Carolina, Inc.. For information on Dwayne's work and speaking engagements, visit <http://rdwaynebetts.com>.

Cesar Chavez Student on Advocacy and Supporting the National Resolution

Jade Vaughn, a senior at Cesar Chavez High School in Washington, DC, volunteered with CFYJ this school year as part of her Senior Thesis Advocacy Project. Following her work with the Campaign, she writes:

"At Cesar Chavez High School we believe that everyone needs to get involved in their community to fix policies deemed to be unfair. The idea of policy involvement at Chavez begins with a 15-30 page paper on public policy. When faced with the idea of writing such a lengthy paper, you must stop and ask yourself: 'What issue do I care enough about to write 15 pages?' I was faced with this dilemma and I chose to write about juvenile justice issues, focusing on the issue of juveniles being prosecuted as adults. This issue appealed to me because I have known youth who have been harshly thrown into the adult justice system, and it is not a policy that I agree with. In fact, it needs to be changed.

"While researching my topic, I learned just how bad the problem is. Prosecuting a child as an adult causes damage to the child's mental and physical well being, damages our society, and violates the spirit of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which creates core protections for youth who come into contact with the law. It can even be argued to be unconstitutional because of the punishment's cruel and unusual nature. The fact that over 200,000 youths are prosecuted as adults each year only makes the issue an even bigger problem, one that everyone needs to take a part in fixing.

"My thesis teacher set me up with an organization that cared about my topic and is working to fix the problem. This organization is the Campaign for Youth Justice. The Campaign for Youth Justice is dedicated to ending the practice of trying youth as adults. I visited their offices several times and got facts about my topic that I could not get by merely going on the Internet. One of the most important things I learned was that writing about the issue is good, but it takes more than that. It takes advocacy to change an unfair policy.

"At the Campaign I was assigned an advocacy project that touched on one of the most important steps in organizing a community to fix a problem: raising public awareness. This project entailed promoting a national resolution aimed at reducing the practice of juveniles prosecuted as adults. Organizations from all

over the nation were asked to sign-on to this resolution, and over 100 organizations have. Only through projects like this can people unite together to finally end the practice that is harming the children of this nation.

"It is an extraordinary experience to know that I have had a hand in fixing the problem that we are faced with, but it will take more than one student pitching in to make a change. Many more organizations concerned with juvenile justice need to sign on to this resolution to change the current policy. So I encourage all national organizations who care about young people to sign-on to the resolution today. Only then can our children have a brighter future."

Thank you Jade for your important advocacy work!

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MEDIA WRAP



Eric Solomon Awarded NAPS Golden Thinker Award

We are pleased to announce that Eric Solomon, CFYJ's Director of Media Relations and pictured at left, has been awarded the Golden Thinker Award from the North American Precis Syndicate, Inc. (NAPS). NAPS is known for its news release distribution service to newspapers, radio, and TV outlets across the country. The NAPS Golden Thinker Award is given each year to individuals who have created feature releases that have received the most pick-up by America's broadcasters. Eric produced a TV video feature, "Safety and Justice," and placed it through NAPS where it was picked up 191 times on stations throughout the country.

Congratulations to Eric for his tireless efforts to raise awareness about the impact of prosecuting youth in adult court in media outlets around the country! His work promotes the voices of youth, parents, and families who are directly affected by the justice system.

To view Eric's award-winning TV video feature, "Safety and Justice," click [here](#).

Nevada Parent Shares Her Story through a Mother's Day Op-Ed

Parent and youth advocate Cathy Hill of Reno, Nevada authored a Mother's Day op-ed sharing the story of her son, David, who was prosecuted as an adult at age 15. Despite being acquitted of his original adult charges, David is serving an adult prison sentence because Nevada law lacks provisions to return cases to juvenile court after adult charges have been dropped. Hill's op-ed appeared in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* and is available [here](#). Thanks to Cathy for sharing her story.

