



### **THREE SHORT FILMS THAT ACCOMPANY THE 2020 DOCUMENTARY *JUVENILE***

Scheduled for release in 2020, the documentary film [Juvenile](#) “explores how communities across the country are breaking and remaking their justice systems. Driven by the personal stories of [five youth](#) who were justice-involved as teens, the film traces their pathways into the system and their journeys of trauma and healing.”

Right now, you can view 3 related short films featuring an incarcerated youth, a public defender, and a mother. Below are links to those films and discussion questions that can facilitate conversation:

Robert – <https://www.juvenilefilm.com/films/robert>

- Did Robert make the right decision to testify against his co-defendants?
- Robert’s story opens with his description of a childhood in a neighborhood where it was “kill or be killed”; should this traumatic upbringing have been considered before transferring him to adult court?
- Why do you think the judge who transferred him to adult court thought he was “unsalvageable”?
- In what ways did Robert benefit from available programming while in prison?

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Barbara – <https://www.juvenilefilm.com/films/2017/11/1/barbara>

- What does her story of the case of the 12-year-old boy tell you about the importance of good legal representation? What do you think would have happened had he not had good representation?
- In what ways does she support her clients, beyond arguing in court?
- Barbara Deans speaks of her role in a “path” that her clients are on; who else in their lives is positioned to help children find the right path?
- Barbara Deans speaks of how her work can “get to you” and discusses challenges both at and outside of work; what can we do to help make work for people like her a little less challenging?

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Viola – <https://www.juvenilefilm.com/films/viola>

- This story has a “happy ending” according to Viola; does it feel happy to you?
- What do you think it means when Viola says her son is about the only one who “survived” juvenile court?
- This story sits at the nexus of poverty, trauma, and mental health; what should have been in place to make things less difficult for Viola?

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All Three videos - <https://www.juvenilefilm.com/films>

- What common threads run through all three of these stories?
- What do you think of the different perspectives on the justice system between Robert, Viola, and Barbara?
- What policies should be put in place to prevent these kinds of stories from being repeated?