This Month Representative George Miller Joined *Juvenile Justice Matters*; Next Month: the Supreme Court's Juvenile Life Without Parole Decision

This month, *Juvenile Justice Matters* hosted its first Member of Congress, US House Representative and House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D) of California (pictured at right). Miller discuss the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



Act (JJDP) and a recent juvenile justice hearing on the issue that he chaired. The show also featured Hasan Davis, Deputy Commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, who testified at the House Education and Labor Committee hearing and discussed the reforms that his state has put in place.



The show reached about 100 listeners and received mentioned in [Youth Today](#) and the [Southeast Missourian](#). To listen to our conversation with Miller and Davis, please click [here](#).

Next month on June 17 at 4:30 pm EDT, *Juvenile Justice Matters* talks with Marsha Levick, Deputy Director and Chief Counsel for the Juvenile Law Center, and Terrance Graham's attorney, Bryan Gowdy of Jacksonville, Florida. Levick and Gowdy will discuss the recent Supreme Court ruling on juvenile life without parole sentences. You won't want to miss this show! Tune into <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters>.

Calling All Spokespeople!

The Campaign for Youth Justice is searching for parents and youth to join our spokesperson's bureau. We continually speak with reporters and at conferences about youth in adult jails and prisons and would like to bring more youth and family voices to these speaking engagements. If you have a story that you are willing to share or have a child under the age of 24 who is either currently in the adult criminal justice system or recently returned home, we would like for you to be part of our growing spokesperson's bureau. Spokespersons, following completion of the training we provide, will assist with media stories, conferences, and events. Those interested in joining CFYJ as a spokesperson should contact Eric Solomon at esolomon@cfyj.org. Thank you!

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GET ORGANIZED

Family Voice: Is it Valued in Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts?

Grace Bauer

This month's decision from the Supreme Court, which restricts life without parole sentences for youth, suggests that the tide may be turning against poorly conceived practices relating to children involved in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems throughout the country. Indeed, this is a victory worthy of praise and admiration for the hundreds of advocates who have worked with dedication and commitment to see this struggle through to the highest court in the land. Families raise their voices to celebrate this victory with all who have made this possible and offer heartfelt appreciation for your hard work!

The morning of the Supreme Court decision, as with most mornings as the family organizer for the Campaign for Youth Justice, I figured out which families I needed to check in with. As I made calls that morning, I shared with families this powerful victory. What I discovered during the calls troubled me a great deal. Many families were unaware of the fight to end this barbaric practice and those that were aware wanted to understand how we ended up with this victory. It is distressing to know that so much of our work as advocates and reformers happens in silos apart from the families and youth that the work is intended to help.

I often hear advocacy organizations say that they do not have the capacity to work with

families. I counter that advocacy organizations lose significant capacity by not working with families. I believe we are too often confined in boxes we build for ourselves and do not explore the tremendous value that families bring to the work of reform. How can we expect better outcomes for children and families if we aren't able to hear what families have to say?

In my work with families, I stress that advocacy organizations appropriately focus on their areas of interest and that we are fortunate to have strong allies on multiple fronts. However, I believe it is equally important for advocates to understand that families do not have the advantage of experiencing or focusing on one issue at a time. As families of color and/or poor families we are assaulted from every direction we turn. School systems fail to educate and then blame children for poor test scores. Prevention programs fail to ask what might be helpful to the communities they serve and then lay blame at the feet of the same communities when the outcomes they expected don't materialize. Juvenile justice systems complete treatment plans that families never see and consider an hour visit with families once or twice a month sufficient but then are quick to say that they don't have family involvement. The list goes on and on.

Hundreds of thousands of families feel stuck in boxes that others create, powerless to do anything different and unable to see options that others throw at them because they are pulled in so many demanding directions. This way of operating, advocates isolated from families and vice versa, steals from both sides the chance to see the strengths and assets of all and the opportunity to learn from each other. This makes us, advocates and families, less capable of winning one of the most important struggles in our lifetimes. We must come together, share, listen, and learn.

When the Campaign began the National Parent Caucus in July of 2009, we had no idea how quickly it would grow and have been constantly surprised by the number of families engaged in the process. We may have initially believed it would be us providing for a need but have found instead that it is us that benefit from the wisdom of this powerful group of families. Our work is enhanced, strengthened and of better quality because it is informed from those most directly affected. Having this insight into a world that is easier to ignore or at best feel sympathy for, is producing a body of work that has been largely unfulfilled for too long.

I recently heard an advocate say, "The facts and the families just get in the way of my advocacy." If you are still working from this mindset or find your work unsatisfying, perhaps now is the time for change! Step out of your advocate box, connect with some families, and see what unique and exciting opportunities are waiting for you! If you believe that families could enhance your work and that a time has come a mindset to change, the National Parent Caucus may be able to help you.

To connect with the National Parent Caucus, get more information, or to get involved, click [here](#) or call or email Grace Bauer at 202.558.3580 or familiescantwait@yahoo.com.

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VOICES



Suzanne McClard, sister of a young man who committed suicide in an adult jail and daughter of CFYJ spokesperson Tracy McClard, writes:

"When I got the call from my brother Jonathan's girlfriend, I was very confused. She screamed into the phone that Jonathan ... had just shot her new boyfriend. I dropped the phone [and] got my other brother, his girlfriend, and my boyfriend. We all piled in my car and immediately headed down the road towards Millersville.... They were nowhere in sight.... We headed into Jackson, again with no luck. We drove home. I explained [to my dad] what happened and he got on the phone with the police. We found out that Jonathan had shot someone and was held in jail. I panicked. I called my mom [who] was away at training. She tried to calm me down, but I was so distraught and shocked that nothing she said helped. I spent that night awake crying....

"From then on until the trial we spent our time worrying and waiting. We got to see [Jonathan] in the hospital ... for troubled kids [where he was] awaiting transfer. I thought he was very sorry for what he did. He was smart and knew that he had made a huge mistake. He was very good at hiding his feelings and didn't want us to worry, so he acted like he was okay. I knew better. I went through a lot of guilt since I'm his older sister, thinking I could have been more involved with him....

"[At the trial] everyone was nervous.... The judge seemed mocking and uncaring, [like] he had made his decision before the trial even started. There was no hope for Jonathan; his sentence was already set. I heard the judgement and started crying really loudly.... It was embarrassing but I couldn't stop. All I wanted to do was grab my brother and run. He was so close but so far. He hung his head in defeat and they escorted him out.

"The depression and anger [at home] ... was thick. No one could function right. We all knew holidays and special occasions would never be the same. There would always be an empty hole in our lives where my little brother should have been. I was angry at the court system, at myself, and even at Jonathan. I kept thinking, 'How could you do this to us? Didn't you know? You are supposed to be the smart one. What happened?' My other brother started having suicidal thoughts and extreme depression. He started having seizures and mom took him to the doctor and got him help. Time was in the essence. Nothing else would heal. It was a long road coming.

"My dad dealt with his own guilt and anger. He got severely depressed and started withdrawing from us. I felt like my family was falling apart even more. I didn't know how to fix it. I didn't know what to do. So, I stayed away [and] pretended like it never happened.... I went through the motions and stayed away from everyone. I didn't feel like talking.... In December of that year, my dad overdosed. The ambulance came and resuscitated him. I went to see him in the hospital and, again, I just wanted to run away. This was not my family. This was not my life. We were never perfect, but my dad worked hard ... six days a week so mom could stay home with us. We went to church [and] read the bible as a family. This is not something that happened to people like us; yet, it did....

"January 1, 2008 Jonathan's birthday, came and went. No phone calls were allowed ... [and] definitely no visits.... He was in solitary confinement. I felt this was cruel and unnecessary. He was already being punished, why keep us away? Three days later, I got a phone call at home.... I heard 'Are your parents there?' Immediately I knew something was very wrong. I told them, 'No.' They said, 'We will try later,' and hung up. I spent the next two hours calling my grandma over and over and asking if she had heard from my parents. [When my parents] finally got home I told them [about the call]. Mom got right on the phone with the jail. They told her roundabout stories [until] she finally got the right person. I overheard them say, 'I'm sorry ma'am. Your son is gone.' My mom screamed Jonathan's name and dropped the phone. She fell to her knees. My dad just started sobbing Jonathan's name over and over. At the same time I heard someone screaming and didn't realize it was me until Mom said, 'It's okay.' She was trying to keep me from freaking out even though her grief was stronger.

"Since then, my life has never been the same and never will. I help my mom ... with her efforts to change the justice system. I have recently felt a strong calling to change the justice system myself, [even] to the point of

changing my major in college to devote my life to it.... I eventually want to change laws.... Perhaps it is also because I am expecting a son, who is due in three months. My mom is my inspiration now, more than ever. I am so proud of all she is doing. I feel that one person can make a huge difference; my mom has made a big impact on a lot of people, including me. I hope to one day be as strong as she is."

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ON THE CALENDAR



Juvenile Justice Networking Event on Thursday June 10

If you are in the DC metro area, please join us for Juvenile Justice Happy Hour on Thursday, June 10 from 4 - 6 pm at the Washington Plaza Hotel! This is a social event for everyone working on juvenile justice issues in the DC area and beyond! Refreshments and soft drinks will be served and there will be a cash bar. This event will also be a networking opportunity for new summer fellows, interns, and students working with juvenile justice advocates and organizations, agencies, and universities.

Sunday, June 20 is Father's Day!

Please consider utilizing the Father's Day holiday to connect with fathers and their incarcerated children, engage more fathers in your advocacy efforts, and raise awareness about the issue of prosecuting youth as adults. Please let us know if you are planning any activities and let us know how we can support your efforts!

CFYJ Turns Five on July 1!

The Campaign for Youth Justice turns five this year! We plan to celebrate with a cake and thank everyone who has contributed to efforts around the country to end the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating youth in adult criminal court! Please mark your calendars and join us for a "virtual" birthday celebration!

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TAKE ACTION, SPREAD THE WORD

Urge your Senators to promote JJDPa passage. Send a letter at http://www.change.org/campaign4youthjustice/petitions/view/tell_the_senate_pass_juvenile_justice_reform_now.

Ask for your own "Join the Movement" take action kit! Send an email to jointhemovement@cfyj.org.

Encourage parents and families who have been directly affected by punitive policies that try youth as adults to join the National Parent Caucus at <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/parents-resource-center/local-parent-group-listing.html>.

Follow CFYJ on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/justiceforyouth>.

Send your story of a youth tried as an adult or refer a friend to participate in the Case Profiles Project at <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/tell-us-your-story.html>.

Listen to a discussion of the Supreme Court's juvenile life without parole ruling on the *Juvenile Justice Matters* radio show on June 17 at 4:30 pm EDT at



<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters>.

Join the Campaign for Youth Justice on [Facebook](#) and connect with hundreds of advocates across the country.

Visit the Campaign's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/jjreform>.

Read JJ Today, *Youth Today's* blog on juvenile justice at <http://youthtoday.org/talk/comments.cfm?topic=20>.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are pleased to report in this newsletter the recent wins in Colorado and Mississippi! Congratulations to the state policymakers who led these efforts and to Sandy Mullins and Maureen Cain of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, Kim Dvorchak of the Colorado Juvenile Defenders Coalition, and Mary Ellen Johnson of the Pendulum Foundation, the Mississippi Youth Justice Project, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Mississippi Coalition for the Prevention of Schoolhouse to Jailhouse for their amazing efforts!

The momentum must continue! With your help, we can expand grassroots campaigns on the ground in new states to show support for reform.

To launch campaigns in new states in 2010, we have initiated the "10 by 10" campaign to raise \$10,000. We are more than half way there! Please consider donating \$10 and inviting 10 of your friends to each donate \$10.

To donate, click [here](#).

Please tell 10 friends about the "10 by 10" campaign by forwarding this email.

Let's work together to stop the inhumane, unjust, and ineffective policies affecting youth across the country!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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~ Newsletter edited by Julie Kudrna ~

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